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ANNEX 50 ACRE INDUSTRIAL SITE?



Local Firm Makes Gift To Legion Court

President Frank Barrott is evidently very happy to accept on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 275 a new Electrohome TV set. Mr. Barrott is shown on the left above with Lou Moore and John Waegemakers, proprietors of Richmond Hill TV, Levendale Road, Richmond Hill. The partners were also quite happy to donate this fine TV set for the Maple Leaf Room in Legion Court where veterans can spend many hours enjoying television programs of sports events and entertainment features.

The gift is the more appreciated since it is the first received for the new Legion Court. (Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Vaughan Builds Road, N. York Bridge Too High

When it comes to road and bridge planning, it appears that Vaughan and North York Townships are like North and South Vietnam... they can't get together.

According to Vaughan Council's road committee Monday night the township's multi-million dollar Jane Street road reconstruction has been "adversely affected" by a proposed bridge over the Black Creek.

"That's putting it mildly," said one councillor.

It appears North York Council and the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority have come up with a bridge design four feet higher than the original elevation.

The structure now at the design stage (Jane Street reconstruction has been going on all summer) will be a unique one in that its 75' x 100' will form the intersection of Jane and Steeles Avenue in the middle with the creek and a small roadway underneath.

"It's not our proposal that is roofing this up," admonished Councillor Rini McConkey.

According to one councillor, North York and the MTRCA didn't make their plans known until after Vaughan's were made for Jane.

Council recommended its engineers discuss the dilemma with Jane Street contractor Street Construction of Richmond Hill and delete from the contract any part of the work affected by a change in the deck elevation.

Council will also ask the Department of Highways to consent to Vaughan negotiating a new contract with Street Construction, using the same unit price as far as possible, when the design for the bridge has been finalized.

Asks Investigation

Operating Large Buses To City On Town Streets

Councillor William Lazenby has asked the transportation committee of Richmond Hill Town Council to investigate the operation of the Trailways Bayview Avenue buses to Toronto on streets within the town.

Mr. Lazenby noted these buses make a loop along South Taylor Mills and North Taylor Mills and picks up and discharges passengers on these roads.

He asked and his motion was seconded by Deputy-reeve Stanley Tinker, specifically that the committee ascertain if the firm's licence covers these buses on the town roads, if the town is covered in case of an accident, and whether or not additional fares comparable to those charged on the local bus service are collected and are used to decrease the subsidy paid on the local bus service.

Whether the extension should be discontinued should be considered, he maintained, as these larger buses on smaller roads are a threat to traffic safety, and also provides a service to one small area of town which is not available elsewhere.

He reported that at 6:30 p.m. every day, two large express buses from Toronto discharge passengers on these roads, and are closely followed by the smaller local bus.

Councillor Walter Scudis said he thought this route had been set up by agreement between the town and the bus company at the time of the opening of the Beverley Acres area and the starting of the service to Toronto. This was before the inception of the local bus service, he stated.

'67 Library Not Decided

Richvale Lions Roaring

Vaughan's Centennial Library Committee is still up in the air over its 1967 project.

"Is it on or is it off?" eight members of the Richvale Lions Club wanted to know at Vaughan Council meeting Monday night.

Lions' spokesman Brian Bailey who had been promised a definite answer two weeks ago at this week's meeting felt the whole matter of Vaughan's centennial library was being left far too long and far too indecisively.

The Richvale group, who came out second in the bid for some centennial money to develop a park and recreation scheme for residents in the southeast section of the sprawling township, said they wish the library group the best of success but want to make sure the grants offered don't slip through Vaughan's fingers completely.

The library group which held one meeting in June and the second one last Tuesday night (September 22) have yet to make a positive decision.

Council's representative, Reeve A. H. Rutherford wasn't at Monday's meeting and Councillors Ruth McConkey, Wilfred Keffer and Garnet Williams admitted they were stymied.

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New Oak Ridges Ratepayers Assn. Meets October 8

Residents of Oak Ridges have formed a homeowners association.

Initial meeting of the group will be held at 8:15 p.m., October 8 at Oak Ridges Public School.

The North Yonge Street community which has close to 200 families is divided between King and Whitechurch Townships as far as jurisdiction over schools, roads and taxes are concerned.

Richmond Hill Council will favorably consider making application for approximately 50 acres presently in Markham Township located at the corner of Yonge Street and Elgin Mills Sideroad. This decision was reached Monday night after council heard a delegation of former councillor Joseph Paterson, who holds an option on the land and R. S. Jones, representing Taylor-Woodrow of Canada Ltd., the company of industrial developers who seek annexation and rezoning of the land.

The matter will now go to solicitors for the town and the applicants to draw up agreements before decision to start annexation procedures is made by council.

The agreements are subject to certain conditions including early start on development which is to be completed within three years. The maximum price of the land is to be approximately \$5,000 per acre plus taxes and interest to the date of sale. The developers will pay \$20,000 toward the cost of providing services to the northerly border of Elgin Mills Road, estimated to cost \$40,000 and be responsible for servicing the buildings. The town will be allowed to buy any property remaining unsold at the end of three years to hold for industrial development.

The minimum lot size will be five acres with a minimum coverage by buildings of 6,000 square feet per acre. Architectural standards will be maintained and 17 feet along the Elgin Mills Road will be dedicated for future road widening.

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst reported that several meetings had been held by council with these men during the past six months and that representatives of planning board, Richmond Hill Hydro, the works commissioner and other interested town bodies have been present at these meetings.

Engineering Fees \$55,000

Beverley Acres Plans Held For Consideration

A recommendation from the works committee that Hisey & Barrington, as consulting engineers, be authorized to prepare final plans for the installation of storm sewers, curbs and pavement widening in the Beverley Acres area Monday night was laid over for further consideration by council.

When it was reported that this would entail approximately \$55,000 in engineering fees, Mayor Thomas Broadhurst felt more consideration was a sensible step before buying a bill for this amount. He felt broad engineering and details should be sufficient until provincial approval is received. "I don't think we should expose ourselves to the same hazard as in the south-west area when there isn't the same urgency," he said.

Councillor Walter Scudis reported it was council's feeling the work in Beverley Acres should be done in stages, but the committee felt it could be a mistake to plan in stages. He reported all committee members felt planning should be done completely, so the full picture is available.

Councillor Robert Saunders felt before authorizing preparation of a plan of this kind engineers should be hired to do a road and street study throughout the whole community, establishing top priorities for future work. He felt this survey should include traffic counts and drainage problems to give some form of a guide.

Councillor Scudis replied that the urgent need for the work in Beverley Acres could be justified by engineer's reports already on hand. It was also noted the planning board consultant is expected to come up with a comprehensive report on all areas in the town by next summer.

Future town policy will be to construct sidewalks on school routes if current revenue where storm sewers are to be installed, council decided as it implemented another recommendation from the September 26 committee meeting.

Dr. D. H. Pimlott, C. Wortman and H. Van Dyke were present at the committee meeting when final plans and estimates for the contemplated works in the southwest area of the town were considered.

Necessary property to establish a 66 foot road allowance on Trench Street from Mill Street to Richmond Street will be acquired.

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Too Much Chlorine In Monday's Water

A complaint about excessive quantities of chlorine in tap water, especially on Mondays, was reported to Richmond Hill Council Monday night by Councillor William Lazenby.

Works Commissioner Otto Whalen reported he also has had a complaint from another area in town.

Both complainants had protested previously, he stated, and tests taken by the OWRC had shown the samples to have below normal chlorine content.

Councillor Lois Hancey reported that in her own case she found the trouble had been caused by heavy lime deposits in her electric tea kettle. It was also suggested that the trouble might be that an old galvanized system needed replacing.

Mr. Whalen agreed to investigate the situation to see if he could come up with a solution.

To Demolish Old Curling Centre In Town Ball Park

Another Richmond Hill building familiar to several generations of residents is slated to disappear in the immediate future.

Monday evening Richmond Hill Town Council authorized the works commissioner to dismantle and remove the old curling rink in the town park.

The approximately 75-year-old building was the scene of many a night of enjoyable curling on the two-sheet ice surface. Curlers from all over the district participated in bonspiels in this building, which continued in use as a curling rink until about 12 years ago.

During the off season it was used on fair day to house the children's exhibits, when they were an integral part of the fair, later the Guernsey calves and on one occasion at least a poster contest sponsored by the humane society.

The front section of the building housed what was popularly known as "Dinty Moore's Club" for many years. Here the curlers and their friends met to enjoy hotly contested games of bridge and euchre. "Dinty's" continued for a few years after curling was no longer carried on in the building.

About 12 years ago Richmond Hill Scouts took over the building, refurbished it, and it was in use as a meeting place for Scouts and Cubs every week night until recently.

Head Office, Plant To Cost \$2 Million

Announcement was made last week by Crown Cork and Seal Co. Ltd., Carlaw Avenue, Toronto that they will construct a \$2,000,000 plant and head office in Vaughan.

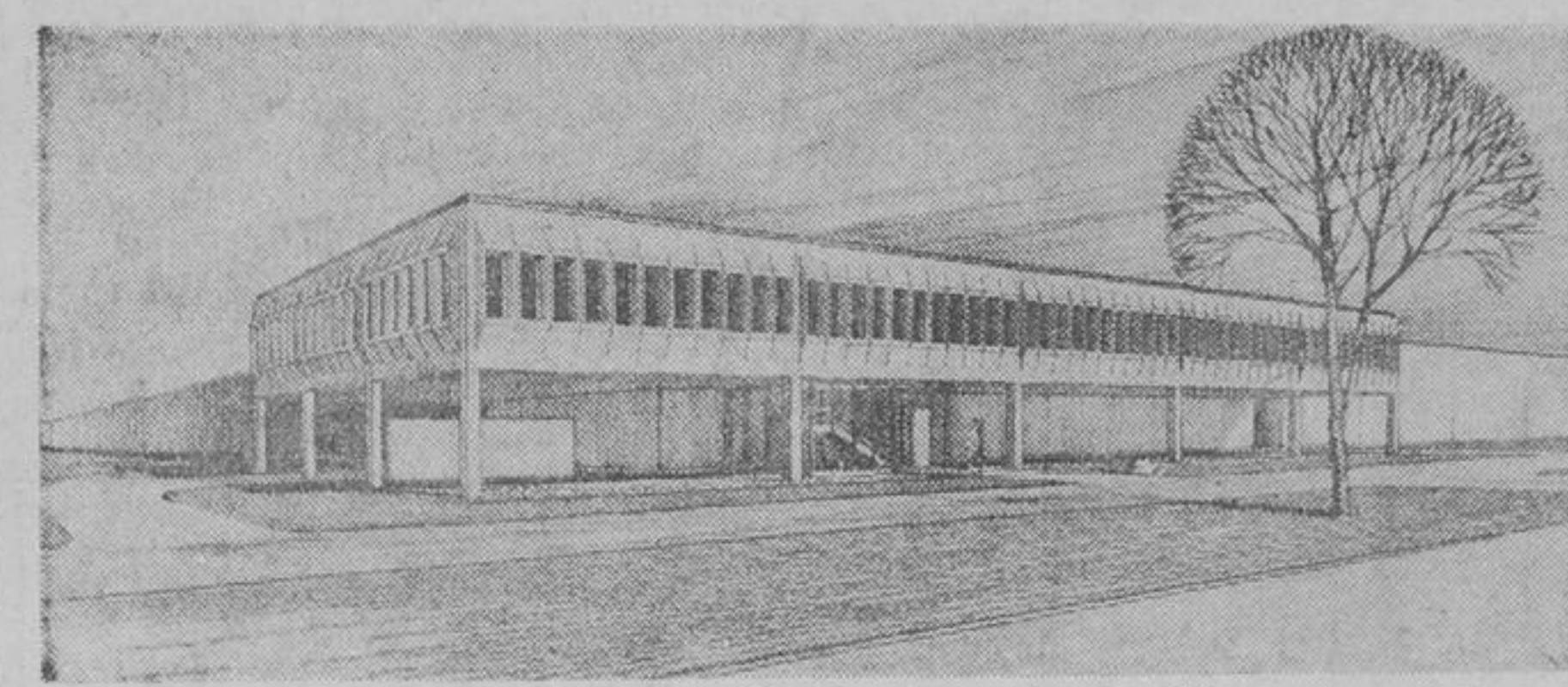
Vaughan's Centennial Library Committee is still up in the air over its 1967 project.

The 15-acre site has a frontage of close to 900 feet on Keele Street, immediately north of the road leading to the CN administration building. The plant building, designed by A. D. Margison and Associates will have an initial floor space of 250,000 square feet.

Construction is expected to start this fall and operations will begin early next summer. Present operations on Carlaw Avenue will cease gradually. The Carlaw plant employs 240 but the new plant will employ about 300. The increased use of aerosol containers has influenced the enlargement of production facilities, stated Douglas Scott, vice-president.

Vaughan Acres has been completely serviced with water and construction of sewage facilities is almost complete. Vaughan Township Clerk Jim MacDonald stated that the contractor is well ahead on his work but delay in delivery of some pre-selected equipment may delay opening of the system until October. Operation had originally been scheduled for September 15.

This is the second large industrial site to be sold in the area this year. The 100,000 square foot plant of Russell Steel Co. is now nearing completion on the east side of Keele street, north of the Crown Cork site.



Crown Cork and Seal Co. Ltd. will relocate its head office and manufacturing from east-end Toronto location to this new plant, scheduled for completion next Summer.

Southwest

OMB Hearing 10 A.M. Friday

The Ontario Municipal Board will sit at Richmond Hill Town Council Chambers from 10 a.m. on October 2 to hear arguments for and against the proposed storm sewer and road reconstruction work in the southwest corner of the municipality.

The hearing will be broken up into two parts, one on the drainage system and the other on the road construction, which will include curbs, pavements and sidewalks.

A large representation of ratepayers are expected to be in attendance to offer objections to the proposed plan.

Total value of the work is \$822,200 with the town's share of this cost \$372,770. The balance will be paid by Department of Highway subsidy and a forgiveness clause under the Municipal Development Loan Fund.

One Ratepayer Showed Up

A works committee meeting was held on the morning of September 19 to afford ratepayers an additional opportunity to inspect plans for the southwest area redevelopment program, in Richmond Hill, council learned Monday night.

One ratepayer attended. It was reported.

Three ratepayers turned up on the morning of September 26 after a works committee meeting and the plans were explained to them. Deputy-reeve Stanley Tinker reported a remarkable change in understanding of the project in one case.

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Old Hotel Building's History Links Community's Early Days To Present

BY MARY DAWSON

Slated for demolition in the near future, William Neal's building on Yonge Street South has a history which dates back into the earliest days of Richmond Hill.

It is being razed to provide parking space for the new Richmond Inn opening next month.

Records show that Lot 46 Markham Township, of which the property was originally a part, was granted by the Crown to Hugh Shaw in 1802. This lot which stretched from Markham Road to the northern limits of the Burnie property on the east side of Yonge, was the first lot in the village site to be subdivided.

The first hostelry on the site, Dolby's Hotel, was a long low frame building with stables at the north end.

A coach stop where the York (Toronto) aristocracy stopped, it was on this fore-runner of the present building that the life-size portrait of "The Lass of Richmond Hill" was hung at the suggestion of Benjamin Barnard, the village's first school teacher.

The first log school house built in Richmond Hill in 1810 across the road from the hotel, just south of the present McConaghy Public School, served the children of the community until 1849 when it was replaced by a two-room frame structure. The original school house, 40 by 20 feet, was moved across Yonge Street, and to the Church Street side of the hotel lot, where it served as a pigery for many years.

Among the early writings of the late William Harrison, he reports that on fair day the men frequented the various hotels in the vicinity, naming the Dominion Hotel as one of these. As the various racing events came up on the day's program a man on horseback was sent around to all hotels to summon spectators back to the fair grounds.

Mr. Harrison also recorded that one day in the mid-1800's a man arrived in the village, strung a wire between the chimneys of the Dominion Hotel and the Palmer House and proceeded to give a thrilling demonstration of the art of tight-rope walking high above Yonge Street. One hotel chimney was seriously damaged during the exhibition, he reported.

It is believed that at least part of the first hotel structure on the site was incorporated when the present building was constructed and named the Dominion Hotel.

Hand-hewn foot-square timbers which support the building may be seen in the basement still bearing the marks of axes welded by pioneer woodsmen. Similar timbers will no doubt be revealed as the building comes down.

Mr. Neal purchased the building in 1929, when the hotel had long ceased to operate.

However, in the northeast taproom, copper tubes were still in place which had brought the draught beer to the bar taps from casks stored in the cool basement. At that time a distinctive feature of the three storey building was a second storey verandah along the whole front, embellished with lacy looking panels of wood. This verandah was removed about 25 years ago.

When the new front was installed in 1950, it was discovered that the framework of the building had been sheathed in pine planks, some of which were more than 30 inches in width; similar planks have not been seen in this part of the country for more than a century. These will be visible again for the last time as the outer facing of brick is removed as the old building is demolished.

During the 1950 renovations, an elderly resident of Richmond Hill spent a great deal of time keeping an eye on the workmen.

When asked why he was so interested, he told Mr. Neal and members of his family, "When I was a young man, somebody shot at me and missed in this hotel. I want to see if I can find the bullet hole". His long vigil was rewarded and he found the hole in one of the wide planks at the southwest corner. This too may come to light as the planks are exposed.

Mr. Neal and his wife moved into the apartment above the showroom, on the second floor of the old Dominion Hotel on May 1, 1930, and have, with their family of five sons, lived there until this week.

They have often been aware of other inhabitants of the building in the past 10 years.

One warm spring day a swarm of bees landed on the outside of one of the south windows of the second floor. By the time an apiarist was contacted and arrived with his equipment to remove the bees, there were only a few to be seen flying around.

The apiarist smilingly said to Mr. Neal, "This is a sign of good luck, Bill." A few days later, Mr. Neal knew the forecast was true when he won a car in a lucky draw.

However, the swarm had not moved on, only moved inside the wall of the building, where their hum could be occasionally heard and where the delicious aroma of their cache of comb honey could be faintly noticed.

When that wall comes down there should be evidence of the swarm's 10-year industry.

Mr. Neal, who has served on more than one occasion as councillor, reeve and mayor of Richmond Hill, credits the building for his interest in local politics.

Shortly after his arrival in town he was told the old wiring was no longer capable of handling the demands on it and would have to be replaced in the interest of safety.

He hired an electrician who completed the re-wiring job in first class order, so that the owner was quite surprised one Monday morning to find the local hydro superintendent climbing the pole with the expressed intention of cutting off the power supply.

Newly-installed gas pumps at the curbside depended on (Continued on page 3)