

Defeat Aurora Bid To Dissolve County Assessment

Its newest member threw a hot potato into the middle of York County Council last Thursday and no one even tried to catch it. He was then rapped sharply over the knuckles for having had the temerity to provoke this august body.

Ron Simmons moved up as deputy-reeve of Aurora early this year, following the death of Reeve Jean Moffat and the stepping up of the then deputy-reeve, Stewart G. Patrick into the reeve's chair. With his consequent seat on York County Council, Mr. Simmons also was given Mrs. Moffat's place on the county's assessment committee and up to the time of last Thursday's council session, had attended two meetings of that committee.

His effrontery consisted of a resolution which he put before the council to have the county abandon the recently adopted county assessment system and revert to assessment on a local basis.

Mr. Simmons stated that county assessment was premature until county-wide re-assessment on a uniform basis had been carried out and stated that although when it had been discussed in 1963 and 1964 by county council it had been estimated that its

cost would be comparable to the costs of individual township assessment, in fact Aurora's assessment costs had been doubled this year. Furthermore, he said, Aurora had been unable to ascertain the assessment plans for the future and whether or not assessment costs would continue to rise.

Mr. Simmons' resolution was seconded by his reeve, Mr. Patrick who, however, confined himself to just that, and added nothing to what Mr. Simmons had said.

After only three other members of council had spoken briefly on the motion, Reeve J. O. Dales of North Gwillimbury moved what was in fact a type of closure. "I move the previous question now" were his words, which meant that the voting on the resolution should take place without further discussion.

When council agreed to this, the vote was called and Aurora's resolution received only one favorable vote, in spite of the fact that many townships are known to be unhappy about the county assessment system, introduced in January.

Albert E. Laidlaw, deputy-reeve of Markham Village went contrary to the vote of his reeve, Alma Walker and voted along with

Mr. Simmons and Mr. Patrick.

In condemning Mr. Simmons' action, Angus H. Harrison, deputy-reeve of East Gwillimbury and chairman of the assessment committee accused him of usurping the authority of the committee in bringing the matter before council without having raised the issue in committee. The resolution also, he said, consisted in a motion of no confidence in the committee and its chairman.

"If the motion is intended to belittle the assessment commissioner and his staff, I can only say that I have the greatest confidence in their ability," Mr. Harrison added.

George Richardson, deputy-reeve of Newmarket noted that the voting for the county assessment last year was close and he personally felt the system was premature but urged that it should be given two or three years to prove itself. "We won't feel the benefit until the whole county is re-assessed," he said.

"The baby's here and we can't throw it out" said Reeve Charles Hooper of Markham Township. He reminded council however that he had fought the county assessment last year and that the assessment committee still had several questions to answer. He noted too that several townships are going to appeal

their assessment. Mr. Hooper's suggestion was that the matter be sent back to the committee for discussion.

However, Reeve Dales' closure motion, seconded by Kenneth Laushway, deputy-reeve of Stouffville summarily disposed of the matter.

This was all in marked contrast to the stormy reception the assessment committee's report had received at the June 2 session of the council.

The first clause of the report was only adopted after over half an hour of heated exchanges.

The clause consisted of a single apparently innocuous sentence, "Due to the centralized assessment system the annual census was completed on May 14, 1965."

Had assessors made the census? Will assessors then go back over their tracks and make assessments? were some of the questions asked.

Assessment Committee Chairman Harrison admitted that assessors had made the census but they would only go back to reassess homes where they noted changes.

"Does the census taker ask if such things as recreation rooms have been added?" asked

Reeve Patrick. "We can lose a lot of assessment this way." Mr. Patrick felt it was not good business to have a census taker who just goes to the door, where an assessor has the right to enter and examine the property.

Deputy-reeve Gordon Longhouse of Woodbridge stated that he had watched the census taker on his street and he didn't go in to look for any changes.

Reeve A. H. Rutherford of Vaughan Township, a member of the assessment committee, asked the members however if they had seen anything different to the way the work was done previously and accused them of finding fault merely because it was county assessors who were now doing the job.

The report included the information that data programming had now been designed to convert to electronically processed assessment rolls. Information from the village of Stouffville is presently being converted to punch cards, although unforeseen problems had arisen which had delayed the work there.

The equalized assessment schedule for the various townships was appended to the committee report and drew forth assorted scowls and exclamations of protest, but no comment.

The Liberal

"In Essentials Unity; in Non-Essentials Liberty; in all things Charity"

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VOL. 87, NO. 51. RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1965 HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878 PER COPY 10c



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Almost 700 people watched with intense interest as Chairman Cliff Bennett of the citizens' committee and Mayor Thomas Broadhurst (hidden) supported the symbolic white ribbon and J. A. Brockie, chairman of the Ontario Centennial Planning Branch, wielded the shears. This marked the official opening of Richmond Hill and District Centennial Swimming Pool, one of the first Centennial projects in Canada to be opened.

Dr. Cameron Cowan (far left), canvass co-chairman, beams his satisfaction in a job well done by the citizens of Richmond Hill. The other interested onlooker is one of the many children who will benefit from the pool's program of water safety instruction.

It's Open And Operating!

To Tender For Jail Farm

The City of Toronto, which once turned down an offer of \$2,000 an acre for the 760-acre Langstaff jail farm, has put the farm on the block again and this time is asking for \$3,000,000.

The farm will be sold by tender with the highest bidder paying \$500,000 down and the balance over five years.

However, Markham Township, which receives \$4,200 annually from the city in lieu of taxes for the farm, will not be one of the bidders.

Deputy-reeve Stewart Rumble said he didn't feel the township should compete for the land. However, Markham would still have some right over controlling its development because of its zoning. Although not zoned by by-law, the land

is shown as industrial on the official plan, with some residential on the north-east corner.

The jail farm will be serviced by the township from the John Street sewage plant, for which the city paid \$150,000 toward its cost. It is already serviced with water.

The property, which is located north of Highway 7 and east of Yonge Street, was acquired by the city shortly after World War I and rented to the province during World War II as a mental hospital when the province took over the mental home at St. Thomas as an air force base.

The province held on to the farm until 1957 when the city finally took it over again with the idea of using it to relieve pressure at Don Jail.

By MARY DAWSON

"This is truly a fine tribute to the 100th birthday of our country," Jack A. Brockie told a group of approximately 700 adults and children who were on hand Wednesday evening for the official opening of the Richmond Hill and District Centennial Swimming Pool.

Chairman of the Centennial Planning Board for Ontario, Mr. Brockie expressed his pleasure in being present at the opening and told his audience that Richmond Hill's people can take pride in accomplishing the first phase of its centennial plans. He congratulated the group of fund raisers and the citizens who made it possible noting that this municipality was one of the first in the country to develop a Centennial program. "Your committee and public minded citizens can take a bow for a fine example of planning of a most beautiful and valuable asset for the community."

Phil Stone of CHUM radio station, and a Centennial field representative whose area covers the Counties of Halton, Peel, York and Ontario, acted as

Proposed Airways Charter Extension Draws Ire Of Buttonville Residents

Sauve Says Lab Move To The Sault Is Now Final

Federal Forestry Minister Maurice Sauve has ended any hope that the laboratories in this area will be allowed to stay here. In reply to a question in the House of Commons from NDP Member Douglas Fisher of Port Arthur Mr. Sauve confirmed his earlier decision to move the federal laboratories in the Richmond Hill-Maple area to Sault Ste. Marie. On May 12 Mr. Sauve and his deputy L. Z. Rousseau travelled to Richmond Hill and discussed with municipal representatives the possibility of not moving the labs.

maintaining the headquarters in the Richmond Hill and Maple area and, together with Maurice Moreau, MP York-Scarboro and James Walker, MP York Centre, have made a thorough presentation of the case to my office and to myself. May I add that officials of the Department of Forestry and I discussed this problem with the minister and officials of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests who are in agreement with my decision.

"After further consideration, it appears to me that the interests of the Department of Forestry and of the forest industry of Ontario confirm our decision to establish the regional headquarters at Sault Ste. Marie in conformity with the decision made on February 18 last.

"It is clear that it will take several years to fully implement this decision."

Councillor Lois Haney, who led the fight to retain the laboratories here, expressed the opinion that

"We have been sold down the river by the federal and provincial governments. The only reason for deciding the location of these laboratories should have been strictly scientific. I think it is a revolting situation when political expediency interferes with scientific research in this country and particularly in Ontario." Reporting that she had received an identical letter from the Minister of Forestry, Mrs. Haney commented, "I seem

(Continued On Page 3)

Markham Township was the centre of a storm Monday night, but it wasn't one the weatherman called.

Instead it was precipitated by Toronto Airways Ltd., which operates Buttonville Airport, and whose recently-announced plans to change its existing charter licence raised a storm of protest from citizens of the area.

For nearly two hours a group of about 75 ratepayers from the immediate vicinity of the airport - which is situated just off Don Mills Road at Buttonville - crowded the small council chambers and demanded that council support it in its efforts to squelch the airport's application.

Punctuating its oratory with boos, cheers and loud hand clapping, members of the delegation, which overflowed into the hallway, took turns in denouncing council, the Airways, and in giving its reasons why it was against any form of "expansion."

Council, on the other hand, with Reeve Charles Hooper giving his gavel its best workout of the season, attempted to define extension, as opposed to expansion, defended for the most part the Airways application, and in the case of the reeve, summarily disposed of all rumors connecting his land with

any future plans of the airport.

Michael Sifton, vice-president of the Airways, who earlier in the week had distributed a letter to residents outlining his company's position, was also on hand to defend the Airways' actions.

The letter followed a petition signed by 33 residents protesting the application, and was presented to council last week.

(Continued On Page 17)



MAURICE SAUVE
Sault Move Final

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst from the minister is as follows:

"I wish to express my sincere thanks for the interest you have shown in the question of the transfer of laboratories from southern Ontario to Sault Ste. Marie.

"I was pleased that our meeting in your city hall provided you and those attending with a better understanding of our viewpoint whilst it afforded us a deeper insight into yours.

"John Addison MP York North has presented to me the

Text of the letter received by

Father's Day Gifts

Father's day gifts a problem? Richmond Heights Centre merchants can solve it for you easily.

Turn to the four gift idea-filled pages in this issue of "The Liberal" - Pages 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Pearson Ave. Residents Protest Water Hazards

"All we are asking for is a healthy school yard and a safe, healthy road for our children," Mrs. J. Kupchanko of 15 Pearson Avenue, told members of Monday night's meeting of Vaughan Township Council.

Mrs. Kupchanko was spokesman for a group of residents in the neighborhood of Charles Howitt School who complained that both the schoolyard and Pearson Avenue were a continuing hazard to their children every spring because of poor drainage, and stagnant water. Pearson Avenue was very high in the centre, with very deep ditches, constantly filled with stagnant water and there is no shoulder for the children to walk on. Mrs. Kupchanko stated and asked that township take action to rectify the situation.

The delegation reported

that they had appealed to the township school board on the matter. The board stated that they had had an engineer's report on the problem and had referred it to council.

John Plunkett, township roads accountant confirmed that the report had been received and was being studied by the township engineers whose field report basically agrees with the storm sewer designed by the school board engineers.

The problem has now been put before the Department of Highways to determine what proportion of the work would qualify for subsidy. The township engineers felt, however, said Mr. Plunkett, that the project might cost somewhere between \$40,000 and \$43,000 instead of the \$37,000 estimated by the school board.

One member of the delegation objected that there had already been four engineers' reports on the problem since he had lived there in 1957.

"All these people are virtually flooded out every spring. The school yard is a danger to the children, and we just keep getting reports with nothing being done," he said.

Lars Thompson of 19 Pearson Avenue pointed out that it was the financing of the drainage project that had held it up previously and suggested that the project should be financed over a wider area. "You are asking the drain to pay for the bath tub's sins," he said, noting that the extent of the basin that was causing the flooding was some five or six blocks, while Pearson Avenue residents had been asked to bear the whole cost

of rectifying the situation.

Mr. Thompson also stated that it could be argued that part of the cost should be borne by Markham Township as he understood that much of the water was coming across Yonge Street from Markham and into the subdivision. "I'm for a solution and I'm willing to pay my part of it," he said, "but we should take in the whole situation in the financing of it."

Another member of the delegation recalled that at one time it had been proposed that the water be diverted in a catch basin at Yonge Street but that the Department of Highways had stalled this 3 or 4 years ago.

Reeve A. H. Rutherford stated that as soon as council had word from the Department of Highways concerning their possible subsidy of the project they



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Everything came up smiles at a gala reception and buffet dinner held outdoors in the quadrangle at Thornhill Secondary School last Friday night to honor retiring Principal A. S. Elson.

Mr. and Mrs. Elson are shown left with MC for the evening W. McVicar and (right) Chairman of the York Central District High School Board John Honsberger. The handsome record player presented to Mr. and Mrs. Elson by Mr. Honsberger on behalf of the high school board may be seen to the rear, together with other gifts presented by staff and friends.

The Elsons have invited all graduates and staff of Richmond Hill High School from 1948 to 1955 and graduates and staff of Thornhill Secondary since 1955 to an "at home" to be held at their residence, 254 Church St. South, Richmond Hill, on the afternoon and evening of June 20.

Honor High School Principal A. S. Elson

By MARGARET McLEAN

"This is your life Stan Elson" was the theme of a reception held at Thornhill Secondary School June 11 on the occasion of the retirement of A. S. Elson as principal of the school.

Although there were no representatives from his birthplace in Tangiers, scene of his first teaching efforts, there were old friends, students and teachers from each of the Ontario high schools where Mr. Elson had taught during the course of

his 36 years teaching career. Chairman W. McVicar noted that in his first secondary school teaching post as science teacher at Orangeville High School in 1929, Mr. Elson was the highest paid of the six teachers at the school, he met the future Mrs. Elson, Kay Calhoun, also a teacher at the school.

From Orangeville, Mr. Elson went to Sudbury High School where he was science master. In 1934 he received his first

principalship at Lucan, and during their eight year stay there, the Elsons' three children, Barbara, John and Bruce were born.

From here, the Elsons went to Smithville where they remained until coming to Richmond Hill in 1948. Mr. Elson was principal of Richmond Hill High School until 1955 when he took over the principalship of Thornhill which opened in 1956. There are still eight of the same teachers on the Thornhill staff

who started there when Mr. Elson did.

Superintendent S. L. G. Chapman presented a "Tuesdays Morning Club" gift to Mr. Elson from the "Tuesdays Morning Club", the York Central principals who meet each Tuesday morning and thanked him for his wise council and sympathetic understanding at their meetings.

C. M. Seath, one of the teachers who came to Thornhill with Mr. Elson, and is also leaving (Continued On Page 17)