

"Outdated Tax System Threatens York Farmers"

York County farmers want to know why when the urban county resident's taxes are raised \$1, the average farmer's go up \$3 with no more service gained.

In a brief presented last Thursday to county council, York County Federation of Agriculture said the outdated taxation system is threatening to abolish the county's agricultural industry.

"It is rather ironic that much effort is put into acquiring industry for the county's numerous towns and townships while the already established agricultural industry is neither assisted or protected," said Federation President Oliver Bales.

Mr. Bales predicted unless farmers are able to have new taxation and assessment legislation drafted, they will be forced to abandon their farms, gain

some other employment or move further away from Metro.

He said the theory the farmer's land had increased in value no longer held true since he had only its productive value to meet his increasing tax burden.

"We realize due to increased services demanded, education, higher wage rates and the general effect of inflation, we must be prepared for higher taxes.

"But we are disturbed these taxes fall so much more on the farmers than on their urban or suburban neighbours," he told council.

He cited the changed nature of Richmond Hill (although not specifically named in the brief) which 10 years ago was a village of 3,000 and now a town of 20,000.

"According to its town fathers, it

has been unable to attract sufficient industry. It has had to build a complete sewer system and two additions to the new plant. It has had to enlarge its water system, drill wells, build schools and a new municipal office. The police force has increased in these 10 years from one full time officer to almost 20.

"On a typical house in 1952, taxes were \$222.95 and rose to \$348.33 in 1963, an increase of 56%.

"In a neighbouring township, taxes in 1952 on a typical 100 acre farm with fair buildings were \$241.45 or about 9% more than the town house but by 1963, taxes on the same farm with no improvements had increased to \$762.40 or about 119% more than the house in town."

"We are asking where is the justification for this out of proportion increase in taxes, which does not take

into consideration either ability to pay, productive value of land or equality of service given?" Mr. Bales asked.

Mr. Bales said he hoped council members were aware of the value of agriculture in York County.

"No longer is agriculture a self-sustaining industry but it has become integrated with all others and money realized by farmers for their produce flows back to the urban residents."

Main products in York County he said, include milk estimated at more than \$5,000,000 market value; 25,500 head of cattle at an estimated value of \$4,600,000; 92,255 hogs at a value of \$3,505,690 and about 826,300 bushels of winter wheat with a value of \$1,373,000.

The federation, Mr. Bales said has put their views on the farm taxation and assessment issue before the Select Committee of the Ontario Legislature.

WILLOWDALE: North York Council has authorized a full scale study of the need for day nurseries and day care centres in the township. The study will require four to five months to complete. The North York and Weston Area Social Planning Council has stated there is "an urgent need for such centres in the township."

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On February 7, branches opened at 1887 Eglinton Avenue West at Dufferin and 1520 Danforth Avenue at Coxwell. Another two branches open on February 28 — 635 College Street at Grace and 2262 Bloor Street West at Runnymede.

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Illness Confines Neighbours

Mrs. Douglas Hood and Mrs. Florence Denby are among our sick friends this week. Mrs. Hood has been put to bed for a rest, and Mrs. Denby is recuperating from surgery at the Branson hospital.

Kathy Brown has been ill for more than a week and missed out on Valentine's Day and other good times. She recently won her green button at the Unionville figure skating class.

Mrs. Peter Walker has been missing from community life for more than three months now and is still recovering from a broken leg which was followed by a serious relapse.

Mrs. Richard Pralet tells us her sight is returning well after a cataract operation and she hopes to get her new glasses this week.

YCHA Annual Meeting

March 12
The annual meeting of the York Central Hospital Auxiliary will be held March 12 at 8 p.m. in the Christian Education Room at Richmond Hill United Church.

Full reports of the auxiliary's work and activities will be made at this meeting. It is an event which all members and friends of the organization will want to attend.

Refreshments will be served mid-way through the evening.

V.O.N.

VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES
RICHMOND HILL BRANCH
Mrs. P. Stockdale
884-4101
Richmond Hill Municipal Hall

BUTTONVILLE NEWS

CORRESPONDENT: MRS. F. H. LEAF
R. R. 2, Gormley Phone AXminster 3-6188

Neighbourhood Notes

Caroline Copp had a miraculous escape last week when her car was rammed as she crossed the Woodbine-Sheppard intersection on her way home from work.

Caroline was proceeding with the light when the second car made a left hand turn. She was badly shaken and taken to hospital but later released. Her car was damaged extensively.

World Day Of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer service for the Victoria Square Charge was held at Victoria Square United Church Friday last week.

Mrs. A. F. Binnington, Mrs. J. Wilkins and Mrs. Burton were key women representing the three churches and Mrs. Elmer Leek gave the meditation.

Leaders in the various prayer groups were Mrs. John McCaigue, Mrs. Empringham, Mrs. H. Steffer, Mrs. W. Wellman, Mrs. George Barker and Mrs. F. Leaf.

Mrs. James Barker, organist, accompanied Mrs. Allan Orr when she sang.

The offering received will help to provide Christian literature for many organizations in Canada and around the world.

YCHA Caters

Tuesday of last week, when the Markham Township Liberal Association held their annual banquet, the Buttonville branch of the York Central Hospital Auxiliary catered for the roast beef dinner.

Mrs. George Kelly, who is new president of YCHA (B.B.) was also a head table guest at the banquet as president of the Markham Township Women Liberals' Association.

Other guests included

Physical Education Equipment Is Almost Nil In Vaughan Schools

A report on inspection of several schools in the township by the physical education branch of the Department of Education has been received. Superintendent Joseph Gibson told Vaughan Township School Area Board Thursday evening.

Physical education work was inspected October 21 and 22 in Roselawn, Langstaff, Kleinburg, Cotcord, Charles Howitt, Powell Road and Thornhill.

Recommendations in the report stressed the requirement of a minimum of two periods per week for physical education; the need for greater facilities for the carrying out of an effective indoor programme; the lack of basic instructional equipment in many of the schools as recommended in the course of study; and a suggested policy re purchasing equipment.

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chase of capital and expendable equipment.

Consideration will be given to the implementation of these recommendations when the budget is being prepared, it was stated.

Trustee Ross Jolliffe stated that the Department of Education inspector "has pointed a finger at this area and we are going to have to do something about it." He explained that most of the older schools have no facilities for indoor sports, noting that recommended equipment includes tumbling mats, vaulting horses, benches etc.

The trustee pointed out that home and school associations have provided some of this required equipment in schools which had auditoriums.

A parent in the audience noted that parents are prone to say "the kids haven't anything to play with and believe it hasn't been provided."

The board isn't always to blame, she reported, saying that \$40 in new equipment had been provided for the school in her

area in May last year. In September the new teacher could find very little of this equipment. One piece of missing equipment had cost \$16, she claimed.

Trustee Lorne Wells said he had been appalled by the inadequacy of equipment in some schools but recalled that at one school, when the long grass was cut prior to September school opening, four bats, two balls and three gloves were found lying on the playing field.

Superintendent Gibson commented that he did not think Vaughan School Area could be any worse off than many other districts, since the physical education inspector had asked to return to Roselawn School and a nearby rural school to test a series of weekly radio broadcasts which began on February 13.

Patterson School was chosen as the rural school and the tests were carried out on February 6 with the physical education inspector, two representatives of the CBC, Trustee Warren Ballie and the superintendent in attendance.

It was reported that the response of the pupils was excellent in both schools and the officials expressed themselves well satisfied. The superintendent also reported that the test showed that some instructions were not quite clear enough and the broadcast was retaped to correct this fault.

The finance committee reported that correspondence had been presented from the teaching staff athletic association requesting financial support for a skating and hockey programme. The committee had felt that the suggested programme was too extensive and expensive

Security Police Budget Is Down

and asked the association to present a revised programme for hockey play-offs only.

The revised programme recommended an expenditure of \$175 as the board's share of the cost of ice time for a hockey play-off schedule in which 12 area schools and Woodbridge will compete. The play-offs will be held at Richmond Hill and Woodbridge arenas at no loss of regular school time.

Security Police Budget Is Down

The four-man York County security police force was one of the few whose operation this year will cost less than in 1963.

Reporting to the county council last Thursday, the police committee, headed by King Deputy-reeve Gordon Cook, is asking for a budget of \$24,400 as compared to \$26,773 last year.

The force logged 12,748 miles in its van purchased last year and from Richmond Hill and Newmarket courts and the Don Jail.

There were 1,038 prisoners transported to and from the Don Jail and 1,208 prisoners passed through county facilities in the two towns.

By agreement, Newmarket provides the county with office space for the security police at a cost of \$1,500 and Richmond Hill supplies cells for prisoners at a cost of \$759.

The committee said other facilities here are lacking and it is through the co-operation of Chief R. P. Robbins space has been found in the station for the security police.

Members of the force are William McMullen, Richmond Hill; Joseph Madden, Oak Ridge; Chris Cailes, Newmarket and Mrs. Gail Palmer also of Newmarket.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH
By the Ontario Tender Fruit Institute
"Buy Canada Choice Canned Fruit"

Plum Roly Poly
Serves 8 For a snack or dessert

3 cups biscuit mix
2 tablespoons melted butter
1/4 cup sugar
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 cup canned strained plums (or junior plums)

Prepare your own biscuit dough or use a prepared mix. Roll out in 15 x 10-inch rectangle. Spread with melted butter. Combine sugar and spices. Sprinkle 1/2 on biscuit mix. Spread with strained plums leaving a 1-inch margin. Sprinkle with remaining sugar and spices. Roll up and cut in 1-inch slices. Place slices, cut side up, in a greased pan or muffin tin. Bake in hot oven (450° F.) 15-18 minutes.

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