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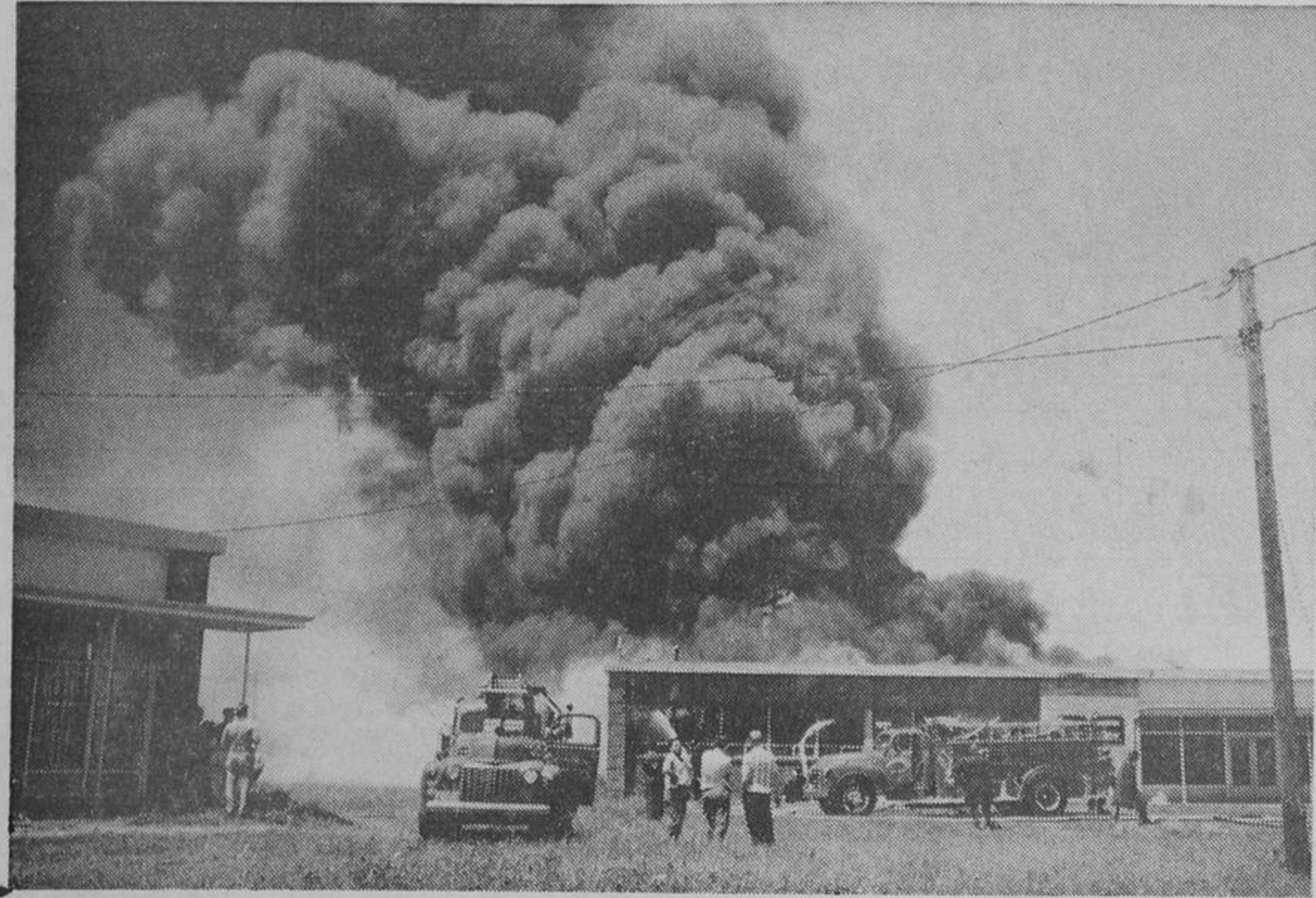
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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1965

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

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(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Factory Blaze Leaves 40 Jobless

A crowd of more than 1,000 people, attracted from as far as 20 miles by a huge cloud of billowing black smoke, watched as three fire departments battled a raging fire Saturday afternoon. The roaring blaze completely destroyed the Modern Sleep plant of Foam Plastics Industries, located on Newkirk Road just south of Elgin Mills Road.

A spectator called the fire "a holocaust which melted the glass in the windows as if it was ice".

The first alarm was sounded at 1:20 pm and the Richmond Hill Fire Brigade arrived to find a rear shed and trailer already partly consumed by the fire which had spread into the back end of the plant. Reinforcements were sought from the Vaughan Brigade which dispatched its aerial truck, a pumper and tank truck. The two departments fought a losing battle against

the flames with Deputy-Chief Russell Lynett of Richmond Hill in charge of the battle.

He estimates the damage as nearing the \$100,000 mark, although the exact figure will not be known until the burned-out company has made a thorough check of its inventory.

The deputy-chief said the cause of the blaze had not yet been determined, although he believed it had probably started in the attached shed, which was already in flames when the fire was discovered.

The local department has made several return trips to the plant to extinguish smouldering timbers fanned into flames by the high winds over the weekend.

Proprietors of the firm which employed 40 people, are A. Rosen and John Ross who are not residents of this area.

Purchasing Officer High School Bd.

York Central District High School Board at Monday's meeting agreed to hire a purchasing agent at a salary range of from \$6,000 to \$7,500 per annum.

Recommendation for the hiring of the purchasing agent was made by Business Administrator George Tindal.

Mr. Tindal felt that there were many opportunities for buying equipment and supplies at lower cost but that he was unable to do this regularly without neglecting his reports to committees, preparation of budget, budget control, liaison with architects and contractors, etc.

Besides obtaining information and placing orders, the purchasing agent would look after the follow-up needed on deliveries and arrange repairs to equipment.

He would obtain complete descriptions of goods, get quotations and other data, seek quantity discounts and check delivery dates, as well as analyzing quotations submitted and placing orders or making recommendations for purchase.

He would also chase. He would also examine personally the quality of many goods received, expedite deliveries, interview sales representatives, obtain information on new types of equipment, and deal with a considerable volume of correspondence.

The board agreed to advertise for a purchasing agent and it is hoped to have the position filled by August 1.

As a corollary to this decision, the board also agreed to obtain estimates for partitions in the board room to provide office space for new employees. (An "administrative intern" was recently appointed at the board office to assist the superintendent).

The board's administrative offices at 25 Yonge Street South have been overcrowded for some time, and no suitable premises being available for rent, it was decided to erect an administrative building. A site is presently being negotiated for this purpose. In the interim, the board will meet at one of the schools.

Works Commissioner Reports Says Work On Altamira Road Follows Engineering Principles

Work of removing sod on Altamira Road which led to a recent heated protest by residents of that area, was carried on in keeping with the basic principles of road maintenance, Works Commissioner Otto Whalen told Richmond Hill Council Monday evening.

"The basic principle of road maintenance is to get the water off the road as soon as possible to the ditch. It is standard practice to have an unsodded shoulder at least 24 inches wide. If the sod is carried to the pavement edge and is higher than the pavement, the wind-er sand gathers in a windrow, water builds up against it and invariably the asphalt breaks off," he claimed.

"On Altamira one property owner had sodded to the edge of the pavement with the sod raised two or two and a half inches above it. I followed established procedure in having it removed. But there were objections. I offered to put in another line of sod but leaving 24 to 30 inches of shoulder. I might say the objections covered a wide range, including storm sewers, no curbs, and the general quality of the ability of anybody working for the town," the works commissioner continued.

"In another instance the sod was raised five inches at the discharge into the pipe and there are several low spots in the ditches on that street. Although it is quite true there is no drainage problem in that area, people in Romac Court do have a drainage problem for which runoff must be provided on Altamira. Where sod is higher than the pavement, the snow plow leaves snow behind which turns into ice, which poses another problem," the town employee noted.

He reported that no further work had been done in the Altamira area, but said the question is "whether we apply basic accepted methods of road maintenance or leave the sod and spend money repeatedly on repairing the asphalt."

Councillor Walter Scudds stated that council will have to accept the fact that shoulders have to be cut down level with the pavement. "The road is a huge investment of taxpayers' money and must be protected," he said.

Councillor Eric Handbury stated he had inspected the road and felt the workmen had cut far too deeply. "I'm happy to hear that the works commissioner is willing to replace some sod," Councillor Scudds questioned "There never was any question that sod would be replaced - but not to the pavement edge."

Councillor Lois Hancey reported that the works committee had inspected the area. "Although there is no drainage problem on that corner, there is just around the circle. In order to get water away from the circle this area will have to be lowered," she stated.

24 French-Canadians To Be York Central Guests

York Central District High School Board on July 8 will host at a dinner for 24 French-speaking students from Riviere du Loup, Quebec who are spending a week with York Central students.

The visit is part of the federal Centennial Commission's program which this year is spending \$250,000 to send 9,000 young people to different parts of Canada, to help find a Canadian identity.

The Quebec young people (who speak very little English) are expected to arrive July 5 and will be billeted with students from York Central's five schools. During their week's stay they will be taken on short trips, to Stratford, Niagara Falls, Queen's Park, Toronto Island and the University of Toronto. Funds have been provided by the Centennial Commission for all transportation involved.

D. B. Threndley, head of the modern languages department at Langstaff Secondary School has made all arrangements for the visit.

The high school board considered it a distinct honor that they had been invited to have a group here and felt that York Central had been sent French students as a result of last year's symposium on French Canada.

Three York Central students have also been selected to make similar tours. Gail Meadows, a grade 11 student at Bayview Secondary School will leave for St. John, New Brunswick July 5.

On July 19, Susan Baird, a grade 11 student at Langstaff will leave to spend a week in Chicoutimi, Quebec. Michael Hayes, a grade 11 student at Thornhill Secondary will leave on the same day to spend a week at Whitehorse Yukon.

Investigate Fire Death At Lake Wilcox Cottage

The Ontario Fire Marshal's Department is investigating a fire which last week took the life of a 5-year-old Lake Wilcox girl.

Tammy Morrison, daughter of Mrs. Jean Morrison, was believed to have died of suffocation while hiding behind some clothing in a closet of the house to get away from the fire. Firemen said the only burn she received was to her hand.

According to Whitechurch Township Police, the fire started in another closet in the bedroom of Mrs. Morrison's brother, Ronald, who had left earlier to go to work. Cause of the fire is still unknown.

Mrs. Morrison, who is separated from her husband, said she thought both her children were with her when she left the burning house after her son, James, 6, had awakened her.

She tried to go back in when she realized her daughter wasn't with her, but was prevented from doing so because of the intense heat.

Kenneth Emmerson, a neighbor, broke a window and looked for the girl, but was unable to find her.

Mrs. Morrison's mother, Mrs. Jean Mills, 46, who was also in the house at the time of the fire, escaped safely.

Funeral service was held in Thompson Funeral Chapel, Aurora, with Rev. Mrs. Dorothy Wilson, St. Paul's United Church, Lake Wilcox, officiating.

Interment was in Prospect Cemetery, Toronto.

Advise Teachers Handle Own Fees

A request from the teachers' council to Richmond Hill Public School Board asking that it consider some adjustments in its federation fees deductions, has been turned back to the council.

The teachers requested the board deduct the \$25 dues over a period of several years in the fall, instead of in one complete sum in November.

"It's rather frustrating just before Christmas," the council said in its letter.

The board, however, decided it was not up to it to decide and turned the request back to the council with the advice that it consult its Teachers Professional Act for guidance.

The board also agreed to grant one-half a credit for salary purposes to teachers successfully completing the fall and winter mathematics course for teachers at Bayview Secondary School.

The course was equivalent to one-half an Ontario Department of Education summer course.

A contract to transport pupils to the opportunity classes for next year was also approved.

The number of pupils is not expected to exceed 35 and the route will be from Beverley Acres to MacKillop, stopping at each of the other four schools en route, with pickup times at 8:30 am and 3:30 pm.

Farewell Party Honors Former Twp. Councillor

Some of her friends in Maple have arranged an "open house", farewell party for Ruth McConkey, former Vaughan Township councillor who is moving to Bermuda, July 15.

The party is to be held at the McConkey home, 12 Maple Road, just west of Keele Street during the evening of July 6 and all those who would like to say goodbye to Ruth are invited to drop in.

The McConkeys have been residents of Maple for six years, during four of which Mrs. McConkey was a member of Vaughan Township Council. She served as chairman of the waterworks committee and also of the fire and police committee. When she retired from council last year, she was made an honorary member of the police force.

The two elder McConkey daughters, Debbie and Diane will remain behind to work in Toronto but John, Judy and Peter will go with their mother to join Mr. McConkey in Bermuda, where he set up an advertising business some months ago.

Vaughan Deputy-Reeve Attends Turf Club Ball

Vaughan Township's Deputy-Reeve Garnet Williams and Mrs. Williams were among the guests at the 10th Annual Queen's Plate Ball held last Friday night at the Turf Club, Woodbine.

The Turf Club was decorated for the occasion in a woodland theme. A horse's head, sculptured from ice centred the gala buffet table.

Proceeds from the ball were for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Prisoners Crowded At Mkhm. Twp.

Despite a plea by Police Chief Harvey Cox that his department was desperate for more room, and information from the clerk that money was available in the budget, Markham Township Council Monday night temporarily withheld any action on a recommendation of the police committee for renovations.

Council also withheld any action on a request from Engineer Dusan Miklas to approve a contract with E. J. Beamish Construction Co. Ltd., Thornhill, to clean out 63,500 feet of sewer in the township.

Chief Cox said that space was at such a premium in the department that it was impossible to bring prisoners in to question them.

It was imperative that improvements be made at this time, he said.

Deputy-reeve Stewart Rumble said council would deal with it if the money were available.

In his report, Mr. Miklas said the sewers, located west of Bayview Avenue, should be cleaned once a year and could be done by the North York Works Department, using a bucket system. However, Beamish Construction had developed a new system, and would only charge the township 15 cents a linear foot, almost half the cost of the North York charge.

Council decided it should study the matter further before making any decision.

Council, however, admitted it didn't mind being a "guinea pig" in another matter where the price was right.

Mr. Miklas recommended the use of a new plastic overlay, "Bemaphalt," for the waterproofing of bridge decks at the fifth line. He said the cost of the new substance would be \$2,855, with the Department of Highways paying 80 per cent, so that the township would only have to pay \$571.

He said the department had tested Bemaphalt, but had never used it in a practical way before and would be watching the Markham experiment closely. After this year, the price would probably go up.

Councillor Charles Hoover said he didn't mind being a guinea pig but would only vote for its use on the understanding that it was subject to the recommendation of the Highway Department.

Councillor Cleary Palmer said he was against the new treatment, because nobody knew what it was.

Council voted 2-1 to accept it.

In other matters of finance, council approved the low tender of \$83,083.30 from Miller Paving Ltd., for the double surface treatment of 19 miles of road in the township. Other tenders were E. J. Beamish Construction Co. Ltd., \$86,411.96; Municipal Spraying and Oiling Co., \$91,582.88.

Another tender from W. A. Rider Paving Ltd., was turned down on the recommendation of the engineer, because it did not contain a bid price, or other essential data.

Approved the construction of a 7,124-foot watermain on Don Mills Road, to be constructed on a local improvement basis at a cost of \$69,346. The township's share would be \$6,971.67. The main will run from Rodick Road to one lot south of 16th Avenue.

Called for tenders for two

For Public School Work Non-Union Electrical Company Gets Contract

Richmond Hill Public School Board has awarded a contract for electrical work to a non-union contractor on its own following a report from the general contractor that it could not work with him.

In a report of a special committee meeting last week, the board said that Bruno Electric had been awarded the contract for electrical fixtures for additions to MacKillop and Beverley Acres Public Schools. However, the general contractor informed the board that he would be unable to sign a contract with the firm because it was non-union.

Trustee Jack Knott moved that the contract be awarded to the next lowest bidder, but as there was no second the motion was lost.

It was then moved by Trustees Andrew Hutcheson and Phyllis Hawkes that the board sign a separate contract with Bruno, deleting the electrical work from the basic tender.

This was done with the approval of the architect and the general contractor, and the work will be carried out on a separate contract.

The board also knocked approximately \$1,500 from the \$37,826 tender of A. Petersons Ltd., for alterations at Walter Scott Public School.

The deduction was brought about by deleting the landscaping allowance of \$500 and the acoustic tile ceilings of \$1,000 and leaving the exposed wood deck.

It was felt the tender was too high and the two items in question could be done without for the present.

The board also authorized the expenditure of \$2,000 each for furnishings for Beverley Acres kindergarten and Walter Scott alterations.

The maximum figure for furniture and equipment at Cross Heights Senior School was set at \$50,280.

It was also agreed that the principal of each school should be allowed to spend up to \$1,500 over and above his general supply budget this year, in addition to any adjustment made with Walter Scott within the present budget, because of the extra costs accrued from the transfer of Walter Scott pupils to the school, and the extra cost of supplies in the senior school.

Will Pay Ambulance Subsidy

Markham Township Council has agreed to pay 14.6% or \$58.40 per month subsidy toward the Vaughan-Hill ambulance subsidy. This amount is based on the 1964 calls, Richmond Hill Town Council meeting at its Monday night meeting.

Vaughan Township has also agreed to continue to pay \$100 per month subsidy towards the ambulance service, but not the 32.7% (\$130.80) per month requested on a basis of 1964 calls.

Town Council Abhors Death Penalty

Prompted by a statement by Mayor Thomas Broadhurst that he abhorred capital punishment and hopes it will soon be abolished, all members of Richmond Hill Council expressed the same view Monday evening.

Reeve Donald Plaxton however added a word of caution, that abolition of the death penalty and the present parole system could mean that dangerous killers might be able to "con" the parole board into releasing them to be a menace to society. "A life sentence no longer means the recipient will spend his life behind bars. If the death sentence is removed I believe that a life sentence without parole will have to be reinstated," he stated.

The mayor said his statement was prompted by an answer to a question asked at the Liberal Party Hot Line held this spring, when John Addison MP York North had stated he had not made up his mind on the subject and found no great opinion for or against the death penalty throughout the country.

Police Commissions Mandatory

For a few days Richmond Hill has been breaking a law, a new amendment to the provincial Police Act that requires every municipality with a population greater than 15,000 to have a board of police commissioners. The amendment was given Royal Assent in the Legislature last week, but did not receive any publicity until Tuesday of this week. The town's population of 19,000 makes it one of the nine municipalities which will be affected. Markham Township with a population of 15,800, and Vaughan, with 18,000, are also in the list, along with Burlington, Toronto Township, Oakville, Gloucester Township, Nepean Township, Saltfleet Township.

The new law requires a police commission of three persons: the head of the municipal council by virtue of his office, (mayor or reeve), a county court judge and one other person (usually a magistrate) appointed by the provincial cabinet on recommendation of the Attorney-General.

Minimum annual salaries of the police commissioners are also statutory, ranging from \$100 to \$500. Municipalities may pay the mem-



(Photo by Barbour)

Vaughan's Top Athlete

Twelve-year-old Susan Zepp, a grade 7 student at Powell Road Public School has good reason to look bright and shiny-eyed as she is seen here. She was named township champion at the June 16 field day of Vaughan Public Schools, after having won first place in every event she entered.

Susan is shown proudly wearing her six red ribbons and holding in her right hand, the senior girls' championship trophy and in her left, the "most promising athlete" trophy, awarded by the Maple Lions Club.