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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1967

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

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## Merry Christmas

To All Our Readers



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

### Christmas Is A Happy Time

Traditionally Christmas is a time for making children happy. In keeping with this tradition Victoria Square and District Lions last Saturday afternoon entertained all the children from their area at the community centre.

Above, part of the happy throng keep their eyes on that jolly old man, Santa, himself who visited the party and chatted with each youngster. This was a happy climax to a program of cartoon movies, soft drinks, food, treats and gifts which brought happy smiles to all these sobersides.

## Vaughan Planning Board Reconsiders Re-Zoning For Metro's Thackeray Dump

Few Vaughan Township residents raised objections at a hearing held by the township planning board December 14 at Woodbridge High School to discuss the operation by Metro Toronto of a garbage dump on the Vaughan-Etobicoke border.

However, a large number of Steeles Avenue, on the north Etobicoke and North York residents were present and were vocal in their opposition to the move, largely on the grounds of an expected increase in truck traffic.

Known as the South Thackeray Site, the land is a wedge-shaped piece of property bounded on the south by

the past year. Metro had originally requested this site and some 600 acres to the north for a mammoth waste disposal project but at a lengthy OMB hearing, earlier this year, it was decided that only the south site would be used.

Before the site could be used for a dump, however, it was necessary for Vaughan Township to re-zone the land, now zoned open space. The re-zoning required notification of surrounding property owners and the December 14 hearing.

## Recognize Town Centennial Efforts

"In recognition of a distinguished contribution by community leaders, the Centennial Committee and individual citizens to the Centennial celebrations program during 1967. The imagination and enthusiasm shown by everyone has made the celebration of 100 years of Confederation in Canada a most memorable one, and one with a lasting effect on each of us."

These words were engraved on a plaque sent to the Town of Richmond Hill by the Province of Ontario and signed by Premier John Robarts and Minister of Tourism and Information James Auld, who served as chairman of the Cabinet Centennial Committee. The plaque was presented to Centennial Committee Chairman Jack Corbett by Reeve Donald Plaxton at the December 13 concert in Bayview Secondary School which officially brought Centennial celebrations to a close in Richmond Hill. The plaque will remain in Mr. Corbett's keeping until the year's end when it will be hung in the municipal building.

Another featured instrumentalist was Ronald Robbins who played trumpet solo in the "Evening Breeze". Ron also plays in the Richmond Hill Symphony and sounds the "Last Post" and "Reveille" for the annual town's Remembrance Day service. Again the audience showed its appreciation by resounding applause.

Brenda Haddock, who is also remembered for her excellent vocal participation in the Gilbert and Sullivan productions, sang Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song", accompanied at the

enter the music course at the University of Toronto, also played an alto saxophone for the band numbers and will be remembered for his excellent performances in the school's Gilbert and Sullivan productions. That his performance was appreciated by the crowd of more than 300 was evident by the spontaneous applause.

At the end of 2½ hours, the planning board was still in agreement on the re-zoning question. Finally, acting Chairman Norm Garrowick cast the deciding vote to refer the matter back to the board for further discussion. Planning Board Chairman P. A. Deacon did not chair the meeting as he felt that, living on the east side of the Humber not far from the site, he might be considered to have a conflict of interest in the question.

## Farmers Treated Same As Others, Vaughan Insists At Tax Exemption Hearing

By MARGARET McLEAN  
At the completion of a day-long hearing at Vaughan Township Municipal Offices December 11, the Municipal Board reserved decision on an appeal by Vaughan farmer Andrew McClure for relief from taxation for certain municipal services.

Chairman of the hearing was R. Maguire who advised that the decision would be handed down as soon as possible. However, as the decision could have widespread repercussions throughout the province, it is expected that it may take some months.

Assisting Mr. Maguire at the hearing was W. T. Shrivies. The hearing was a reconvening of one held March 30, 1966, conducted by the same

two men, and adjourned at that time sine die. It arose out of a request early in 1964 by some 124 township farmers to the township council for the passing of a bylaw exempting farm lands from taxation for fire, police, water, sewer and road maintenance service, on the grounds that farm lands do not benefit from such services to the same extent as other properties in the township.

Under Section 37 of the Assessment Act a council is permitted to pass such a bylaw. However, Vaughan Township Council refused to pass the bylaw and the farmers carried their appeal to the county court. When the appeal was rejected early in

1965, a municipal board hearing was sought and took place in March, 1966.

Decision at that time was that farm lands did not benefit from some services (fire protection and water) as other lands in the township. However, no adjudication was made of the extent of the relief which should be accorded Mr. McClure (in whose name the hearing was called), but this was left to the two parties to agree upon between themselves with the right given to either side to reconvene the hearing.

CHARGE BAD FAITH  
Acting for Mr. McClure was John F. Brewin who accused Vaughan Township of failure to negotiate the ques-

tion at all. Questioned by Mr. Maguire if he meant there had been "bad faith", Mr. Brewin replied, "Precisely. The township made no attempt to negotiate. We have had no meetings to discuss the quantum (of relief to be allowed)".

Mr. Brewin argued that Mr. McClure, by paying full taxes for all services on his residence, farm buildings and 10% of his land had discharged his obligations as a taxpayer; that the "back 40" of his property did not benefit from fire and police protection and from monies spent on road maintenance and construction, sewers and water. He asked that 90% of the land be exempt from tax-

ation for these services. Fire Chief James Davidson, who in 1964 was also the police chief, was called to the stand briefly and identified a copy of the 1964 police report. Mr. Brewin drew attention to the steep increase in police costs from \$2,200 in 1949 to \$138,000 in 1964 and to Mr. Davidson's statement in the report that the increase in that year had been due to general development and growth in the township. The only police costs directly attributable to farmers in that year were 10 calls concerning molesting of livestock by dogs, out of 3,500 complaints during the year, he noted.

Mr. Brewin dwelled for some time on an item of

\$2,500 in the township budget for 1964 which produced an extra tax of .115 mills for the construction of a storm sewer on Steeles Avenue, between Yonge and Bathurst Streets, built jointly with North York. "It is very clear," he said in his summing up, "that Mr. McClure's back lands received no direct or indirect benefit from this sewer in any way," and therefore he was entitled to relief from the .115 mill charge.

He further contended that 90% of Mr. McClure's lands should be relieved of charges for the \$12,450 paving of Bathurst Street from the Maple Sideroad to Elgin Mills Road on the grounds that this expenditure, .48

are not considering the back 40's at all," he stressed. "We are considering his lands, that is, all his property and this receives as much benefit from each of these services as other lands in the township."

Mr. French stressed that if Mr. McClure could establish that all of his property did not receive as much benefit as other lands in the township, then it would be possible to consider what relief he should have from the cost of particular services.

With respect to the storm sewer on Steeles Avenue, Mr. French stated that it was obvious that the only properties which benefited from it were the few which

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## Pay \$16,000 Per Acre 4 More Plants Locate In Vaughan

Vaughan Township has now sold all but 40 acres of the 100 acre-plus Snider farm which it acquired on Keele Street, south of Highway 7 just two years ago. The 40 acres is the last industrial land the township now owns in the Keele Street area.

At its December 11 meeting, council concurred in the sale of four parcels, all on Snidercroft Road which runs west from Keele Street north of the Continental Can Company plant.

A five-acre parcel was sold for \$16,000 an acre to Alphonso Galluci General Construction Limited. A

building of not less than 30,000 square feet is to be erected before June 30, 1969. Tenant for the building is not yet known.

A second five-acre parcel was sold to Tycoos Tool and Die Company Limited, also at \$16,000 per acre. A 25,000 square foot plant is to be built on this property before December 27, 1968.

The township deleted from these two offers a provision that would entitle the owners to further partition the properties, advising that council's policy was to have a clause in each sale agreement that the property could not be subdivided

without council's permission.

Council also accepted an offer for the sale of 8.4 acres to Evermore Investments Limited. This is a construction company and it has covenanted to complete a building of not less than 50,000 square feet before March 1, 1970.

Fourth sale was a 10 acre parcel immediately west of Continental Can Company to Everest & Jennings Canadian Limited. Purchase price is \$15,000 per acre and the purchaser has agreed to construct a 40,000 square foot building within the two years.

## South Taylor Mills Residents Change Minds On Change Of Name

Ratepayers on South Taylor Mills Drive are having second thoughts about changing the street name to Tower Road. In response to a request from these ratepayers, presented by Ward 1 Councillor Ivan Mansbridge, last week council instructed Clerk Russell Lynett to ask for action to be withheld on the judge's hearing re the change of name, until such time as the ratepayers can make further representations.

The clerk informed council that all information had been forwarded to the judge on the application but no date had yet been set for the hearing.

Mr. Mansbridge explained that some residents of the street have gone into the full implication of the change and realize it could affect them in costs for change of deeds, wills, etc.

In asking for the change of name from South Taylor Mills Drive to Tower Road, council was acceding to a request presented in a petition some weeks ago, at which time it was claimed 90% of the affected ratepayers were in favor of the change.

It was reported Monday night that it is planned to circulate another petition asking that the street retain its original name.

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst recalled that the delegation seeking the change had been warned that it

could involve real cost to the town and the individual ratepayer. Mr. Mansbridge agreed that the cost factor had been stressed, but stated the full implication did not hit home until recently.

He noted that some of the dissenting ratepayers might not be able to attend the judicial hearing to present their objections and why they have changed their minds. The mayor pointed out that if they have changed their minds, they should so notify council in writing.

Reeve Donald Plaxton, speaking as a member of the legal profession, told council that

deeds do not necessarily have to be changed. Passports, drivers' licences, and insurance policies would require change. The clerk noted that the bylaw would be registered.

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## New A&P Store Yonge & Crosby

Excavation has been completed for an A&P Shopping Centre located on Yonge Street just south of the Victoria & Grey Trust Company and building will be continued through the winter months.

The total land area, amassed several months ago, is 1½ acres and the building will cover 19,500 square feet. The A&P will occupy 12,000 square feet of this with 7,000 square feet being divided into smaller stores, "The Liberal" was told by a spokesman of the company this week.

The architecture will be a radical departure from the present standard A&P store and will feature "Early American" design with mullioned windows and a weathervane. The smaller stores will conform to this style of architecture.

There will be room for 80 cars on a paved parking lot and there will be access both from Yonge Street and from Crosby Avenue.

A&P are hoping for an early summer occupancy.

That the new building will give a lift to that section of Yonge Street and aid in the rehabilitation of the central core of Richmond Hill, is the company's belief.

Also included in the A&P's building plans is a big processing and distribution centre on Dundas Street East in Toronto to serve their Ontario market. The 180,000 square foot warehouse housing \$2,500,000 worth of mechanical handling devices and employing 250 persons, should be in operation by next fall.

## Colin Robertson Area Librarian

Richmond Hill Public Library Board, has accepted, with regret, the resignation of Chief Librarian Colin Robertson.

Mr. Robertson has been with the local board for the past 2½ years, and leaves to assume the position of co-ordinator of library development for the Central Ontario Regional Library Board, covering the areas of Peel, York and Ontario Counties. He came to Richmond Hill from Vancouver.

No definite location for a permanent office has yet been selected, but Mr. Robertson will have an office in the Richmond Hill Library Building for the time being. He assumes his new duties January 1.

Mrs. Maureen Stephenson, assistant chief librarian, has been appointed acting chief librarian pending the appointment of a replacement for Mr. Robertson.

## READERS WRITE

Letters to the Editor

EDITORIAL PAGE

## Await White Paper Trustees Remain Divided

While no consensus was reached at a meeting of York County school trustees at Newmarket High School December 13, it was evident that few school boards in the county look with favor on the establishment of a county board of education for 1969.

Out of the 20-odd boards represented, only one, the Richmond Hill Public School Board, took a positive approach.

"We favor it and believe it can be done," said Chairman Mrs. Deena Simpson.

The meeting was called by the York South Regional Education Committee for the specific purpose of finding the feeling of the northern boards to the pending legislation before any decision was reached by the southern boards to either accept the legislation or press for a separate board of education for the Southern Six municipalities, who are also discussing political amalgamation in anticipation of large-scale development in the area.

However, in spite of frequent encouragement from York South Regional Education Committee Chairman Warren Bailie who presided at the meeting, representatives of the more northerly boards appeared reluctant to express themselves.

It was not until YSREC Secretary John LeClaire asked for a moratorium on speeches from southern trustees that any spoke up.

It appeared, with one or two exceptions, that members of northern boards felt any discussion of the possibility of one or two boards for the county was premature until more was known about the legislation. "If any communication went to the Prime Minister on this now it would be like signing a contract without reading the fine print," said a representative from Newmarket.

Aurora District High School Board Chairman J. M. Hunter agreed. "Any discussion tonight is premature until more information is available," he said.

Rev. William Reid, trustee-elect to King Township School Board objected that the new board there had not even met yet. "We are all sitting around here and we don't even know each other," he said. He suggested that a later meeting should be held with one representative of each board, authorized to speak for their board.

A representative of Sutton District High School Board stated that his board had discussed the matter but had reached no conclusion. "We are afraid that in this big board we will get lost in the shuffle," he said, and hoped that two

Newly elected MLA for York North, William Hodgson advised that he had come to the meeting for instructions. "I would like to see a committee formed here to study the legislation when it is announced," he said, "so we can go into the caucus or the House and say this is what our ridings want."

He was speaking also for York Centre MLA Donald Deacon who had had to leave the meeting early but had stated that he was ready to work for whatever the municipalities in his riding wanted.

John MacKay, vice-chairman of TSA 1 Markham, who is also a member of the York County Consultative Committee on Education and a director of the Ontario School Trustees' Association urged that no decision be made until the government's

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CANADIAN 1867-1967 CENTENNIAL

The closing Centennial program featured the versatile and accomplished Bayview Secondary School Band under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Matthews and the melodious singing of the prize-winning St. Matthew's United Choir under the direction of Mrs. Eileen Robbins.

The band's selections featured Gordon Adams as soloist on the baritone horn in "The Emperor". This versatile young man who plans next year to