



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Above is the winningest hockey team produced in Richmond Hill in many a long year. Nine and 10 year old members of CFGM Country Gentlemen smile happily as 1965 Ontario champions in Zone 3 novice division of OMHA. Front row (left to right) Steve Gordon, Dave Dunkley, Rickey Sackfield, Louis Moore, Stan Petronski, Terry Rice, Tommy Sanlon, Robbie Edwards. Middle row (same order): Scott Mabley, Greg Binkley, Assistant Captain Val Steffan, Assistant Captain Steve Cronkwright, Assistant Captain Dennis Acomb, Captain Stephen Brown, Bruce Hipkiss, Brian Dunlop, John Caven. In the back row are (left to right) proud mentors of the boys, Assistant Coach Sil Steffan, and Coach Ray Brooks.

Local Lads Are Champs Win Two Straight Games

Richmond Hill

92.2% Of 1964 Taxes Collected At Year's End

At the end of 1964 92.2% of the current taxes had been collected, Richmond Hill Town Council learned at its budget session April 13, when Stewart Joscelyn reviewed the auditors' report on the town's business, prepared by his firm of Joscelyn, Laughlin, Franklin, Tucker and McBride, now located in Richmond Hill.

Collection of current taxes, tax arrears, penalties and interest amount to \$2,121,083.46 for the year. This is equivalent to a collection of 101.38% of the current tax roll.

Since the first of the year, the auditor reported nearly \$100,000 worth of arrears have been collected in an intensive drive by the town staff to clear up arrears.

The total arrears at December 31, 1964, of \$243,575.86 is made up of \$10,734.78 (penalty and interest \$1,587.03) from 1961 and prior years, \$15,321.23 (penalty and interest \$2,306.50) from 1962, \$51,954.62 (penalty and interest \$4,940.14) from 1963 and \$152,170.52 (penalty and interest \$4,560.84) from 1964.

It was explained that changes in the Assessment Act now require that when taxes on land which there are buildings fall more than two years in arrears the municipality must register the arrears against the property. The property owner has 12 months in which to pay up the arrears and redeem his property. If he fails to do so, ownership passes to the municipality. On vacant land, registration is required when taxes are more than one year in arrears.

Debtenture Debt. Richmond Hill's debtenture debt at the end of last year included \$1,093,253.50 general debtentures for sanitary sewers, storm sewers, sewage pumping station, library and equipment, purchase of industrial lands, pavement construction and improvements to the community centre. Interest rates varied from 4 1/2% in 1951 to 6 3/4% in 1959. Elementary education accounts for \$1,718,300 with interest rate payable ranging from 2 3/4% in 1947 to 6 3/4% in 1960.

Secondary education debtentures account for \$370,083.33 plus \$254,102.57 due to other municipalities and \$893,809.07 due the County of York. Other long term debts with the Ontario Water Resources Commission are \$308,551.14 for the disposal plant and \$268,769.73 for waterworks.

The auditor reported the town had made a profit of \$5,300 on the industrial land it purchased for \$61,000 in 1961 paying for it with a 5 year debtenture. The land has all been sold and the money to meet the final payment in 1966 has been set aside to pay for the debtenture, he noted.

The total debtenture debt figures out at about \$294 per capita or 16.67% of the 1964 assessment, \$230.12 per capita of the debtenture debt or 13.03% directly affects the mill rate, the balance is for hydro, waterworks, arena and industrial

CFGM Country Gentlemen are the Zone 3 Ontario Novice Champions by virtue of a 1-0 win over Lindsay, Tuesday night in that town's arena. John Caven scored the only goal of the game, assisted by Stephen Cronkwright and Dave Dunkley.

Louis Moore turned in an early lead when left winger, Robbie Edwards, counted on a pass Lindsay breakthrough which appeared to be a certain goal. In fact the Lindsay team was unable to score on him in two games, the first game of the best of three series ending with a score of 3-0 in favour of the local lads.

Coach Ray Brooks reports that the Town of Lindsay was a real host, that the refereeing was top notch, and his team proved to be true ambassadors of Richmond Hill, as they earned their provincial honours.

The nine and 10 year old hockey players continue to win games.

On Monday they eliminated Belleville from the Brampton Easter Tournament. They won the first game of a two game, total goal round, by a score of 2-1. John Caven was assisted by Rickey Sackfield on the first of his team's goals and Stephen Brown by Dave Dunkley and Sackfield on the second.

In the second game, the Country Gentlemen tied Belleville 4-4 and so won the round 6-5.

On Thursday, the Country Gentlemen will meet either Barrie or Riverside in a two game total goal elimination.

This posed a problem for the local team which was scheduled to replay a tie game with Ted Reeves of the THL in the Tam-Atom Tournament at the Heather Arena. Wexford, also on Thursday. Since the team is unable to play in two places at once and since it proved impossible to get another date for this game, the Gentlemen will not be continuing in the Wexford Tournament.

Vaughan Again Assailed By Kleinburg Residents

Although they had made no appointment to be heard as a delegation, a group of about eight

Discount For Pre-Payment of Vaughan Taxes?

Maple resident John Nimmo made a plea at Monday night's meeting of Vaughan Township Council that pre-payment of taxes be rewarded in the township.

He pointed out that the township regularly pays interest on short term loans while waiting for tax receipts to come in. "Why can't ratepayers get a share of this?" he asked and suggested that possibly residents could be invited to pay an amount equal to two thirds of their last year's taxes in March and the balance in June when tax bills come out, being granted a discount of possibly 10% for this pre-payment.

Reeve Rutherford protested that many people have mortgages in which tax payments are included with their mortgage payments and this wouldn't help them any. "You are favoring the man with the money," he said.

Other members of council felt however that it was something worth looking into although they were unanimous that a 10% discount was out of the question.

Council agreed to consider the matter.

representatives of the Kleinburg Estates Ratepayers Association commented at some length on a report of the waterworks committee at Monday night's meeting of Vaughan Township Council and submitted a list of five questions which they wanted answered concerning the recent rise in water rates in their area.

Preamble to the questions indicated that the group had been told by the builder in their subdivision that he "has refused for many months to pay water rates for the numerous vacant lots in the subdivision."

(Because of malfunctioning septic tanks the York County Health Unit last year refused to allow any more houses to be built and the subdivision remains unfinished.)

The ratepayers asked whether any legal proceedings had been considered in view of the builder's public statement of refusal to pay water rates on the vacant lots; suggested that in accepting the situation council was in effect financing the builder while levying higher water rates against those willing to pay their taxes, and suggested too that because only a flat rate is charged against the vacant lots and no normal consumption charge is received from them, the Kleinburg Estates residents are paying, in the higher water rates, another penalty for the non-completion of the subdivision.

Council members all agreed that they had no knowledge of the builder's refusal to pay water rates on the vacant lots in the subdivision. Reeve A. H. Rutherford pointed out that had the group submitted their ques-

tions earlier and made an appointment to discuss the points council would have investigated the matter and been prepared to consider it, but as it was they were unable to do so.

The ratepayers agreed to leave the questions with council and their delegation will be given a place on next week's council agenda.

The waterworks committee report to which the ratepayers took exception had recommended that the township engineer "acquire and establish all factual detail and information relating to existing lot elevations and drainage compared with the planned finished lot elevations and surface drainage when the plan of subdivision was registered."

The ratepayers intimated that this was merely a form of procrastination and designed to determine blame rather than remedy the situation.

The report had further recommended that more factual detail about the functioning of septic tanks be obtained by a physical inspection of each occupied property. It was revealed that a questionnaire had also been prepared and would be taken to each individual home for completion.

The ratepayers objected that asking questions of "housewives who are not engineers" would produce very little information of value and could, in fact, be misleading.

Reeve Rutherford insisted however that the questionnaire was such that a lay person could understand it. "We have been told that eight homes have had trouble and that all the homes have had trouble

and we want an accurate picture," he said. "If we find only seven or eight are having trouble with their septic tanks then possibly surface drainage is all that is required. It may be all of them and then a disposal system will be needed."

Mr. Rutherford emphasized that before they could appear before any body — the OWRC or the OMB — for approval for a disposal system, they had to have all the facts. He noted too that the planning department was preparing a plan for the area between Kleinburg and Woodbridge and it was expected this would be ready by May 7.

Mr. Rutherford told the ratepayers that council should have some information for them by May 10 but cautioned that Metropolitan Toronto Planning Board would have to approve any amendments to the official plan and this could be a long, drawn out procedure.

Premier Roberts To Visit Aurora

Hon. John Roberts, premier of Ontario, will be guest speaker on May 12 at the annual meeting of the York North Progressive Conservative Association in Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, Aurora.

The meeting will start at 8 p.m. This will be the premier's first visit to York North since the 1963 general election.

Town Budgets Ambulance Grant

Faced with an ultimatum from Dave Holt, operator of the Vaughan-Hill Ambulance Service that unless he received a favorable decision on his request for increased subsidy by April 30, ambulance service would be discontinued, Richmond Hill Town Council last week increased the budgeted amount for ambulance service to take care of an increased subsidy.

Councillor Walter Scudis reported that the police committee has looked into the matter but has taken no action to date. The committee has been trying to arrange a meeting with Vaughan Township to go into the matter of ambulance service, and so far has been unsuccessful.

Luditor S. Joscelyn confirmed the fact that he had inspected the books of the ambulance company and that the company owner had had less than \$1,800 from its 1964 operation. The auditor commented "Frankly I can't see why he bothers."

Daylight Saving This Sunday

Daylight saving time goes into effect Sunday, April 25, at 2 a.m. in Richmond Hill and Vaughan and Markham Townships, as well as Metropolitan Toronto and many other municipalities in Canada and the United States.

To be on the safe side, before retiring Saturday night, set your clocks AHEAD one hour. This will ensure that you will be on time for church and will not miss any of your favorite TV programs.

County Politicians Are Divided On Merits Of New Regional Form Of Government

By MARGARET McLEAN

A brief poll of members of local municipal governments made by "The Liberal" this week found three members opposed to regional government for the area and two in favor.

The fourth and final report of the Ontario Government's Select Committee on the Municipal Act and re-

lated Acts was tabled in the Legislature at the end of last month and was a sweeping endorsement of regional government, calling for outright abolition of local boards of health and suburban roads commissions.

The 13-member all-party committee was headed by Hollis Beckett (PC, York East) former solicitor for the Township of Scarborough and a member of York County Council from 1924 to 1929.

The 110-page report stated that fragmentation of local governments has caused difficulties in slum clearance, urban renewal, town planning, pollution control and area development.

As a practical start, the report recommends that county boundaries in whole or in part be adopted as boundaries of regional governments with cities and towns included in them and regional council members elected from wards for terms not less than three years. The regional governments would have powers of assessment, taxation, planning, arterial road construction, public health, hospitals, welfare and policing.

Although he admitted he had not yet read the report of the select committee, York County Warden Sidney Legge stated that he was opposed to regional governments. "It will take away the rights of local municipalities," he said. "If autonomy is taken away from local municipalities, where will they end up?"

Warden Legge was also of the opinion that regional government would cause du-



WARDEN SYD. LEGGE

REEVE DONALD PLAXTON

plication, more bookkeeping and be more expensive. "With so many types of areas, summer resorts, towns, rural districts, I can't see how they can be in one region," he said.

In marked contrast, Reeve Donald Plaxton of Richmond Hill, a member of York County Council and a former candidate for the Legislature, expressed himself as quite in favor of regional govern-

"In many cases you can't develop urban areas with the present assessment basis," said Reeve Plaxton. "The only way I can see to expand the economy is to take in a larger area with a more stable financial basis."

Mr. Plaxton also felt that under the present system there is far too much bickering between municipalities on matters which should never be the subject of disputes. "It's like a bunch of kids in kindergarten fighting over a lollipop," he said, adding that such disputes work to the detriment of people living in the area.

REEVE CHARLES HOOPER

popular vote. "This would bring this level of government closer to the people who support it financially," he noted.

He felt too that the system would only work if informed, capable and educated people were found to stand for office. "If it's going to work, we will need some pretty clever people," he con-



REEVE CHARLES HOOPER

cluded. York County Commissioner and reeve of Markham Township Charles Hooper said he felt regional government was something that was being pushed on the people in a dictatorial manner.

"We have never been consulted," he said. "They should have come out to the people and had a round-table discussion on it. The way they are doing it will rouse the people."

Reeve Hooper also stated that he had not studied the report but from what little knowledge he had of it, he was not in favor. "The larger it gets, the more expensive it is to handle," he said. "I feel it beneficial to have small municipalities," he continued. "The closer you are to the people, the better government you have."

Last year's Warden of York County, Vaughan Township's Reeve A. H. Rutherford was of a similar opinion. "I can't envisage all of York County under one regional government," he said although he thought a regional government which would include Vaughan and Markham Townships, Richmond Hill,

Stouffville, Markham Village and Woodbridge would be workable.

"I can't see that regional government will be better than what we have now," he said. "No government could be closer to the people than the municipal governments we have now. I don't see how they will improve it."

Richmond Hill's Deputy-reeve Floyd Perkins, who also has a seat on York County Council, saw many merits to a system of re-



REEVE A. H. RUTHERFORD

gional government. "We are over-governed now and have been for years," he said. "We are still using the system set up by the Baldwin Act over a hundred years ago in the horse and buggy era."

Mr. Perkins felt that the present small municipalities caused an expensive overlapping of services, such as the Vaughan Township's water system on one side of Yonge Street and Markham Township's on the other.

"Look at the trouble we had over services to the hospital," he pointed out. "We're still having trouble providing street lighting and a bus service because it is just outside Richmond Hill," he said.

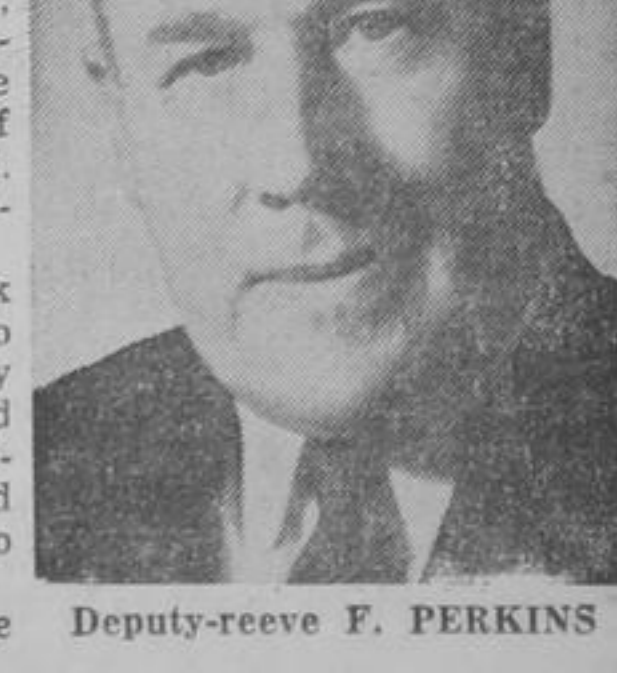
Mr. Perkins emphasized that planning, for instance, is much better done on a regional basis. "Now we are just planning to the edge of our municipality," he said. "We should plan to a watershed or a river basin."

REEVE F. PERKINS

Representatives from York County had been invited to see a film study of county government in the United States by Peel County recently. Mr. Perkins stated and he had found much to commend the larger unit.

"In York County there are 14 municipalities with 14 police chiefs," he pointed out. "I don't think that is necessary."

Mr. Perkins felt too that welfare handled in a larger region, with much more possibility of preventive welfare work being done. He pointed out too, how much better the county system of roads was with Metro in on it, as an example of benefits to be derived from larger government units.



DEPUTY-REEVE F. PERKINS

Vaughan To Schedule Pemberton Repairs And Watermain For '66

Vaughan Township Council wouldn't have cost nearly as much to repair the road a few years ago.

Reeve A. H. Rutherford pointed out, just as strongly, however, that the road could have been fixed long ago if the residents had not refused to pay for it.

The road had been a private road and consequently not serviced by township graders but previously residents had not been willing to bring the road to Department of Highway standard which would permit the township taking it over.

Now however following a questionnaire sent out to residents, the committee reports that the property owners are prepared to do this and also to pay for the installation of a watermain north on Bathurst Street and east on Pemberton to serve the area.

It is estimated that it would cost approximately \$18,328 to extend the watermain and \$13,750 to bring the road up to DHO standards.

As no provision had been made for the work in the 1965 budget, it was recommended that a proper petition be circulated by the township next November and provided sufficient of the property owners are agreeable, sufficient funds to complete the work be included in the 1966 budget.

Councillor S. D. Kaiser alone took strong objection to the report and refused to approve it. He reported that he had personally inspected the road and it was in extremely poor shape. "This is a shameful situation. I don't see how we can take taxes from these people," he said and insisted that it

Warden To Study Charge By Chief

York County Warden Sydney Legge has called a meeting of county commissioners to study a complaint by Chief Fred Mason of Whitechurch Township Police that it took three hours to get a coroner to a barn fire last week near Stouffville, in which Douglas Hooff, 12, was burned to death.

Chief Mason said he finally had to get a doctor through the supervising coroner's office in Toronto, after his department had tried without success to contact 15 coroners in York County.

The doctor was necessary so that the body could be moved to the morgue.

NEWMARKET — Police Chief Byron Burbridge was overruled by Mayor Bert Kent in deciding against granting a licence to cab driver Paul Cameron, and was charged with being "the accuser, the judge and executioner." Cameron admitted to operating a taxi for four years without a licence, but Mayor Kent said the police had been just as negligent in not discovering it.