

**Town Council Meeting**

**Reeve Plaxton Raises Questions Committees, Assessment, Works**

Establishing a regular system of committee meetings for Richmond Hill Town Council was suggested by Reeve Donald G. Plaxton at the first regular meeting of 1965 Monday evening.

He explained that council members are paid at a per diem rate for attending committee meetings. If they attend one or more committee meetings on a day, they receive only one per diem payment, but if a committee meeting extends over two or three days they receive payment for each day involved. Each committee meeting costs the ratepayers of the town \$64 the reeve reported, stating that he was not questioning this amount, as he felt it quite equitable.

But he suggested setting aside one day for committee meetings and to hold as many on that day as possible as a saving of time and money. He said he realized some committee meetings must be called on very short notice, that others must meet on a regular basis, but he thought some streamlining is possible.

When the reeve's suggestion that the second Wednesday of every month be set as committee meeting night failed to gain support, Mayor Thomas Broadhurst suggested that as a member of the personnel, welfare and procedure committee Mr. Plaxton could discuss this matter thoroughly and come up with a workable suggestion after due consideration of the dictates of county and external bodies. "Everybody is in sympathy with the idea," the mayor maintained. "We would all like to make the most economic use of our time."

**COUNTY ASSESSMENT**  
The reeve also brought up the question of county assessment. "I gather by speaking to incoming members of county council that this is not a dead issue," he reported. "Some are objecting strenuously. The deputy-reeve and I should take direction on this important matter from this council, regardless of our personal feelings on the matter," he stated.

"The county controls 10% of the mill rate of this municipality and will by virtue of its December legislation now control 100% of its assessment," the reeve continued. "Proponents of county assessment believe it will result in an equal-

ized county rate. The feeling is that this municipality has been paying too much," he said. "I want this council to be aware of the situation and prepared to give us instruction."

The mayor pointed out that the reeve and deputy-reeve, by right of direct election to county council are not required to take direction from the municipal council. "If they wish to seek our opinion and be guided by it, that is good," the mayor continued, "but to make county government effective they must think of the overall picture. If sectional divisions are allowed to rule, that is bad."

Mr. Plaxton said he felt that assessment was a very fundamental basis of municipal government, and this important function has been given to another body. "Assessment is established for a lot more than the county rate," he stated, "and we are the ones the taxpayers are going to come to first and it isn't going to help things to have to refer them to Newmarket."

Mayor Broadhurst noted that it is long past the ideal time for re-assessment in Richmond Hill, and the setting up of county assessment will provide the staff to do a complete re-assessment of the county in the off-seasons.

**CAPITAL WORKS**  
Reeve Plaxton said he was very interested in the mayor's suggestion that some system of priority be established for capital works in this municipality. He felt the suggestions should be made by council and presented to taxpayers in a series of public meetings. Such a plan should be one succeeding councils could follow, he maintained.

Mayor Broadhurst said his idea was the evolution of a policy to use as a yardstick in determining the priority of any capital works problem which may come up. "Personally I believe priority should be given to capital works which hold promise of greatest returns assessment-wise. Yonge Street would receive higher priority because money spent there would permit redevelopment which could improve our assessment. I believe our first task is to establish a yardstick which will establish priority. Then proposed capital works can be given priority, always bearing in mind that inevitably we will come up against the amount of money we will have to spend in any given year."

"I was hoping for something more specific," the reeve interjected and the mayor went on to explain, "We will become specific in the second stage. This will require close liaison between the works and finance committees. But first we must develop a philosophy to guide us to what is of greatest priority."

The reeve raised the question of storm sewers which he forecast will keep cropping up until priorities are set. Mayor Broadhurst reported that engineers' "guesstimate" of the amount required to storm sewer the whole town is \$10,000,000, about twice what the borrowing potential is.

"I realize our decisions will not be binding on next year's council and that draining problems will keep cropping up," the reeve said, "but I feel that we should come to a decision on

the matter, area by area, so that succeeding councils will have a reasonable yardstick."

"When you look at the amount of money we will have to spend, at \$200,000 a year it would take 50 years to do the whole town," the mayor stated. "This is why I believe that some desirable things must be subordinated to things which will increase assessment and permit more money to be spent per year. In this way we may well cut the 50 year period to 20 years," he claimed.

The reeve countered "Relatively speaking there are not that many areas which desperately need storm sewers. Somebody at some time has to decide what areas are going to be considered. These areas will necessarily have to be the ones where there are definite problems."

Councillor Eric Handbury stated, "Once we have a plan, it would allow the ratepayers to consider the plan and express their opinions."

The reeve stated that many areas which require such work done can not afford it. "Let's give them a chance to decide," he suggested.

Councillor Lois Hancey reported that this was the idea behind a motion by last year's council that the mayor, reeve and works commissioner draw up a list of capital works and priorities. She also noted that sometimes ratepayers don't want to pay for works which are necessary for the benefit of the whole community rather than one small area of it.

Deputy-reeve Floyd Perkins stated he felt the most important thing to remember was how much money would be available before deciding how much money will be spent. Referring to a list of essential capital works advocated by the works commissioner, he named No. 6 well, \$50,000 a year for three years for re-ditching of Beverley Acres, widening of Yonge Street, and the southwest area, all problems which must be dealt with.

The deputy-reeve concluded with a plea for all members of council to pull together. "The only time we can get things done is when we sit at this table and discuss things in a spirit of co-operation," he stated.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

**Christmas Projects Walter Scott Student Council**

Members of the Walter Scott Public School Student Council, the only student council in the local public school system, undertook two ambitious Christmas projects. They are shown with a few of the half ton of magazines they collected for patients at the Ontario Hospital, Queen St. W., Toronto and some of the foodstuffs which they used to fill five baskets for needy families in the community.

Council members are (left to right) Marylin Rumble, John Walker, Elizabeth Kells, Don McDougal, Bill Northam, Rosa Iafate, Marlene Moss and Wayne Nodwell.

Absent was Richard Montgomery, president of the council. Staff advisor is John Wheeler.

**Stable Taxes, Progress Promised At Inaugural**

(Continued from Page 1) residential and farm properties made up over 73% of the assessment and industrial and commercial properties only slightly more than 16%.

Various members of the audience were invited to speak, including Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Walker, the chairman of the planning board, Alec Maynard, Police Chief Harvey Cox, Township Engineer Dusan Miklas and several others, all of whom congratulated members of council on their election and wished them a successful year.

Council and guests then adjourned to the adjacent Buttonville Community Hall for a luncheon prepared and served by the ladies of the Buttonville WI.

**Discord At Mkm. First Gathering**

(Continued from Page 1) Mr. Baird, who owns grading equipment of his own which it had been planned to use to remove the snow was indignant that the job had been done with township equipment. He advised that the operator of the township grader had told him he was doing the work on orders from the reeve.

Reeve Hooper denied that he had ordered it done. "I haven't

**County Health Board**

(Continued From Page 1) the previous volume.

Dr. Jensen, before he resigned last spring, said in his 1963 annual report to the board the move from the health unit to the hospital was a natural one but "we hope and expect to continue our concern with preventive mental health. Our experiences over the past years have proven the need for this type of work."

In 1963, Dr. Jensen saw 528 patients, made 2,203 interviews, attended 227 meetings and conferences, gave 138 lectures to teachers and nurses, 10 to groups, held 112 group therapy sessions and worked with the family doctors, probation officers, courts and police, Children's Aid Society and public health nurses.

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**SOUPS** 4 10 oz. tins **59¢**

BALLET - WHITE OR COLORED  
**TOILET TISSUE**  
2 ROLL PACK **21¢**

INSTANT OR QUICK  
**QUAKER Oats** 48 oz. pkg. **47¢**

LEE CHOICE - Sliced, Crushed, Tid-bits  
**Pineapple** 2 20 oz. tins **45¢**

FRANCO-AMERICAN COOKED  
**Spaghetti** 2 20 oz. tins **43¢**

JAVEX  
**BLEACH** 32 oz. **25¢**

**ROUND STEAK OR RUMP ROASTS** LB. **69¢**

LEAN MINCED  
**BEEF**  
LB. **39¢**

SCHNEIDER'S VAC PAC  
**RINDLESS BACON**  
1/2 lb. pkg. **39¢**

**Coming Events**

**BINGO** - Thursday night, 8 p.m. sharp, jackpot, - 4 special and 25 regular games. Our Lady Queen of The World Hall, east side of Bayview at Crosby Ave., Richmond Hill. tfe28

**JANUARY 9, SATURDAY** - 10 a.m. at Richmond Hill High School Auditorium, the Library club presents film "The Case of the Missing Scene" also "Raiders of the River." Episode 4. Admission by season ticket or 25c at door. clw28

**JANUARY 15, FRIDAY** - Richmond Hill Naturalists will meet at 8:00 p.m., Public Library auditorium. A coloured slide pictorial of Quebec Provincial Park will be presented. Everyone welcome. clw28

*Here's a smile for you*

The husband had just made a late and noisy arrival home after a night out with the boys when his wife met him with the question he was ready for: "Why are you so late."  
"I was held up dear," he replied promptly.  
"I'm sure of that," she rejoined. "It's the only way you could have made it home."



Phil Barth

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