



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Family Party At Day Care Centre

Candles glowed on gaily decorated tables, and snowmen spun merrily on mobiles overhead as the children of Richmond Hill Day Care Centre at St. Mary's Anglican Church had their first Christmas Party on December 19.

Brothers and sisters and mothers, and even a few fathers, turned out to enjoy an early supper of sandwiches, cookies and candy before Santa arrived at 6 pm to distribute gifts the youngsters had brought for one another.

The children helped with the decorations, and trimmed the fancy cookies which had been made by Supervisor Mrs. Johanna Kunze. All of the staff put in many extra hours preparing for the occasion.

The centre opened in November and now has 25 children enrolled. Two school girls who hope someday to become nursery school workers serve as part time volunteer helpers, and a former teacher also volunteers some of her time to help supervise the tots. A board of directors appointed by the town council is responsible for administering the centre, which also receives provincial grants as a public day care centre.

Parents pay \$15 a week for the service, but the board is hoping that the day will soon come when it can afford to subsidize children from low income and one parent families.

Fewer County Committees

York County To Drop Education And Assessment

When York County Council re-convenes in 1970 it will have fewer standing committees than it had last year.

At a meeting on December 17, the legislation and bylaws committee of council brought in a list of recommendations regarding the composition and functions of standing committees of council.

Two committees will disappear as standing committees — the assessment committee and the education committee.

In presenting the report, bylaws Committee Chairman Reeve Kenneth Laushway of Stouffville pointed out that since the province has now assumed the responsibility of assessment for the county, there is no need for an assessment committee in York County.

For the same reason, the report declared, the education committee should be deleted as a standing committee.

In other years, when there were numerous area school boards, the county sponsored such special events as oratorical contests and tree plantings, which involved all schools in the county.

Since the county board of education assumed office in January 1969, the committee report declared, "we feel that the responsibility for the organization of an oratorical contest could well be handled, if the board of education so desired, by the warden and commissioners or some other appointed committee."

The report emphasized that it was not suggesting there should be liaison between board of education and county council.

"We are simply stating that we have no legislative authority in the field of education and for these reasons we can see no proper function for a standing committee on education."

Council also approved amalgamation of the reforestation and agricultural committees. "The committee is of the opinion that the number of meetings and the amount of business transacted by each of these committees as individual committees does not warrant two committees, and that the work of both committees could more appropriately be handled by one committee."

The report recommended that the roads advisory committee for 1970 urge the province to take over more suburban and county roads as provincial highways, thus relieving the county of the expense of maintenance. It urged, also, that a needs study be prepared by independent and objective experts to establish priorities for road construction, and that the council's roads advisory committee go after the province for "adequate subsidies" for maintenance of the county roads system.

Council agreed to consider a suggestion that the committee on emergency measures and the police be amalgamated.

The 1970 finance committee will be asked to review the present method of remuneration of council members who now receive \$20 for each committee meeting attended, since some committees have many more meetings than others.

County commissioner and Acting Warden Reeve Clare

Salisbury of Newmarket pointed out that some meetings last for only one half hour. "Committees might have longer meetings and fewer meetings, if they were paid a flat salary," he declared.

East Gwillimbury Deputy-Reeve Gladys Rolling remarked that often there is not a quorum at committee meetings. "If there is no per diem rate of remuneration, this will be worse, not better."

Aurora Reeve Evelyn Buck suggested that a flat salary be paid to members of committees, but that deductions be made for people who do not attend. "There are always backsliders," she said.

Richmond Hill Reeve Donald Plaxton commented that if people backslide in their re-

sponsibilities as members of committee, they should not be re-elected to those committees. Council agreed to leave the question of remuneration in the hands of the 1970 finance committee.

A clause recommending that members of council serving on the York Manor Home for the Aged Committee not be appointed to any other standing committee of council aroused considerable controversy, but was approved by a large majority.

The aim, declared the report, was to equalize the work load among various members of council, and that the York Manor Home Committee was a committee that demanded a great deal from its members. "This is not true," objected

Mrs. Rolling. "It is very unfair to those who might want to serve on other committees as well," observed Markham Township Deputy-Reeve Anthony Rowan.

The bylaws committee also recommended that, before appointing members of council to the various standing committees, it takes into account their membership on any outside boards, such as the health unit, Children's Aid Society and hospital boards.

The committee, said Mr. Laushway, was unanimously agreed that a tightening up of committee structure and the reduction in the number of standing committees, council would be able to operate more efficiently and the work load would be more equally distributed among its members.

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Propose To Advance Tax Dates One Month
 Because new provincial legislation requires municipalities to pay education levies at the end of each quarter, the finance committee (Chairman, Reeve Donald Plaxton) of Richmond Hill Town Council has recommended to the 1970 council that consideration be given to advancing payment dates for tax installments by a minimum of one month.
 This would bring the due dates for the three installments to May 1, July 1 and October 1 — instead of June 1, August 1 and November 1, the present due dates.
 Taxpayers would have until the 20th of the month to pay each instalment before being penalized.
 This plan, if adopted by the 1970 council, would mean a saving on interest charges on money which would have to be borrowed to pay the educational levies, it is contended.
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 J. O. Slingerland, D.P.H.,
 Medical Officer of Health

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