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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1968

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

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(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Symbol Of Mayor's Authority

The placing of the chain of office around the neck of Mayor Thomas Broadhurst by Clerk Russell Lynett, at Monday's inaugural, was symbolic of his authority. The chain, Richmond Hill Lions' Centennial gift to the town, was designed and crafted by Lion Doug Boyd, local silversmith. Its individual links recall the nationalities of the founders of the town, and the town's crest makes it a distinctly Richmond Hill emblem.

Three Seek Top County Post At Opening Session On Jan. 16

York County Council will meet for its first session of 1968 on January 16 and at the moment it appears that there will be three contenders for the warden's chair.

Last year's warden was Richmond Hill Deputy-reeve Floyd Perkins. East Gwillimbury Reeve Garfield Wright was nominated for the post at that time but stepped down in favor of Mr. Perkins although he warned council that he wouldn't step down for anyone in 1968. Subsequently elected commissioner, Mr. Wright was very active in his duties throughout 1967 and it is expected that he will win the spot this year without any trouble.

Markham Township Reeve Stewart Rumble, second commissioner last year, admits however that he will allow his name to stand for warden although he is not doing any active "politicizing" for the post.

Plan For Day Care Centre

Preliminary steps towards the setting up of a day care centre for children of working mothers are to be discussed this afternoon (Thursday) at a meeting in the board room of York Central District High School Board.

Reeve Donald Plaxton and members of Richmond Hill Council's Welfare Committee William Lazenby and Ivan Mansbridge are to be present at the meeting, as were York Central Hospital Administrator Gary Chatfield and High School Board Superintendent S. L. G. Chapman.

A representative of the Day Nurseries Branch of the Department of Welfare is also to be in attendance to interpret the Day Nurseries Act, which provides for an 80 percent administration and capital costs grant to a municipality setting up a day nursery.



REEVE S. RUMBLE To Seek Wardenship?



Take advantage of the mammoth January Sales at Richmond Heights Centre, advertised on Pages 8 and 9 of this issue. You can save money and please your family by shopping at the Centre.

New Year Baby A Day Late

There was no New Year's Day baby born in Richmond Hill this year, reports York Central Hospital.

Closest to gaining the honor was a lusty 7 pound, 15 1/2 ounce boy born at 5:41 am, January 2, the first child of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Cliff, 133 Sherwood Forest Drive, Markham.

Mrs. Cliff, the former Ruth Windle of Toronto, advises that the baby has been called Jonathan Andrew.

In contrast to the quiet New Year's Day on the maternity floor, two Christmas babies put in an appearance — both at 3:50 am.

An 8 pound, 1 1/2 ounce boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Williams of 298 Axminster Drive, Richmond Hill. Named Scott Richard, he is their third child.

The other lively Christmas bundle was a 7 pound 3 1/2 ounce girl, Deborah Leoma, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cook, 3908 Bathurst Street, North York.

Other than this flurry of activity, maternity was quite quiet during the holidays, the hospital reports.

New Conservation Authority Representative

Hot Words On Mkhm Appointments

Discussion became more than a little heated at Markham Township Council's last meeting of the year, December 27, over appointments to Metro Planning Board and Metro Conservation Authority.

The Southern Six municipalities are allowed two members on the Metro board one of whom is to be an elected representative and in the past, after an informal meeting, the various councils have agreed on the names and all passed resolutions naming the same people.

Last year's representatives, Richmond Hill Mayor Thomas Broadhurst and Norn Garriock of Woodbridge have already been nominated by several councils, Woodbridge, Vaughan Township and Stouffville.

However, Markham Council, in a split vote has recommended Councillor Anthony Roman and Markham Planning Board Member William Masters as the two representatives of the Southern Six on the Metro Board.

Councillor Allan Sumner disagreed with the motion. "If both names we present are from Markham Township, it will be shot down in a hurry by other municipalities," he remarked.

Councillor Roman pointed out that in the last year Markham Township has had no representative on the Metro Planning Board and he thought this most unjust. In any event, he felt that since the decision will

Council Takes Initial Step To Encourage Regional Change

A major task for 1968 for Richmond Hill Town Council, which has been returned to office for a two-year term, will be attempting to maintain a tolerable tax rate, stated Mayor Thomas Broadhurst in his address at the inaugural meeting held at 11 am Monday.

"To this end, I rate the adoption of a financial policy, as recently proposed by the Chairman of Finance Reeve Donald Plaxton, as having high priority. In my opinion we must co-operate with higher levels of government and attempt to combat inflationary trends which have existed for too long by rigorously restricting every capital expenditure to which we are not already committed beyond the point of no return, and which is not of immediate and vital necessity."

Mayor Broadhurst also pointed out that the whole of this area is "teetering on the verge of significant changes" and expressed the opinion that the present council will have to decide "whether it wants to motivate and participate in these changes, or whether it will leave the nature, timing and degree of such changes to be imposed by external sources or to be dictated by events and by sheer necessity."

As part of its responsibilities he urged council to "exert the most careful, most thoughtful and most immediate attention to changes which must mean, at the least, major shifts in responsibility for certain services and, more likely, the re-division of municipal maps.

"The time is near when discussions must begin to bear fruit," he challenged his fellow members. "Events begin to overtake us."

He also reported that a great deal of the preparatory work on the reconstruction of Yonge Street has already been done, but a great amount of more detailed work will have to be expended on this project.

Referring to the virtual "freeze" on further sewage treatment facilities by the OWRC in this area, Mayor Broadhurst noted that another problem is the staging of development of the 300 acres north of the Elgin Mills Sideroad, which became a part of Richmond Hill on January 1.

Magistrate James Butler presided over the inauguration and administered the oath of office. Rev. James O'Neil of St. Mary's Anglican Church read the sage advice of St. Peter and asked divine guidance for the deliberations of council.

Presenting the mayor's chain of office, Clerk Russell Lynett recalled that it had been the gift of the local Lions at the mayor's levee, the opening event in Richmond Hill for Centennial year, and that it had been designed and crafted by local Lion Doug Boyd, authority which was made from Richmond Hill walnut by Hydro Commissioner William Wagner, was presented to the mayor by Police Chief R. P. Robbins, with the admonition to use it "never in anger, but with the wisdom of Solomon."

Mayor Broadhurst then made the symbolic presentation of a white rose to each member of council. He noted that the white rose is the emblem of the County of York, of the County of York and of the municipality. He drew the attention of the audience to the recent gift from Otto Grebe of an oil painting of white roses, with the Richmond Hill Lion skilfully hiding in the shadows.

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Council then adjourned until 7:30 pm and council and guests journeyed to Thornhill Golf and Country Club for a buffet luncheon.

Each municipality will be asked to subscribe to the resolution indicating those who recognize that change of some sort is both necessary and desirable and those who do not.

The Town of Richmond Hill will seek a meeting with those municipalities who indicate they recognize the need for change, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs to inform him of the information and reports available on the subject, to discuss the various alternatives with him; and to ascertain the attitude of the provincial government to these proposals and how, if at all, any of them would accommodate themselves to any overall provincial philosophies of development for this area and for the province.

The resolution was presented by Reeve Donald Plaxton and seconded by Councillor Ivan Mansbridge.

Speaking to his motion, the reeve stated, "There is no other body but a municipal one which can take the initiative in seeking a solution for the need for change. The Southern Six is an investigative body, only, and cannot initiate. This is the first of a series of steps, which, if followed, will see eventual reform of municipal structure. We are not in the position of

seeking to annex land from our neighbors. In fact, if the necessary changes are made, this municipality may well disappear or be altered so much that any resemblance to the present community will be pretty tenuous."

Councillor Lois Hancey warned that any plans for this area will have to fit in with the overall plan the province is developing.

Earlier in the meeting Councillor John MacDiarmid had challenged council to take the initiative when it considered a request from Markham Township.

The township was seeking support for a resolution which read, "That the Ontario Police Commission be requested to make a survey of the Southern Six municipalities to ascertain the feasibility of a joint police force and that the other five municipalities be asked to support this request."

A meeting of the heads of government of the Southern Six had been held to discuss this resolution informally. Mayor Broadhurst informed council. His opinion was that it was inadvisable to treat one

(Continued on Page 15)

Committee of Adjustment: William Ruttie and W. J. Taylor for a three-year term of office.

Parks Board: Harold Jones, Henry Wunderlick, Russell Tilt, E. W. Hopkins and Shavn Beggs.

Recreation Committee: A. Phillips, A. Chateauvert, W. Naylor, W. S. Cook, Russell Cripps.

Civic Improvement Committee: S. D. Hall, D. Hitchens, D. Allen, J. Bradstock and W. J. Ankenman.

Planning Board: Howard Williams for a three-year term. Library Board: John Anderson for a three-year term.

Arena Board: Elgin Barrow, Bryden Ellis, Jack Hollowell, Eric Charity, William McVean, Tom Graham, David Harvey.

Fence Viewers: Norm Stephenson, Andy Chateauvert and Herb Smith.

Weed Inspector: Fred Boivard.

York Central District High School Board: Lewis Clement, reappointed.

Teachers' expectations of and teachers at their schools.

Parents will be discussed by a second panel which will include Arthur Murch, former principal of Langstaff Secondary School who has recently been appointed principal of Thornlea, the new ungraded secondary school; and Stephen Bacsalmasi, director of program development for York Central District High School Board.

Members of the audience will be invited to question members of both panels.

Following luncheon, there will be workshops on building effective home and school associations and executive skills. Course leader is Donald Nesbitt.

Many local home and school associations are paying the registration fee for their delegates and teachers at their schools.

Thornhill Librarian Retires After 17 Years; Sees Service Doubled

By MARGARET McLEAN

Will Thornhill Public Library ever be quite the same again? There are some who doubt it, since the retirement January 1 of its Chief Librarian Jane McLaren, after 17 years' service.

During this period, Miss McLaren, with her happy smile, cheerful disposition and friendly nature, has seen the library more than double in size and housed at four different locations.

When she first joined the staff in 1950 as a volunteer worker for a few hours a week, the library was on the second floor of the MacNeil Building, over the restaurant. Next it went to 18 Centre Street, now the medical offices of Doctors Morse, Pamenter and Magee; then to a Yonge Street location in the old Masonic Hall north of Centre Street and finally to its present location on Colborne Street.

With each move the library expanded, and with it the library hours. In 1954, Miss McLaren was named chief librarian and became the first paid worker and library hours were extended although she still did not work a full week.

The year 1967 saw the greatest change in the library however. In January the library service was taken over by Markham Township and became part of the township library system — or half of it rather, with the other half, the Unionville Public Library, officially opened in October.

With the takeover by the township came increased revenue. Previously, the library had been supported only by residents of the Police Village of Thornhill and small grants. "It was really wonderful this past year, having so much money to spend, being able to go out and buy books and whatever else was needed," Miss McLaren told "The Liberal".

"Before that we had to think twice before we even bought a pencil."

With the new books, the library now contains something like 9,000 volumes and by the middle of December, 690 new members had been added to the rolls during 1967, most of them from the new North Thornhill development.

During the last year also, a second paid worker was added. Mrs. Betty Boyden who works about quarter-time and is staying on with the new Head Librarian, Mrs. Betty Sumner. The library is now open 18 hours per week, "although of course you work lots of hours when it's closed," Miss McLaren hastens to add.

For several years Miss McLaren also visited local schools in Thornhill, Markham and Vaughan Townships, giving talks to the children and introducing them to some of her favorite books, and she has also spoken at many home and school meetings.

Although born in Toronto, Miss McLaren has lived in the family farm home on German Mills Road since 1922 and the historic little German Mills School, SS 2 Markham is her alma mater. At 12 however, she was enrolled at Ovenden, a private

boarding school for girls at Barrie where she completed her secondary schooling.

From all accounts, the 100-acre McLaren farm must have been a busy place. The family moved there because of the health of Miss McLaren's father, Col. George McLaren, commanding officer of the 49th Highlanders whose lungs were damaged by gas in World War I. It was first a thriving chicken farm. To this Mrs. McLaren added chinchillas and even produced fur slippers, coats, etc. The 140-year-old farmhouse was enlarged — the McLarens were the third owners of the property which was a grant from the Crown in 1818.

However, with World War II, activity was much diminished at the McLaren homestead. In England studying voice when the war broke out, Miss McLaren immediately joined the Red Cross and worked at the Maple Leaf Club, a servicemen's residential club in London.

However, within a few months of each other in 1944 her only brother was killed in action in Italy and a sister, also in the services, was killed in a traffic accident so Miss McLaren returned home in April of 1945. Her stay overlapped by just two weeks with that of her younger sister who reached England with the Canadian Red Cross just as Jane was about to leave.

Along with her work at the library, Miss McLaren has long cultivated a host of other absorbing occupations and with her retirement, hopes to give more time to them. An active member of

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Thornhill, she sings in the choir and is a member of the Altar Guild there and of the Footlights Club, having appeared in many of its productions over the years. She studied pottery at Central Technical School and tries to keep her hand in with that, knits, hooks rugs, gardens and bird watches.

For several years Miss McLaren has been an enthusiastic member of the Petronella Club which meets Friday evenings at Henderson Avenue Public School to do Scottish country dancing. "Maybe I'll be able to get there on time now," she laughed.

However, Miss McLaren is not deserting her library career entirely and plans to spend one day per week at the new Unionville Public Library.

Miss McLaren paid particular tribute to the many volunteer workers who have given their time to Thornhill Library free of charge over the years. "There were usually seven or eight volunteers most of the time," she said, "working one day each week."

Recently the library has had high school students as volunteers and Miss McLaren is full of praise for these young people who asked to work in the library with no hope or expectation of payment. "It has been a very amicable arrangement," she said, "and two of them are staying on."

And it's even money too that Miss McLaren will be popping in from time to time just to see how things are getting on!



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Orchids Absorbing Retirement Hobby for Jane McLaren