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# The Liberal

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VOL. 93, NO. 28. RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1970 HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878 PER COPY 10c

## Regional Government In York County Expect February Announcement — Internal Boundaries Not Decided

## January 14 Guides Take To Air Waves To Celebrate 60th Anniversary



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

### Local Sea Cadets Follow Naval Tradition

Following a naval tradition, the youngest cadet of the local Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps "Patriot" became the commanding officer for the Christmas Dinner held December 22. Thirteen-year-old Darryl Condy, who has been a sea cadet for a year, was the young lad chosen for this honor. He carried off his duties as commanding officer with assurance, giving evidence that the sea cadets develop leadership qualities in their members.

Darryl is seen above on the right with Commanding Officer Lieutenant (N) David Ellison of the corps. Darryl lives on Beaverfoot Road and Lt. Ellison on Maple Avenue.

The face of Ontario will never be the same again, when Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough finishes with his restructuring of municipal governments into regional governments.

Last week Mr. McKeough announced that the Department of Municipal Affairs three weeks ago completed discussions with every municipality in York County and found only the Village of Woodbridge wanting to join Metro. He said that village would like to become part of Etobicoke.

The division of responsibility between a future York County Regional Government and the local civic administrations has been settled, Mr. McKeough said.

Still to be settled, according to the Minister, is the consolidation of several of the 14 York County municipalities and a general realignment of local municipal boundaries, particularly along the Yonge Street corridor.

Richmond Hill Town Council had suggested that the town was the logical growth point for the corridor stretching from Steeles Avenue to the Vaughan-King, Markham - Whitechurch Townline with the eastern boundary at the proposed Highway 407 and the western at a point between Dufferin and Keele Streets.

However, in last week's pronouncement, Mr. McKeough stated: "Yonge Street provides us with one of the worst examples we can find of strip development. Part of the problem could be that Markham Township ends on the east side of Yonge Street and Vaughan Township on the west side. The same condition exists for King and Whitechurch Townships."

Mr. McKeough said placing Yonge Street within one municipality might be a solution. He noted this could involve either a one-mile westerly extension of Markham or a one-mile easterly extension of Vaughan.

Mr. McKeough said only the province and regional government structure would have the resources and ability to establish the pattern of development beyond Metro. He advocated large amounts of green space between Metro and other urbanized areas.

The Minister stated he did not agree with some land owners and civic planners that Metro could provide water and sewerage for Vaughan and Markham Townships before the Ontario Water Resources Commission. It was because of discussions on water and sewerage with Markham and Vaughan that Metro Chairman Albert Campbell recently told "The Liberal" that close planning and political relationships were necessary between Metro and its neighbors. He pointed out that Metro should have some



DARCY McKEOUGH  
Minister Municipal Affairs

control of planning in neighborhood areas so that a sufficient supply of water and adequate sewerage disposal facilities could be made available when and where needed.

The OWRC proposes to provide trunk sewer and water mains across Pickering, Scarborough, Markham and Vaughan townships to take care of projected growth. Richmond Hill and the Town of Markham would also be served by these lines. The OWRC plan is predicated on a supply of water from Metro and a sewerage treatment plant on Lake Ontario.

The plan has been approved in principle by the townships of Markham and Vaughan and with reservations by Richmond Hill. If it is implemented all existing municipal water and sewerage disposal would also be taken over by OWRC without compensation. They would continue to be used until the plan could be implemented.

Estimated cost of water under the OWRC proposal will be 70 cents per 1,000 gallons — at least twice the present cost in the town which would have to be passed on to the consumer. Sewage disposal would also be at a much higher cost.

Acting on the assumption that Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough intends to implement regional government effective January 1, 1971, the committee took exception to the Niagara Region Act which calls for regional councillors to be elected by general vote.

The committee recommended that under York County regional government, the head of the municipality and as many councillors in accordance with population, sit both on the lower tier and the regional tier.

Election at large said Richmond Hill Reeve Donald Plaxton, will mean representation by population, dividing the county into wards which might have to be drawn across municipal boundaries, that the function of the regional council would be different from that of a local council or a county council. It would resemble the ward system as designated by

On January 14, at 7:15 pm, meaningful re-dedication of what the principles of Guiding stand for something that would involve every girl in the Guide movement.

Canada's first Girl Guide Company was founded in St. Catharines, Ontario, in 1910 with 21 members. Today, there are 300,000 members in companies and packs, including those on foreign soil where Guiding is carried on for the daughters of Canadian Armed Forces abroad. There are several Guide Companies and Brownie Packs in Germany.

By the first of January, 120 radio stations from every province, the Yukon and Northwest Territories had agreed to join in the nationwide salute to members and leaders of the Girl Guides and their brother association, the Boy Scouts of Canada.

Locally, the National 60th Birthday Party will be held at Hart House Theatre on the University of Toronto campus.

A pageant including the history of Guiding will be presented before Chief Commissioner Mrs. Victoria Clysdale of St. Mary's, Ontario, members of the executive council of the Girl Guides and members and leaders of Guides and Scouts.

Guides from Willowdale and Brownsleeves from downtown Toronto will participate in musical and dramatic productions, and slides and projections will be used to aid in portraying "The Faces of Our Diamond": "Faces of the Past," "Symbols of the Present," and "Promise of the Future."

Provincial commissioners and members of the national council will be in the audience, and following the performance, members of the Richmond Hill West Girl Guide Association will quickly convert the stage into a buffet setting to provide refreshments, complete with birthday cake for the 500 members of the invited audience.

Local Guides assisting will include Mrs. Jean Babcock of the National Camping Committee, York Area Commissioner Mrs. Marion Currie, and Guides and Scouts from Richmond Hill West.

In approaching the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, said Mrs. Thomson in an interview. "We were trying to find some way of making a

radio tribute to be spoken in Canadian Guiding Communities at 7:15 pm local time will read:

"Tonight we salute the 300,000 Girl Guides in Canada who are marking their Diamond Jubilee across the nation. Let us join them in their sparkling chain and honor their 60 years of service for Canadian girls and wish them many more years of fun, fellowship and adventure."

"In her own way, each girl will be using this time to reaffirm the promise she made at her enrolment."

Mrs. Thomson, who is in charge of production, says the Hart House play will open with the radio salute and end with the birthday party.

The nationwide radio hook-up was arranged, said Mrs. Thomson, following an exploratory chat with John Graham, president of Richmond Hill Radio Station CFGM which will be carrying the program.

Other highlights of the year (Continued on Page 3)



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## Municipalities To Spread Adjustments In School Taxes Over Three Year Period

### Winter Carnival Festival Lights

Don't remove those outdoor Christmas Lights yet!

Richmond Hill's second annual Winter Carnival is scheduled for February 6, 7, and 8 at the Mill Pond, and the carnival committee, headed by Ward 4 Councillor Shaun Beggs, aims to make the Hill a "City of Lights" for the occasion.

Students at the three secondary schools in the area are also getting into the act, and each school, Richmond Hill High, Bayview and Don Head Secondary, are busy selecting their five entries for the Snow Queen competition to take place on February 6.

The students will be out in force within the next week, selling carnival buttons bearing their own school colors. Sale of the buttons will help to finance the three day program, which will include snow-mobbing, skating and other winter sports.

There will be competitions for all ages, even for those who choose to stay at home to put the finishing touches on snow sculptures on their own front lawns.

The snow sculptures will be judged and prizes awarded, but to be eligible, the sculptors must notify the committee of their intention to enter the competition.

The ghost of school years past is still rising to haunt the new York County Board of Education.

At its meeting on December 16, the board was presented with a report of a board of arbitration set up to review the assets and liabilities of the 21 area boards which administered school affairs in the county up to the end of 1968.

Some municipalities ended up with money in the bank while others are faced with substantial deficits which will have to be made up from local tax levies.

The question debated by the board was whether to credit and charge the respective municipalities on their next bill, or to spread the gains and losses over a three year period.

The board of arbitration, Lawyer William Errington, QC, of Newmarket, Charles Boyd, a Newmarket Real Estate agent and Richmond Hill Auditor Stewart Jocelyn CA, took into consideration such things as the surplus or deficit of each former board, lands and buildings not used as schools, vehicles owned, prepaid audit and insurance fees, consumable supplies, reserve funds, teachers' salary adjustments, vacant school sites, tax write-offs, retirement gratuities, capital surplus or deficit, a Vaughan Township Public School Board Hydro account and an Aurora Public School Board legal action.

In the final analysis, some municipalities came out with more than \$199,000 on the credit side of the ledger, while others were as much as \$65,000 in the hole.

One trustee enquired if the board did not have an obligation to question the awards, but Director Sam Chapman assured him,

"This is a judgment and not open to question. There is no higher court to which it may be appealed."

He explained, "This award is a matter of law, and the York County Board of Education has no choice in it."

If the arbiters had not been able to agree, he said, they could have turned the matter over to the Municipal Board for a final decision.

**THREE YEARS TO PAY**  
Although the arbiters had no power to indicate how the money will be recovered or returned to the various municipalities, they did recommend that the board consider spreading the surplus or deficit over a two or three year period to lessen the impact on the taxpayers.

Business Superintendent George Ford pointed out that if large surpluses were credited to the 1970 tax bills, it would make the 1971 levy appear unreasonably high. Conversely, to charge the whole amount of a sizeable deficit to ratepayers in other municipalities would create serious discontent among property owners who would be

bearing the brunt of the deficits built up by the former boards.

The trustees agreed that awards be distributed over a three year period. Meanwhile, Mr. Ford was asked to bring a report to the board showing the impact on the board's budget if the awards were all made in 1970, and if they were spread over three years.

Some of the former boards were left in a bad financial position at the end of 1968 because of commitments for new school sites and buildings, while others built up reserves by selling off unused one and two roomed school houses and cutting back on normal build-up in inventory.

Municipalities will be credited or debited for their share of the costs of maintaining the six district high school boards as well as for the fourteen public school areas.

Three high school districts have money coming back to them: Aurora District High School Board \$19,067, Newmarket District High School Board \$35,290, and York Central District High School Board \$10,308.

**CREDIT EIGHT BOARDS**  
Three others are in the red — Sutton District High School Board \$77,407, Stouffville District High School Board \$18,010, and Markham District High School Board \$69,188.

Eight of the public school boards ended the 1968-69 school year with a credit balance: Aurora \$93,365, East Gwillimbury \$199,963, King Township \$92,381, Town of Markham \$5,424, Markham Township \$165,129.

(Continued on Page 11)

See Editorial on Page 2

It is expected that Mr. McKeough will be presenting his regional government proposals in February, in time to implement them on January 1, 1971, which has been the Minister's target date since the idea of regional government for this county was broached.

Plans for regional government in several areas of the province are maturing, but only in York County has the provincial government been the planning agency. In others commissions have been set up, in Oshawa-Whitby the study is being carried out by local groups

With regional government almost imminent, York County Council is giving careful consideration to area representation on the Regional Council which will replace the present county council.

A debate on the subject was triggered at the December meeting of the county council when the planning committee brought in a recommendation that representatives to the Regional Council be elected indirectly from the area municipalities.

The committee was opposed to the Niagara Region Act calling for regional councillors to be elected by general vote of the county at large, rather than being appointed or elected from area municipalities.

The present county council is composed of the Reeves and deputy-reeves of the various towns, villages and townships in the county.

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Election at large said Richmond Hill Reeve Donald Plaxton, will mean representation by population, dividing the county into wards which might have to be drawn across municipal boundaries, that the function of the regional council would be different from that of a local council or a county council. It would resemble the ward system as designated by

the York County Board of Education.

Board of education trustees are elected by residents of each area, with the number of trustees to be elected depending upon the population of the municipality they will represent. A total of 18 are elected for a two year term.

Aurora, East Gwillimbury, North Gwillimbury, Town of Markham, Newmarket, Stouffville and Whitechurch, Sutton and Georgina all have one trustee on the board.

Richmond Hill and King Township have two trustees, and the townships of Markham and Vaughan have three. One Roman Catholic Separate School supporter is elected to the board from the county at large.

Trustees to the Roman Catholic Separate School Board are elected on an area basis by their local supporters, with (Continued on Page 3)

Both of his sons own their own boats and operate them from Victoria, B.C. Ralph is a commodore of the Turkey Head Yacht Squadron there and Glenn is a rear-admiral.

Next summer Ralph plans a year-long cruise in the South Pacific with his 50-foot sloop and Mr. Higgins and his wife intend to spend the Christmas of 1970 in Tahiti where they will join up with the party.

Mr. Higgins will help sail the boat the 4,000 miles back to Victoria where with two boats to look after and three houses to make furniture for (he's bought a house in Victoria) he will have plenty to keep him busy.

Although he is retired the Thornhill minister expects he will be called upon from time to time to preach during sickness or holidays.

His view of the ministry is that it should fulfil the com-

mandments of Christ, to preach the Gospel, to heal the sick and go about doing good.

"This is the essence of the church's program in the world today and has been for 2,000-odd years," he said. "It was in this fulfillment that I did the work of spiritual healing."

Mr. Higgins believes he is especially endowed to carry out the program of spiritual healing and has trained himself to be sensitively aware of the presence of Christ about "us" now.

He believes that the power of healing that was Christ's can flow through him and heal the physically and emotionally sick of today. He says he has done this several times with success.

After the interview with "The Liberal" Mr. Higgins left his home to go to a hospital on a mission of spiritual healing for a woman suffering from cancer.

## Rev. Albert Higgins Of Thornhill Retires After 40 Years Service In The Christian Ministry

By BOB MacDOUGALL

When Rev. Albert Higgins of Thornhill-Carville United Churches left last month for a month's holiday in Florida and then retirement in Victoria, B.C., the community lost one of its most respected and loved persons.

For many, who now live richer lives because of the "spiritual healing" they received at his initiated special Sunday evening services, it will be a greater emptiness.

For Mr. Higgins it will mark the end of more than 40 active years in the Christian ministry but the beginning of a period when — now free from routine ministerial duties — he can devote more time to pursue his calling of healing the sick through the powers of Christ.

Mr. Higgins assumed the pastorate of Thornhill United in December 1932 coming here from Flust United

Church in Victoria where he had served since 1955.

He looks back with fondness on the years spent in Thornhill; of the 250 baptisms, of the 190 weddings and the 650 new members added to the congregation.

He recalls, too, the challenge of living in a rapidly growing suburban area, the unique fellowship among the ministers of Thornhill and co-operation of the churches.

Under his guidance the debt of Thornhill United has been reduced to \$46,000 from \$114,000. A new half organ has been installed and a program started in 1965 to install eight stained glass windows to tell the story of Christ.

Mr. Higgins also started the men's club at Thornhill United in 1966.

A native of the Maritimes, Mr. Higgins was born in Brookfield, N.S. in 1904. He received his early education there and attended high

school in Truro, N.S. Later he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

After graduating from Dalhousie the young minister-to-be took theology training at Pine Hill Divinity Hall in Halifax and in his graduation year he took top standing in Hebrew, Theology and Public Speaking.

For awhile he preached in North Salem, Uniacke and Rowden Mines in Nova Scotia and on the Labrador Coast.

He returned to Sackville, New Brunswick, in 1931 and was ordained by the Maritimes Conference.

Following ordination Mr. Higgins went to Middleton, N.S., where he assumed his first pastorate at St. John's United Church.

He remained at St. John's for four years moving to Wesley Memorial Church in Moncton, N.B., in 1935. He stayed there until the entry

of Canada into the Second World War when he joined the RCAF with the rank of

Squadron Leader.

For the next two years after his enlistment he was stationed at Summerside, P.E.I., Victoriaville, Quebec and Rockcliffe in Ottawa.

In 1943 he sailed for England where he was appointed chaplain to 410 Night Fighter Squadron, a formation designated to protect London against Luftwaffe attacks.

Mr. Higgins was among the many who returned to England this summer, courtesy of the Armed Forces, for the pilgrimage and reunion of the squadron.

While there he officiated at the memorial service held in Lincoln Cathedral, July 27, in memory of the 87 men of the squadron who were killed in action.

He also officiated at the dedication of the 410 Night Fighter Squadron Crest and given to St. Clements - Danes Church in London, the official Royal Air Force Church of England.

As well he has built 13



REV. ALBERT HIGGINS