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(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Honor For Talented Musicians

The above young people, all members of the Richmond Hill Symphony Orchestra, have achieved considerable honor lately. Four of them, Carol Gibson (cello), Jim Spragg (trumpet), Martin Warsh (violin) and Harold Wevers (Bassoon) have been accepted into membership of the Canadian National Youth Orchestra, which will do intensive rehearsing during the summer prior to a trip across Canada. Fourteen-year-old Jim Spragg is the youngest player ever to be accepted by the youth orchestra.

Competition for membership in this musical group is very keen and it is evident that the experience gained in the local symphony orchestra has helped these four young people to pass the auditions. The fifth young orchestra member, Douglas Sparkes (trombone) received a \$100 scholarship in the 1967 Kiwanis Festival.

These very talented young people are pictured above (left to right): Martin Warsh, Doug Sparkes, Harold Wevers, Carol Gibson and Jim Spragg.

High School Costs Soaring 1967 Budget Tops 4 Million

While the old saw has it that "what goes up must come down", this seemingly doesn't apply to budgets, particularly school board budgets.

This is certainly true of the York Central District High School Board budget which this year continues its stubborn increase for a total of \$4,270,000.

This represents an increase of \$489,821 over last year's actual expenses of \$3,780,179.

Five categories account almost exactly for the increase: instructional costs up \$383,491 to \$2,313,900 (54.19% of the budget); auxiliary services (psychological, guidance and attendance counselling, etc.) up \$37,196 to \$101,800; instructional supplies, up \$25,273 to \$234,200 (although percentage of total budget for this item is down .02%); reserve for working fund up \$15,000 to \$125,000 and transportation costs, up \$9,091 to \$103,000.

Increases in these five categories total \$489,775.

However, to balance increased expenses, changes in the provincial grant structure will bring York Central an additional \$259,490. This makes the provincial contribution 36.46% of the total budget as opposed to 34.42% last year. The province now contributes approximately \$286 for each academic student and \$416 for each vocational student.

This still leaves 59.38% of the budget to be raised by local tax levies, the sum of \$2,535,410 this year as compared to \$2,224,904 last year, an increase of \$310,506.

This increase is only slightly less than the \$383,491 increase in instruction costs. Included in these costs (on instructions of the Department of Education) are salaries of the superintendent and the newly-appointed assistant superintendent of schools. Bulk of the increase of course is accounted for by the additional 33 teachers required to handle the 426 additional pupils expected in the system next year.

Part of the rise here is accounted for by salary increases for teachers, although negotiations on these are still going on. The board has offered an increase of \$800 per annum in categories 1, 2 and 3 and \$700 in category 4.

This brings the proffered salary scale to \$6,100 minimum to \$10,100 maximum in category 1; \$6,400 to \$10,600 in category 2; \$7,200 to \$11,800 in category 3 and \$7,600 to \$12,600 in category 4.

In addition to this, department heads receive a further 3.384% of the high school levy, Markham Township 22.67% and Woodbridge 5.195%.

The drop in Markham's share, in spite of the large new development at North Thornhill, is because the apportionment is made in terms of county equalized assessment based on the 1965 assessment used for 1966 taxes.

For this year then, because of this lag the other municipalities are in fact subsidizing these new Markham Township students.

The \$2,535,410 municipal tax levy will be shared 38.556% or \$977,553 by Vaughan Township, 33.757% or \$844,878 by Richmond Hill, 22.512% or \$570,772 by Markham Township and 5.175% or \$131,207 by Woodbridge.

This apportionment represents a slight increase in the share of high school costs to be paid by Vaughan Township, to 38.586% from 38.242% last year and a slight decrease in the share of each of the others. Last year Richmond Hill paid 33.884% of the high school levy, Markham Township 22.67% and Woodbridge 5.195%.

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The \$125,000 reserve fund set aside for 1967 by the York Central District High School Board is too rich for Reeve Donald Plaxton's blood. Mr. Plaxton is Richmond Hill's budget chief.

He would like to see it trimmed to \$50,000 to ease the burden on taxpayers.

Reeve Plaxton, expressed the town's feeling in a letter to the board.

The province allows a school board to annually set aside a sum amounting to five percent of the expenditures of the preceding year up to a total of 20 percent.

(Continued on Page 3)

Tory Candidate Mackenzie To Try For Seventh Term

A. A. (Lex) Mackenzie, who at 81 years of age is the oldest living member of the Ontario Legislature, is likely to seek an unprecedented seventh term as the Conservative Party nominee in the provincial election expected to be held shortly. Born on November 1, 1885 Mr. Mackenzie will mark his 82nd birthday this year.

Mr. Mackenzie, who is a resident of Woodbridge, has represented York North in the Legislature continuously since 1945. Provincial redistribution has divided York North, whose boundaries correspond with those of the County of York, into three sections. Mr. Mackenzie will seek reelection in the new provincial riding of York Centre which will serve the south-

ern county municipalities of Woodbridge, the Townships of Vaughan and Markham, Richmond Hill and the Village of Markham. It will have a population of 58,607. Two recent developments give strong indication that Mr. Mackenzie is going to call on the people for a further term. In an interview carried by a Toronto daily Mr. Mackenzie stated he was seriously considering standing again. This was followed by a public statement by the Riding President Alan Hewitt of Concord, that many leading party members were urging Mr. Mackenzie to run again.

Mr. Mackenzie, a bachelor who still lives on the family farm at Woodbridge, began his political career in 1922 when he won election to Woodbridge Village Council. He continued to serve as councillor and reeve until 1935. In 1943 he made his first try for a seat in the Legislature but suffered defeat at the hands of the Socialists. Running again in the 1945 provincial election he captured the county for the Tories.

Mr. Mackenzie has served under four Conservative Premiers—Drew, Kennedy, Frost and Roberts. He won majorities in the general elections of 1945, 1948, 1951, 1955, 1959 and 1963.

Last May Mr. Mackenzie was honored at a testimonial reception held in recognition of his 21 years of service in the House. At that time it was generally felt that in the face of his advancing years and redistribution Mr. Mackenzie would finally step down.

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"Peyton Place" Dispute Still Up In Air

No further statements were issued by the Richmond Hill Police Commission regarding the town's "Peyton Place" controversy when they met Tuesday evening.

The board members, under the chairmanship of Magistrate James Butler, spent several hours discussing the 1967 salary schedule for the local force and its operating budget.

Last week the board passed a resolution to seek legal advice on whether to press charges against Police Chief R. P. Robbins following newspaper reports of remarks attributed to him at a public meeting.

Chief Robbins was also requested to advise the commission in writing whether he had any further recommendations to make other than those contained in the 1966 police report regarding any crime problems in Richmond Hill.

The chief has been quoted as stating crime in Richmond Hill had increased 48 percent in the last year.

Mr. Robbins agreed with the increase but maintained that the overall crime picture in the town had been grossly exaggerated.

He denied ever using the word "Peyton Place" maintaining that it had been coined by the news media, "at no time," he said, "did I suggest anything of the kind."

Rebuild Elgin Mills

Vaughan Council Allots \$421,425 For Roads

Vaughan Township residents will pay \$421,425 for road maintenance, construction and overhead in 1967 according to the road budget approved by council at its March 27 meeting.

Road maintenance will cost a total of \$256,500. Of this amount the Department of Highways will pay \$131,250 and the township's share will be \$125,250. The township's share includes \$30,000 for stone and gravel patching, \$30,000 for dust control, \$13,500 for snow removal, \$10,000 for grading and \$10,000 for ditching.

Road construction will cost \$411,200, the township's share of which will be \$159,950. Largest item here is \$66,000 the township will pay for the reconstruction of Elgin Mills Road from Yonge to Bathurst.

A further \$22,500 will be spent for double surface treatment on Elder Mills Road.

Storm drainage on CN industrial land will cost \$41,000 while work on Steeles Avenue from Keele to Jane Street will cost township ratepayers \$17,000. A road needs study is also to be undertaken at a cost of \$4,000.

Added to 1967 construction costs will be 1966 commitments totalling \$66,750, bringing total construction costs to \$29,700 for the township during 1967.

Overhead chargeable to roads is expected to total \$38,583 for the year and road debt service payments will require \$58,336.

The CN industrial land drainage scheme involves the provision of storm sewers to drain the north-west corner of Highway 7 and Keele Street. Total cost of the project is \$180,000 of which the CN will pay \$100,000 and the Department of Highways \$39,000. The storm sewer will not only drain the CN land but will to a large extent eliminate the drainage problem at Rockview Gardens and Keele Street and will also improve drainage conditions on the south side of Highway 7 east of Hillside Avenue.

Councillor Dalton McArthur, in answer to a question from Deputy-reeve Garnet Williams advised that the scheme would solve 90 percent of the problem at the west end of Rockview Gardens, with the water carried north by a storm sewer.

"How are we getting it to drain north now when we said it couldn't be done?" asked Mr. Williams.

Mr. McArthur explained that it had been impossible to do it by means of an open ditch but that it could be done with a storm sewer.

"Well, as long as we're getting it done after these years over there for all these years Mr. Williams subsidised."

Various schemes had been proposed to residents of the area who complained many times to council about poor drainage. All had been rejected by residents because of excessive costs.

Reeve Criticizes Reserve Fund

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RCMP & Army Discover Explosives Buried For 3 Weeks At Maple Dump

By MARGARET McLEAN

The unravelling of a mystery involving Metro Police, the RCMP and the Canadian Army ended at the Maple Dump last week — with a great big bang!

Residents of the surrounding area were alarmed at mid-morning March 21 with the sound of a loud explosion and more upset at an even bigger bang shortly after 1 p.m. Windows were broken and plaster cracked in several homes.

Source of the eruptions was the township dump on the Teston Sideroad where RCMP technicians set off a quantity of blasting wire which, after an investigation lasting several weeks, had been traced to the dump.

Injured during the process was Jack Fawbert, 61, of Pine Grove who superintends the operation of the dump. Following the first explosion, Mr. Fawbert was assisting the RCMP and army demolition experts to con-

tain the remaining material in a cardboard box before disposing of it. They were working when a portion of the dump wall, apparently loosened by the first blast, descended and buried Mr. Fawbert.

"I don't know what happened," Mr. Fawbert told "The Liberal." "I just remember a blow on my back and I went out like a light."

He was quickly uncovered however and taken to York Central Hospital with five broken ribs and a broken bone in his shoulder. Monday of this week he was able to be up and around a little but still very stiff and sore.

Mr. Fawbert was first alerted to the fact that there was some explosive in the dump by a call March 2 from Metro Police who told him there had been some dynamite dumped there. He denied any knowledge of it. How-

ever, when approached by the RCMP and army specialists he, almost three weeks previously, some two or three hundred pounds of what he had taken to be plastic clothes line wire.

When burying the wire, it had become entangled around the treads of his bulldozer and he had spent some little time removing it, banging it repeatedly with a shovel while doing so. He was consequently more than a little amazed to learn of its explosive properties which the army expert demonstrated by placing a small piece on a rock and throwing, from 30 feet away, another rock at it.

"It went off with a bang," recalled Mr. Fawbert from his hospital bed, "but he said not one person in 2,000 would know what it was."

Certainly the Metro salvage firm who dumped the material had no knowledge of its properties, although they had it listed as blasting wire. An official of the company advises that it was received at their warehouse January 13, salvage from a truck involved in an accident and subsequent fire near Pembroke, Ontario January 7.

The firm reconitions salvaged material and sells it for insurance adjusters but finding no market for the material, had taken it to the dump. As it had been called blasting "wire" they had thought of it as a

plastic covered wire used as the conductor of an electrical charge to a detonator and had exercised no particular care in its handling.

Apparently alerted by the shipper of the wire, the federal Department of Mines and Resources commissioned the RCMP to trace its whereabouts. When found at the dump, it was buried under about four feet of waste and fill and had to be uncovered with a bulldozer. Army demolition experts felt it wiser to explode it on the site rather than move it elsewhere.

The wire was originally on rolls and under the exterior plastic surface consisted of a layer of cordite surrounding a core of some form of nitroglycerine.

R. K. Baker of the Teston Sideroad, appeared at Monday's meeting of Vaughan Township Council querying why local residents had not been warned of the plans to explode the material.

Councillor Dalton McArthur explained that it had all been handled by the federal government, the RCMP and the army and the township was not allowed to remove it. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime instance," he said, "and was not the fault of any township employee."

Mr. Baker has been instructed to file a claim for plaster in his home which was cracked by the explosions. "I thought it was a jet that had crashed," he said.

However, after only a short pause, a staff member, Jack Blacklock, head of the English Department, flew to the attack. Noting that Mr. Needham had demonstrated that he was a grade 10 dropout of a not very successful school, he insisted that he was misinformed on three points.

With respect to rules, Mr. Blacklock stated that Thornhill and any other in which he had taught had no more rules than did the Royal York. Secondly, rather than locking people up, the freedom of a school is wonderful compared to an advertising agency or a factory. "I don't know what great freedom exists in newspaper offices, but it's not present in most industries," he said.

Thirdly, insisted Mr. Blacklock in none of his classes nor in any of the English classes at Thornhill did jobs come first. "Human values come first. You have been inside the wrong schools," he concluded in ringing tones which drew hearty applause from the students.

"I am glad human values come first here," replied Mr. Needham. "I trust they come ahead of marks and examinations." He then offered to take two students from the school, with all expenses paid, on his next speaking trips in the next two months.

With respect to his suggestion that attendance records be abolished, a student enquired if he thought the suggestion was practical. "Wouldn't a lot of students abuse this privilege?" she asked. "I hate to admit it, but I think the majority would."

It all depends on if you trust people or mistrust them. Mr. Needham replied. If you trust people, they respond, if you give them responsibility they take it. "You must produce free, responsible citizens," he said. "I am not suggesting much you don't have at the university level. You can have a lot more freedom without abusing it, without chaos. You might be better behaved," he assured his questioner.

Mr. MacDonald suggested that part of the difficulty with education was the assumption on the part of many students that the teachers are responsible for educating them. "Nobody can educate anyone else, he can only do it himself," he stated.

This found ready agreement from Mr. Needham. "Some students sit with their mouths open like seals waiting to be fed," he said and quoted Oscar Wilde to the effect that nothing worth learning can be taught. "Learning with the teacher is the best you can do," he continued and advised the students "A teacher should be a guide, phil-

osopher and a friend — you have to learn."

Mr. Needham added (so that he felt teachers have a hard lot in our society and should get from \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year. They should teach only half a day, he suggested and should have the other part free to consult with students, and prepare lessons. They should also be more free to teach the course in their own particular way.

Another student felt that there was too much regurgitating of facts in schools but that students didn't learn how to apply them.

Mr. Needham agreed with this and suggested that to remedy the situation, students should be given more projects to work on by themselves. He then reiterated his fervent belief in the benefits of travel for students and offered as his solution to the bicultural problem, the exchange "of masses of students" between all parts of Canada.

Referring to Mr. Needham's remarks about teachers, one student agreed that a good teacher was worth from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year, but wondered about poor ones. "What about the flunkers who float from school to school?" he asked.

"There really are some awfully bad teachers. There are a lot who should be booted out," Mr. Needham agreed. To achieve this, students should be free to choose

what school they wish to attend, he suggested, and the poor teachers would then be found with empty classrooms. He also suggested (in fun, he said) that all the money for teachers' salaries should be handed to the students who would decide which teacher gets how much. "The students know who the poor teachers are better than anyone else," he stated.

This provoked Mr. Blacklock to enter the fray again. He characterized the student's comments as trivial as there are inefficient people in all grades and professions. Mr. Needham was ignoring the good that is in schools he said and insisted, to rather thin applause, that Thornhill was a school with a great deal of good in it.

Another student agreed that there were very many inadequate people in other professions but that these people didn't have as much influence on students' lives. "Teachers have almost as much influence as parents and can almost destroy us," she said.

Altogether, the question period was well over an hour. At the end of this time, a group of students surrounded Mr. Needham and kept him in conversation (quite willingly) until 5 p.m.

Mr. Needham's visit was one of a series entitled "climax" designed to expose students to a variety of views on different subjects.

READERS WRITE ...
Letters to the Editor
EDITORIAL PAGE

Exams Are For The Birds

Needleberry Needles Teachers But Suggests They Teach Half Day, Get \$30,000 Yearly

By MARGARET McLEAN

"I have spent half a century making mistakes and have enjoyed it thoroughly. I am making glaring mistakes right now and hope to continue until the day I die. It is the only way you learn," was one of the opening statements of Globe & Mail columnist Richard J. Needham addressing some 200 students at Thornhill Secondary School March 21.

While he admitted that it was unwise for a young girl to get pregnant or for a boy to smash himself up in a car or get hooked on LSD, heroin or other drug, Mr. Needham insisted that "Outside of that life is a matter of trial and error."

Young people are held down too much both in high schools and at home, he said and deserve more freedom. "Responsibility, privacy and respect. Many parents have the attitude that if young people get more than 100 steps away they turn into sex fiends, alcoholics or drug addicts," he said.

High schools, he felt, place far too much emphasis on rules. "You need only basic rules. You can't go around bashing people or stealing, but you don't need any more rules than at Eaton's or Simpson's or the Royal York. Many are totally unnecessary and are insulting to you in the implication that you are an irresponsible, criminal element," he told the students.

High schools also place too much emphasis on exams, said Mr. Needham and offered himself as an example of a person who "never passed an exam in my life" and yet earns up to \$20,000 a year. "Exams are for the birds," he said.

Mr. Needham also blamed the high schools for putting too much emphasis on jobs. "The whole purpose of school is to get you some job in a glue factory so you can retire when you are 40 years old. What do you want a job for?" he enquired, and stated that at the schools he went to in England and Ireland jobs were never mentioned. The purpose of schools he said was to give an education, to prepare young people for the fullest, deepest and most interesting life in the world.

He also complained that students were much too "boxed in and cooped up" in high schools and insisted should do much more travelling on school time and money. High schools should be open with people coming in with their ideas and students constantly flowing out to the outside world.

Furthermore, he continued, attendance records should be scrapped completely. A student should realize that if he doesn't show up it is his problem alone.

Our present society's emphasis on being young "right up to 100 years" they want to be a member of the Pepsi generation" was the reason

young people are held down so much, Mr. Needham expounded. Our society is run by older people, he said, who don't want anyone rocking the boat. "It must get irritating to see those who don't have to make an effort to look young. Many who are 40, 50, 60 feel their life has been cruddy, with not much happiness or joy and they fear that youth will succeed where they failed."

Similarly, he said, many feel that they have not done very well in the romance department and think kids will get more out of life than they have. "This is another reason for resentment."

Mr. Needham advocated that liquor should be treated like Pepsi Cola and the legal drinking age should be lowered to 18 or even 16. He also recommended that the voting age be lowered to 13. "The political parties have no interest in the young, they regard you as a dangerous and quasi-criminal bunch," he said and suggested that if the voting age were lowered, "the parties would be compelled to take an interest in you — and you an interest in them."

At the end of Mr. Needham's address, Thornhill's Master English Teacher R. P. MacDonald suggested that "if any of you victims of oppression can shake off your shackles," they should ask questions.

However, after only a short pause, a staff member, Jack Blacklock, head of the English Department, flew to the attack. Noting that Mr. Needham had demonstrated that he was a grade 10 dropout of a not very successful school, he insisted that he was misinformed on three points.

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