

County Wants Own Judicial System

York County is attempting to back out of its commitment to the University Avenue courthouse construction.

A delegation will plead the county's case before Minister of Municipal Affairs W. J. Spooner likely before the end of the month, Vaughan Reeve A. H. Rutherford told "The Liberal".

Mr. Rutherford is chairman of the county's administration of justice committee.

His comment came with the news Metropolitan Toronto Executive Committee last week awarded a \$11,630,000 contract to Pigott Construction Company to build on the site of the old Toronto Armouries torn down amid much protest this past fall.

The county's share in the court-house capital cost is 4% amounting to about \$465,000.

Council, representing 14 member municipalities, is objecting to their part on the grounds there is no assurance that if York wanted to build its own court facilities, it could get its investment back.

Recently, a county committee with Warden Clarence Davis, Commissioners Ken Rogers and Mr. Rutherford, North Gwillimbury Reeve Joseph Dales, Solicitors J. D. Lucas and J. Vale of Newmarket and County Clerk J. E. Smith appeared before Metro Council but were met with a non-committal attitude.

Mr. Rutherford said he hoped the

group could get an audience with Mr. Spooner before the end of the year.

The refund would be based on setting up a separate judicial district in York County with a courthouse likely built at Newmarket near the county offices. At present there is a chambers court and a non-jury civil court which began December 11.

Warden Davis said the county's population growth is a factor in considering separate courthouses.

Construction of the University Avenue building will begin early in 1964 with completion scheduled for January, 1966. Metro paid the federal government \$2,000,000 for the site and is expected to pay an additional

\$700,000 in architects and landscaping fees.

It will house 19 courtrooms, 24 judges' offices and chambers, an underground tunnel to Osgoode Hall, law library and an underground garage.

York County Council has been studying the courthouse question for at least three years. Lawyers in the county complain of taking all their civil cases downtown.

At a November county meeting, Reeve Dales, himself a lawyer brought in a resolution asking for some equity in the new courthouse. Mr. Dales at the time said he felt York should have a share in the courthouse's bricks "or marble as the case may be".

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Lack Of Pupils

Education Costs Plague Lake Wilcox School

An old but hardly popular refrain was hummed by ratepayers and trustees of Public School Section No. 13 Whitchurch Wednesday of last week at their annual meeting in Lake Wilcox Public School.

The refrain centred on the high cost of operating a school and how to raise funds without raising the mill rate.

Chairman Murray Brown told the 13 ratepayers present the school had run out of operation money during the year and had borrowed \$5,000 from the bank. This amount, he said, had been repaid.

"The Department of Education," he said, "has promised us help when we require it and maybe they'll be doing something for us next June. May be we'll have to do something ourselves by raising the mill rate."

General maintenance totalled windows on the west side of the \$1,428.17 during the year with main building. Dry rot had set the greater portion of this in and they were leaking badly, amount spent on replacing he said, and the entire frames

and panes had to be replaced. The school continued its economy measures by having Principal W.D.C. Hall double as teacher during the year, the chairman continued.

Ratepayer L. Hanson wondered if the financial situation at the school couldn't be aided by increasing the number of pupils attending it.

"Looking at it from a dollar and cents view for the ratepayer," he said, "we're paying more money now for a school which is smaller than it used to be."

"If we could get up to our previous quota our grants would increase and take some of the load off the taxpayer."

It was agreed that a larger school did make for a more successful operation. "As enrollment decreases expenses and cost per pupil goes up," noted Mr. Hall.

Ratepayers questioned whether an increase in pupils from other school sections might be the answer in helping the financial problem. Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Freda Munro pointed out that the school is receiving 16 children from S.S. No. 6 at a \$1.55 per day per child.

"We now have 11 teachers for 10 rooms operating," she said. "Each room is filled to the limit. If the enrollment goes up we'll have to hire another teacher and open another room." Taking just a few children as at present doesn't warrant this added expense, she said.

Talk also centred around the advantage of setting up a school area.

Mrs. Munro mentioned that the locating centrally of larger schools would eliminate the present situation of small isolated schools and cut down on maintenance costs.

"All too often you have these schools adding additions to buildings which are almost ready to be torn down. This will prove very costly in the future."

Deputy-reeve Ross Farquharson, who was appointed chairman of the evening, also pointed to the added burden carried

by taxpayers whenever a home burns down.

He said there were people who were eager to tear down "old shacks" but if this was done the drop in assessment would fall on the shoulders of other homeowners.

Ratepayers felt there were not that many shacks remaining in any case.

In other business Gerry Day was elected as chairman of S.S. No. 13 for the next three-year period replacing Mr. Brown.

The school's budget revealed salaries totalling \$52,328.93 paid out to the teaching staff during the year. General instructional supplies cost \$2,119.85; secretary's salary \$1,448; caretaking salaries \$6,275.

Receipts due in December: Provincial Farm Assistance grant \$5,899.60; township levy \$16,964.55; sundry revenue and S.S. No. 6 fees \$967.50. Repayment of a \$5,000 loan and December disbursements amounting to \$7,500 totalled \$12,500.

Estimated bank balance after paying out \$12,500 from receipts of \$23,831.65 is \$11,331.65 to December 31.

4½ Year Old Boy Too Young In Spite Of Allergies

Richmond Hill Public School Board ruled according to its policy, a four and half year old was too young to be admitted to school.

The request came last Thursday to admit the boy on medical advice that being in school might help him combat his allergies. What the allergies are was not spelled out to trustees.

Harold Sanderson, board chairman said, "We do not admit children of this age. If we did our classrooms would have to take in another 200 to 300 pupils."

STOUFFVILLE: Inaugural meeting for the 1964 Stouffville municipal council will be held Monday, January 6.

Winter's First Jolt Tied Up Traffic For Many Miles

Winter's first jolt hit Richmond Hill and area last Thursday with a right jab that tied up traffic, tightened up long unused snow shovelling muscles and brought delight to the young tads.

On Yonge Street when normally around 9 a.m. there is only a trickle of city bound traffic, cars were tied up from Crosby Avenue all the way to Lake Ontario judging from reports.

In the suburban section, housewives having waved goodbye to commuter husbands pitched in to level off driveways and walks.

Many of the city bound drivers who managed to fight their way south to Steeles Avenue gave up and returned home when the traffic snafu became too hectic. One local taxicab driver said it took him an hour and a half to drive from Richmond Hill to Highway 401 Thursday morning.

Richmond Hill Works Commissioner Otto Whalen said he had 16 men and 11 pieces of equipment out from 3 a.m. in an attempt to plow and sand down the most treacherous corners around the Hill. Many of the business people were out early to clear a path to their premises for employees and customers.

Students on their way to school loved it and the dogs had a ball romping in the white stuff.

38,000 Miles In Year Covered By Phil Barnes

During the past six months Mr. Phil Barnes, "Mr. Hammond of Canada" and a resident of Richmond Hill has travelled more than 38,000 miles across Canada from Halifax to Vancouver, visiting nine of the 10 provinces. He plans to get to the tenth province, Newfoundland, and to Whitehorse in the Yukon during 1964. 28,000 of these miles were covered by air; the other 10,000 by road, in all kinds of weather ranging from 35 degrees below zero in Edmonton in the early morning recently to 100 degrees in Chicago in July.

Besides representing the Hammond Organ Company in Canada, Mr. Barnes has begun a series of concerts in cities where there are Hammond organ societies. These concerts, which have been well received, are followed by a workshop.

Three weeks ago he presented a concert in Edmonton, and last week in Don Mills. In January he is booked for one in Hamilton, and in March for one in Victoria. Other dates are being planned for Ottawa and Halifax.

Mr. Barnes has reason to believe that his neighbours are great travellers. In Sherbrooke, Quebec, which he describes as a beautiful little city, half English and half French, he met Bill Malcolm who lives across Alverna Avenue from him, and in Ottawa had an unexpected encounter with his next door neighbour, Glen Gandy.

Campbell Slated For Library Board

This year's council representative on the Richmond Hill Library Board Councillor Alex Campbell whose term ends December 31 has been mooted as the public school board representative on the board.

If agreeable, Mr. Campbell will replace Miss K. Ball who retired from the library group after 18 years as school board representative.

Mr. Campbell has been a member of the board for a year.

MARKHAM: Pickering Township municipal elections saw J. Sherman Scott displaced by Clifford Laycox as reeve. A 32 percent vote showed light attendance at the polls.

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