



NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Where Did That Come From?

A Christmas feast, complete with all the season's goodies, Santa Claus, a magician, and happy children were the order of the day at Summitview Gardens Restaurant December 19 when the Rotarians of Richmond Hill entertained their children.

A few of the youngsters, happily holding the gifts which had been presented to them by Santa, are seen in the above picture grouped around "Mr. Presto" the magician, who amazed and entranced them with his feats of legerdemain. It was the final event of an evening they will not soon forget.

Warn Hill Cannot Finance Facilities For Proposed York Central Addition

Because of Richmond Hill's advanced at last month's meeting of county council, insisting that the town's sewage facilities be advanced to York Central Hospital, the report of the finance committee was "accepted" but not adopted or approved in principle at the December 20 meeting of York County Council.

Deputy-reeve Floyd Perkins, chairman of the works committee, stated the new contract will cost \$3.65 per capita.

The old contract — which still had a year to go — was renegotiated as it was decided to combine the garbage and refuse pickups.

Calculating the present population of Richmond Hill at approximately 19,500 the total cost will amount to \$71,175. The actual garbage pickup has increased to \$2.60 with the refuse picking up the other \$1.05 per capita.

The rate for garbage pickup has been \$2.20 per capita, he said, and was due to rise in "any case because of increased costs. We've had the same rate for the past four years."

He added that the cost of the \$3.65 rate would be more than made up by the releasing of works department employees to do other vital municipal work. The municipality will also save on the time it took to carry the refuse to dumps in Vaughan Township.

"The York Sanitation firm," he said, "originally asked for \$3.83 to handle both the garbage and refuse pickup but we managed to get it down to \$3.65.

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst added his favorable comments noting a great deal of money and time would be saved by freeing town employees for other work.

Hydro Lighting Contest Has Six Lucky Winners

Hydro Chairman Sam Cook announced this week the names of winners in Richmond Hill Hydro's second Christmas Home Lighting Contest.

First prize of a portable electric heater went to C. R. Foster of 109 Cartier Cres. Two next-door neighbors tied for second place, H. Goebel of 212 and H. Wunderlich of 214 South Taylor Mills Drive and each received an electric blender. Third prize, an electric blanket, was awarded to F. Grabarchuk, 249 Lucas St.

Honorable mention went to J. I. Maltby, 238 Sugar Maple Lane and to H. Vosburgh, 83 Starlight Cres.

First prize for the most unique display went to S. Pinter, 126 Libby Blvd. who won an electric carving knife. Second prize in this category, an electric shoe shine kit, went to P. O'Sullivan of 122 Cartier Cres, while honorable mention went to H. Willis, 73 Rockport Cres.

Judges this year were Jack Corbett, Alsaac Rd., chairman of Richmond Hill Centennial Committee; Mrs. W. H. Purvis, 65 Bridgeport St., representing the YWCA and Harry Sayers, Starlight Cres., chairman of the planning board.

Mayor's Levee January 2

Let's get Richmond Hill's Centennial celebrations off to the right start by attending the Mayor's Levee January 2 between 2 and 3 pm. There will be lots of room for everybody in the spacious auditorium of Richmond Hill High School located on Wright Street.

Entertainment will be provided by the York Chorale, a singing group with members from all over York County, which will be appearing at Expo '67 in July. This invitation is a singular honor and one which is well merited.

At 3:15 the Centennial flag will be raised on the flag pole in front of the municipal building, to fly there throughout the Centennial year.

Okay York Sanitation Contract To Start Weekly Refuse Pickups

Richmond Hill residents will be getting once a week refuse as well as garbage pickups come January 1, 1967.

That was the story last week as council approved of negotiations by its works committee for a revised five year contract with York Sanitation Company of Newmarket.

In previous years York Sanitation handled the weekly garbage pickup with the municipality's works department crews maintaining monthly refuse collections for everything beyond the usual garbage.

Deputy-reeve Floyd Perkins, chairman of the works committee, stated the new contract will cost \$3.65 per capita.

The old contract — which still had a year to go — was renegotiated as it was decided to combine the garbage and refuse pickups.

Calculating the present population of Richmond Hill at approximately 19,500 the total cost will amount to \$71,175. The actual garbage pickup has increased to \$2.60 with the refuse picking up the other \$1.05 per capita.

The rate for garbage pickup has been \$2.20 per capita, he said, and was due to rise in "any case because of increased costs. We've had the same rate for the past four years."

He added that the cost of the \$3.65 rate would be more than made up by the releasing of works department employees to do other vital municipal work. The municipality will also save on the time it took to carry the refuse to dumps in Vaughan Township.

"The York Sanitation firm," he said, "originally asked for \$3.83 to handle both the garbage and refuse pickup but we managed to get it down to \$3.65.

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst added his favorable comments noting a great deal of money and time would be saved by freeing town employees for other work.

Regional School Board Decision Referred To '67 County Council

The York County Consultative Committee's report gained a reprieve at the December 20 sittings of York County Council instead of being shot down in flames as some had predicted.

The controversial report recommends the setting up of three boards of education in York County to replace the present 15 elementary and six high school boards. At the November sittings of county council a motion was passed by a small margin to have a bylaw prepared for the December sittings to permit full discussion of the proposals which were endorsed by the county's education committee.

At the beginning of the discussion last Tuesday, however, a resolution was put forward by Commissioner Garfield Wright, the reeve of East Gwillimbury, which stated that as insufficient opportunity had been given to the municipalities, the elementary and high school boards to discuss the changes, county council should defer discussion on the matter and that instead it should be referred to the 1967 council.

Warden Joseph Dales then read a lengthy submission on the matter which pointed out that up until this time the county has played no active role in setting education policy. It was felt that the new set-up still regulates the county to the status of a collection agency, similar to that of present municipal councils but with policy making shifted to the three new boards.

It was felt that there was insufficient information in the report on fiscal issues, particularly the position of the province on co-operative financing of the venture.

It was further emphasized that there was need for a serious examination of local development policies and that if local governments are relieved of direct responsibility for relating housing to school requirements, the overall fiscal position of the county could deteriorate; that if the county is to be responsible for school costs it must play a significant role also in development.

Mr. Wright's resolution was seconded by Commissioner Alma Walker and Warden Dales stated that the remarks contained in the submission he had read represented the feeling of the executive committee of county council. He suggested that rather than enter into an involved debate, the resolution be voted on at once.

Woodbridge Reeve Norn Garriock, chairman of the education committee, concurred with the resolution. The changes would require, he said, not one bylaw but 19 and although these had been prepared, there was insufficient time to discuss them. He stressed however, that there had been a considerable amount of work done in connection with the report and urged that council continue to deal with the subject and to keep it active. (Mr. Garriock did not stand for re-election in Woodbridge and consequently will not be a member of county council next year.)

Mr. Garriock also pointed out that before the boards of education could be set up, each individual municipality would have to concur and pass its own bylaw on the matter and that further discussion was necessary.

Vaughan Township Reeve A. H. Rutherford expressed himself as happy that local school boards will have an opportunity to submit their feelings on the report. The Vaughan board had been disappointed that it had received no reply from the consultative committee. "We feel it will entail significantly greater expense, regardless of the upgrading of education," Mr. Plaxton stated. "Unless there is convincing evidence on costs, in dollars and cents, this report has very little chance of passing."

The resolution to pass the problem on to next year's council was then carried unanimously, with no further discussion.

Question Method Of Selection

Vaughan Reappoints A. C. Peck For 3 Years To High School Bd.

Vaughan Township Council came under close questioning over its method of appointing representatives to York Central District High School Board at its December 19 meeting.

Council gave three readings to a bylaw reappointing Trustee Allan Peck of Richvale to the board for a further three year term. A member of the audience, Mrs. J. G. Corse, while she made it clear that she had no objection to Mr. Peck's appointment and did not know him in fact, enquired how council arrived at its decision, whether the matter had been discussed in committee and whether or not any other person had been considered.

"It is very important that you get the best possible person," said Mrs. Corse. "They (the high school board) spend most of our money. In our dealings with the board they haven't helped us at all and we would like to know you are getting the best person."

Mrs. Corse was assured that council had discussed the appointment thoroughly and Councilor Dalton McArthur advised that he had spent four hours on the telephone discussing the matter.

"How would anyone know when the appointment is coming up?" Mrs. Corse enquired further. "Do you advertise the position?"

Councilor McArthur advised that the "position" was not advertised and that the only way anyone would know about such appointments would be if they followed the matter routinely.

Another ratepayer, Charles Madden asked what qualifications an appointee had to have, who could apply and if there was a salary attached to the job. He was advised, that high school board members are now paid an honorarium. Reeve A. H. Rutherford and council tried to get well qualified people and tried to see that its three representatives are chosen, one from each section of the township.

Mr. Rutherford also advised that council's representatives on the board report to council periodically. An objection was raised however that such representatives do not report to the ratepayers unless council provides a time for them to do so.

Vaughan Township's representatives on the high school board for the past



TRUSTEE ALLAN PECK Reappointed 3 Year Term

Taxpayers Invited To Inaugurals

Four events of importance to Vaughan Township residents will take place during the first two weeks in January.

January 4 a recount of the votes cast for reeve in the December 10 election will be conducted at the municipal offices in Maple by Judge W. D. Lyons.

Monday, January 9 will be the inaugural meeting when members of council and also of the township planning board will take their oaths of office.

Wednesday evening, January 11, newly-elected members of Vaughan Township Area School Board will be sworn into office at the administrative offices of the board, 136 Keele Street South, Maple. This is the small building in front of George Bailey Public School, which was the original school on the site.

Thursday, January 12 the 1967 inaugural meeting of York Central District High School Board will be held at the board's offices, 59 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill at 8 pm. Newly appointed or re-appointed members will be sworn into office and a chairman will be elected for the year.

Members of the public will be welcome at these three inaugural meetings.

Lake Wilcox Man Thwarts Holdup

A Lake Wilcox man averted a holdup at Frenchie's Garage, Richvale, last week when he jumped on the would-be bandit and held him until police arrived.

According to Vaughan Township Police, a youth broke into Twin Saddle Riding Academy, Vaughan Township, December 21, and stole three firearms.

He then went to the Richvale garage and tried to hold up the proprietor, Emile Dion. However, John Gilroy, who was assisting Mr. Dion jumped on the youth and wrestled him to the ground.

Arrested and charged with the attempted break-in was William Wayne Buchanan, 19, no fixed address.

Farms Now Get Preferred Treatment

Farmers Told Assessment On Market Value Is At Instruction Of County Council

By MARGARET McLEAN

At close to 11 pm at a crowded meeting of district farmers at Vandorf Community Hall December 15, York County Assessment Commissioner C. D. Wright threw something of a bombshell when he announced that county assessment did not have to be on market value if county council wished it otherwise.

Throughout the long evening, Mr. Wright had continually defended the new system which he is preparing to introduce and which would have all properties in the county, residential as well as farm, commercial and industrial assessed at market or "probable sale" value.

While the assessment figures would increase, mill rates would be correspondingly lowered, Mr. Wright said and any increase or decrease in actual taxes would only take place where a property has previously been incorrectly assessed in relation to others. Mr. Wright pointed out however that

"one sale does not make a market," and that individual sales of farm land for inflated prices (possibly as subdivision land) would not be considered, nor would father-son sales for very low prices.

He conceded however, that there were no true sales of farm lands taking place in York County, that is sales of farm land for farming purposes, that the prices being asked (and received) for farm land made the capital cost too high for economic farming.

Mr. Wright's affirmative reply to the question "Is assessment to be on these fantastically high values?" elicited the explosive response, "Then by God we've got to get it stopped," which remark was greeted with whole-hearted applause.

Mr. Wright's defense was that he was only a paid employee, working under direction of county council which had decreed that the department of Municipal Af-

fairs' assessment manual was to be the basis of the new county assessment.

Merlin Baker, a prominent Whitechurch farmer had with him a copy of the manual and read from it a section indicating that top grade farm land was to be assessed at \$125 per acre.

Mr. Wright advised that that section of the manual had been amended, and further, that not six pages of that manual remained, the rest of it having been amended since 1964.

At this point, Whitechurch Reeve Ross Farquharson rose to point out that it was on the basis of the 1964 manual that county council had endorsed county assessment but that it had made no mention of assessment on market value.

Mr. Wright suggested therefore that all county council needed to do was repeal one section of the bylaw appointing a county assessment commissioner which states that "the department manual shall be used".

"I suggest that the five of us here who will be on county council next year see that this bylaw is amended and that we continue to use the blue book sold to us in '64," said Reeve Farquharson. "We should bring to the attention of county council that there have been changes in the assessors' manual."

This suggestion was fully endorsed by the audience and the considerable tension which had built up earlier in the meeting was dissipated.

However, Brian Bailey, reeve-elect of Vaughan Township who was in the audience, questioned whether it would be this simple and asked Mr. Wright if it was not mandatory to use the amended manual for county assessment.

Mr. Wright replied that the department didn't actually make it mandatory but that they paid additional grants to those who did use it, such as \$12,000 towards the salary of the assessment commissioner, half the cost of any equip-

ment used and up to \$2,500 for equipment rented.

He had pointed out earlier that when questions were put to the Ontario Government it wouldn't take a stand. "It's a popularity contest down there," he said. "The men at Queen's Park won't come out with a firm statement unless it is to their advantage. They won't issue a mandate until 50% of the province is on the new system."

Instead, he said, they use the incentives of extra grants and this year to get municipalities to use a new type of assessment roll have offered to pay a grant amounting to 20c per entry on such an approved roll. They will also pay 25c for each tax bill issued on a new form.

If the bylaw is amended as suggested, Mr. Wright stated that this would put assessment under Section 35 of the assessment act, under which sale price is disregarded when making an assessment.

Earlier in the meeting he had stated, "I doubt if we can find a farm sale in York County which fits in Section 35".

He also stated that if sale value is disregarded "This would result in a much lower value for farm property. This places bonafide farms in a preferred position. No other property is this preferred, it is designed particularly for the farmer."

Mr. Wright insisted too that there were now many fictitious values in the county. Present assessment attempts to place the 1940 value on a property, something which individual ratepayers can't figure out. Under the proposed new system no one in the county would be hurt, he said, but at the present time some classes of property are subsidizing others.

He received determined opposition during the evening from King Township Reeve Gordon Cook. Farmers are all willing to be as-

essed equally, he said, but if assessment was made on market value they would have to sell their farms.

Markham Township Reeve Stewart Rumble was also convinced that under the market value assessment farmers, particularly in Markham Township where land prices have been much inflated, would bear a greater tax load.

Chairman of the meeting was George Richardson, former reeve of Whitechurch Township. At the head table with him were Mr. Farquharson, Whitechurch Deputy-Reeve Stuart Burnett, Mr. Rumble, Mr. Cook, Mr. Wright, Frank Brummel of the Federation of Agriculture and Reeve-elect of Aurora Jim Murray.

Mr. Bailey was invited to join the head table guests but declined, advising that he was only present as a guest. Well over 100 farmers from Whitechurch, King and Markham Township attended the meeting.