

'65 Inaugural January 14

No More P.S. Graduation Exercises

"People think they have a gold mine if they can only get things into the schools. They know there's no better salesman in your house or mine than a child," said Harold Sanderson, chairman of the Richmond Hill Public School Board at the December 10 meeting.

The board had learned that Remembrance Day poppies had been distributed in the schools, although permission had not been given for this. The board's policy on the distribution of advertising, and collection of money in the schools states that only material from UNICEF, the Junior Red Cross and for poppy day may be authorized by the board, but permission must be given by the board even for these organizations.

Vice-Chairman Walter Hutchison contended but stressed that it should be made clear to parents that there would be no subsequent graduation exercises in your house or mine than a child," said Harold Sanderson, chairman of the Richmond Hill Public School Board at the December 10 meeting.

Grade 8 bus excursions will also be held some time other than the last week in June as principals reported that the children had come to regard them as merely a holiday. Mr. McIntyre said he had urged the principals to schedule these trips carefully, not making them up on the spur of the moment.

A report was given on learning capacity tests. In the past individual and group tests were given in grades 1, 4 and 7. Tests in grade 1 will be omitted in future as it has been found that they are consistently higher than those given in grade 4 and 7. Counselling is given in grade 8, taking the results of these tests into consideration.

On a motion of Trustee Stephenson, it was decided to permit the child whose doctor had requested it to take her lunch to school, but that the parents of the other child be advised that their request was being deferred until a review of the board's policy in this regard could be made by the 1965 board.

Mrs. A. Fraser was re-appointed as the board's representative on the public library board for a further three year term.

Tentative approval was given to John Wheeler, grade 8 teacher at Walter Scott Public School to carry out a program of supervised homework sessions between 6:30 and 8:30 in the evenings as part of his preparation for a thesis. The board asked that his full plan be submitted for their approval. In the meantime, they will check to see that their insurance coverage will protect them during these sessions.

It was agreed to hire the part-time attendance officer, David Porter for a further year at the same salary, together with a statutory increase, and the high school board, who shares Mr. Porter's services was to be so advised.

A lengthy discussion took place as to what the board could do to protect children at the Mill pond area during the several weeks when the ice is unsafe. Safety programs are conducted in the schools but it was reported that a child from Pleasantville School had fallen through the ice the same day a constable had been at the school warning the children about such hazards.

Trustee Jack Knott suggested that the area should be patrolled during the month or six weeks the ice was dangerous.

A request from R. E. Plummer of the Gideon Society that he be allowed to present New Testaments to grade 5 students in the schools was granted.

A photograph taken in 1897 of students of Richmond Hill Public School was circulated among the board members. It was agreed to try and have the students identified and have the picture framed to hang in the board room.

The board agreed unanimously to send letters of congratulations to Marijke Van Arnhem and Lauri Greenham, winners of the recent painting competition sponsored by the British Mortgage & Trust Company.

Permission was given to the caretaking staff to hold a Christmas get-together at Walter Scott School, December 19 and the board agreed to contribute \$20.00 to provide refreshments.

The board will have their final meeting of the year December 28 when they will meet for the passing of accounts.

The 1965 inaugural meeting will be held January 14 and Rev. James Burn of St. Matthew's United Church will be asked to give the invocation.

Superintendent Gordon McIntyre stressed that the poppies had not been sold to the children but given to them. It was decided to remind the principals that when any material comes into the schools for distribution, permission must first be given by the board.

Mr. McIntyre agreed to make a list of what was distributed in the schools last year, noting what was approved by the board and what was not. "I think it will surprise you," he said.

A suggestion from the principals that changes be made in the schools graduation ceremonies was discussed. The board did not agree however that the closing ceremonies be held on the last day of school, as it was felt that this would prevent many fathers from being present. It was decided therefore that closing exercises would be held toward the end of June, in the evening, but not on the last day of school, when there would be a general exodus to summer cottages.

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Trees And Planters Brighten Yonge St.

Large concrete planters, provided by Richmond Hill's Civic Improvement Committee, are attractive additions to the downtown shopping area, Mayor Thomas Broadhurst told "The Liberal" this week.

Planned as a permanent feature of the area, to serve as a cohesive element to tie together the two block area from Lorne Avenue to Duferin, the planters will be painted in attractive colors when the weather is suitable and attractive plantings will be set out in the spring in these containers.

In the meantime, small pine trees have been placed in the planters to bring a seasonal note of cheer to the area, the mayor explained.

"Light A Candle" Program Theme

"Light a Candle for the Saviour" is the title of this year's children's Christmas program at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

The event will be held Sunday at 7 p.m. in the new Lutheran church on Bayview Avenue. Local Lutherans will also celebrate Christmas with a festive worship service Thursday at 7 p.m.

Sunday's children's program is written, produced and directed by Mrs. Albert Myers. A cast of 75 pupils from the congregation's Sunday school will be involved.

The program will present the story of the Saviour, Jesus Christ, through Old Testament prophecy, the nativity and the visits of the wise men and shepherds.

Selected scenes will be dramatized. They include the annunciation to Mary, the angels' visit to the shepherds, and the visits of the shepherds and wise men to the Bethlehem stable.

Flowers will be presented to the infant Jesus by children from the school's nursery and kindergarten classes at the close. This will symbolize the dedication of all to the Saviour.

Seventeen candles will be lit during the program. They will burn on the altar and will mark the progress of events in the drama.

Favorite carols will be sung by the congregation as a part of the presentation. Organist will be Charles Nordgren.

Costuming will be supervised by Mrs. Philip Limpert. Mrs. Reid Williamson is in charge of staging, and Gerald Wood will care for special effects such as lighting.

Assisting in the production will be Mrs. J. Miller, Mrs. P. Petersen, Mrs. G. Wood, Mrs. R. Percival, Mrs. H. Duffert and Miss Star Duffert.

Area Lutherans and their friends and neighbours will also attend Christmas eve worship at 7 p.m. in St. Paul's Church. The service will feature a candlelighting ceremony in which each worshipper may participate.

The Christmas eve service was scheduled for an early hour so that families might bring their young children. The new church will be appropriately decorated. Pastor Albert E. Myers will preach the Christmas sermon.

"The public is cordially invited to our special program and our Thursday evening service," said Pastor Myers. "It is our desire to share the good news of God's love in the gift of His Son with all who will come."

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Charge Dismissed In Chair Escapade

A charge of stealing a chair valued at more than \$50 from a Richmond Hill hotel lobby was dismissed against a King area youth and withdrawn against two local men.

Gary Edward Joseph Wolfe, 19, of RR 3 King represented by John Lawlor, pleaded not guilty to the charge laid by Const. Robert Deighton November 11 after he said he saw three men running out of the hotel entrance carrying the chair around 1 a.m.

The constable testified last Thursday the three ran to the hotel's parking lot where he stopped them; he said Wolfe was sober. "They seemed to think it was a joke," he said.

In their testimony, Elio Quintile, 23, of Lucas Street, and Ronald W. Cosgrove, 22, of Centre Street East, said the three had been drinking with eight or more of their friends and a bet was made to see if they could carry the chair from the front to the back of the hotel.

"We were going to return it," Wolfe pleaded guilty to having a bottle of beer in his pocket during the escapade and was fined \$25 and costs.

What would we do with a chair?" Quintile said. According to hotel owner Michael Wilson, Jr., the three had apologized for the trouble.

Mr. Lawlor said there had been no intention to steal or defraud.

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Markham Chief Monthly Report

Markham Police Chief Harvey Cox reported 48 accidents in the township in November, one of them fatal and 13 resulting in injuries.

In his monthly report to township council Monday he said there were eight fires, \$1,616.50 in property stolen and \$1,209 of it recovered.

Constables answered a total of 827 calls in the month, he said.

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Not A Very Merry Christmas

BY MARY DAWSON

Every family has one Christmas that is remembered above all others. In our family the one which is recalled most frequently started off as not a very happy one.

That Christmas of 1906 in a small Western Ontario town, the family had their first Christmas tree. No stockings were hung for Santa to fill but all gifts for the four older children and the baby were placed under and on the spreading branches of a cedar tree whose tip touched the high ceiling. Dolls and cribs for the three girls were put in position — and for their eight-year-old brother a miniature carpenter set and a wheelbarrow.

Long before dawn Christmas morning eight-year-old John, alone found his gifts and proceeded to try out the small saw. Unfortunately the doll's cribs were handy and suffered from his carpentry attempt.

He next decided to try surgical work on the three sawdust stuffed dolls under the tree. Great was the anguish of his sisters, 6, 10 and 12 years old, when they finally awakened to find their Christmas gifts destroyed. Tears flowed and voices were raised in vociferous condemnation of brother John, whose undamaged toys were confiscated.

To these lamentations was the complaint that it didn't seem like Christmas without the pleasure of removing gifts from a stocking, each level bringing a new delight right down to the orange in the heel and the nigertoes (Brazil nut) in the toe.

In spite of all the tears, lamentations and bitterness, it was Christmas and our mother went ahead with preparations for Christmas dinner. In a lull in preparations she slipped on her coat and out the back door (as much to get away from her own disgruntled brood as for any other reason) to the home of a neighbor, who three days before had given birth to a baby boy. The father of the family of four was out west working as a mason on the building of Regina's business section.

He was making good money and had sent his wife a substantial cheque to take care of Christmas preparations but the heavy volume of Christmas mail had held up the letter. Mother was shocked to find no food in the house but oatmeal porridge and milk (the family had a cow). There was not even a grain of sugar.

The solution was easy—home she marched—took the turkey, now cooked to perfection, from

the oven, the vegetables and plum pudding and sauce from the top of the coal-burning range, lined up the four older members of the family, father and herself, carried the dinner and all the trimmings over to the neighbors' home and then prepared bacon and eggs for her own family.

Christmas was not a total loss to the family again on New Year's Day and stuffed stockings. Brother John's toys were restored to him and all were content, but it was more than a quarter of a century before the Dawsons had another Christmas tree—our tradition was stockings and so stockings it had to be.

WIs And Service Clubs Respond To Aid Appeal


A total of 22 local service organizations responded recently to a special appeal from the Children's Aid Society of York County.

A ward of the society needed two artificial legs costing \$700 and rather than trying to squeeze these out of an already overtaxed budget, the society appealed to each of York County's Women's Institutes and to each of the men's service clubs.

Donations ranged from \$5 to \$200. One service club called recently and asked the amount needed to reach the objective, then promptly sent in a cheque for the required sum.

Largest donations were from the Newmarket Optometrist Club \$200, Aurora Lions Club \$195, and Markham Lions Club \$100. Other local groups who contributed were the Mark-Vaun, Thornhill, Gormley, Stouffville and Markham Village W.I. and the King City Lions Club.

"We would ask you to help say 'thank you' to the many men and women of York County who have helped our boy to stride forward with a brand new pair of 'man sized' artificial legs," wrote Betty C. Graham, executive director of the York County Children's Aid Society.



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