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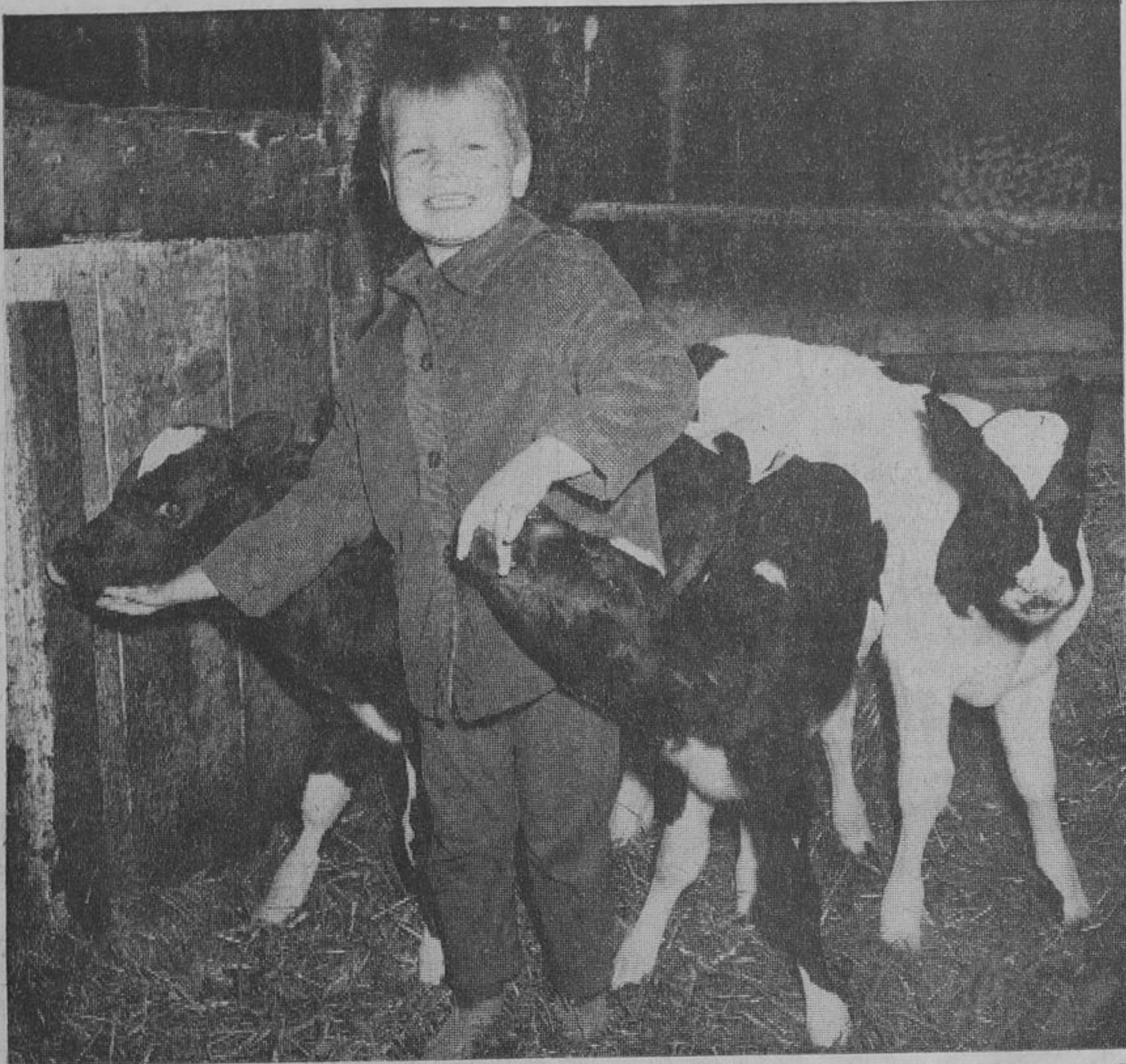
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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1968

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

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(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Most Unusual Three Of A Kind

An unusual birth of triplet calves to a Holstein cow has attracted a large number of visitors to the Markham Township farm of Treanor Canning. The calves, born April 18, are two bulls and a heifer, and all are thriving. They are the result of artificial insemination, and are a welcome addition to the 60 head herd kept by Mr. Canning. Included in the herd are 32 milking cows.

Above, the Cannings' only granddaughter, Robin, four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Mortson, is pictured with the three additions to her grandfather's herd.

Markham Twp. Debt Picture Said Rosy But Southern Areas Must Be Watched

Whatever way you look at it, Markham Township is in a relatively good financial position, reported Auditor Murray Harris, at a recent meeting of council.

A member of the firm Eddis and Associates which audits the township's books, Mr. Harris advised that the township ended 1967 with a surplus of \$139,000 and had collected 89.89% of its tax levy. This was an improvement over 1966 when 87.06% was collected.

According to the new method of assessment on market value, the township's debt picture is rosier than it appears. The township's debt of \$8,277,197 represents 5.8% of total equalized assessment of the township's books, Mr. Harris said. Total permissible limit of borrowing under the new method is 8% of assessment.

Assessment under the old method is \$32,000,000 and the annual debt charge is 20% of this amount, with 25% the highest allowable limit. Thus the township is within its borrowing limits by either method.

Mr. Harris warned, however, that there are more local improvements to be watched. He singled out the southern section of the township particularly and cautioned "The total debt charge may be much higher than 25% of the mill rate in these pockets of development."

TSA 1 Markham showed a small deficit at the end of the year, where last year it had a surplus of \$35,000. Mr. Harris advised, and TSA 2 had a small surplus.

However, Markham District High School Board showed a major deficit for the second year, of \$69,689. The auditors have written to the high school board asking that it make an attempt to reduce the deficit before entering the county school board at the end of this year.

Mr. Harris noted that there had been sufficient funds to complete the municipality's three Centennial projects, the Unionville Library and grounds, the addition to the township offices and the North Thornhill Community Centre, the old Heintzman House. A total of \$341,180 was committed for these projects and a surplus of \$13,000 remains of this amount.

The Victoria Square Community Centre wiped out the

previous year's deficit and ended 1967 with a small surplus, \$1,416. Crosby Memorial Arena at Unionville is not in as good shape and Mr. Harris recommended that a reserve fund be established for the replacement of obsolete equipment.

A deficit of \$13,000 in the garbage area puzzled council members. It was explained however, that garbage levies are assessed against a property as soon as it is constructed but there is often a gap between construction and occupancy, which has created the deficit.

Mayor's Salary Upped To \$5,000

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst will receive an increase in pay from \$4,250 to \$5,000 a year. This was decided when a report from a finance committee of the whole on April 23 was accepted at the regular council meeting Monday night.

The mayor reported that he was not present when the matter was discussed, but "I think I'm worth every nickel of it," he said with a grin. "But not a penny more," quipped Reeve Donald Plaxton.

Remuneration for the reeve, deputy-reeve and four councillors remains unchanged at \$20 per meeting. If more meetings than one (council or committee) are attended on one day only \$20 will be paid for that day.

Town Tax Rate Up 4.8 Mills But Homeowners To Pay Less

Richmond Hill's 1968 tax rate was set Monday night at 82.51 mills for public school residential taxpayers, an increase of 4.80 mills from the 1967 rate. The 1968 rate for public school commercial and industrial ratepayers will be 92.02 mills, up 5.81 mills from 1967.

The rates for separate school supporters were not available Monday night when the rate was set, so the mill rate for these ratepayers will be increased in the amounts called for in the budget of the separate school board.

A further \$2,000 in expenditures was passed by amendments to the motion to accept this recommendation. This will make the mill rate a small fraction of a mill higher.

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst pointed out that the picture on the province's basic shelter tax exemption has not yet been clarified. However, indications are that with it, in spite of the increase in the town's mill rate, local ratepayers will pay \$20 or \$30 less in taxes this year. The province has earmarked \$150 million dollars to be paid out to home owners and tenants this spring to ease the burden of local taxation.

Reeve Donald Plaxton, finance chief and his committee which met for four hours Monday morning to finalize the town's budget, explained that the increase was necessary because the public school levy increased by 2.73 mills and the high school levy by 2.79 mills — for a total increase of 5.52 mills. However, the county rate decreased by 1.46 mills, making a net increase of 4.06 to which was added a .74 mill increase for the town's general rate.

Mr. Plaxton pointed out the demands of the municipality have had to be curtailed in light of the increased cost of education, with council reducing or cutting any unnecessary expenditure. "We have had to apply the total amount of the surplus from last year toward reduction of the mill rate this year. Considering the limited geography and economy of the town, I believe that it is reasonably creditable that we have been able to control the growth of the tax rate."

CRITICIZE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

The reeve went on to criticize the public school board for failure to co-operate, as in fol-

lowing years, in keeping the mill rate down by reducing its budget. The board's final budget, called for \$835,262.55 as the town's share, a reduction of \$15,000 from the original budget. Earlier the finance committee had questioned inclusion in the budget of \$12,000 allowance for county instructional supplies, \$43,880 for shared services, \$25,000 for library books, and \$16,592 in a 1% contingency fund. All, including the contingency fund (eliminated in 1967) were left in the final budget.

The 1968 tax rate means that the owner of a home, assessed at \$6,000 will receive a tax bill for slightly over \$495.00, up \$28.80 from 1967. However, this amount will be reduced by the amount of the province's basic shelter exemption. Late Wednesday morning this exemption was set at \$62.75. This means that the above figure will be reduced by that amount giving the average taxpayer approximately a \$32 reduction from last year's taxes.

For commercial and industrial ratepayers with a \$6,000 assessment the 1968 tax bill will be slightly more than \$552, up approximately \$35 from last year.

During the morning tax session Mr. Plaxton noted that the board had had a surplus at the end of 1967. "If they have a surplus at the end of this year, does that go into the county kitty, or will Richmond Hill receive credit for it?" Auditor Stuart Joselyn informed the committee that the amount would be credited to Richmond Hill, but that adjustment of assets and liabilities would not be made until 1970.

IN AND OUT — BACK IN

Two items in the final budget qualified for the "in again, out again" category. First of these was a vehicle (station wagon) for the town's fire department. Early in the morning session, Councillor Lois Hancey, chairman of council's fire committee, succeeded in adding to the fire department's budget \$4,000 for purchase of such a vehicle.

A couple of hours later it was removed when it was decided to purchase a \$30,000 back hoe for the works department. Eliminated at the same time was a "Bombadier" for sidewalk snow clearance in the amount of \$5,000. Although the machine was referred to by this trade name the works department had already decided to purchase a small tractor, which would be used for snow clearing and also during the

100-Yr.-Old School Said Unsafe

King Township School Board's plan to re-open the 100-year-old Potteryville School has met with disfavor from parents in the Schomberg and Kettleby areas who claim the building is structurally unsound.

See page 8 for the complete story on this controversial issue.

summer wherever needed at the same cost.

An hour later Mrs. Hancey succeeded in having a reserve fund of \$2,000 set up in the fire department budget to be used for purchase of the station wagon in 1969. Then, at the evening session (in an amendment to the mill rate motion) she was able to add another

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Property Recovered Two School Break-Ins

Markham Township Police are investigating thefts, break-ins and vandalism which occurred over the weekend in two township schools.

Police recovered some \$500 in tools and machinery taken from the shop classes at Thornhill Secondary School on Dudley Avenue where the thieves apparently dropped the stolen property as they left the school. Royal Orchard Public School, Thornhill Green, was also broken into on the weekend but little was taken. However, vandals threw food about the cafeteria and spilled soft drinks on the floor.

Markham Police have apprehended two juveniles in connection with a break-in and theft at the new Christ The King Lutheran Church, Baythorn Avenue and Royal Orchard Boulevard, April 24. A small amount of property was taken but has now been recovered.

240 Polls In York North

Election Machinery Already Rolling

Beginning next Monday morning, May 6, enumerators will fan out over some 240 polling subdivisions of the new riding of York North, counting heads of all those over 21 and eligible to vote in the June 25 federal election.

Returning Officer Roy Haines who is operating out of his home at 48 Sherwood Forest Drive in Markham Village, was unable to estimate this week just how many voters there are in the riding. Population figures too are unknown, although at the time of the last census, in 1961, there were 77,007 people in the riding.

Mr. Haines advises that of this total, 36% live in the small portion of the riding which is below Steeles Avenue. When interviewed by "The Liberal", Mr. Haines still did not know how many enumerators he would be employing. Lists of these are sent to him by the Liberal and Conservative riding associations. In urban polls, there will be two enumerators, one Liberal and one Conservative appointee, while in rural

Collect 97.25% 1967 Taxes

Collection of 1967 taxes in Richmond Hill accounted for 95.39% of the total levy of \$2,990,324.99, it was reported at Monday night's council meeting. The \$138,000 still due at the end of the year has since been reduced by another third, to make the percentage 97.25%, described by Councillor William Lazenby as "a fantastic record".

He paid tribute to Tax Clerk Donald Moore in bringing about this laudable state of affairs.

Mayor Broadhurst reported that the auditor had said there were only a couple of municipalities in the province with a better tax-collection record and one of these (with 100%) was Ojibway, a company town.

Councillor Lazenby also reported that every known tobacco licence in town, except two, has been collected already this year.

The Job's The Same The Name Different

The office of clerk-treasurer of the Town of Richmond Hill will be split. The office was established on the incorporation as a village in 1873, 95 years ago. The first clerk-treasurer was Matthew Teffy and the second was Alex Hume.

The third and present clerk-treasurer, Russell Lynett, who has held the office since 1942, will become the town clerk. To allow him to assume the duties of treasurer during that officer's absence through illness or vacation the bylaw will also name him deputy-treasurer.

The present assistant clerk-treasurer, Mac Clement, will become the town treasurer. To allow him to act as clerk in the absence of that officer, he will also be named assistant-clerk. William Rice will be known as assistant to the treasurer and Mrs. Jean Ward will be known as assistant to the clerk.

These changes were the result of recommendations of the personnel committee of the whole, which council accepted Monday night.

OMB Gives Sanction South Thackeray Dump

The Ontario Municipal Board's approval of Vaughan Township's rezoning of the South Thackeray site to permit its use by Metro as a garbage dump was received at the municipal offices April 24.

Condemnation was evident in some quarters last week when Metro Works Department began working on the site two days before word of OMB approval had been received at the township offices.

Vaughan's rezoning of the site was opposed by Markpal Holdings Limited which owns property across from the site, on the south side of Steeles Avenue in the Borough of Etobicoke.

Markpal argued that proximity to the dump would be detrimental to residential development of this property.

In his decision, however, OMB Vice-Chairman A. H. Arrell stated that when the site was filled and grassed over, it might well be an asset rather than a detriment to the area. He noted that Metro had estimated it would take four years to fill the site but added, "It seems to me that when Metro Toronto is given the power to expropriate land outside its boundaries for a land-fill operation it would be expected to proceed with the operation with all convenient speed."

Public School Board Is Still Negotiating Teachers' Salaries

After a brief meeting April 25 in the library at Crosby Heights Senior School, Richmond Hill Public School Board went into committee to meet representatives of the teaching staff in salary negotiations and to work on the final 1968 budget figures. These were required by town council before it could set the current mill rate.

During the public meeting Mrs. Betty Lindsay's appointment as secretary to the business administrator was confirmed. The appointment will be effective May 1. Mrs. Lindsay, Mill Street, has been employed in the board's office as a clerk-typist since August 1967.

Three more resignations from the teaching staff were received with regret. They are Mrs. Joyce Frazer of Crosby Heights School, whose husband has been transferred to another area; Mrs. Leslie Jeanneret and Mrs. Inga Flinger from MacKillop School. Mrs. Flinger and her husband plan an extensive

working tour of Great Britain and Europe it was reported. She intends to return to the Richmond Hill staff when these travels are completed.

It was reported that another experienced teacher, Miss Hanne Solvstrom, has been placed on contract.

Chairman Mrs. Deena Simpson and Business Administrator Mrs. Dorothy Street were authorized to sign contracts with student teachers at Teachers' Colleges on employment day, May 3. Superintendent Gordon McIntyre reported that it is expected to complete the required teaching staff for 1968-69 on that date.

Mrs. Simpson's attendance as a delegate at a seminar on the "Problems of Interim School Organization Committees for County Boards of Education" at the Inn On The Park, May 23, 24 and 25, was ratified. The seminar is sponsored by the Ontario School Trustees and Municipal Councillors' Association, with a registration fee of \$25.

Vaughan, Hill Take First Step Southern Six Amalgamation

A major step towards amalgamation of the Southern Six municipalities of York County was taken Monday night when the councils of the Township of Vaughan and the Town of Richmond Hill agreed to initiate annexation proceedings.

Final decision now rests with the provincial government. A meeting between representatives of Richmond Hill and Vaughan and the Minister of Municipal Affairs will be the next step along the road to amalgamation.

Both councils unanimously adopted the following resolution: "Whereas the councils of the Township of Vaughan and the Town of Richmond Hill, having conferred regularly over the past several years with other municipalities potentially affected, and

both municipalities having recognized themselves as recognizing the need for change in the municipal structure of the southern half of the County of York;

"Be it therefore resolved that the council of the Township of Vaughan and the council of the Town of Richmond Hill do hereby express their joint intention of seeking the amalgamation into one municipality or into such number of municipalities less than the existing six, of such of the following municipalities as the Minister of Municipal Affairs shall direct:

- The Villages of Woodbridge, Markham and Stouffville.
- The Townships of Markham and Vaughan.
- The Town of Richmond Hill.

and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the above

municipalities, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Donald Deacon, MLA York Centre".

Copies of the resolution had been sent to the other four municipalities listed, and observers were present from the Villages of Woodbridge and Markham. Woodbridge had not received its copy of the resolution in time to consider it at its last council meeting, Reeve Gordon Longhouse reported. The other Woodbridge representative was Deputy-reeve John McLean. The Markham Village representative Councillor L. J. Abernethy reported his council had considered the resolution but had given him no directive. Markham Township which has strenuously opposed any amalgamation was not represented at the meeting.

In a prepared statement

Vaughan's Reeve Brian Bailey commented that some progress has been made in recent years in sharing of services and other forms of mutual co-operation but that prime services such as planning, police, works, hydro and administration are not being seriously considered. Mr. Bailey felt the reason for avoiding these main topics appears the cost-sharing factor related to separate tax basis. To arrive at a mutually satisfactory cost sharing basis would be virtually impossible because of a wide variety of individual benefits derived.

The reeve of Vaughan pointed out that two studies have already concluded that the present jurisdictions are impractical and economically unsound both now and for the future if this is to be an area of urban growth. He

claimed the six municipalities are wasting a fair portion of the tax dollar on duplication and forecast an ever-increasing demand for services which will increase rather than decrease the duplication.

The suggestion of one total amalgamation into one municipality as being too large physically, hardly warrants consideration in the face of the Carleton-Eastview-Ottawa amalgamation by the provincial government, he continued. Total amalgamation is inevitable because of the serious consideration by senior levels of government for larger regional governments.

Backing up this statement, Mr. Bailey noted that the major obstacles for supplying essential services such as water and sewers through the agency of the Ontario Water Resources Commis-

sion is the inability to sign a mutual agreement with this agency and six separate corporate bodies each with different requirements and approaches.

Noting that the ratio of population to elected representatives in the area under consideration varies from one politician per 500 people to one per 5,000, Mr. Bailey stated this can only be considered as a calculated argument on the part of politicians to preserve their political status quo rather than consideration of what is best for the elector.

He also stated that he strongly favored one municipality in the southern portion of York County, and has yet to be convinced that more than one would be a satisfactory solution to the problems being faced now and in the future.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

YORK NORTH FEDERAL RETURNING OFFICER ROY HAINES OF MARKHAM VILLAGE