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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1965

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

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Will Canvass Ward 1

Sewers, Ditches Local Improvement

Volunteers to collect signatures on a petition to be circulated in Ward 1, Richmond Hill, asking council to install storm sewers and curbs in that area of town at the earliest possible time, were registered at a meeting held in Beverley Acres Public School auditorium Monday evening. About 75 ratepayers were in attendance at this meeting presided over by Ivan Mansbridge, president of the Elgin Park Ratepayers' Association.

Six members of Richmond Hill Town Council joined the meeting at the conclusion of their weekly meeting. At the request of the chair Councillor Walter Scudds and Mayor Thomas Broadhurst outlined the problems which will be encountered by the town in this matter. Mr. Scudds admitted that very little work had been done by the town on the ditches in this area during the past six years, but explained that legal action had been undertaken against the developer and until this action was settled the ditches could not be touched. The mayor confirmed this, stating the town could not destroy the evidence of faulty workmanship and reported that only a small amount of damages had been recovered by the town.

The Ward 1 councillor told a ratepayer, who asked about the amount of damages, the town had been awarded the two vacant lots on Taylor Mills Drive and \$7,000. \$3,000 had been spent in fighting the court case, he indicated, assuring the ratepayers the balance will be spent to improve conditions in that area. He also told them the town has agreed to set aside an amount of \$150,000 (\$50,000 a year for three years) to carry out a program of re-shaping, rebuilding and re-sodding the ditches in the area.

Mr. Scudds told the group the town had hired the engineering firm of Hisey and Barrington to do a preliminary survey of the work necessary in Beverley Acres alone to provide storm sewers, curbs and 28 foot wide pavements (necessary to receive maximum provincial grants). Their estimate of cost of the project was \$1,080,000. The councillor reported that when this amount is debentured over a period of 20 years the total sum would be nearly \$2,000,000.

"If we carry out this program in Ward 1," he stated, "we must be prepared to carry out a similar program in all other areas of the town where there are open ditches—and this is 80% of Richmond Hill. We just can't afford it," he emphasized. The councillor noted that three members of the 1965 council live in Beverley Acres. "We have deep ditches too and we are concerned about the safety of our children. We form almost a majority of council and if it were at all possible, don't you think we would be pressing for such a program?" he asked.

Mayor Broadhurst presented some figures on the proposed work which estimated the approximate yearly cost per house in Beverley Acres would be \$60 if done under local improvements. He also indicated there was little possibility of spreading the town's share of this work over the whole municipality, unless council was prepared to do similar work in all parts of town. "The town's borrowing power would not stand this, even if spread out over a period of 50 years," he stated.

When Mr. Mansbridge questioned about the work proposed last year in the southwest section of town, a portion of the cost of which would have been spread over the town, Councillor Scudds noted the situation was completely different. "In the first place the people in that area were not seeking the work. Council proposed doing it to permit redevelopment of Yonge Street, which everyone in town agrees is overdue, and which would have brought in increased assessment which would have benefited all ratepayers in town by spreading the tax rate over a larger assessment. Benefits from the work requested in Beverley Acres would be confined to that area," he contended.

Councillor Scudds told the gathering that when a petition was received by the town to do the work on a local improvement basis, the project would have to be approved by the Ontario Municipal Board. Only five objections could be made to the board to demand a hearing and if the number of objections received was large, they could well refuse the town permission to proceed.

The meeting had already agreed to proceed with its petition and did not change its conclusion after listening to the two members of council. Those communities which have not yet appointed centennial committees and did not have representatives at the Regional Centennial Planning Conference held at Newmarket April 21 will find themselves one lap behind in planning fitting celebrations for Canada's 100th birthday celebrations.

Mr. Brookie advised that already 380 centennial committees have been formed by local municipalities. The Newmarket regional conference was the 20th held so far and by the end of May 38 will have been completed.

Communities that have not already done so were urged to form committees quickly and advise the Ontario Centennial Planning Branch of their formation. Information would then be sent out regularly to the committee chairman.

Military tattoos will be held in large centres, Mr. Brookie said, and smaller contingents of army, navy or airforce personnel will be sent to take part in local celebrations where this is requested. A strong folk-arts committee has been formed and will send performers to various festivals on request. Similarly,

Mr. Harris of the Ontario Centennial Planning Branch presented to the conference 67 ideas for '67.

These were accompanied by colored slides and included events for every month in the year. Among the ideas suggested were:

A centennial costume ball, preceded by group sewing bees to prepare authentic 19th century costumes.

A square dance festival, also in costume.

Expanded agricultural exhibits at fall fairs including farming methods and machinery of 100 years ago.



Earl Cameron London Broadcast

CBC News Commentator Earl Cameron, who lives at 389 Tareyton Road, Richmond Hill, flies to London Friday evening to take part in an unprecedented live trans-Atlantic edition of CBC-TV news next Monday from 7 to 7:15 p.m. This broadcast will make use of the Early Bird communications satellite.

Mr. Cameron will be assisted by CBC London correspondent Michael Maclear and CBC Paris correspondent Stanley Burke. Lamont Tilden will report additional news from Toronto. There will also be a taped satellite insert on the national news at 11 pm EDT.

American newscasters including Walter Cronk-wright, Peter Jennings and others will also be journeying to London for this historic trans-Atlantic newscast.

Mr. Cameron will be accompanied by Mrs. Cameron and son Hal and they will spend a week visiting relatives in the British Isles.

Canada's Birthday Party

By MARGARET McLEAN

Those communities which have not yet appointed centennial committees and did not have representatives at the Regional Centennial Planning Conference held at Newmarket April 21 will find themselves one lap behind in planning fitting celebrations for Canada's 100th birthday celebrations.

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Southwest Ratepayers Seek Dead Tree Policy

Richmond Hill Council asked its works committee to review the policy on dead tree removal with consideration being given to some means of informing adjacent residents of the town's plans. This was the result of an appeal by a delegation from the Southwest Home Owners Association made at Monday night's council meeting.

As spokesman for the delegation, Charles Wortman expressed concern that trees were cut down on or adjacent to private property without warning to the owners of such property. He noted that hydro and telephone employees always check with the residents before carrying on trimming operations, and suggested that in the interest of good public relations and courtesy council should consider establishing a general policy that no town employee would enter on private property to remove dead trees without consent of the owner of that property.

He expressed willingness of his department to submit a notice and discuss tree removal with owners, but cautioned the same could apply to ditching operations, and warned "You will handicap me in my work if I have to get permission from adjacent property owners to do work on a town road allowance."

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst also cautioned that a policy of notification might invite a lot of argument which did not exist, but if there is any question that the owner might think the tree is on his property, I agree with you, we should co-operate.

Reeve Donald Plaxton felt the question of whether a tree is dead or not could cause problems. "We might almost have to have a coroner's jury to decide," he quipped, suggesting a system of marking a tree with a dab of paint could be considered. "The onus then shifts to the property owner to take up any area of dispute," he claimed. "There's no obligation on the town at present to notify adjacent property owners," he continued, "and we could give people the idea we have to do it. If we mark the tree, that would be the most practical way."

Councillor Lois Hancey reported that the works committee of council and the parks board had found that the work could be carried out more economically under a winter works program and so gave

the contract to a tree removal firm. She told the delegate the proposal had been recorded in the press on at least two occasions.

"The salient objection is not so much whether the tree is dead, but where it is," summarized Councillor Eric Handbury. "If it abuts on a person's property or is wholly on his property, the owner should be consulted. This is the feeling of the delegation."

Works Commissioner Whalen answered in the negative when asked by Councillor Hancey, if any works employee or contractor ever entered private property to remove trees. He noted that in some cases private property owners have planted trees on town property.

Observe May 1 To 7 Mental Health Week

May 1 to 7 is a special week in the year which reminds the public across Canada of the great advances made in diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. The week will be marked by York County Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association by open houses held at the Aurora Hospital, May 1, 2 and 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.; at the Newmarket Hospital, psychiatric unit, 6th floor, May 4 from 2 to 4 and from 7 to 8:30 p.m.; and at Warendale Home, Oak Ridges, on May 6 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Public health education has changed the old fashioned conception of mental disease as a scandal to be hushed up, to an understanding that a wide range of disorders may affect the mind just as they do the body. As in all cases of ill-health, the sooner the patient is given proper diagnosis and treatment, the sooner he may be able to return to a normal life.

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On May 4 the Markham Village Chapter will present a fashion show in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in that village at 8 p.m.

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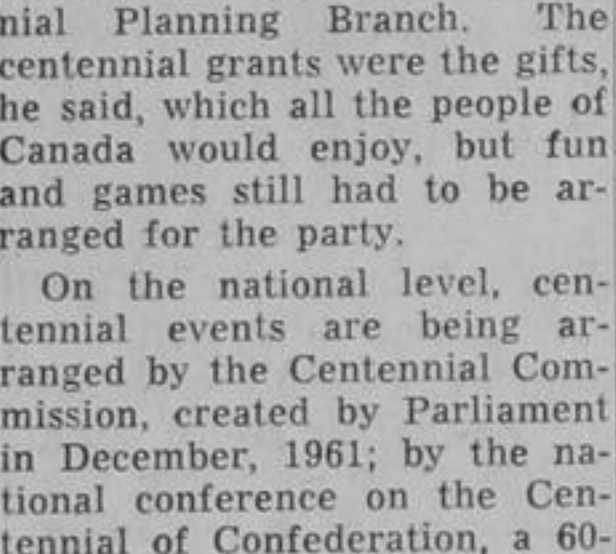


Find Old Bills

When Len Pugh purchased the former Nichols' property at 117 Yonge Street South, Richmond Hill, to use as real estate offices, he received some fringe benefits. Tucked away in an old account book (he also bought the library) kept by the late Hesse Nichols who died in 1928, he discovered a four dollar bill and a five dollar bill.

The five dollar bill (at the top of the picture), issued by the Bank of Upper Canada, was numbered and signed by hand, indicating that it is of a very early issue. The four dollar bill is dated 1874 and is listed at many times its face value in present-day catalogues.

Mr. Pugh has these old bills on display in his office where anyone interested may see them. He also loaned them to the Richmond Hill Coin Club to exhibit at their spring show.



Kleinburg Subdivider Offers To Build Sewage Treatment Plant

After a delegation representing the Kleinburg Estates Ratepayers' Association attended last week's meeting of Vaughan Township Council, three representatives of the association attended the April 21 waterworks committee meeting.

Also present was John Spence, Thornhill, representing the developers of the subdivision.

Mr. Spence advised that after discussions with Phillip Jones, a professor of sanitary engineering at the University of Toronto, he was willing to construct a sewage treatment plant to service the existing subdivision, provided he is allowed to subdivide a further 80 lots adjacent to the subdivision to help defray the costs of the plant. He also agreed to make a cash contribution to finance the construction of additional classroom accommodation for the elementary school.

Mr. Spence agreed to confirm his submission by a letter. However, it was pointed out that before a sewage plant is proceeded with, permission will have to be obtained from the Metro Conservation Authority and the Ontario Water Resources Commission. Further, any additional subdivision will have to be approved by both the Vaughan Township and the Metropolitan Planning Boards.

Another Kleinburg delegation was received at the April 26 council meeting. The previous week's delegation had suggested that since the owners of the subdivision had refused to pay water rates on the vacant lots in the subdivision, they were being charged higher rates to make up the deficiency.

It was explained however, that under the terms of the subdivision agreement, water rates were to be levied against vacant lots and that before building permits would be issued for the lots, all water rates would have to be paid.

Following the faulty operation of septic tanks, the York County Health Unit had refused last summer to allow any further homes to be built in the subdivision.

Lack Site For Jr. Public School

A new junior public school, which had been planned for Richmond Hill this autumn will not be built after all.

The school was to accommodate Crosby Heights students from kindergarten to grade six and was to be built in that area. Crosby Heights was to be turned into a senior public school, with grade seven and eight pupils from Walter Scott starting there in September.

At present Crosby has grade seven and eight students from Beverley Acres. Rescinding plans for the new school, the board said it was unable to obtain the land it wanted for it.

As a result the board plans to add a senior wing of eight classrooms, a gymnasium and ancillary space to the present Crosby Heights School on the existing grounds.

The new wing will accommodate the senior students, while the rest of the school will be used for the other grades.

With the new wing taking up extra space on the grounds, the board will attempt to arrange with the parks board to use some of the adjoining parks land as a playing area. A meeting between the building and planning committees and the parks board will be drawn up to discuss the matter.

Plans to convert Walter Scott and Beverley Acres to junior public schools, accommodating classes from kindergarten to grade six, remain unchanged.

Trustees Same Honoraria Or No

Honoraria or no, the calibre of school trustees will still be the same, Richmond Hill Public School Chairman Walter Hutchinson said at a meeting of the board last week.

Summer School For Grade Nine Pupils Brings Change In Policy

A summer school for new grade nine pupils has brought about a change in policy by Richmond Hill Public School Board.

The board decided on the change at its meeting Thursday evening of last week following a request from York Central District High School Board that the board consider lending it sets of text books in English and mathematics, not available in the secondary schools.

York Central plans to operate a five-week summer school for grade eight students, promoted to grade nine, who wish to improve their chances of success in grade nine by studying the two subjects.

The board's policy previously has been not to lend out school equipment. However, it felt that lending the books to the summer school would be of benefit all around.

The board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Margaret Huitson of Beverley Acres School, as of June 30.

Interviews with students from the teachers' colleges will take place at the Toronto Teachers' College, May 7 at 9:30 a.m.

The board recommended the signing of 20 contract forms for use on the interviewing days.

No word was received from a group of parents, which notified the board at its meeting the week before that it would be presenting a brief regarding the teaching of reading in the public schools.

The group had felt that reading was a problem with pupils in the primary grades.

Road Races This Saturday

Prominent among competitors in the first, of what is hoped will be annual, Richmond Hill Rose Bowl Road Races scheduled for this Saturday afternoon will be Dave Smith and Ken Hamilton who will be competing in the high school juvenile three-mile race.

Dave last year was a member of the four-member cross-country team from Toronto Olympics who won the Canadian title. Ken is fresh from two first place finishes in Easter races in Toronto and Ottawa, in each of which he broke the course record.

Other events in the program, which starts at 2 p.m., include a junior open three mile event, a woman's event and a public school event. Some misunderstanding has arisen about the latter limited to Richmond Hill schools which it is hoped to have straightened out in time for the young athletes to compete.

Scene of the races will be Newkirk Road, with the starting point at Newkirk and Centre Street. Headquarters will be set up on the Texas Instruments property and plenty of parking space and spectators' vantage points will be available in the vicinity. The location would seem ideally suited for an event of this kind.

The race event is the result of a lot of hard work over a six month period by a committee chaired by Bill Lazenzky, who represents Richmond Hill Town Council on it. Other members of the committee are: Charles Seath, Thornhill Secondary School; John Passmore, Bayview Secondary School; Bill Babcock, Richmond Hill High School; Derrick Milner, well-known runner of Oak Ridges; Pat Smith and Eric Crump of Richmond Hill. Paul Post, coach of the Toronto Olympic Club has been available for expert advice to the group.

Trophies for the various events have been donated by local merchants and town council has agreed to provide mementoes to each of the first 10 finishers in each race.