

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SLATED FOR '68

York Central High School Board at their recent December meeting gave the go-ahead for the opening of a special vocational school by 1968.

Recommendation was given by the advisory vocational committee for a school on a 10 acre site to accommodate 450 pupils.

Purpose of the school would be to supply first class education for students of limited academic ability. Aim would be to give each child something suitable for him, rather than expecting him to fit into a rigid curriculum.

Program would consist of about 50% academic work with the remaining time spent in shops or work experience programs. Academic classes would be small.

Superintendent S. L. G. Chapman, at the board's request, had visited special vocational schools in the area and reported his findings to a meeting of the advisory vocational committee December 16. He visited Bendale in Scarborough Township, Yorkdale in North York, Kingsmill in Etobicoke and a special vocational school in Port Credit.

At Yorkdale, the vocational program includes auto servicing, beauty culture, carpentry, electrical appliance repair, horticulture and gardening, machine shop, merchandising, painting and decorating, sheet metal, small engines, tailoring and trowel trades, Mr. Chapman reported.

At Bendale the list included printing, upholstering, commercial art, quantity cooking, baking, short order cooking, food preparation, typing, hair-dressing, dry cleaning and several others.

Mr. Chapman also reported that he had investigated the possibility of operating such a school in co-operation with neighboring municipalities. In discussing the figures resulting from the survey with officials

however, Mr. Chapman had been advised that York Central would be wiser to consider building a school of its own. If space were available at the beginning, students from other areas could be accepted on a fee paying basis.

When questioned about the need for such a school, Mr. Chapman advised that Department of Education officials estimate that 10% of all students should be in such a school. York Central's present enrolment of over 3,000 would therefore include 300 students for a special vocational school.

Experience in other areas has indicated, Mr. Chapman reported, that when such a school is opened, more students invariably turn up than had been anticipated.

Students now in the two year occupations course at Thornhill and Bayview would be in the school and other students who are now getting no service.

Vice-chairman John Honsberger spoke out in favor of the special vocational school. "This is a group we have not been educating in the past," he said. "They are students who can least look after their own future. We should be helping them all we can."

Other trustees were largely in favor of the project. "This will take a little selling," said Trustee Morley Kinney. "We might not have enough students in neighboring municipalities. In fact, I feel however, that they should try to build the school earlier than the survey with officials"

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Cash Registers Ring Up Solid Sales As Christmas Shoppers Stay In Town

Richmond Hill cash registers rung up an astounding sales record this Christmas, according to a "Liberal" store-by-store survey this week.

Last year's seasonal sales established some kind of local buying-sprees statistics which most stores this year said they topped, some by as much as 10%.

Weather has been given the credit in most cases, along with a trend to shop at home and more consumer dollars ready to be spent. The low province-wide unemployment rate is also given credit.

According to KEN STIFF FURS, fur coat sales weren't as good this year although stores moved well as they usually do as an ornamental fur.

"The fur business in Canada generally hasn't been as good as in other years. You need a real cold snap in November to make people think about buying coats," according to Doug Booth, local manager.

RICHMOND HILL MUSIC CENTRE'S Vicki Page stated she sold literally hundreds of the four Liverpoolians' musical efforts as Christmas presents this year with guitars coming a close second to the Beatles. She said business was a little better than last year.

AT THE PLAYPEN on the Richmond Plaza, the staff said they broke all previous records. "Despite the criticism of the war toys, they were a big seller. It was a much better year than last," a staff member said.

John Schouten, manager at KRESGE'S said his sales were 8 to 10% better than last year in all departments.

"People seem to be spending more money and after all, this has become a good shopping area," he said, noting there was a great deal of eleventh-hour customers.

Delivery of potted plants, poinsettias and cut flowers kept florist AL RICE and his staff on the hop until 11 p.m. Christmas eve and all day Christmas and he felt his business had definitely improved over last year.

WOOLWORTH'S on Yonge Street, busy taking stock this week, reported a little better than average year this year with no department sales outstanding the rest.

AT FIRESTONE, Store Manager Bernie Smith said his business was about the same as last Christmas with sales of major appliances up.

"Everything came in during the last two days," reported the manager of ATLAS PHOTO SUPPLY but business was just about the same as last year, the same story as reported by his business neighbor BURROUGHS FURNITURE.

On the Leventdale Plaza, Manager Lou Nolan of LEVENTDALE MEAT MARKET said he sold 700 turkeys this year "a lot more than last year. We must have doubled our volume."

Harry Hill, manager of CANADIAN TIRE CORPORATION on Yonge Street said his store sales were up a bit from 1963

The transportation business in Richmond Hill suffered over the Christmas season and may suffer more New Year's Eve, according to one company owner.

George Beardsworth of Plaza Taxi was highly critical of the two local car clubs, the Aristocrats and the Knights who are offering "taxi service" to people who want to drink and don't want to drive Thursday night.

"They're getting a little out of hand. They now have a bank of phones and it's a little unfair to the guy who is licenced and in the business in town," he said Monday.

Both Plaza and Richmond Hill and Richvale Taxi said Christmas business was slowed down by the traffic conditions.

Richmond Hill owner "Lucky" Leckie said his fleet of cabs couldn't handle the calls they received. "It took half an hour to make a 10-minute run," he said. "I've never seen traffic like it."



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

10-Year-Old Wins Go-Cart

The big grin and freckles belong to Bill Gurney, 10-year-old grade 6 student at L. M. McConaghy Public School, winner of the Shields Footwear contest. Bill is shown left, in the glamorous go-cart he received having rounded up a total of 1,156 votes to win the contest.

The boys got one vote for each dollar spent in their name at the store between September and December 24 and Mrs. Gurney reports that Bill knocked on every door between his home at 42 Harding Blvd. at the south end of town right up to Centre Street, and also canvassed on the streets

around the Richmond Heights Centre. He and his Dad tried out the 3 1/2 hp go-cart on Christmas day and Bill had the thrill of his life driving around the Dominion Store lot.

Shown centre is second prize winner Chris Cameron, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Cameron, 379 Tyneview Lane. A grade 7 student at Pleasantville Public School, 11-year-old Chris garnered 1,030 votes and was pleased with his electric road racing set.

Looking just as happy as the two boys is Store Manager Wilfred Cox, right.

Hospital Christmas A Friendly Affair

Christmas in a hospital could be a melancholy time except for the determined effort by volunteers, church groups and staff to brighten up the season for patients.

This year at York Central Hospital, the hospital's first real organized Christmas was no exception, according to Hospital Administrator Gary Chaffield.

Patients were serenaded by carolling by groups from MacKillop School on December 19, St. Matthew's United Church choir on December 23 and the little patients in the children's ward were visited by children who brought gifts from St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

On Christmas day, the 52 patients in the hospital were allowed to have one relative or friend stay for a sumptuous turkey dinner with all the trimmings served on brightly decorated trays. Napkin holders came from a Thornhill Guide group, corsages from the Richmond Hill CGIT and tray covers and holly plants from the hospital auxiliary.

\$11,500 Blaze At Jane St. Home

A Sunday morning fire damaged the interior and some valuable furnishings in a 125-year-old Jane Street home, Vaughan Fire Department reported this week.

The fire, spotted at about 8 a.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hedges, Lot 3, apparently started from the fireplace into some wood panelling and smouldered overnight, Fire Chief James Davidson said.

No one was injured. Firemen from Maple and Richvale fought to contain the blaze for about an hour. The house was valued at about \$50,000 and damage estimated at \$11,500, the chief said.

A New Year's Message From Mayor Of Richmond Hill

BY TOM BROADHURST

There is one New Year's eve in all our lives which stands out more clearly than others. Mine goes back to 1945, to the courtyard of a French Foreign Legion fort at the south-eastern tip of the Sahara. The setting was straight out of Beau Geste—even Hollywood could not have improved on the original. The desert air was sharp and cold—as it is at night—and the stars shone brightly out of a blue-black sky. The fort itself straddled a rocky eminence jutting out of the sand and its inner courtyard could be seen through the rarely opened great doors warmed with the light of two braziers burning in its middle

and the flickering flame of huge torches set in sconces on the walls. Looking out over the desert, it would have been easy to see it peopled with characters from Biblical times—and in fact, the dress of some of those in the courtyard had changed little in the intervening centuries.

The occasion was a watch-night service conducted by a French chaplain, the uniforms of several nations were there. Most were Free French sailors, but there were also a few Norwegians, Poles, Americans, Englishmen and Spaniards from adjacent Spanish Morocco, but mainly the courtyard was filled with Arabs of the local tribes and a few Bedouin

slaves. The hymns were not very appropriate, being mostly Christmas hymns, but it was necessary to have music that was common to many languages, so all could join in. At least, it was music that all the Europeans could share, because the Arabs had a different set of tonal values.

A setting and a scene such as this was such a man from the West could not easily forget, but I hope that this was not the major reason for its remaining so clearly in my mind over the years.

At the end of the service, those who could exchange greetings and good wishes, did so and one of the first to come to me was an Arab woman whom I had never

seen before. This was unusual in itself, because even in the most sophisticated parts of the Arab world—which this was not—women rarely spoke to strangers. She explained that she was the wife of an Arab who had looked after me until his death in a quite freakish accident a few days earlier. She offered me a trinket of a leather thong with a soft piece of leather in the centre, in which was sewn a scrap of paper bearing words from the Koran, which her husband had always worn and which I knew was his most valued possession. Its purpose was to ward off devils.

These were poor people and they paid highly for such charms—it could take as

much as a month's pay to buy one. Knowing the store set by them on such things, I was at first tempted to utter a polite refusal, but on reflection I just said "Thank you," and took it from her. However, having taken it, I had to ask why she wished me to have something of such great and personal value. The reply—in pidgin French—was simply "You were his friend. It was necessary to give you something that it hurt me to give."

It would make a fitting ending to say that these words have been constantly in my mind since and my actions have been affected by them. Regrettably, this has not been so, but at least once a year, on New Year's

eve, they have come to my mind and for a brief while at least, my actions and attitudes have been colored by them. If more of us could share that attitude for longer, what enrichment there could be of our own lives and the life of the community in which we live. It can be translated into so many practical terms. Consideration for one's neighbors, even at the expense of personal hardship or discomfort which could help us build a much cleaner, more pleasant town than we have at present.

If all of us can say at the end of 1965 that we had done some little thing to leave our community at least (Continued on Page 3)

Gormley Postmaster Dies In Crash

Gormley Postmaster Charles F. Milsted, 59, was killed in a head-on crash east of Bayview Avenue on 18th Avenue, December 24.

His daughter, Charleen, is in York Central Hospital with a broken thigh and other injuries.

The second driver, John Charles Robertson, 23, and his sister, Catherine, 11, of Bedford

Park Ave., Richmond Hill, were both admitted to York Central, Robertson with cracked ribs and multiple cuts and the girl with cuts, a broken arm, jaw and leg.

According to Markham Township Police who are investigating the accident reported after 2:30 p.m. by Lloyd Steckley who lives a half mile west of the accident scene, dense fog was a partial factor in the crash which demolished both cars.

Mr. Milsted, whose wife has been "The Liberal" correspondent for Gormley for the past five years, was struck head-on in his westbound lane as he and his daughter were traveling to Richmond Hill.

He was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

A native of Zephyr in the northern part of the county Charles Franklin Milsted was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Milsted. A deeply religious man he has spent a life of dedicated Christian service in the United Missionary Church and the People's Church at Willowdale. A lay preacher, for over two years he conducted the services each Sunday in the Friends Church, Newmarket.

In August 1942 he married the former Evelyn Gooding in

the Gormley United Missionary Church. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father the late Rev. A. T. Gooding. Although not always in the best of health Mr. Milsted had a cheery disposition and enjoyed meeting people and especially children. Nineteen years ago he was shot in a hunting accident and hovered on the critical list for days.

A barber by trade Mr. Milsted carried on business at Queenville for over 20 years. In August 1953 he purchased the general store at Gormley and a year later he was named postmaster.

The funeral service was held last Sunday afternoon at the Gormley United Missionary Church with Rev. Lloyd Sider conducting the service assisted by Rev. Grant Sloss of Markham and Dr. Dan Edmundson of the People's Church. Pallbearers were Joseph Wideman, Walter Brillinger, Garnet Francey, Melvin Baker, William Heinemann and Bruce Fogarty.

The deceased is survived by his wife, daughter Charleen, a brother George of Toronto and four sisters Mrs. William Shaw (Florence) Uxbridge, Mrs. Frank Metherall (Elsie) Zephyr, Mrs. Deb Keetch (Verna) Pefferlaw and Mrs. Jack Allen (Ruth) Keswick.

Inaugurations Set For Area Councils

Inaugural ceremonies will be held within the next few weeks for Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham Councils.

Both Richmond Hill and Markham elected officials will take the oath of office for a one-year term on January 4. The Hill's inaugural is held at 11 a.m. with a special dinner the same day and the Markham inaugural is at the same time.

Vaughan's ceremony is slated for January 11 when individual committees will be set up and planning board members and school and Maple trustees, will be sworn in.

Vaughan Ups Land Price Nearly All Acreage Sold

Vaughan Council has upped the price of its industrial land on Keele Street opposite the CNR development because of sewer installation.

"Vaughan Acres Industrial Park", originally a 71 acre parcel purchased by the township on an option a year ago, had about 47 acres of saleable land which was put on the market at about \$5,000 an acre.

Because of the services installed... sewers, a road and water council decided to increase the price of the land to \$8,500 per acre fronting Keele Street and \$7,500 for the balance of the land they said.

Councillor Ruth McConkey said that while the price was more in line with competitive industrial concerns in the area, it was still lower than the average acre cost in the industrial complex.

Russelsteel Limited, who recently purchased 16,429 acres in the park and has made final payment, is the major concern there now but Township Industrial Commissioner Jim McDonald said he hopes all the land will be sold by December 31 or shortly after.

"We have had many offers, some by U.S. firms, and it is now a matter of final negotiations. As a matter of fact, we may run out of land," he said. In the past year, he said Vaughan Council has issued building permits for about \$4,500,000 worth of industrial building in the township with seven major industrial concerns locating there.

Another indication of the growth of this area was given to Richmond Hill Council Monday night when a request for increase in the number of sittings of the Third Division Court was received.

A large increase in the number of claims being handled by the court led to request for more frequent use of the council chambers. Two sittings will be held one month and three sittings the next month except during July and August when the court has a recess.

Clerk Russell Lynett reported that the municipality must provide accommodation for these courts by statute. Arrangements were left in his hands, with the mayor's office not to be included in the accommodation made available.

Town Ratio Up 2%

Richmond Hill's ratio of commercial and industrial assessment to residential assessment improved two per cent during 1964. Assessment Commissioner H. B. Cable reported to town council at its final meeting of the year, Monday evening.

This year the ratio is 23% commercial and industrial to 77% residential. In 1963 the ratio was 21% and 79% respectively.

Residential assessment on which the 1965 mill rate will be based increased \$561,974 (including apartment buildings) to a total of \$26,383,010. Commercial assessment increased \$274,774 to a total of \$5,174,469 and industrial assessment increased \$488,577 to \$2,641,415. Total increase for the year was \$1,325,201 to a total of \$34,198,894.

Population in 1964, according to the assessment roll, is 19,229, an increase of 623.

The assessment commissioner also noted that prospects for a better ratio in the future are good since a half million dollars of industrial assessment is under construction with a completion date of February or March 1965.

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Redelmeier Seeks Re-Appointment

Solar Heat Troublesome In Two Local S. Schools

York Central High School Board Chairman Ernest Redelmeier changed his mind about retirement.

He had announced at the December 21 board meeting he would not accept a re-appointment but later reconsidered.

The appointee of the Richmond Hill Public School Board, Mr. Redelmeier has been on the high school board for four years serving as its chairman in 1964 and vice-chairman and head of the management committee in 1963.

Referring to the trouble at Richmond Hill High School over unconventional hair styles, Mr. Redelmeier stated that he was impressed about how a difficult situation was met. The board agreed unanimously with Vice-chairman John Honsberger's recommendation that the principal, vice-principal and the superintendent be commended on the way they had handled the situation.

Although the board had agreed at a previous meeting to proceed with expropriation of 18-acre parcel of land, part of lot 8, concession 2, Township of Markham, fronting on Bayview Avenue or the site of a sixth secondary school, they passed a formal motion to this effect, containing a metas and bounds description of the property.

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