

MERRY CHRISTMAS

To All
Our Readers



1,000 Christmas Gifts For County Patients

Every mental patient in York County will receive at least one gift this Christmas because of the generosity of other county residents. Mrs. Mary Gilbert of Aurora, Christmas gift convener of the York County Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, told "The Liberal" this week.

Approximately 1,000 gifts were received, 800 of which were distributed to homes and the rest to the patients at the Ontario Hospital, Aurora. There were sufficient gifts for the women patients, but a definite scarcity of gifts for men. The association spent \$150 in providing sufficient male gifts — about three times as much as has been spent in previous years.

In the above photo a group of volunteers are seen wrapping the gifts which were collected at depots throughout the county. The gift wrapping was held December 10 at Aurora United Church.

Trustees Dedicate Their 10 Ft. Strip

Hospital, Don Head Sch. Trench Street Entrance

Work on the Trench Street extension, which will provide access to the Maple Sideroad for York Central Hospital and Don Head Vocational School, may proceed at once. In a committee of the whole meeting, which followed the regular meeting of York Central District High School Board December 16, trustees "used their hearts instead of their heads" to make immediate dedication of a 10 foot strip of land on the east side of the Trench Street road allowance to the Township of Vaughan.

At its meeting December 10, Vaughan Township Council had already made a dedication of a similar strip on the west side of the road allowance. (The highest of the four tenders received by the township was \$39,056.89.)

The school board's decision was prompted by presentation of the hospital board's "case" at the December 16 board meeting. Representing the hospital were Board Chairman Graham Walter and Business Administrator Gary Chatfield. It was pointed out direct access to the Maple Sideroad will be closed off when that road is reconstructed as a four-lane highway by the Toronto and York Roads Commission.

After they had presented their plea for immediate action by the school board, the hospital's representatives were told that that body wanted a guarantee in writing, bearing the signature of a responsible person, that sewage disposal facilities will be available for Don Head School before dedication was made.

However, during the committee of the whole meeting which followed, trustees decided to make the dedication now, rather than jeopardize the planned addition to York Central Hospital.

school board chairman. We've been asked to pull the chestnuts out of the fire and we want to be assured that we will not get our fingers burned." Mr. Honsberger added.

Mr. Peck then explained that since the school board had been informed that the Trench Street extension would not be built, Don Head School had been oriented with access to Vaughan Road. Then the Toronto and York Roads Commission had informed the school board that during reconstruction of Vaughan Road, entrances and exits on that thoroughfare would be closed with access only at the Trench Street intersection.

"This has changed the whole traffic flow at the school and has cost us \$15,000 in extra expenditure. We also understand that you have applied for a "parking ban on Trench."

Mr. Chatfield admitted that such a suggestion had come up but has never been discussed. "The quickest way to tie up the loose ends is to work to a deadline which we now know is December 31. We still have an obligation we must fulfill," Mr. Peck told the delegation. "But we will discuss it later and get back to you within 24 or 48 hours."

In answer to a question by Trustee Margaret South, Mr. Chatfield reported that the \$9,000,000 hospital addition will increase the present 126-bed capacity to 390 beds. He reported full occupancy at present.

Mr. Peck replied, "I know we're going to get sewage." "You're going to get it but have you any place to get rid of it?" questioned Trustee Harold Sanderson. "Who's going to hold up a hospital or a school?" countered Mr. Walter. "We've had promises and promises, but at no time have we had anything in writing. We've been used (both the school and the hospital) as the prime reasons for new sewerage facilities, but so far we have had no assurance that we will receive any benefits," stated Mr. Peck.

Mr. Honsberger added, "When we get those assurances in writing, then you'll get your 10 feet. Why don't you get Vaughan and Richmond Hill to come to us?"

"Trench Street probably doesn't matter too much to the two municipalities," Mr. Chatfield told the school board. "That's the reason for so much dialogue between the hospital and the school boards."

"They've let us do all the dickering. They'll come out on the right end and the hospital and school will come out as anti-everything," commented the

Xmas Bulb Vandals At Work This Year

Christmas tree lights are disappearing from the fronts of Richmond Hill area homes again this Christmas.

One Baker Avenue woman said she has had to replace the bulbs on her front hedge three times in the past 10 days.

"They're stolen so often that it's become funny," she says. "I'm going to take them down if it happens again. I can't keep replacing them."

She claims young children take the bulbs and then smash them to hear them explode.

Several similar incidents have been reported to area police. Last week Markham Township Police nabbed three juvenile bulb snatchers who are believed to be responsible for bulb disappearances in the Thornhill area. They will appear before juvenile court.

See editorial on Page 2 this issue.

Play Santa Claus? Receive Criticism

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That's what town council discovered last week.

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The unnamed merchant said the town shouldn't have removed the ban — even for Christmas.

The reason: He claimed that commuters are taking advantage of the lift in restriction to park their cars and then take the bus to Toronto and their jobs.

Reeve Plaxton emphasized that he had received only one complaint and said he had suggested to the person concerned that if enough people opposed the annual meter-wrapping to make a presentation to council.

He also pointed out that under the present system the "west side of the town, for example, serves us poorly. Under the new system therefore we will be servicing it but not quite so often."

Mr. Marendi said he thought the subsidy should be made up because "with this new service we are creating better service to the public which should be acknowledged."

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Little Local Support Given Striking Metro District High School Students

By MARY DAWSON

Included in the approximately 3,000 secondary school students who stormed Queen's Park and Toronto City Hall Thursday of last week were some 150 students of Bayview Secondary School. The young students, primarily from the junior grades walked out of classes at 9:30 Thursday morning and set off for Toronto to protest the recently announced 10-day extension of the school year.

On their way, the Bayview students detoured to Richmond Hill High School but were able to entice only a handful of students in that institution to join them. This despite the fact, "The Liberal" learned, someone in the group pulled the fire alarm. The 200 then ran around the school, chanting, "Chicken."

Grade 13 students are afraid that the extended school year will prevent them securing summer employment and will give an unfair advantage to the university students, who are available at a date late in May, spokesman for a group of students from Bayview who visited our office on Friday, told "The Liberal."

Claiming that the walk-out at Bayview was a "spur of the moment" thing, with 400 to 500 students leaving their classes, the delegation told us that all but about 200 returned to their classes.

The spokesman also stated that grade 13 students intending to go on to university and grade 12 students intending to attend college must earn \$300 during the summer in order to qualify for student loans. If jobs normally available to them are filled by university students, they may not be able to go on to institutions of higher learning because of lack of funds. They said most of their summer employment opportunities are in drive-in restaurants,

swimming pools, gas stations and factory work with employers wanting summer help for as long a period as possible.

Friday morning when classes were called, all who had been absent Thursday were asked to gather in the cafeteria. Over 250 boys and girls were included in the group. Of these 75 had been absent, approximately 50 had written notes from their parents which were accepted. The rest, about 100, refused or were unable to get written notes from their parents and were refused admission to classes.

The four young people who talked to "The Liberal" were emphatic in their claim that the school principal was demanding that the parents send a written apology for their son's or daughter's conduct. In fact, one boy told us he had taken a letter from his mother, which stated that she knew he had walked out, that she knew where he had been but she did not go to Toronto since his mother had forbidden it and that her son was sorry. This letter, he said, was not accepted.

However, Superintendent Sam Chapman stated that only a regular note was being required from the parents — and an apology from the young people who "rudely" walked out while classes were in progress. Mr. Chapman also questioned the statement that the walkout was "spur of the moment" since the

staff had been forewarned of it. Bayview Principal Arthur Martin told "The Liberal" that by Friday morning "all but five or six" of the students had brought notes from their parents to which they had added their own apologies, which had been the school's requirements for readmission to class.

He said he felt the demonstration about a memorandum from Education Minister William Davis requiring attendance be marked until June 13, 1969, over which the principal and staff had no control was uncalculated.

"It was an upset to the school and an embarrassment to the teachers. I felt an apology was due. I also felt that the 1,212 students who remained in class, had their morning completely upset and pressured to join in the walkout or be accused of being 'chicken', deserved an apology. They had been placed in a most unfair position."

Mr. Martin said that on Tuesday, when he had been asked by representatives of the student body whether they should join the walkout, he told them they would have to make their own decisions, but warned that they must also be prepared to accept the responsibility for their actions.

Other activities. One young lad was found playing pool and others went skating, he said he had been told by parents.

The young students, who had been absent from classes all day Thursday of their own volition, on Friday were expressing deep concern for the pupils who, because parents were not at home, or because they lived at too great a distance from the school, were unable to get a written letter and were being barred from classes for another day.

District Students To Visit Europe

An "adventure in learning" for a group of students in secondary schools in the York Central District is well advanced in planning.

When the spring vacation, 1969, rolls around, 60 students will fly to Great Britain and Europe for a two-week opportunity to learn geography, history and French by observation and study.

Each student will pay his or her own way, will do weeks of preparatory study and will continue to learn as they review their trip and record what they have learned on their return. Most are earning and banking the necessary funds.

The group will be supervised by Russell Reece, master teacher of Geography, who spent some years teaching in London; by Mrs. Gail McLeod, teacher of history at Bayview Secondary and by Norman LeMaire, teacher of French at Thornlea Secondary.

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He stressed that these other more circular routes would be serviced but not as frequently as at the present time because the survey showed the need was not as great in those areas.

"No one will suffer from a loss of service," he emphasized. "In fact it will be just the reverse. We will have a more efficient, speedy service, because of the more direct route."

He stressed that the town wasn't bound indefinitely to the new routes and assured council that "if after a reasonable trial period we find that its not working out we will make the necessary adjustments."

Councillor Hancey insisted the adjustments were too harsh "particularly when all your judgements are made on the basis of a one week survey."

She disagreed with Mr. Mansbridge's emphasis on the speed-up in going from one destination to another.

"This isn't the sole reason for buses being in a municipality. They are here to accommodate the most number of people and this way you are isolating large segments of the town."

Councillor Mansbridge pointed out that one particular benefit under the proposed changes would involve the senior citizens apartments on Dufferin Street.

"The bus will now pass Dufferin and Church Street North corner three times a day and go directly to either of two shopping plazas."

Three basic routes will be set up: The Centre route, Crosby route, and the circle route to accommodate out of the way sections of the town.

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"It would be nice," he said, "but we couldn't afford

Report 4,604 Pupils Area High Schools

Enrolment in York Central District six high schools totalled 4,604 at the end of October, it was reported at the December 16 board meeting. This was down 41 from the enrolment at the end of September.

The number of retirements is almost one per cent, Superintendent Sam Chapman reported, "and this is exceptionally high but is not off pattern from previous years. Half occur at the grade 10 level and another large block at the grade 11 level. We are of the opinion that in many cases students who are over 16 start back to school in the fall in order to qualify for the youth allowance but fail to maintain sufficient interest to continue to attend."

The superintendent also pointed out that the number of retirements at Thornhill Secondary is two per cent of enrolment. A detailed study of these will be made.

Of the total enrolment 1,749 students or 37.94% come from Richmond Hill, 799 or 25.04% from Markham, 1,310 or 32.14% from Vaughan and 225 or 4.88% from Woodbridge.

Enrolment in Bayview Secondary is 1,439, in Langstaff Secondary 771, in Richmond Hill High 574, in Thornhill Secondary 1,000, in Thornlea Secondary 536 and in Woodbridge 284.

There are 1,315 students in grade 9, 1,226 in grade 10, 910 in grade 11, 757 in grade 12 and 396 in grade 13.

New Bell Rates OK - Hill Council

The Bell Telephone Company has a lopsided decision for its new rate increases from Richmond Hill Council last week.

Council voted overwhelming support for the rate increases which will raise rates here from \$6.95 to \$7.15 after an initial drop to \$6.55.

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst said that the expanded calling area would compensate for the rate increase.

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Town Council Is Divided On Merits Of Proposed Changes To Local Bus Routes

A decision to re-adjust Richmond Hill bus routes sparked some lively objections from two members of town council Monday night of last week.

The new routes will go into effect on or about February 1. Revised schedules will be made available to the public outlining the changes at the time.

Objectors were Councillors John MacDiarmid and Lois Hancey who were anything but convinced the change was for the better.

Stoutly defending the survey which suggested the change, as taken by Trailways of Canada Bus Lines, was Councillor Ivan Mansbridge, chairman of the transportation committee and other committee members are Reeve Donald Plaxton

and Councillor William Lazebny.

He said the revised bus route would assure a "faster, efficient, and more economical service. The idea of the survey was to determine where the heavy travelling was taking place and change the schedule accordingly."

Mr. MacDiarmid and Mrs. Hancey argued that the bus was subsidized by the entire town and therefore should be accessible to the majority of the residents.

Councillor Hancey said she was opposed to "preferential treatment being given to any particular section of town as this revised bus route will bring about."

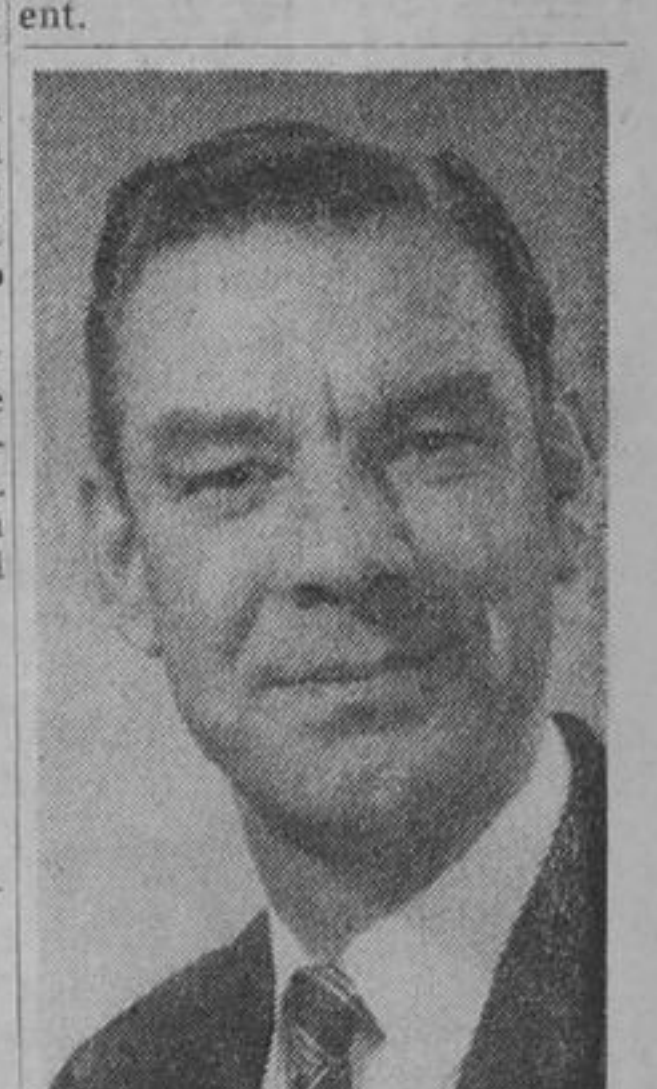
The new bus route will place its heaviest concentration on a triangular-shaped area of town embracing the

Beverly Acres area to the Allencourt Plaza and then to Richmond Heights Centre.

Mrs. Hancey felt the re-routing tended to bypass other areas already serviced and particularly "cuts out Yonge Street except from Crosby Avenue to Richmond Heights Centre and from Centre Street to the same plaza."

Mr. Mansbridge argued that service wasn't being diminished but improved stating that the change would cut ten minutes from the time it now takes to go from the Bayview Avenue area to the Richmond Heights Centre.

"We can accomplish this," he said, "by avoiding the more circular route now in effect."



DOUGLAS HOPSON

To Head Legion

Douglas Hopson scored an upset in the Legion's annual elections held December 16 when he defeated incumbent Frank Barrott. A resident of Palmer Avenue in Richmond Hill Mr. Hopson will be heading Branch 375 during 1969.

Mr. Barrott who has served in the top post for the past seven years was seeking a further term. Active in veterans affairs Mr. Hopson is the former poppy chairman.

For a full report on the Legion election read Eric Chapman's Legion Column which will be found on Page 5 of this issue.

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