

## Your Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion  
By Eric Chapman - 884-0045

The band played "Waltzing Matilda" and "When the Saints Go Marching In". The sun blazed. Flags showed wiken against the sky. A threat-ened rainy day failed to materialize, and the big parade marking the beginning of the 24th Biennial Ontario Legion Convention was a bright and noisy spectacle. For 1200 delegates representing almost 90,000 members, or one third of the Canadian Legion, it was the first of five days business. Thirteen band units, six color guards, and a troop of majorettes from the Marched to the Cenotaph in North Bay Memorial Park. Around the Cenotaph thousands of people crowded in to see and hear the color and pageantry of one of the biggest parades ever to march through North Bay streets.

High above the bowed head of the Unknown Soldier, the new flag of Canada was vivid against the new leaves of the trees. Provincial President A. H. Adams laid a wreath, and a bugle sounded the Last Post with a sad cry. Then the bright note of "Reveille", and the bands began to re-assemble in parade order to march to Memorial Gardens. They marched in their scarlets and greens, their navy blues and their plaids of many clans.

Tiny girls fell in beside the troop of majorettes, imitating their high stepping style. Little boys stood awestruck before so great an assembly of military trappings. The crowds followed over a distance of many blocks for the ceremonies indoors at the Gardens. Guest speaker was Air Vice Marshal J. B. Harvey, northern commander of NORAD. Other speakers included Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs Paul Pelletier, and Legion Dominion President Fred O'Brecht.

At the end of the program the convention offered its first resolution, which was approved unanimously. It was a reaffirmation of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Some convention resolutions were approved as follows:

A request that dominion and provincial commands apply the full force of existing laws to prohibit the use of the mail for the distribution of salacious hate literature; and to ask to have the present legislation

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... There will be about 47,500 new cancer cases (diagnosed for the first time) in Canada this year.

Whereas the ceremony of the Legion conflicts with the new flag and some confusion exists within the branches as to proper procedure. It is resolved that dominion command immediately change the ceremony and procedures to conform with our new flag and that we officially adopt the flag and fly it with dignity. Two similar branch resolutions were carried.

Whereas the federal government has set up a commission to study bilingualism and biculturalism without representation of a veterans organization it is resolved that dominion command approach the federal government to have a member of the Legion appointed to this commission.

With the increased cost of living it is resolved that the government be requested to amend the WVA regulations to increase the casual earnings of married and single veterans to \$1200 and \$900 respectively.

A total of 58 resolutions was presented at the convention. The million dollar centennial fund was approved. All Ontario Legion members will be directly affected as the command is now committed to raising \$360,000 by next May. The sum breaks down to \$4 per member, and a minimum figure, we should expect to exceed it. This means that our own Branch 375 is required to contribute upwards of \$2000. It is apparent that those of us who have tanks containing tigers will have to get the lead out.

Gordon Wakefield of Woodstock was elected provincial president. He defeated Art Adams, Bell Telephone Branch 132. The 1967 convention will be held in Sarnia but before 1967 there will be a national convention. Everyone seems to be saving up to attend the dominion convention, and there is a prevalent sense of anticipation abroad which predicts a record attendance at Montreal around Victoria Day next May.

On the Richmond Hill home front, reports indicate the drumhead service and parade was quite impressive. There was some last minute running around by two men carrying walkie talkies, who seemed to be taking care of behind the scene contingencies. A few noted that Walkie Talker Ken Barrott was able to understand the messages coming from the other end in a pure unadulterated cockney accent, and an interpreting intermediary was unnecessary.

The recognized word "Roger" normally used in short wave circles for confirming messages has now been replaced in Legion circles with "Allright mate."

Detailed reports on the drumhead in next week's column.

# York County Police Or Security Guard?

"When is a police force not a police force" was the question that vexed York County Council for upwards of an hour at its June 1 session.

While there was no consensus, many members feared that if the name of the present York County Security Police was changed to simply "York County Police", as recommended by the police committee, it would in fact become a police force and no longer under the complete control of the county council.

The senior objection was voiced by Reeve A. H. Rutherford of Vaughan Township. He pointed out that the name had already been changed from "security guard" and that the four officers who compose the force are merely engaged in transporting prisoners between the jails and the courts.

The senior officer of the force, William McMullen who had been asked to attend the session, stated however that they were doing much of the work of regular police officers. They are doing a lot of photographing of prisoners, he said, and sending photos to other police departments in the province. He also stated that they were often held up for hours in their work because they didn't have warrants.

Reeve Norris of Georgina Township

objected that the individual municipalities had been asked to provide photographic work. "Do we want another police department?" he asked.

J. O. Dales, reeve of North Gwillimbury said he was familiar with the operation of the force through his work in the courts and could see the handicap under which a security guard works. "They are being seriously handicapped because their powers are limited" he said. "We should give them proper authority."

Reeve Donald Plaxton of Richmond Hill was, initially, in agreement with this point of view. "The request is reasonable," he said. "They have asked for recognition as a police force. They are performing the duties of a police force. I can see no reason for refusal."

The reeve of East Gwillimbury suggested however that the formation of a police force would require provincial legislation. "They would have control anywhere in the county," he stated. "Has anyone checked the act?"

Apparently no one had. Mr. McMullen interjected that the force had not asked for any change in their duties but Mr. Wright insisted that if they were sworn in as police officers their duties would be in accordance with the act and the county would have no control over them.

The chairman of the police committee, Ross Farquharson, reeve of Whitchurch Township reiterated that the guards had no intention of expanding their duties or authority but merely wanted recognition as York County Police to ease red tape at penal institutions.

When asked his opinion, County Solicitor J. D. Lucas stated that the council could establish a police force but if they did this, they would be calling them police when in fact they were not. "You should clearly distinguish between the two," he said. "If they did act as policemen when they weren't, it might cause greater confusion, he added.

"If they become a police force by deleting the word 'security', are we putting them in a place where we cannot prosecute their duties?" asked Reeve Plaxton. "If we can still control their duties, it doesn't matter. We should enquire if we can limit the responsibilities and duties of this auxiliary which we want to call York County Police."

As Mr. Lucas declined to give a firm legal opinion on the question "off the cuff", the matter was referred back to the police committee for further study.

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**Neighborhood Notes**

Congratulations to Judith Dodson for her musical accomplishments. Judy tied with Jane Dean of Richmond Hill in winning the scholarship presented by their teacher Miss Ruth Garson. She also won first prize for voice instruction. Recently Judy passed her first grade piano theory with first class honors, making a mark of 88%. Other pupils of Miss Garson who are doing well at the piano are Kathy and Ricky Snell. Kathy won first prize and Ricky second prize in grade 2 piano.

Mr. Ted Benkhuyzen of Boskoop, Holland, called on friends in the area on Sunday and was the dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Leno. Mr. Benkhuyzen is in Canada on a business trip.

Mrs. H. G. Caldwell, Elgin Mills Road, attended the graduation ceremonies at Laval University, Quebec City, last week when her son Gary received his MA in political science.

Gail Hallgreen, Brookside Road, entertained her grade 10 class from Richmond Hill High School at a swimming party last Friday afternoon.

Belated birthday greetings to Dorothy Ann Tuckerman who had her birthday, June 7, and many happy returns to Terry Gunton for June 21.

Mrs. Ernie Hall and Mrs. Ted

### County Brief Regional Government

A resolution that York County Council prepare a brief outlining their feelings about regional government for presentation to the Ontario Government was introduced at last week's council meeting by Reeve Donald Plaxton, of Richmond Hill.

"If we don't do this, whatever views we have will not be heard and we will find some form of regional government dumped in our laps," he said.

Reeve Plaxton's resolution was seconded by Deputy-reeve Floyd Perkins and received the unanimous support of county council.

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