



COUNTY ASSESSMENT COSTS SOAR



Photo by Stuart's Studio

And Not A Boat In Sight

This scene taken Thursday morning of last week at the height of flooding at Neal Drive and Skopin Road, was typical of several locations in Richmond Hill. Others were on Lynett Crescent, Elgin Mills Sideroad, Bluegrass Boulevard, and North Taylor Mills Drive.

In common with all southern Ontario communities Richmond Hill suffered from a combination of heavy rain and high temperatures following heavy snowfalls and no ground penetration which made for 100% run-off. Flooding occurred because catch basins and culverts were frozen and prevented the water escaping from low-lying areas where it collected. Cakes of ice also created blockades which caused the water to build up.

Employees of the works department worked all night sanding roads to make

them passable for motor traffic and concentrated on thawing out catch basins and culverts, repeatedly, during the daytime. Since Richmond Hill has 65 miles of open ditches with a culvert every 30 to 40 feet on the average, the magnitude of their job could have been discouraging but they concentrated on cleaning-up culverts where there was a possibility of basement flooding and where children on the way to school could have been endangered. Works Commissioner Otto Whalen told "The Liberal". The works commissioner added the townspeople were most understanding, on the whole, since they realized that this was not a normal situation.

Five steamers were in constant use all day. Mr. Whalen reported, adding "Richmond Hill was lucky compared to some other municipalities."

Fact-Finding Meeting Next Monday

Petitioners Protest Propane Tanks

A meeting between Richmond Hill Town Council and representatives of residents protesting the enlarging of propane storage facilities at the Altane Plant at 216 Markham Road, the proprietor of that plant, chairman of the planning board, and the town solicitor has been arranged for next Monday night at 7:30 p.m.

Monday evening a delegation presented a petition objecting to the present propane tanks at Altane Ltd. in a heavily built-up residential area, which it was claimed was a hazard to the safety of the citizens. The petition, bearing 257 signatures, was presented by Councillor Mrs. Lois Hancey and Mrs. C. Paxton of Lennox Avenue was spokesman for the delegation, about 35 strong.

A letter, requesting that the delegation be heard, set forth five questions for which answers were sought.

The first question asked why the installation of a 30,000-gallon tank was approved last summer by the Committee of Adjustment over the objection of Fire Chief A. Stong. Mayor Thomas Broadhurst first explained that the town's by-laws provide that hazardous use which is permitted must be approved by the Committee of Adjustment. Council appoints this committee for a three-year term — and this is the only control council exerts. The main function of the committee is to deal with minor variations from what is permitted by by-law. It is the only machinery available to make the by-laws tolerable, the mayor claimed.

In most cases its decisions are subject to ratification by the minister, but in hazardous use there is no obligation on the committee to advise anybody within an area and the minister does not have to approve the decision. Later the mayor read the Committee of Adjustment's regulations for handling of hazardous use applications, which bore out his report.

Mayor Broadhurst stated that he and the chairman of the Committee of Adjustment, Howard Jackman, are agreed that in the future it would be a good idea to notify citizens of applications for hazardous use.

Returning to the question as asked by the delegation, the mayor reported that only the committee which made the decision could answer it.

The second question asked "Why weren't the people residing within 300 feet of the site given due notice of the proposed additional storage?" Mrs. Paxton read from a letter from the Ontario Municipal Board that such procedure had been undertaken. The mayor thought the only explanation for this statement was that the OMB is so used to notification being required in cases where land use other than that provided by the zoning of the municipality is permitted, it took it for granted the same regulations pertained to hazardous use.

"What assurance do we have

Elmer To Replace Maple Leaf

Richmond Hill Public School Board finally received notice to fly the new Canadian flag, but it came too late for the board to participate in the flag-raising ceremonies, February 15.

Besides, the board is without a flag, anyway.

The notice from Education Minister William Davis, which was dated February 10, but received by the board five days later, said that the regulations calling for flying of the Union Jack or Red Ensign by elementary schools, had been amended to authorize flying of the new flag.

"Where any school has the flag, it should be raised," read the notice.

Business Administrator Kenneth Turton said he had tried to order flags from the Legion, but had been too late.

"If we don't have a flag, I don't know what we can do about a ceremony," said Chairman Walter Hutchinson.

"We could go on flying Elmer the Elephant," replied Vice-Chairman Deena Simpson.

At Richmond Inn On March 5

Federal Labour Minister On "Hot Line" Panel

Area residents will shortly have an opportunity to take part in a lively panel discussion on the three levels of government. The meeting, which is under the sponsorship of the Liberal Party in the southern part of county, will discuss any aspect of government at the municipal, provincial and federal level.

The meeting is scheduled for the evening of Friday, March 5 and will feature a panel composed of federal Labour Minister Alan McEachen, York North MP John Addison, provincial member Bob Nixon of Brant and Reeve Donald Plaxton of Richmond Hill.

Labour Minister McEachen is a leading member of the Pearson Cabinet and is the author of many of the prospective pieces of legislation in Canada's labour code. A native of Nova Scotia he has served both in Parliament and as a member of Mr. Pearson's personal staff. Mr. Nixon is remembered as a candidate for the leadership of the Ontario Liberal Party at last September's convention. A former high school teacher he is the son of former Ontario Premier Harry Nixon.

T. O. Fraser New Town Solicitor

Thomas O. Fraser will be Richmond Hill's new town solicitor, beginning his duties on March 1.

Mr. Fraser has been solicitor for Vaughan Township since 1954 and has his offices at 12 Richmond Street East, Toronto, under the firm name of Grant & Fraser.

He succeeds J. Ragnor Johnson, Q.C., appointed to the post March 16, 1964, who offered his resignation in November. Mr. Johnson was chosen to succeed Mr. J. D. Lucas, who had served the town for many years, but resigned because of the pressure of work.

A resident of King Township John Addison has represented York North in the federal house since 1962. Mr. Plaxton who is a member of Richmond Hill Town Council was Liberal candidate in York North in the last provincial election.

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80 Vaughan Township Ratepayers Threaten To Withhold Tax Money

A very small Vaughan Township Council was assaulted verbally by a large number of ratepayers at Monday night's council meeting.

Only three council members were present, Deputy-reeve Garnet Williams, who was in the chair, Councillor Warren Bryce and Councillor R. D. McArthur.

It was explained that Reeve Williams and explained that as the subdivision had not yet been finished, the roads were still the responsibility of the subdivider and not of the town.

The ratepayers, about 80 strong, were all from the Kleinburg Estates Subdivision, a small group of 84 homes in the southeast corner of Kleinburg, immediately south of the school. The ratepayers complained of poor roads, flooding ditches, roads overrun with water, street signs, and improperly functioning septic tanks.

They had heard read at the council meeting a roads committee report mentioning \$574,463 spent on roads, bridges and culverts in Vaughan Township during 1964. "How much of that money was spent on roads in Kleinburg Estates?" asked Kenneth Flear.

"None of it," replied Deputy-

N. Yonge Bus Deficit

\$428.16 Last Quarter

Richmond Hill's share of the North Yonge Bus deficit for the last quarter of 1965 was \$428.16 or 50% of the full amount. Vaughan and Markham's share (a quarter each) was \$214.09. The Toronto Transit Commission, which operates the line for the three municipalities who sold the franchise, reports gross revenue in the quarter of \$28,866.30 and operating expenses of \$29,722.64, leaving a total deficit of \$856.34.

An extension of a quarter of a mile was begun in September at the north end of Richmond Hill to serve the Industrial area of the town and residents of Vaughan and Markham living in the Elgin Mills area. This increased the revenue miles to 47,431, 301,421 fares were collected an average of 6.35 per mile, a slight reduction from the yearly average. Operating revenue of 60.86c per mile was down from the yearly average of 63.56, and operating expense of 62.67 per mile was up from 60.37c.

Vaughan Five Year Forecast \$926,000

A five year forecast of capital expenditures has been provided by Vaughan Township School Board for township council to submit to the Ontario Municipal Board.

The board's finance committee reported a meeting had been held with township council in which the board was informed of plans for an extensive program of road development and extension of water and sewage services in 1965. Council had asked the school board, it was reported, to carefully study its capital expenditures for 1965 and submit a request for minimum requirements only. In return, council promised that no attempt would be made to curtail reasonable expenditures by the board for improvement in school facilities during 1966.

Therefore the board forecast an expenditure of \$101,000 in 1965, which will take care of four added classrooms on an existing school where the need is already known, and purchase of land in the west side of the township for the erection of a multiple-room school.

The 1966 estimate is for \$375,000 for this proposed new school and essential additional accommodation to existing buildings. The estimate of \$150,000 in each of 1967, 1968 and 1969 provides for acquisition of land and construction costs to accommodate increased enrolments.

This forecast, it was noted, was predicated on the commitment of council that no residential developments

will be approved in 1965. Trustee Terry Goodwin noted that if large residential development takes place in the township within the next five years, then changes will have to be made in the forecast. Chairman Lorne Wells stated it was not the board's intention to attempt to tell council how to run its affairs, but it had to be borne in mind that if they make changes, then the board will have to make changes.

A delegation from Thornhill, who asked what plans had been made to have an auditorium added to the public school located there, was told the board was not ready to make a commitment at this time. They were asked to return in June, after the board's general budget

has been set and the trustees have had time to study the question further.

It was suggested that the amount of \$375,000 in the 1966 forecast might contain enough to provide for an auditorium at one school, but which of three or four had not yet been discussed. It was reported the 8-room J. A. Gibson School at Maple had cost \$280,000 which left \$95,000 to take care of additional classroom space on other schools, and it was hoped one auditorium.

It was also noted that the department pays a grant on \$20,000 (one classroom) only and the cost of an auditorium runs from \$40,000 to \$50,000 when included in original plans, and more when added to an existing structure.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

New Flag Is Raised On Town Flagpole

Along with most Canadian communities from the Atlantic to the Pacific and "from the river to the ends of the earth" Richmond Hill Monday flew the new red and white Maple Leaf Canadian flag for the first time.

In a brief but impressive ceremony at noon, members of council and the town staff watched as Police Sergeant Joseph Rainey raised the new symbol to the top of the flagpole in front of the municipal offices. After he had lowered the Red Ensign which has served as Canada's flag since 1945, the sergeant presented it to Mayor Thomas Broadhurst for safekeeping.

That God who rules in the affairs of men will grant that our new flag will become a symbol of peace, integrity and honor for this and succeeding generation of Canadians, was the prayer offered by Rev. C. G. Higginson of Richmond Hill United Church, representing the local clergy. Mayor Thomas Broadhurst paid tribute to the ensign it is replacing. The ceremony was under the direction of Police Chief R. P. Robbins.

Staff Of 50 To Be Hired Job May Take 3-5 Years

The report and 1965 budget of the assessment committee caused a long and bitter discussion at last week's meeting of York County Council in Newmarket.

The report, dealing with the reassessment of the county under a central assessment administration was discussed for an hour and a half.

It was estimated that a staff of 50 would be required to carry out the county-wide reassessment, including an assessment commissioner, a chief assessor, three section heads for buildings, land and statistics, 21 assessors, grade 3, nine grades 1 and 2 assessors, a secretary and 14 clerks.

Total budget for the year was estimated at \$274,717, including \$222,096 for salaries. After deducting the grants, a total of \$260,117 would remain to be levied against the county, an increase of \$58,839 over assessment costs for last year.

Deputy-reeve Stewart Rumble of Markham Township was the first to rise to his feet after the reading of the report. "We were given to understand that other counties had this system, now it appears they don't," he said indignantly. "We were also told it would be cheaper and now we will have a staff of 50 instead of last year's 36."

Reeve Joseph Dales of North Gwillimbury refuted this, and said that no-one was actively misled. "I certainly feel I was misled," retorted Mr. Rumble.

"That's too bad," replied Mr. Dales. "I feel I was led down the garden path or brain-washed or something," stated Markham Village Reeve Alma Walker. "We were all led astray on this."

Woodbridge Reeve Norm Garriock defended the report and the budget, noting that Woodbridge had been given an estimate of between eight and ten thousand dollars for the reassessment of the village.

"The cost of reassessment varies from \$7 to \$12 per dwelling," he stated. "At \$7 per dwelling it would cost \$42,000 just to reassess Vaughan Township. If you throw in Markham it would cost a lot more than this extra \$58,000. You are getting good value for your money."

"You can't blame the members of this committee," stated Markham Township Reeve Charles Hooper. "It was the members of last year's county council who are to blame. We were told it would cost \$180,000. This has jumped and will jump again. There was a lot not taken into consideration."

Mr. Hooper insisted that assessment would cost Markham Township nearly double what it did last year. "We were misinformed," he said, "but we have to go ahead and pay this budget."

The newly-appointed Assessment Commissioner Donald Wright felt that once the reassessment was complete the staff of 50 could be reduced considerably, although he could not state definitely when this would take place.

Many of the assessors which were presently on the staff, having been taken over from the townships, really had no qualifications, he said. A seven-week training course has been planned to bring the assessors up to some sort of recognizable standard but he admitted that he felt that even with the course, many of the present assessors would not be able to pass the tests to qualify as licensed assessors.

No reassessment can begin this year until the assessment rolls have been incorporated into the county records and returned to the townships. Chairman of the assessment committee Angus Harrison, deputy-reeve of East Gwillimbury stated that it was expected the rolls would be returned by September but could not estimate how much reassessment would be completed this year.

In reply to a question by Richmond Hill Reeve Donald Plaxton, Vaughan Township Reeve A. H. Rutherford confirmed that until all property has been reassessed in accordance with the new assessment manual, the present assessment standards will prevail and an equalizing factor would be used between the various townships.

Mr. Rutherford stated that he had been opposed last year to the county assessment but saw no alternative now but to go ahead with it.

After an hour and a half of wrangling, the report was accepted and the budget sent to the finance committee for consideration.

Kinsmen Club Supplies Community With Service Of Young Citizens

The association of Kinsmen Clubs was founded by Hal Rogers and a group of friends in Hamilton on February 20, 1920.

Mr. Rogers and his friends started gathering for fellowship not to be found for young men of the day in existing organizations.

From their meetings a club was formed, from this club another, and another. This has expanded into the present association of Kinsmen Clubs, a national service club organization, unique in form, but worldly in aims and objectives.

The Richmond Hill Kinsmen Club was chartered on May 27, 1954. The local club was formed by such still active stalwarts as Charter President Dalt Hicks, Past Presidents Jack Williams, and Roy Swanson. The Kinsnettes Club was formed in 1955, with Mrs. Shirley Hicks as charter president.

In the past the Kinsmen and Kinettes have served the community with varied projects, all designed to meet the community's greatest needs — from hockey to hampers, from student burlesques to Elmer the Safety Elephant, from hospital support to youth clubs. These projects are supported and completed to assist the needy, engage the youth and to provide the community with a service of and by the younger citizens.

The Kinsmen Club is open to young men of good character, 21 to 40 years of age. The Kinette Club membership is limited to wives of Kinsmen.

President of the Kinsmen is Harold Van Dyke — 884-7774. President of the Kinettes is Mrs. Mae Thomson — 884-3405.