

Board Is Hoping For New Era In Parks Development

By JIM IRVING

This week, Fred Thomas, first permanent employee of Richmond Hill Parks Board started his duties as foreman, and in so doing launched what Chairman Shaun Beggs hopes will be the beginning of a new era in parks.

"With the town the size it is, we felt we should start developing our own parks department," said Mr. Beggs, who admits he didn't know a rhododendron from a rotifer when he was first appointed parks head last year.

However, he has since thrown himself into the job with rare enthusiasm, visiting other areas, meeting with various park officials from all over Ontario, and constantly surveying every available patch of ground in Richmond Hill that he thinks might be turned into a bit of greenery.

Mr. Beggs said that right now he has to rush around to the different parks every time he wants to find out something about one, but now with the budget up this year to \$38,000, the board has been able to hire a foreman, which will help to change much of that.

"We've also acquired a building on Mill Street from the water works department in which to store our equipment," Mr. Beggs said. "And we've worked out a plan with the arena commission to take on one of their men for the summer."

He said the board would hire other casual labor as it needed it through the year, and these men would con-

struct benches and tables in the summer, among other things, and work on the rinks in the winter.

The board's attempt at autonomy gained additional ground last week with the acquisition of two tractors, one which will be rented to it by the Arena and the other loaned to it free of charge from a private citizen.

Now, besides getting the regular parks into shape for their May 19 opening, the parks board chairman hopes to spend some time seeing what can be done in the way of developing such areas as the one surrounding the mill pond on Mill Street, between Emerald Isle Court and Maple Sugar Lane.

Mr. Beggs said he would like to hear from people in the district, people who are interested in having a place in which they can walk on the grass, and not just anxious to have another place to play ball in.

"We want to develop it as a beauty place, not just as a marsh," Mr. Beggs said.

He said the board also had its eye on another area on the other side of town, which it hoped to eventually develop as both a park and sports complex. However, that was still a little way off and nothing definite could be said about it now.

Mr. Beggs said that so far, the board had been doing mostly fence mending, both "literally and figuratively," but hoped to get some of its projects under the capital works soon.

"Everything we need has

been done through the works department," Mr. Beggs said. Mr. Whalen (Otto Whalen, works commissioner) has done a great job and more than looked after us."

However, the youthful parks board head has had his appetite whetted somewhat by his five day visit to Brockville last year, where he and Councillor Walter Scudts attended a convention of the Ontario Parks Association. Mr. Scudts is the town's representative on the board.

"They were all professional men," said Mr. Beggs admiringly. "The most dedicated fellows I've ever met in my life."

The two parks board men then made ample use of their associate's knowledge by questioning them on just about every aspect of parks they could think of.

"We practically turned the meeting down there into a Richmond Hill project," said Mr. Beggs.

One of the things that came out of the meeting was the suggestion that the visitors make use of their school playgrounds during the summer.

This further resulted in Mr. Beggs meeting with Richmond Hill Public School Board Trustees Dave Stephenson, Bob Harrison, director of North York Parks, and Ray Brooks, Richmond Hill Minor Ball Association, to discuss bringing about the best situation for athletic and school requirements.

Subsequent meetings with board officials also brought about permission for the use

of various school grounds this summer, complete with the use of washroom facilities for the young athletes.

"It's a great step having the school boards starting to work with us," said Mr. Beggs.

Another plan of the board is to re-seed one half of the school grounds, while students use the other half.

The parks would also look after all grass cutting, and in one playground, Skopit Park, plan to put in an asphalt pad, the size of a hockey rink. In the summer it would be used for tennis and basketball, while in the winter, boards would be put around it and it would be flooded for skating.

Mothers will also approve of some of the board's aims, which include putting in more benches at the playgrounds for the non-participating ladies, and fencing the little part south of the Mill Pond.

Baseball players will also approve of the new backstops at Crosby Heights Public School and the town park, plus the seven diamonds that will be available at Bradford Park.

So it looks like a long, hot summer for Mr. Beggs and his fellow members — Mrs. Muriel Oliver, John Bradstock, Herb Wunderlich, Bud Jones and Councillors Walter Scudts and Eric Handbury.

But none of them are really worried about it. For by the time the sultry weather has reached its zenith, they hope to have a number of shady parks to work from.



SHAUN BEGGS
... after greener fields

Fore Gosh Sakes

Despite a dense fog, cabbage strewn fairways and other light handicaps, 95 members of Richmond Hill Golf and Country Club managed to make their opening field day event, a successful one at the club, last Sunday.

The event, which got underway at 8 am and concluded some time around noon, attracted such a top-flight field of golfers, according to club pro, Ernie Nerlich, that they all won a prize.

Although such stars as Arnold Palmer and George Knudson didn't show up, there were times when golfers of their calibre were needed.

The players drove off at various spots with putters and finished off on the greens with drivers. On another hole they had to putt with a plastic ball, while on the ninth, they were forced to detour some of their shots around clusters of cabbages on the field.

However, to most of the duffers, that didn't make the course any tougher than usual.

The ladies also got in a few practice swings, when about 40 of them attended a clinic conducted by Mr. Nerlich, later in the morning.

At Walter Scott School

Plan Fireworks Display For Evening Of May 24

What would the 24th of May be without fireworks? There would be something definitely lacking from the day if darkness did not bring a display of pyrotechnics, accompanied by lots of noise and happy childish laughter.

Recognizing this fact, for several years the 9th Richmond

Hill Cubs and Scouts have held a display on the grounds of the Walter Scott School, and have plans for a bigger and better one this year. The over 3,000 Richmond Hill residents who jammed the school grounds and neighboring district last year, plus those who enjoyed the display from their own property, will wonder how last year's entertainment can be bettered.

The display is sponsored with three thoughts in mind. First is safety — by having a community effort youngsters are not playing with fireworks. Secondly, it is less expensive to the average family and thirdly it helps support the activities of a local youth group which is building good citizens of tomorrow.

The weekend of May 15 parents of Cubs and Scouts will be out soliciting contributions from people in Richmond Hill who appreciate their efforts on behalf of the town's youngsters. Since it is impossible to get over the whole town, if a canvasser does not contact you and you would like to do your share, a phone call to Pete Dawson at 884-2764 will bring someone to your door to pick up the donation.

The number of fund-raising activities which are possible for Scouts or Cubs to undertake is limited. The 9th intends to continue this fireworks display as an annual event, hoping to realize enough each year to keep the Scout and Cub work going as well as providing a fitting climax to the first holiday of the summer season.

Duck Population Shows Increase

A good increase in duck populations in the Lake Scoug area over last year is reported by conservation officers of the Department of Lands and Forests.

The forecast is based on the increased numbers of blacks, mallards, pintails and redheads observed feeding in corn fields bordering the lake.

Increased numbers of bufflehead and blue-winged teal have been seen along the Nonquon River. This is welcome news to hunters since in previous years a gradual decrease in blacks and mallards has been noted in this district.

Kent Clothes Intermediates Will Play In Fairbank Softball League

President Bill Hurst and Secretary-Treasurer Doug Snow of the Fairbank Major Softball League have completed the 1965 schedule for the six-team league. Kent Clothes, intermediate softball team, has been accepted into this league and smiling sponsor "Marvin" and all the boys are looking forward to a very interesting and enjoyable season.

The Clothings will be fielding most of the hustling whiz kids of last season, along with a few young veterans who have been prominent in softball activities in Richmond Hill. Those expected to return are: Bill Jackson, a fine hurler and a great asset to any club; Denny Richardson at second base and Les Downing at short will patrol the four acres around the middle sack and will form a strong defensive pair; Bob "Legs" Finnigan will again hold down the hot corner and should have another fine season. Matt Kinnari and Stan Foster are also expected to return and a few newcomers are Dave Roberts at first base; Keith Wharling, outfield; Les Williams, pitcher; Glen Wright, catcher.

The other five teams in the league will offer some tough opposition for the local boys every Tuesday evening at 8:30 at the main town park. The teams are:

New Toronto Merchants with two strong hurlers in Ken Condy and Don Long;

Harmony Caterers, who will rely on pitchers Lee Belleghem and ex-Loblaw hurler Keith Lancaster;

Male Shop, with chucker Owen McCrickert;

Maritimers, managed by Bill Walker, who promises a few surprises and a strong contender; and

Ned Banton's Electronic team (formerly the Tuxedo Junction squad), with Jim Salt and Pete Reuters occupying the

pitcher's mound.

Opening game will be at the town park May 23 with Kent Clothes hosting the Male Shop team.

Season Opens May 20 For Dynes Ball Club

The 1965 season opens for Dynes Ball Club May 20 at 8:30 pm under the lights.

Coach "Casey" Cripps reports that several more outstanding players have been added to the line-up including Mike Macey, George House, Freddie Disera and Alan Lee. "Casey" warns the other teams in the league that he has the team that should win the league championship this year.

Other teams in the York Central League come from Newmarket with the formidable Billy Forham and "Gibby" Gibson on the roster; last year's champion Markham Aces with pitcher "Lefty" Ellis who proved a stumbling block to his opponents and the Markham Hawks who won the league title two years ago.

The two Normans, Stenden and Roberts, play for Aurora, and entries from Queensville and Schomberg promise strong opposition.

A summer of good softball is the prediction for this league.

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