

## Forecast 17 Mill Minimum Raise Separate School Tax

By MARY DAWSON

A minimum increase of 17 mills in the 1968 tax rate for separate school supporters in Richmond Hill was forecast by the Richmond Hill Separate School Board finance committee at the public meeting March 5. This increase is necessary, stated Finance Chairman Peter Smith, to balance the current operating budget, which includes the annual increment for teaching staff but does not make provision for any increase in the basic annual salary for level one teachers with no experience. Such an increase would be reflected across the board in every teacher's salary.

All "frills" have been eliminated and the maintenance budget cut to a bare minimum, he said.

This 17 mill increase makes no provision

for paying off the operating deficit which has been building up for several years and stood at \$80,000 at the end of 1967.

Last year the board held the increase in the mill rate to five mills, which brought the total mill rate in Richmond Hill for a residential separate school supporter to 84.76 mills or 7.05 mills above the public school supporter. Commercial and industrial rate-payers paid 94.11 mills, 7.9 mills more than public school supporters.

In Vaughan Township the separate school rate for supporters of the Richmond Hill system in 1967 was 36 mills for residential property and 40 for commercial. This compares with 32 and 35.5 mills for both public school supporters and supporters of St. Luke's Separate School in Thornhill.

Supporters of the local separate school system in Markham Township paid 43.8

mills (residential) and 48.7 (commercial). The separate school in Markham levied 42.1 and 46.6 mills and St. Luke's levied 41.7 and 46.3. Comparative public school levies were 39.1 and 43.4 in TSA 1 and 37.2 and 41.3 in TSA 2 for public schools.

Trustees of the 20-year-old board recalled that for several years former boards kept the mill rate for separate school supporters at the same level as that for public school supporters — in fact one year the separate school rate was one mill lower than that for the public schools. "This was the beginning of the deficit and the situation has become that much worse with each succeeding year," stated Chairman John Taylor.

"From the financial point of view some steps have to be taken," stated Mr. Smith, with Trustee John LeClaire commenting, "We're wiggling on the end of a hook, the

more we struggle the deeper set the hook becomes."

Three suggestions for eliminating the deficit were outlined, all calling for balancing the annual operating budget and rigidly confining all expenditures to the budget limitations. These alternatives had been arrived at after consultation with the board's auditor, Stewart Joscelyn.

The first suggestion is to debenture the board's deficit which would entail an annual payment for 10 years of \$14,777. This would bring the increase in the mill rate to 20 mills this year as a mill brings \$4,400 into the board's coffers. However, there would be an offsetting saving of between \$5,000 and \$6,000 in bank interest charges.

The second is to add to the debenture issue the outstanding mortgage on the St. Joseph School site, which would bring the

annual payment to \$25,625.

The third is to voluntarily balance this year's budget and include money to pay off some portion of the deficit each year.

The trustees reluctantly accepted the fact that they will have to opt out of the psychological services provided by the York South Regional Education Committee. They are committed to subscribing to the service until the end of this school year. This was described as the only "frill" left in the system.

Another reluctant step taken last Tuesday night was to start investigations for the sale of assets, proceeds of which could be used to decrease the standing deficit.

All trustees expressed their concern over the impact of a 17-mill or greater increase in the 1968 tax rate on their supporters. (Continued on Page 3)



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

### 'Twas A Braw Night For Fathers And Sons

The skirl of the pipes and a pictorial visit to the cities in a dozen countries were features of the annual Father and Son Banquet of 5th Richmond Hill Scout Group held March 1 in Richmond Hill United Church.

The group includes two companies of Venturers, two troops of Scouts and three Cub packs, numbering in all about 135 boys actively engaged in Scouting. This meant that the crowd at the annual banquet numbered 250, who all enjoyed the roast beef dinner provided by the women's auxiliary of Scouts and Cubs.

Douglas Deacon piped in the head tableguests, including his father Assistant Provincial Commissioner Donald Deacon, who is also York Centre's elected representative in the Ontario Legislature.

By means of colored slides, Mr. Deacon took all boys and fathers along on his Centennial trip last year to Mexico City, Lima, Buenos Aires, Rio De Janeiro, Abadan, Nigeria, Johannesburg, Khartoum, Moscow, Hamburg, Stockholm, Oslo, Glasgow, London. Mr. Deacon covered the 37,000 miles in 27 days.

In the picture above (left to right) are Chairman Ray Weeks of the group committee and son Senior Venturer Mike Weeks, Douglas Deacon, Mr. Deacon, District Commissioner Douglas Toogood and Charles Toogood.

### Local Adult Bus Fare Increases 5 Cents March 18—No Change Children's Rate

Over determined opposition by Councillor Lois Hancey, Richmond Hill Town Council Monday night decided to accept a recommendation of its transportation and parking committee to increase the local bus rate for adults to 20c per trip. The present rate of 15c has been in effect since the bus service was instituted in 1956.

The increase was considered necessary when the initial yearly rate paid to Trailways of Canada was increased to 60c

per mile. At the request of the transportation committee the town's auditor, Stuart Joscelyn, had examined Trailways statement of costs of providing the service and had found them correct and the increase in rate justified, it was reported.

"This is a needed service," Mrs. Hancey agreed. She drew council's attention to the fact that you can travel all over the City of Toronto for a 20c fare and have the convenience of the subway, buses and streetcars.

"The rate per mile has gone up from 39c to 60c per mile since 1956 and the committee felt that some of this increase should be passed on to the people who use the facility," Councillor Ivan Mansbridge, (Continued on Page 15)

"But the town may have to subsidize it to a greater extent rather than increasing the cost for those who can't walk and can't afford a taxi."

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst, who pointed out that more adult fares than children's are collected by the bus service, stated, "Everybody accepts the fact that the town should subsidize the service — but the question is just how much this subsidy should be."

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### Turner Here This Saturday

The first Liberal leadership candidate to visit the Richmond Hill area will arrive in town this Saturday morning. He is Consumer Affairs Minister John Turner who will meet local delegates to the April Leadership Convention at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stephenson, Harding Boulevard. Mr. Stephenson is one of six delegates to the Ottawa convention from York North riding.

The other delegates are Sam Cook of Richmond Hill, Dan Poyntz and Joe Haffey of Willowdale, Mrs. Hilda Kelly of Buttonville, and Regis Trudel. Young Liberal delegate from Highland Park, Markham Township.

All remain uncommitted to any one candidate with the exception of Mr. Poyntz, president of the York North Association, who strongly favors Paul Hellyer.

### Two Weekend Thefts \$1,600 Property Loss

Vaughan Township Police are investigating a break-entry and theft which occurred March 9, at the Pinewood Sand and Gravel offices, RR 1 Maple. Thieves took electric drills, sanders and other tools and accessories amounting to some \$1,000 loss. A second theft took place March 10, at the Dufferin Street and Steeles Avenue Fire Station. Vaughan Police report that tires and automobile accessories valued at some \$600 were taken.

For the third time in as many meetings, Vaughan Township Council March 5 turned back for further study a recommendation of its hydro committee with respect to street lighting areas in the township.

Council has been dealing with the subject since last fall when, following two fatal accidents in the area, residents of Richvale requested that the district be designated a street lighting area. A similar request had been received from Maplecrest-Estelle industrial subdivisions. Council agreed to set up the two street lighting areas and investigate the possibility of similar lighting areas being set up in other built-up

areas of the township.

However, any action has been stalled because it was felt by staff members that as Section 85 of the Power Commission Act gave authority for entering into a contract with Ontario Hydro for street lighting and the supply of power is now vested with the local municipal system and not the Ontario Hydro Commission, the township had no authority to proceed under the provisions of this act.

Two sections of the Municipal Act provide for the municipality's charging the capital costs of street lighting to the areas, but not the operating and maintenance costs, which would therefore

## \$400,000 Arena Officially Opens Friday

By FRED SIMPSON

What started out as a germ of an idea in 1964 has grown into a \$400,000 reality in 1968 — the new Richmond Hill Arena.

This reality, a 140 by 240 foot steel-clad structure, will get its official baptismal tomorrow night (Friday) at 7:45 pm in a gala sendoff replete with special guests and official ribbon cutting ceremonies.

Admission-free entertainment will headline the event and kick-off with a special introduction of guests including Richmond Hill's Lions Peewees Quebec Tournament Champions.

This will be followed at 8:15 by an official ribbon cutting ceremony; at 8:30 by the Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club performing highlights from its 1968 Carnival; at 9:30 by the Richmond Hill Minor Hockey Association teams in some action-filled games.

It was in 1964 that George Chassie, a former president of the Richmond Hill Arena Association and now chairman of the building committee, first gave consideration to a new arena in association with other members of the group.

See Editorial on Page 2 Full page advertisement on Page 9.

"We started looking into the cost of some kind of new addition," stated Mr. Chassie. "We thought of it in phases. The first phase was accomplished when we built the new front on the old arena in 1963."

This initial phase had been financed by the issuing of a \$30,000 debenture of which the association has paid slightly over half.

"The next phase," he said, "involved the possibility of constructing a new ice surface next to the old one which would be open-air. We thought of providing a minimum of cover by building some kind of roof over it."

"There was also consideration given to renovating the old

arena but this would have amounted to nearly the cost of a new arena. That's when we started considering the possibility of a new arena."

What followed was the inevitable spade-work involved in any project: The looking around, the gathering of facts, the costs involved.

This took about two years and continued prodding from ice-hungry organizations such as the Richmond Hill Minor Hockey Organization and other bodies before the new arena started to take shape — on paper.

This shape was in the form of a brochure prepared by such people as Elgin Barrow, William Lazenby, Brydon Ellis, and Bill McVein.

It contained briefs from RHMHA and the local figure skating club, outlining reasons why a new building was necessary.

"We prepared our own brief also," said Mr. Chassie who at that time was president of the association.

"We met with council," he said, "and as a result a fact-finding committee was formed to dig even more into the exact costs and practical problems involved in accomplishing what we set out to do."

Mr. Chassie then resigned his position as association president to head the fact-finding committee. Councillor William Lazenby was appointed secretary. There were 17 members on the original fact-finding committee from all walks of community life.

### Markham Council To Re-Study Patterns Of Devil's Elbow Road

Following receipt of a written objection from residents of Glenburn Park concerning township plans for roads in the area, council agreed last week that the section of the official plan dealing with the area "will have to be revised to satisfy the people."

At a public meeting called by the planning board at Unionville Arena February 29, residents protested against a four-lane highway through their area and asked that main traffic be kept away from Concession 5 and Glenburn Park.

It was noted that when the amendment was the subject of a public meeting last August,

residents of Thornhill protested, in writing, the re-alignment of John Street but that no written objection to plans for the Devil's Elbow community was received from residents there although there was a protest at the meeting.

The present letter, listing 19 objections, was referred to the planning board for comment.

In the meantime, 35 mph signs will be posted on Glenburn Park and the built-up portion of Concession 5, from 17th Avenue south to Glenburn Park. Councillor Anthony Roman asked that these be installed to prevent the high speed summer traffic.

"The committee's job," he said, "was to find out just what type building we wanted, what type we could afford, to get the best type at the cheapest price possible."

The committee searched far and wide but found out the best deal was available to them right in their own back yard by way of the Richmond Hill firm of Stran-Steel.

What resulted was the offer of a complete arena building at a price of \$293,000.

The committee jumped at the idea, took their findings to council, and met with success.

Council then appointed a building committee to be chaired by Mr. Chassie, appointed Architect Douglas Allen to supply additional plans and to oversee the building. The building committee then reported back via a brief presented by Mr. Barrow.

Additional changes were made in the original plans which increased the price from \$293,000. Tenders were called for and the Low Stran-Steel bid (Continued on Page 3)

### Charges Police Fail To Co-operate

## Hooliganism At Arena Continues

Councillor William Lazenby charged the town's police force with lack of co-operation at Monday night's council meeting. Mr. Lazenby is one of council's representatives on the arena board, which, a month ago, sought police co-operation in controlling "hooliganism" and vandalism by non-skaters at the regular Saturday night open skating sessions at the arenas.

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst, a member of the town's police commission, reported he had asked for police co-operation in making Saturday evening calls at the arena and had been assured they were being made.

"I find it rather hard to believe, after what I've been told, that no policeman visits the arena," stated the mayor. He pointed out that there are only 30 many policemen per shift and Saturday night is a time of big business for them. "You can't expect to have police on hand all the time to do internal policing."

Councillor Lazenby reported that last Saturday night when 743 people were enjoying the presentation of the skating club's annual carnival, the youths responsible for the van-

dalism on other occasions showed up. "When they found the location of their weekly 'thrill night' was in use for other purposes, they congregated outside and created a disturbance. The

language had to be heard to be believed," reported Mr. Lazenby, reporting that some of them had had to be forcefully ejected from the arena.

The councillor also exhibited a slingshot constructed from a piece of wire and rubber bands, which had been picked up in cleaning-up operations after the carnival. The conclusion was that the intent had been to use it to annoy the skaters.

"It's very frustrating to try to run a public facility and have to cope with the situation which exists on Saturday nights. We have restricted the new arena to adult and family skating at that time and have been building it up. I don't want it ruined by a few irresponsible people. It's a municipal building and I would like some co-operation from the police. After my request a month ago, the police did put in an appearance on the first Saturday night, but have not been seen in the vicinity since."

When the mayor reiterated that he had been assured that (Continued on Page 15)



COUNCILLOR WM. LAZENBY Charges Lack of Co-operation

## Vaughan's Street Lighting Areas May Be Charged Across Township

For the third time in as many meetings, Vaughan Township Council March 5 turned back for further study a recommendation of its hydro committee with respect to street lighting areas in the township.

Council has been dealing with the subject since last fall when, following two fatal accidents in the area, residents of Richvale requested that the district be designated a street lighting area. A similar request had been received from Maplecrest-Estelle industrial subdivisions. Council agreed to set up the two street lighting areas and investigate the possibility of similar lighting areas being set up in other built-up

areas but the only disagreement was as to the method. He suggested that as it had been agreed to proceed with the private bill, council should defer any action until approximately eight weeks.

"I am interested in getting the lights up. Why go over all this rubbish again?" asked Reeve Bailey. "We could lights in the meantime, (while waiting for the bill). I think this council wants to put up the lights. We are going through with the private bill for charging for them. It has nothing to do with putting them up."

"You are suggesting that we put up the lights and then decide how to pay for them," said Councillor Birkett.

Reeve Bailey pointed out that the township's budget would be set in the next six weeks and costs of the lighting areas would have to be included if the lights were to go up this year. "I think it is disgraceful how this has been handled. Either you want to put the lights up or you don't."

However, with both Deputy-reeve Williams and Councillor Dalton McArthur absent, the other two members of council carried the day and the matter was once more turned back to committee for further discussion.

who was not present to the effect that he had consulted with authorities "in the know" and they could see no reason for the private bill.

Mr. Bailey stated also that he had consulted with the official at Ontario Hydro who had prepared the cost analysis for the township's takeover of hydro at the beginning of this year and "He couldn't understand our problem."

"Ontario Hydro says we do have the authority, then, and Mr. McDonald (the township manager) says we don't," commented Councillor Charles Birkett. "Costs must be charged over the whole township," insisted Mr. McDonald.

"Whatever you do with the existing areas, you must do with the new areas," stormed the reeve. "Either shut off the lights or charge for them over the whole township. There is no specific authority given in the act, but you are charging the existing areas."

Councillor David Fraser suggested that the matter be referred back to committee but this brought another angry retort from the reeve. "We have been doing that for six weeks. I can see no reason why we don't proceed," he insisted.

Councillor Birkett agreed that every member of council was quite willing to establish the street lighting

areas but the only disagreement was as to the method. He suggested that as it had been agreed to proceed with the private bill, council should defer any action until approximately eight weeks.

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