

Planning Board Does Not Favor Annexation, Consultant Is Told

Richmond Hill Planning Board does not favor annexation except for industrial purposes at the present time, Consultant Max Bacon was told at last week's meeting, when a preliminary report on the redevelopment of Yonge Street and the central area for the Richmond Hill Official Plan was presented.

Mr. Bacon's report noted that only about 50 acres of land according to present zoning, are available for residential development, and further expansion will have to take place beyond the present boundaries. He recommended "limited growth over trying to maintain the status quo for a number of years, the most important of which is the necessity of promoting redevelopment in the central area along Yonge Street. It is more feasible to control growth, even if it is controlled at a low rate, than it is to resist it altogether."

"The stimulus for redevelopment is a complex matter in which economic considerations are prominent. This stimulus will be greater in an expanding area than in one that is marking time," the report reasoned. "There needs to be readily appreciated evidence that investments in the central area will likely be profitable. Economic growth based on an increasing population is an essential part of this evidence."

Land suggested by Mr. Bacon for annexation was that presently being considered for industrial development north of the Elgin Mills Sideroad, a minor extension east of Bayview to give the town control of that road, to the west to Bathurst, squaring out the mile and a quarter from Vaughan Road to Elgin Mills and from Yonge to Bathurst. John MacDiarmid noted it is normally the policy to annex past a road, otherwise there are problems of maintenance and services. Mr. Bacon agreed.

ment yes, residential, — no." The mayor enumerated the services on which immediate large expenditures would have to be made if annexation takes place — such as roads, sewers, hydro, etc. Mr. Bacon asked the town staff to supply him with the financial data to be studied before further recommendations are made. He stated the survey and analysis of the official plan concerning population, sewers and water, and roads is being prepared and will be ready in two or three weeks' time.

YONGE STREET
Mr. Bacon has studied three previous reports on Yonge Street — one made in 1959 by McAdams Farrow Associates, one in 1961 by George Potvin and Associates, and one in 1963

by Harold Deeks, planning director. He found himself in general agreement with many of their findings, including:

★ A conflict of functions and Yonge Street itself; it is a major north-south traffic route, a service road for the commercial centre of town and a collector street for local traffic.

★ Related to this is a parking problem, on-street parking interferes with traffic flow, more off-street parking is required to serve the commercial centre.

described as theoretically appropriate but unrealistic. Mr. Bacon suggests that the plan as it relates to Yonge Street area should be formulated as a flexible instrument in respect to uses so that development opportunities are maximized and at the same time provide clear, unambiguous policies to guide development in the right direction. It should ensure that the central core is architecturally unified into a master civic design scheme and integrated with the town as a whole.

Mr. Bacon suggested that the road system must be sorted out to organize collectors and provide for a logical connection to the central area. One of the objects of the official plan, he reported, will be to set out policies that the town will adopt in order to bring about elimination of these problems, at least as many of them as is feasible. These policies will deal with the basic consideration of services, roads and overall growth of the whole town, and also with those measures that are needed for specific purposes, which were

of the planning board agreed.

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(Photo by Stuart's Studio) Giving direction to the Richmond Hill Branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses for 1965 will be the above members of the executive: Secretary-Treasurer H. Ludlow, President J. M. Langton, First Vice-President Mrs. A. Dixon and Second Vice-President Hugh Wight.

2,472 Visits

J. M. Langton Again Heads VON

J. M. Langton will again head the Richmond Hill Branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses as president for 1965. He will be assisted by Mrs. A. Dixon, first vice-president; Hugh A. Wight, secretary-treasurer; Dr. J. Ian Kerr, chairman of medical advisory board; and W. K. Ellis, Mrs. W. M. Maitland, Reeve Donald Plaxton, A. W. G. Farwell, Mrs. M. F. Thomson, George Whittaker, Mrs. J. Whelan and Deputy-Reeve Stuart Rumble of Vaughan Township as board members. R. D. Little, who has been a member of the board since its inception, was appointed honorary president at the annual meeting of VON held last Wednesday night.

Mr. Langton thanked town council for the use of the council chambers and committee rooms for meetings and Richmond Hill Hydro for allowing space for the VON nurses. These various privileges are enjoyed rent free, the president reported.

2,472 Visits

He also noted that Mrs. J. A. Coughlin had left the board to become a nurse with the branch. In the absence of Mrs. W. Stockdale, nurse-in-charge, who was ill, Mrs. Coughlin presented the nursing report, which recorded 2,472 visits to homes by the nurses during 1964. 2,103 of these were to provide nursing care in cases of acute and chronic illnesses, an increase of 470 over 1963. Maternal care and health education were responsible for 369, an increase of 96 in the year.

Markham Township patients received 343 visits and Vaughan Township, in the six months since July 1, 233.

The report spoke of excellent co-operation with York Central Hospital on referrals and noted that an attempt was being made to extend VON services to Markham Village, Woodbridge and Aurora.

Extension

Mrs. M. Thomson reporting on extension activities said the branch had been pleased to take in the Township of Vaughan on July 1, 1964, and that Markham Township had expressed itself as pleased with the services received. Mrs. Thomson and Mr. Langton had attended a meeting of Aurora-Town Council to present the work of VON, she said, and were well received although that council has not yet given its decision on the matter. The branch is also in correspondence with the Township of King, she reported.

Financial Statement

The encouraging financial statement was presented by Treasurer H. Ludlow. It revealed total receipts during 1964 of \$11,946.82, including grants of \$2,000 from Richmond Hill, \$2,500 from Markham, \$1,500 from Vaughan Township (for six months), Richmond Hill canvass \$3,297.87, and payments by patients of \$2,249. A small surplus of \$344.54 was reported at the end of the year.

Guest Speaker

Guest speaker was William Cairns, who had 18 years experience as a VON board member. Speaking on "Early History and Modern Trends in VON," Mr. Cairns described the remarkably stormy beginnings of the group under Lady Aberdeen.

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