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VOL. 91, NO. 20.

RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1968

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

PER COPY 10c

Recommend Unified Police Force For York County

Richmond Hill Prefers Political Amalgamation



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Richmond Hill Remembers Its War Dead

In spite of cloudy skies and a distinct chill in the air a fair representation of Richmond Hill citizens were present for the annual Remembrance Day observance at the town's cenotaph Sunday afternoon. A large number of children, more than usual, were part of the crowd.

Major G. M. Kessler, CD, Canadian Armed Forces was guest speaker, bringing a challenging message. The York Chorals provided a prelude in song and assisted Wesley Middleton in leading the singing of traditional hymns. They were accompanied by Jerry and Deurn Singolani, accordianists.

Reeve Donald Plaxton, seen above in the central arch of the cenotaph, presided over the depositing of wreaths — more than in previous years. Victor Buckingham (right above) has just deposited the wreath provided by St. Matthew's United Church.

The town's cenotaph, located in front of McConaghy Public School records those young men from this community who made the supreme sacrifice in two World Wars.

Horseplay At Tavern Brings Police Charge

You might be wobbler to still do it in the woollier parts of the West, but you can't do it in Richmond Hill. You can't ride your horse into a local saloon and get treated like just another customer.

Two young men found this out on Friday evening when they tried to ride their horses into the "pub" of the Richmond Inn.

They rode up in the spirit of the old west but found that spirit distinctly lacking at the saloon of their choice. A horrified management barricaded the doors and summoned the police.

A posse of three Richmond Hill police officers leapt into a cruiser and sped up to the inn to restore law and order.

There they found one of the horsemen most disgruntled with management's discriminatory stand against man's best friend. It was only with difficulty that the lawmen managed to persuade him to give up his bid to get into the hotel on horseback.

Back at the caboose they charged Maxine Leblanc, 23, with causing a "ruckus", or as it was put in Richmond Hill Magistrate's Court Tuesday, with "creating a disturbance in public."

Leblanc, whose face was cut and bruised, was taken to York Central Hospital for treatment, but still true to the hardy spirit of the old west, he refused any.

His companion horseman was not charged by police, and was allowed to lead the horses off.

In court on Tuesday, Leblanc, who lives on Arnold Street, Richmond Hill, was remanded to November 25. He was wearing cowboy boots.

Police explain the incident by saying "there was liquor involved."

Bailey Proposes Vaughan Annex Southern Six, Assure Services

Announcing that he will seek re-election as Reeve of Vaughan Township on December 2 this year, Brian Bailey is advocating amalgamation of the "Southern Six", the municipalities on the northern fringe of Metro. He believes that this major step must be proceeded with as quickly as possible and indicated at a press conference last Friday that his council will take the first step in this direction next week.

Reeve Bailey claims delay of this important decision has created an impossible situation in obtaining essential services (water and sewers) as well as the establishment of a board of education in the southern part of York County. He reported that the municipalities are being individually subjected to the pressures of Metro and a single voice must be attained to deal with these developments.

He also claims that provision of essential services and a schedule of their installation must be clearly established.

Mr. Bailey stated his position is that "Vaughan Township should file for annexation of all the Southern Six Municipalities. (Amalgamation would require unanimous approval.) This should not be considered as a territorial grab, the reeve stated, but as a method to achieve municipal consolidation.

"Residents of Vaughan deserve the right to have essential services," he continued, "and to this end Ontario Water Resources Commission must establish a priority and either provide the services or allow the township to provide them." He calls for a firm schedule of dates as to when these services will be available.

In concluding his announcement, Mr. Bailey stated, "We can and will develop in an orderly and economic manner and with the removal of the bureaucratic obstacles imposed by the provincial government and the tremendous potential to attract industrial and commercial investment, true growth will not create a financial burden to the residents of the area."

Metro Annexation

A rumor in circulation early this week that a resolution had been placed on the order paper of Metro Council recommending the annexation by Metro of Vaughan Township was revealed as without foundation Tuesday.

Metro's Assistant Clerk Arthur Hall advised that a letter from Vaughan Township Administrator J. M. McDonald on the subject has been referred to the November 19 meeting of the Metro Executive Committee.

Mr. Hall expects that the letter will be passed from there to the committee of heads of departments for comment.

Mr. McDonald's letter to Metro, dated October 29, had asked for comment on the feasibility and possible merits of Vaughan becoming part of Metro.

Some weeks ago, Vaughan had enquired of the Metro Works Department whether it would be possible to buy water from the Keele Street reservoir to serve the proposed 15,000 person BAIF development at Yonge and Carville Road.

The works committee, in turn, enquired what Vaughan's attitude would be to annexation.

It was Mr. McDonald's reply to this letter which apparently sparked the rumor that a resolution had been filed recommending the annexation.

Amalgamation of police forces of the Township of Markham, the Village of Markham, the Township of Vaughan, the Village of Stouffville, the Village of Woodbridge and the Town of Richmond Hill is not only possible but necessary in order to provide a complete and more efficient police service for the six communities, F. J. Taylor and Fred Davies, advisers to the Ontario Police Commission, reported to representatives of five of these municipalities November 6.

Richmond Hill was not present at the meeting, since its council has expressed its belief that total and not piecemeal amalgamation of the Southern Six in providing services is essential to survival.

Messrs. Taylor and Davies had been assigned by the Ontario Police Commission to carry out a study on the feasibility of the amalgamation of the police forces of the six municipalities at the request of the Township of Markham. This request was supported by the Township of Vaughan and the Villages of Woodbridge, Stouffville and Markham.

The advisers found that the geographic location of the municipalities lends to the feasibility of unification. The distance west to east is approximately 25 miles and south to north approximately nine miles. This includes a total acreage of 142,272 or 222 square miles.

It is largely rural in character and the total population is 74,195 with approximately 75% living in the central core (Highway 400 in the west and the

Don Mills Road in the east). Metro Planning Board has calculated a 70% increase in population by 1980, bringing the total to 125,000.

The merger would eliminate duplication and improve criminal investigation methods under a central detective unit, the report claimed. Traffic control and planning would be centralized — so would records, communications, serving of summonses and warrants and other court papers. Training would be standardized and available to all members of the force, with more men freed for active police work.

The present force of 83 now employed by the six police departments giving a ratio of one policeman to each 893 residents, was considered sufficient to serve the amalgamated area.

The report emphasized the need for a central police telephone number for the area to eliminate the confusion of visitors and residents when police are needed.

It suggests the present Richmond Hill Police offices be used as administrative headquarters for the new force and that operational stations be maintained in the present Markham Township and Vaughan Township offices in phase one. Phase two calls for construction of a new central police headquarters on or near Yonge Street south of Richmond Hill.

The report suggests the position of chief be advertised and the existing chiefs and deputy be given the opportunity to apply. Under the plan, the existing chiefs would become inspectors or hold other senior ranks in the new department. No policeman would lose pay through amalgamation.

Salary schedules in the six forces are almost identical, with first class constables receiving \$7,300. Fringe benefits vary slightly from municipality to municipality.

Total annual cost of policing the six municipalities at the present rates is estimated at \$864,625.

Ontario Police Commission Chairman Percy Milligan pointed out that the cost to Richmond Hill would be from \$45,000 to (Continued on Page 15)

Canadian Tire Christmas Sale

The annual Canadian Tire "early bird" Christmas sale is now underway. Check the special supplement in this week's Liberal for bargain buys for the kiddies ranging from toy Tommy Guns, baby doll out-fits, and a wide range of toy sales.

A special "early bird" offer for father includes heavy duty dry cell batteries for flashlights, transistor radios, re-power toys at a price of 33 cents for six.

Canadian Tire at 70 Yonge Street North in Richmond Hill urges you to hurry to get your limited quantity specials for personal shopping.

Sale ends November 25.

Vaughan Deputy-Reeve Williams Challenges Reeve Bailey's Record

At least a two-way battle has been assured for the position of reeve in Vaughan Township in the December 2 municipal elections.

Deputy-reeve Garnet Williams made it official this week as he announced his intention of opposing incumbent Reeve Brian Bailey.

Mr. Williams' move was probably the non-shocker of the year as he has locked horns on numerous occasions with the reeve and other members of council on policy issues.

His most vigorous opposition involved the question of raising the reeve's salary.

States Mr. Williams: "The 200 percent raise in the reeve's salary from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per year could reach \$18,500 when other board salaries are added."

He has also objected strenuously to the bylaw "creating a seven-man council passed at an eight o'clock in the morning meeting, and in the dying hours of a November 1 deadline, giving the taxpayers no notice or opportunity to appeal."

Mr. Williams said that "we are over-governed now. This move amounts to having two hands in the public till as well as more confusion."

"It would make some sense," he said, "if a ward system had been incorporated with the change in order to ensure equal representation across the township."

Mr. Williams has consistently opposed any setting up of garbage disposal areas by Metro Toronto in the township.

Deputy-reeve Williams was first elected to Vaughan Township Council in 1962. He served one term (two years) on council and two terms as Deputy-reeve having received an acclamation in 1966.

He has served as chairman of the fire, police, roads and finance. This year he was appointed to the newly formed Vaughan Township Hydro Committee.

At county council he served as secretary on welfare, bylaws and legislative committees; and as chairman of the agriculture and reforestation committees.

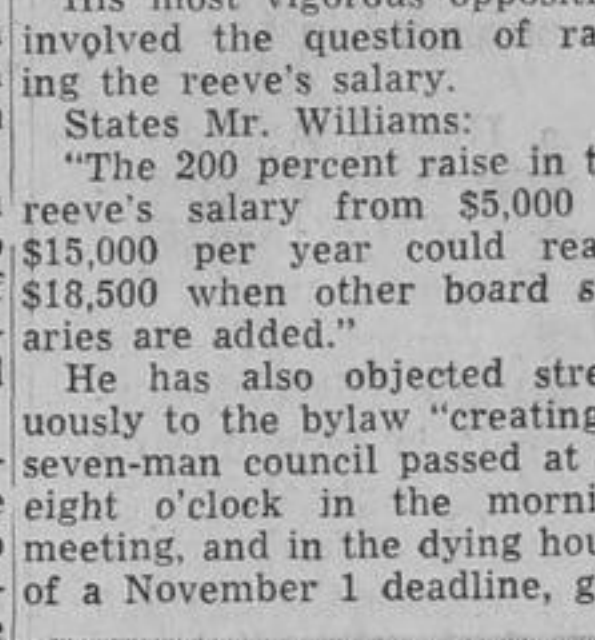
He has also served on the York Central Hospital Board and the York County Hospital Commission.

He is presently commissioner for York Manor Home for the Aged and is chairman of the board.

Mr. Williams pointed out that when he first entered municipal politics it was his desire to "create an even balance of industrial commercial assessment which at that time was less than six percent."

"As of today," he said, "we have 40 percent industrial commercial as against 60 percent residential and I would like to see this balance maintained."

"We are now in a position to develop both residential and industrial on a planned program," he said.



DEPUTY-REEVE G. WILLIAMS



LOU WAINWRIGHT

Vaughan Candidate

Lou Wainwright, a resident of the Richvale area of Vaughan Township for the past 18 years announced this week he will be a candidate for the Vaughan Township Council in the forthcoming election. Married with three children he has always taken a keen interest in community affairs. He served for six years as a trustee on the York Central District High School Board and was active in the home and school movement in the Richvale area.

If elected Mr. Wainwright promises to introduce some economies into government and use a common sense approach in the solution of township problems. He strongly opposes the reeve's salary of \$15,000 and the way in which the matter of the seven member council was rushed through without any prior thought given to the introduction of a ward system if the size of the present council was going to be increased.

Mr. Wainwright feels the township must maintain a proper balance between its industrial and residential assessment if Vaughan's finances are to remain in a healthy state. Mr. Wainwright advocates that future development be carried out in a planned, orderly fashion. He strongly opposes the intrusion of Metro into Vaughan's affairs.

Mr. Wainwright is a past veteran of St. Mary's Anglican Church and is the past master of the Masonic Order. In private life he is associated with Ontario Hydro where he is president of the largest credit union in Canada.

Bus Profit Brings \$1,290.23

Richmond Hill has received a cheque for \$1,290.23 as its share of the profits of the Yonge Street Bus Line for the third quarter of 1968. The TTC is holding \$1,708.40 for payment of seat tax on the buses to the Ontario Government for the first nine months of this year.

Total profit for these nine months has been \$8,676.41, with Richmond Hill getting 50% or \$4,338.21. Markham and Vaughan Townships each 25% or \$2,169.10.

Although the number of passengers in the same period has risen from 976,915 to 1,024,709, operating expense has increased from \$86,803.21 to \$93,731.95 and is now using up 91.53% of operating revenue.

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst pointed out that although Richmond Hill realizes a profit from the Yonge Street Line, it loses considerably more in subsidizing the local bus service. The town will continue to fight for exemption of seat tax.

Council, School Bd. Candidates Unfurl Their Colors Next Week

Municipal elections are scheduled for both Vaughan and Markham Townships December 2. Members of Richmond Hill Council are not up for election again until next year, however.

In Markham Township, nominations for council, including reeve, deputy-reeve and three councillors will take place November 18 from 7 to 8 pm at Buttonville Women's Institute Hall, immediately north of the township offices on Don Mills Road in Buttonville.

At the same time, nominations will be held for three seats on the York County Board of Education and three on the York County Separate School Board.

In Vaughan Township, nominations will be held on two different evenings, Nov. 18 for the two school boards and November 20 for council. Both will be held at the Maple Community Centre Hall, Keele Street north, from 7.30 to 8.30 pm.

Taxpayers of Vaughan Township and the Village of Woodbridge are entitled to elect three members to the York County Board of Education and two to the York County Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

The November 20 council nominations will be for reeve, deputy-reeve and five councillors. All those elected to both council and school board will sit for a two year term.

Nominations will be held in Richmond Hill November 18 for the two seats to which the town is entitled on the York County Board of Education and two on the separate school board.

Nominations will be held in the council chambers of the municipal offices, 56 Yonge Street North, from 7.30 to 8.30 pm.

Election day in all municipalities is December 2. Polls will be open from 10 in the morning to 8 pm.

An advance poll will be held in Vaughan Township. Those expecting to be absent or unable to vote December 2 may cast their ballots November 30 at the municipal offices, Richmond Street, Maple from 10 am to 8 pm.

There is no advance poll in Markham Township or in Richmond Hill.

Nominations in Vaughan Township's two police villages will also take place this month.

In Thornhill, nominations will be held for the three posts of village trustee at 15 Colborne Street, November 25. If more than three are nominated, the election will take place December 9.

In the Police Village of Maple, nominations will be held at Maple Public Library, Merino Road and Goodman Crescent on Tuesday, November 19 from 7.30 to 8.30 pm. Election of the three trustees will take place the same day as township elections, December 2.

Churches Should Be Willing To 'Pay Their Way' In Taxes: Deacon

By FRED SIMPSON

The church as a member of the community should be required to "pay its way" like any other citizen.

This was the controversial viewpoint propounded Wednesday night of last week by Liberal MLA for York Centre Donald Deacon before 100 persons representing various religious denominations at Brown's Corners United Church, in Markham Township.

He was joined by two other members of the Legislature, Arthur Meen, Conservative MLA for York East, and Pat Lawlor, NDP MLA for Lakeshore. All three were members of the Select Committee on Taxation which was named by Premier John Robarts to study the Smith Report on Taxation. The committee was headed by Ontario's new Revenue Minister John White of London.

Mr. Deacon, a regular churchgoer himself, said it was only fair and logical that churches be required to pay taxes for police, fire protection and road maintenance to their property.

He stressed that in any community there are only a relative few who go to church regularly and felt that therefore a large number of people were in effect subsidizing an organization they received no benefit from whatsoever.

"I realize and am appreciative of the effective work done by a church in the community," he said, "in its volunteer efforts for various organizations."

"But all this is done on a voluntary basis by the church which isn't being asked or required to do it. And since it is done voluntarily why obligate the rest of the community to pay for your police, fire and road maintenance. We should carry this tax ourselves."

Mr. Deacon said he was basically opposed to any type of state-supported churches and drew a parallel with state-supported churches in Sweden as compared to ones in Russia where "people are strictly paying for their belief in God themselves."

"In Sweden the churches are fully supported by the state and the ineffectiveness of this situation can be borne out by the large number of empty seats."

The opposite situation prevailed in Russia, he said, where the church received no assistance at all but had built up tremendous spirit and fellowship by the fact it had to pay its own way.

Mr. Deacon concluded by saying he had received a number of letters regarding church taxation "with most running five-to-one against it."

"Of course," he said, "the whole matter is now an academic one because Premier Robarts has stated his government will not be taxing churches."

Mr. Meen said it was simply a case of "requiring every organization or person to bear his fair share of the cost of providing for us in our homes."

He said that there was "a thread of sentiment in all the briefs from the churches to the taxation committee that the churches want to carry their fair share of the tax load."

"We in the committee did attempt to give recognition to contributions made by the churches to the community and tried to whittle the tax share down so that the share would be fair."

The committee has suggested that church properties and buildings be reassessed at actual value and taxed on 5 percent of this the first year, 10 percent the second year with a further 5 percent increase each year until the level of 35 percent of actual value is reached.

Mr. Lawlor was less diplomatic stating he found it "lamentable that a sincere effort to assess a situation should receive such abuse from churches themselves who are normally supposed to be expounding the spirit of charity to mankind."

He thought it was a "valid argument that we are now living in a pluralistic society which is becoming more secularized. Everyone should participate and not receive special privilege."

Reaction of the audience to the speakers was polite but restrained with a few members asking questions and others offering arguments against taxation.

One comment was to the effect that the government shouldn't "crucify Christ on the Cross of Gold."



DONALD DEACON MLA Wants to Tax Churches

Vaughan Police Lay Glue Sniffing Charge

Two young adults and one juvenile have been charged with glue sniffing by Vaughan Township Police following an investigation by Constable Ken Smith in the Pine Grove area on Saturday, November 9.

A quantity of silver and a Minolta 35 mm camera were stolen on Friday morning, November 8 from Keystone Fencing on Rivermede Road, Vaughan Police report.

A private residence on Keele Street was broken into on Saturday and a "Century" Mark IV tape recorder stolen. The culprits broke the front window, then reached through to unlock the door, Vaughan Police say.

On Saturday night a possible break-in was made at Parker Games, Keele Street. A window was found broken and the door insecure.