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"HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878"

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Fun For Kids At Christmas

Seventy-five happy children from the Thornhill district greeted Santa Claus at the Thornhill Lions' annual Christmas party Monday evening, December 16. Some of the delighted youngsters are shown above with Santa and his helper Lion Dennis Moore. The annual event was held in Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall. (Photo by Barbour)

BY MARGARET McLEAN
Holy Trinity Parish Hall was the scene of a jolly gathering on the evening of December 16 when the Thornhill Lions Club were hosts to some 75 Thornhill district children.

Each Lion arrived complete with a contingent of children whom they supervised during the evening. After singing a few carols, the children enjoyed their favorite food — hot dogs and ice cream principally. In previous years the Lions have served the youngsters a complete turkey dinner but applauded at the wastage switched to the ever-popular hot dogs. The Lions sat among their charges and kept order — with very little difficulty it must be said, as the children were remarkably well behaved.

The meal over, the Lions hustled the dishes into the kitchen and removed the tables — Lion Harold Keffer doing some neat work with a broom. The chairs were rearranged in front of the stage and the youngsters were treated to two fine films, one in full colour of the fascinating life of under sea creatures, and one a phantasy "Christmas Rhapsody" about a small Christmas tree.

Boys In Blue Don Red Santa Suits

Markham Township Police will play "Santa" to over 70 children this Christmas. Started six years ago by the present Chief of Police Harvey Cox, when he was a sergeant on the force and Sergeant Donald Dukes, the programme has seen each year that no family in the township has been without a Christmas.

The spirit of Christmas has proven as effective when it is dressed in a dark blue uniform as in the traditional red and white and an unmarked police cruiser laden with baskets of food, clothing and toys for children covers the wintry roads of the township as efficiently as the familiar sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.

The police are assisted by several residents in Melville. Toys and clothing are donated and stored in the church in that community. They are repaired, wrapped and delivered. All officers of the police department assist with the project, and Sergeant Dukes spends much of his spare time fixing toys in the basement of his home during the summer months.

More than 15 families are included on the police list. All names are treated in strict confidence and the families themselves receive no prior notice of the pre-Christmas delivery.

The entire programme has been carried on without fanfare or publicity. "It makes us all feel a little better to know that we have contributed a little happiness to families less fortunate than ourselves," said Chief Cox.

Car Club Chauffeurs New Year's Eve

If you drink, don't drive... let a car club member be your chauffeur. New Year's Eve (and morning), Aristocrats Rod and Custom Club (Richmond Hill) and Knight's Car Club (Richvale) have joined forces to act as a taxi service with the full sanction of the police department.

They will offer the free service to promote public safety from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. New Year's Eve, said Aristocrats President Fred Urban.

The service will be available by calling AV. 5-5875. It's the first time the clubs have tried it and apparently there are other Toronto car clubs in on the program too this year.

Richmond Hill's civic leaders learned last week that Eli Comay's Metro Toronto official land-use plan isn't the guide to lead them out of their financial wilderness.

Mr. Comay, Metro's planning commissioner, emphasized the town's current lack of industrial assessment and dangerously rising debt "does not come within the scope of the land-use plan. It is a problem you as a municipality will have to solve in your own way".

The commissioner was speaking to a group of education, planning and council members at a special meeting held Thursday of last week in the town hall council chambers. Accompanying Mr. Comay were Wojciech Wronski, deputy commissioner, and John Bower, director of the land-use division.

Noting Richmond Hill's 17 percent financial debt — 20 per cent is considered the limit — Mr. Comay agreed that "you have a serious problem but we in Metro have no way of providing help to aid your lack of non-resident assessment."

Pointing to Scarboro as an example of a troubled area Mr. Comay said "we can help them because they are within Metro. We are doing it by taking over their capital cost of school construction". He said that Scarboro financial debt had reached 25 per cent.

"We can't do this outside of Metro. It's not the job of the official plan."

When asked to provide suggestions on how Richmond Hill would get out of its financial predicament Mr. Comay answered: "Isn't it obvious?"

He then suggested one way would be to approach the provincial or county government, perhaps work out a "Little Metro-like" agreement with Vaughan or Markham Townships, or maybe even join Metro.

"Perhaps the answer is to get into Metro," he said.

"but I don't know."

Throughout the two-hour meeting Mr. Comay stressed that the official plan was designed as a guide and not a strait jacket to the future.

"It's intended to provide a frame work for the entire region and leave local decisions to be made on the local level. It will have very little specific control of such developments."

The commissioner agreed the official plan as it referred to Richmond Hill lacked a general "policy statement". He promised that safeguards would be added to the plan to assure the town would not be

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RHHS Winners In Speaking Contest

Eleven young orators won awards at the recent Richmond Hill High School annual public speaking contest.

The group of contestants was comprised of an orator from each form, chosen as the best speaker in class preliminaries in two weeks prior to the contest.

Grade 9 winners were (1) Linda Locke, (2) Judy Hawkins, Shirley Cornell (tied); grade 10 winners (1) Douglas James, (2) Sally Trott, (3) Sharon Cowan; grade 11 and 12 winners (1) Marilee Park, John Seddon (tied), (3) Beverley Locke, (4) Debby McConkey, Noel Gillings (tied).

County Wide Welfare Subject Of Long Report

York County Council last week deferred any decision on county-wide welfare services until next year.

A ruling to place the welfare decision in the hands of the new warden, commissioners and health unit staff came at the end of a three-hour review of a 45-page report prepared by Bessie Touzel, executive director of the Ontario Welfare Council.

In a synopsis of the county-sponsored study by Miss Touzel, it was recommended present municipal and county welfare services be integrated into one unit under a director at an initial cost in administration of about \$75,000.

There was little or no debate on the report last Wednesday although it was made clear that some municipalities favour and others do not favour the proposal.

Miss Touzel called the meeting a "historic" one paralleling one in 1881 when a decision was made to build a county home.

WHAT PROMPTED SURVEY?

The resume indicated welfare services in York County were much like Topsy's famous line, "I just grew!" She traced population development as being well over 300% from 1901 to 1963 and 100% from 1951 to 1963.

The study pointed out industrialization and unemployment, increased vulnerability of people who are wage earners, many of whom live in the county but work outside were factors.

"There is comparatively little local welfare machinery now existing. In 10 years, it would be more difficult to establish county services," Miss Touzel said.

There are also more children and teenagers; in age groups five to nine in 1951, they made up 2.5% of the population as compared to 12.3% in 1961.

York County is responsible now for York Manor home for the aged, Children's Aid Society, York County Health Unit and Mental Health Clinic, juvenile and family court, adult court probation and a financial responsibility in hospitals and training schools.

Municipal councils (only

three, Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan Townships have full-time welfare officers) are responsible for relief payments including nursing homes, post sanatorium care, homemakers and nurses' services.

MOST URGENT NEEDS

The report indicated most urgent needs were home care for

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R.H.H.S. Teacher Killed In Crash Funeral Tuesday

A funeral service will be held Tuesday in Hamilton following the tragic accident that claimed the life of Richmond Hill High School French teacher Jean Illes last Friday night.

Mrs. Illes died of injuries received when her car was involved in a rear end collision opposite Harvey's Drive-in in Richvale.

Taken to Branson Hospital with what at first seemed minor injuries, she later died. The remains were sent to Hamilton's

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School Bills In 1973 Two Billion?

Education Minister Foresees No Easy Solution

Dogs Live It Up Over Holiday Season, Too

A dog's life at Canine Control Centre in Maple at Christmas is to be envied. Officer Jim Ryan and his kennelmen treat the pooches to a royal feast (usually Christmas Eve) when they "sit down" to dainties like chopped liver, minced meat, "yummies" and extra rations of milk.

The dogs have to pass up the chicken and turkey because of splintery bones.

Last year the cats were dressed up for the occasion with bows.

Mr. Ryan is expecting to have about 20 to 30 dogs at the Christmas party and has suggested anyone who finds a stray dog wandering around over the holiday should bring it to the kennels.

"The nicest present a person can give his dog at Christmas is to keep it away from dangerous roads and seasonal traffic," Mr. Ryan said.

While the 24-hour accident emergency service will be available over the holidays, Mr. Ryan hopes it won't be necessary to use it.

While at the kennels this week, "The Liberal" reporter was asked by one German Shepherd, barksman for the rest to send along to all the dogs in the community, best wishes for a Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

Ontario Minister of Education William G. Davis said in Buttonville last Thursday a shift in tax structure for school costs wouldn't really solve any problems.

The education minister was speaking to a group of about 40 taxpayers at a special meeting called to discuss Markham's apparent high school taxes.

"In the final analysis, the individual school boards with the province paying a share of the costs "which varies according to needs." He said the province in some cases may pay up to 90%.

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Mr. Davis told the half-filled Buttonville hall education was the greatest single problem in the province. He said Ontario's education bill for 1973 might well be \$1-2,000-000,000 but would be an investment returned both economically and socially.

Ratepayers spokesman from Arnleigh Heights subdivision George Nash presented Mr. Davis with a resolution asking the provincial government to find more money for school costs in school areas. He claimed that this year there was an increase of about \$78 on an average \$4,000 assessed Markham home for school purposes, with the comment school costs were "getting beyond the means of many residents".

Mr. Davis said administration of schools was mainly left to



HON. WILLIAM DAVIS

Local Churches Hold Services Christmas Day

ST. MARY IMMACULATE
Christmas masses will be held according to the following schedule: Midnight High Mass, 8:00, 9:00, 10:30, 11:45 a.m. Christmas masses at Oak Ridges will be held: Midnight High Mass, 9:00, 10:30 a.m.

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN
A midnight Choral Communion will be held at 11 p.m. Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, Holy Communion will be held at 8:00 a.m., and a Family Communion Service at 10. Children are invited to bring their favourite toy to this service and infant care will be provided.

On Wednesday, December 26, the Feast of Stephen, Holy Communion will be observed at 10 a.m.

THE CHURCH OF ST. GABRIEL
Will hold a holy Communion service at 11 p.m. Xmas. Eve. On Christmas Day a family service will be held at 10:30 a.m. and Holy Communion at 11 a.m.

RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH
Will hold a service at 11 a.m. Christmas Day.

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH
Will hold Holy Communion at 11 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Premier Robarts Says "No" To Additional School Aid

Any hope hard-pressed Ontario property owners had of the province assuming a greater financial responsibility in the major fields of education and the administration of justice were dashed to the ground last week when Premier John Robarts met the request from the Ontario Association of Mayors and Reeves for such assistance with a blunt, "you won't get it".

Mr. Robarts was replying to some 50 resolutions presented to the provincial government by Association President Mayor Angus Campbell of Pembroke. Mayor

Campbell said the association, which represents more than 5,000,000 Ontario residents, would willingly yield many of its other demands if the province would assume a major share of the cost of education and the total cost of the administration of justice.

Mr. Campbell suggested the province could find the additional funds to finance the cost of education through increased taxes on luxury items such as cigarettes and liquor. The local autonomy of the school boards would be protected as the senior government would be asked

to contribute anywhere between 71% to 90%. At present the municipalities are paying an average of 60% of the cost of education while the province is only assuming responsibility for an average of 40%.

The brief noted that municipal school levies had climbed from \$44,000,000 in 1947 to \$313,213,157 in 1962. At the same time, the debture debt rose from \$46,412,000 to \$586,761,000. These are obligations of municipal taxpayers exclusive of provincial grants. It is predicted that by 1970 9.6% of Canada's national income

will be for education.

"The time is not coming, it has arrived when the very standards of education may well suffer unless the senior levels of government are immediately prepared to absorb the major cost of education," the brief said. Bold action is needed now, the association insisted, and said maintaining the cost of education should be shifted from the property owner to the entire public.

Mayor Campbell said the association did not expect the province to take over the new educational load in one year, but over a period

of time. He claimed the provincial takeover would also solve part of the problem swirling around the fight by municipal councils to veto spending power by the school boards.

The other main resolution was that the province take over the entire cost of the administration of justice. Included in this request is the cost of building and maintaining court houses and jails.

Also included in the list of requests to the province is that district high schools boards be elected rather than appointed. At present

the members of a district high school board are appointed by municipal councils (both local and county) and local and separate school boards.

The association is also asking for legislation to make parents responsible for proven vandalism to public property by their children. The City of Toronto is seeking greater provincial assistance in salary grants for recreational personnel, and in building recreational centres. There were also requests for more assistance in paying welfare costs, hospital construction and free textbooks.



Full House For Cinderella

Members of the Curtain Club seen above in rehearsal for the Christmas pantomime "Cinderella" opening at the theatre, 25 Yonge Street North, this Friday. Left to right are Prince Charming (Mary Hillier), Cinderella (Margaret Cross), Major Domo (Gerry Crack), and Ugly Sister Aurora (Neville Cross).

Due to the overwhelming demand for tickets, the pantomime will extend its run to include an evening performance on January 5. Apart from a few tickets available for January 4, all performances are sold out. To avoid disappointment, reserve your seats today by calling Laura Miller at 884-4190.

(Photo by Barbour)