

Southern York County

# Fire Marshall To Probe Recent Fires

The Ontario Fire Marshall's office has been asked to investigate the burning of two vacant houses and a barn last week in Southern York County.

This was the fourth barn burned in the area since January. One fire in a barn off Bayview Avenue near Richmond Hill February 13 killed 22 riding horses and a donkey. Local firemen and the Fire Marshall's office have been unable to determine any cause for these fires.

An unoccupied Thornhill home at 33 Lillian Street, purchased two years ago for \$28,000 by a Richmond Hill grocer, was destroyed by fire February 25.

A vacant two-storey brick house valued at \$16,000 and a vacant nearby barn valued at \$2,000, burned south of Woodbridge on different days — February 28 and March 1.

The Thornhill house fire was reported to the Vaughan Fire Department at 1.11 am by Markham Township Police, who received a call from an unidentified and excited woman. Police speculate it was either a neighbor or a passing motorist. Owner of the home was Luigi Decina of 84 Elgin Mills Road West, grocer at 44 Levedale Road, Richmond Hill. He told "The Liberal" he first heard of the fire when he returned later in the morning from a trip to a downtown Toronto produce market.

Two pumper fire trucks and an aerial ladder truck answered the call, but were unable to save the two-bedroom frame dwelling. The fire was too far advanced when firemen arrived.

Mr. Decina says he has been asked by police to knock down the remains of the building for

safety reasons for neighborhood children, but cannot do so. The insurance company says he must leave it for a little while. He has put a danger sign on it now.

High fire insurance totalled \$12,600, which he says won't be nearly enough to replace the building. It was about 10 or 15 years old, he says, and the tenants left three or four months ago. It hadn't yet been rented again. He bought the home for an investment.

At 3.08 pm February 28 Vaughan Firemen sent two pumpers and a tanker truck to a farmhouse fire at the dead end of 8th Avenue, south of Woodbridge, Lots 3 and 4, Concession 7.

They were unable to save a vacant two-storey brick house belonging to Pilgrim Properties Ltd., 9 Lakeshore Road East, Port Credit. The fire chief valued the damage at approximately \$16,000. The building was completely gutted. This firm also owned one of the other vacant barns burned earlier this year.

The same fire equipment was sent back to the same farm the next day, March 1 at 3.08 pm. This time a vacant barn valued at approximately \$2,000 was totally gutted. There was no obvious connection between the two fires, which occurred in an isolated location likely to be frequented only by snowmobiles. The second fire report came through the Vaughan Police Department.

Thursday, Feb. 26 Vaughan Firemen were called to the CN Railroad Concord Yard and ex-

tinguished a fire believed caused by a cigarette in a parked car at 11.04 am. Damage was estimated at about \$100. The owner of the car was not immediately located.

A false alarm pulled accidentally by a patient brought firemen to the Maple Nursing Home on Keele Street north of Maple at 7.04 am February 24. In Richmond Hill, firemen were called February 27 at 9.03 pm to an automobile fire on Markham Road.

A spark was blamed for igniting gasoline on the engine of a car driven by 17-year-old Vincent Majauskas of 30 Church Street South. He was being pushed by a car driven by his father Stanley Majauskas. They were trying to get the car started.

The father and son tried to smother the flames with a shirt and coat, and then were aided by a passing motorist with a blanket. They managed to get the fire out before the firemen arrived.

Mr. Majauskas said the car would have probably been destroyed if the fire had lasted a minute longer. As it was, only the engine wiring, distributor and coil appeared to be damaged.

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Sunday, March 1 at 7.45 am, town firemen were called to the home of Frank Skilich, 150 Elmwood Avenue, where gasoline had leaked from a car in the attached garage.

The furnace was shut off to prevent any possibility of fire in the basement, where some of the gasoline fumes had penetrated.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

## Neill Datsun Ltd. Makes First Local Sale

That young Caterina and Elaine Gold are delighted with their father's new car is evident from their approving smiles in the above picture. Ian Neill (left above) of Neill Datsun Ltd. hands over the keys of the first Datsun sold by the new agency in Richmond Hill to Dr. Gerald Gold (right).

Mr. Neill who has extensive experience in the automotive field, recently established his Datsun agency at the Summit north of Richmond Hill.

## Help Crippled Children

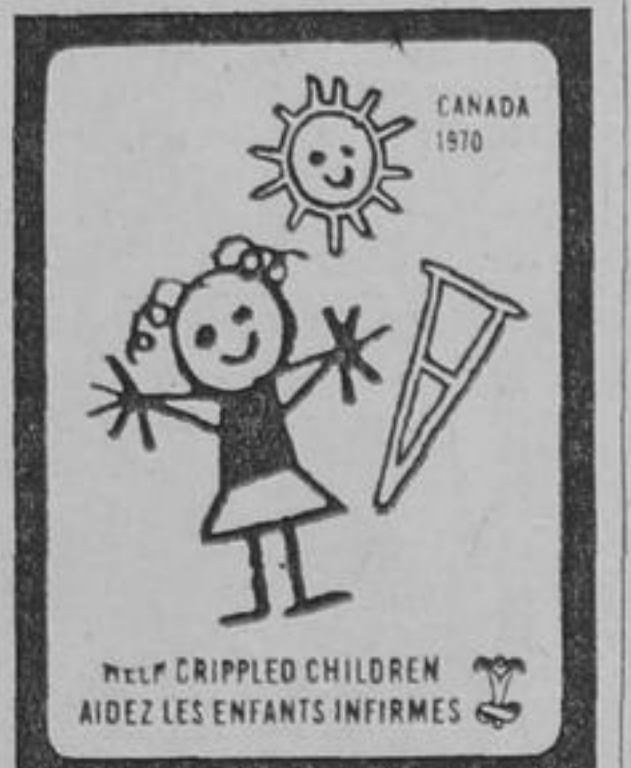
An Easter Seal won't take a letter through the post office to your friends. It can't be redeemed for "free" gifts or exchanged for ready cash. All it can do, and will do, is bring a smile to the face of a handicapped youngster.

As in the past, the campaign will be conducted through the mail by Richmond Hill Lions Club under the chairmanship of Lion Bill Rice. This year the Lions are seeking \$3,000 in donations by Easter Sunday. Richmond Hill residents have supported this appeal generously in past years and the Lions expect that they will continue to give as generously.

The club conducts the campaign in conjunction with the Ontario Society for Crippled Children and half the funds raised is retained by the club for the direct benefit of needy crippled children in this area. "This money," said the club campaign chairman, "enables us to assist the children and their parents in a great many ways, including help in purchasing artificial limbs or other equipment such as wheelchairs and braces, transportation to and from camps and, if required, help in paying camping fees."

"The balance of the funds raised here goes directly to the Ontario Society for Crippled Children. There they are used to support the handicapped youngsters in this province through one of the world's most comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation programs."

The society, he said, maintains 21 district nursing offices,



staffed by 37 specially trained public health nurses.

The service is one of the most extensive anywhere in the world and enables the society to keep in direct and constant touch with the more than 14,000 crippled children in Ontario.

Local Lions, working with Mr. Rice, also maintain a close and direct contact with the youngsters of this area and their parents.

In this way they are able to provide the society with a continuing and personalized report on each child and to ensure that everything possible is being done to give them their rightful place in the community.

"Spring traditionally represents the season of hope," commented Mr. Rice as he urged every resident to mail their contributions to the club in the envelopes provided and to use the seals on their Easter mail. "For a crippled child, hope means a donation to the Easter Seal campaign."

## County Budget Rejects Blue Hills

(Continued from Page 1)  
Council agreed to Reeve Nasello's suggestion that the proposed grants of \$10,000 to Union Villa and Blue Hills be put into the "surplus fund" and the needs of these institutions be given further study.

Capital cost of building the cottage-style Blue Hill Academy complex now under construction on the CFB Sideroad is estimated at \$346,200.

Allotment to the Children's Aid Society was increased from \$132,342 in 1969 to \$149,900 for 1970, but members of council serving on the society's board of directors argued that an additional \$17,600 will be needed to meet increased costs of providing foster homes and services to the children.

Mrs. Rolling made repeated pleas that at least \$7,500 be reinstated in the budget submitted by the society. This she said represented the cost of operating a receiving home for children until foster homes could be found. The average stay in the receiving home, she declared was from one to four days, and that its continued operation was absolutely essential.

Reeve Nasello told her that it was up to the directors of the society to decide where the cuts would be made, that his committee was not dictating areas of service.

It was suggested that items considered surplus in the society's budget were mainly in administration, and Reeve John McLean of Woodbridge commented that he did not see the need for paying members of the volunteer board \$20 per meeting.

Mrs. Buck charged that the board of directors is too large, that the 20 members have "committees and committees and committees. They are falling over themselves."

The province pays 72.7 percent of the society's operation, the county the remaining 27.2 percent.

He did not question the good the society is doing, declared Mr. Nasello, adding that if the directors are not happy with the county's decision it can go before a board of review.

Markham Reeve Stewart Rumble objected to the \$44,000 the finance committee had cut from the budget of the York-Oshawa Health Unit. The unit gets grants of 80 per cent from the province, so the county's share of the cut would be \$10,796, he said.

The finance committee had recommended an increase on the unit's allocation from \$183,290 in 1969 to \$196,100 for 1970.

Mr. Rumble argued that a \$6,000 contingency item in the unit's budget was valid, that they might have to pay rent for office space in Oshawa until quarters in the Oshawa General Hospital were ready for use. He pointed out that Oshawa picks up a share of rent for offices in Richmond Hill, Sutton and Stouffville.

Other items considered surplus by the finance committee were also valid, he declared, but his motion to reinstate the county's \$10,796 share of the amount cut from the unit's budget was defeated.

Grants to York County Branch mental health association for \$2,000, Salvation Army \$2,000, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, \$1,000, Queen's York Rangers \$500, and York Pioneer and Historical Society \$300 are the same for 1970 as they were last year and were not challenged.

Council approved a new grant of \$1,000 to the Lake Simcoe Tourist Association, and the Victorian Order of Nurses will get \$20,000 — \$5,000 more than in 1969.

## Trustees Oppose Extension Grant System Grade 13 Separate Schools

Public School supporters on York County Board of Education are unanimously opposed to extension of the Roman Catholic Separate School system to the grade 13 level.

At its meeting on February 9, the board deferred comment on a brief from the Ontario Public School Trustees' Association, which opposed grants for separate secondary schools, stating "a unified secondary system in Ontario is more compatible with the integrated economic and cultural context of our Canadian society."

At the following meeting of the board on February 23, Roman Catholic representative Trustee Conrad Thompson of Richmond Hill brought in further information to substantiate separate school supporters' requests for provincial grants for Roman Catholic Secondary Schools, but he got no support from the rest of the board.

In his presentation Mr. Thompson pointed out that the separate school system is authorized under the British North America Act to operate an educational system in Ontario, but that provincial grants for separate schools are not available beyond grade 10 level.

Separate schools in York county do not go beyond grade 8, but a number of Roman Catholic students are bussed to Metro for grades 9 and 10. However, said Mr. Thompson, many parents prefer to enrol their children at the grade 9 level in the public secondary schools rather than have them make the change at grade 11, interrupting the continuity of their education.

Approval of the OPSTA brief, he said, would cripple the separate school system and lead to virtual collapse of the public schools in Northern Ontario.

Although all secondary school taxes go directly to the public school boards, he declared, some 32,611 pupils in Ontario were attending Roman Catholic high schools in September, 1968, yet were deriving no benefits from public secondary taxations.

"If the Catholic high schools were non-existent, some \$20 million more would have to be raised from public taxation to educate these children."

The proportion of pupils proceeding from grade 8 to grade 9 in separate schools is decreasing, although, since 1960 the separate school population has increased by some 44.7 percent.

Although the board rejected Mr. Thompson's motion that no action be taken on the brief from the OPSTA, their final decision to support the principle of a "unified secondary school system" made no mention of the brief.

Motions and amendments preceded the final decision. Markham Township Trustee John Honsberger moved the board approve the brief in principle, pointing out that private universities have had to change their charters because it was too expensive to maintain a dual system.

"It is a luxury for a country to have two systems of education," said Mr. Honsberger.

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## COMING EVENTS

**MILLWOOD Recreation Ltd.**  
Open swimming at Slater's Indoor Pool, Don Mills Rd. at Vancourt, Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. **tc16**

**MARCH 7, Saturday, 2 pm.** — The Library Club of R.H.H.S. presents film "Caught In The Net", also serial, part 6. Admission 30c. or season ticket. **clw36**

**MARCH 11, Wednesday, 8 pm.** — Richmond Hill Chapter IOOE, Annual Hyacinth Bridge, Summit View Gardens Restaurant, \$1.75 per person. For tickets call Mrs. Verico, 834-3276. **clw36**

**MARCH 12 — Friday, 7 pm.** — Thornhill United Church, Dudley Street, White Elephant Auction. All proceeds for Canadian Indian project. **nc36**

**MARCH 13 Friday.** — Bridge and Euchure at Our Lady Queen of the World Church, Bayview and Crosby. 8.15 pm. Refreshments and Draw. **e2w36**

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Mental Health Association in York County will be held Tuesday, March 17th, 1970 in the Don Head Secondary School, Vaughan Road, Richmond Hill. Guest speaker: Dr. Quentin Rae-Grant, Professor of Child Psychiatry, University of Toronto, and Psychiatrist-in-charge at the Hospital for Sick Children will address the audience on the subject: **THE COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCK IT TO WHOM?** A preceding coffee-party from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. The public is welcome. **clw36**

**ONE NIGHT ONLY**  
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