

### Honor Lady Golfer's 50 Years At Summit

Mrs. Maurice Clawson of Toronto is the only original lady member, is celebrating her 50th year at the Summit Golf and Country Club, Jefferson.

Mrs. Clawson, the former Aileen Marks, has been granted a life membership to the club by the board of directors.

It was in the spring of 1920 that Mrs. Clawson became the

## Danson Willing To Concede Changes In White Paper Needed

By BARNEY DANSON MP, YORK NORTH

I have never seen a reaction as massive and general as that to the White Paper on Tax Reform. It is for such reaction that White Papers are submitted to the public and Parliament, a process introduced by this government on almost all major considerations. In my opinion, particularly insofar as taxes are concerned, it is far better than announcing tax changes in a budget at 6:00 pm on a Friday night, after which we "take gas" over the weekend and start to live with them Monday morning.

Any tax change is going to upset people. No change is going to be ideal, or please everyone. No broad program of changes which can affect our economic and social development so very much can, or should, be made without the fullest possible discussion by those affected. I'm convinced it is good government and good democracy. Whether or not it is good politics is questionable. This will depend on the constructiveness of the criticism and the reaction of the government.

As a member of the parliamentary committee studying the White Paper, questioning the government officials and receiving the public briefs, I have a particular responsibility. The committee is comprised mostly of businessmen, with the balance being lawyers, accountants, a doctor, an economist and an academic. These are men with broad experience and ability who are especially equipped to do this job responsibly.

The only instructions those of us on the government side have received from Mr. Benson and the Prime Minister are to examine the proposals, explain them, hear suggestions and criticisms and try and improve upon it in our report to Parliament. We have never been asked to accept it, nor to sell it.

We have been told by the Minister himself that nothing is especially sacred. That any proposal is subject to change as long as the final package results in sufficient revenue to meet the government's budgetary responsibilities. In other words, if we recommend a change that reduces revenues, we must find another way to match these reductions. It is not intended to increase revenues but to make the tax system more equitable. To relieve those in the lower income groups of taxation wherever possible, eliminate abuses and unwarranted special privileges.

Some people have called this socialism but that is not my understanding of socialism. If taking people who are living below the so-called poverty line off the tax rolls is socialism, I plead guilty. If it means that old-age and disability pensioners, with little or no supplementary income, will not pay federal income tax, I'm a socialist. Special allowances for working mothers, special allowances for workers' tools and clothing are not socialist measures in my opinion.

On the other hand, I want to look into several areas in the proposals which I think could be inhibiting to the spirit of enterprise and growth in this country, and others which I believe to be unworkable, or not worth the administrative machinery in government or the trouble of the taxpayer.

As a member of the committee, it would be wrong to prejudice these, or indicate in detail just what these may be without the benefit of the hearings. They will be pretty obvious to most and have already been given public attention. If this makes me a capitalist, then I plead guilty to that too.

I can say, however, that the areas I want to give special consideration to are: (1) The five year revaluation of shares in widely held corporations; (2) The differentiation between widely and closely held corporations; (3) The split rate of tax on corporations; (4) The rather too broad approach to business expenses and conventions; (5) The capital gains tax on one's residence and personal valuables; (6) The "Double Whammy" (i.e., the combined effect of the estate and capital gains taxes).

The objective I seek, and I believe I reflect the attitude of my colleagues both on and off the committee is — a fair tax system related to desirable social objectives in a free, responsible and compassionate society. This, in an expanding, internationally competitive economy, with opportunity for individual enterprise and fulfillment. That's no easy job, particularly when the only taxes we like are those the other fellow pays.

I welcome most of the public involvement that is taking place. I regret, however, that in some cases it has developed into a hysteria that has brought out the worst and most selfish instincts of many. I realize that some proposals strike at values many of us consider sacred.

Some of these may be sacred and some are not. There have been distortions, accusations and even threats. Those which affect me, and my colleagues, are those which are specific, those which are constructive and those which are rational.

My mail has been particularly heavy, as you can imagine. Regrettably, our limited facilities do not enable me to reply to each letter in the detailed manner to which I think you are entitled. I urge you, however, to write to me expressing your views. Each letter is read and is helpful to me, as are the many detailed briefs presented. Simply demanding my opposition to the White Paper in total is neither realistic nor constructive — particularly when accompanied by threats that the writer will not vote for me.

Certainly, it is your right to decide whether or not to vote for me in the next election but don't expect me to make serious judgements on the basis of how many votes are in it for me. I am for a better tax system and I intend to assume my responsibilities within the context I have outlined above.

## Make "Immigrants" Pay For New Schools — MacKay

If school boards start levying lot fees on new buildings it will stop all development in the county, charged Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth at a meeting of York County Board of Education and municipal council representatives in Markham February 11.

"We cannot support you in any way, shape or form," Mr. Illingworth told Board Chairman John MacKay. "You will do away with all our problems because we will not have any new development."

He agreed that education is a service, but it does not serve all citizens in the same way as roads, sewers, and garbage collection do. The cost of education, said Mr. Illingworth, should come out of income tax.

Mr. MacKay pointed out that the subject of the meeting was to try to come to some way of dealing with the problem of financing education now. The county will need \$20 million for new schools in the near future, but has an allotment of only \$8 million. The province is gradually increasing operating grants to school boards from 40 percent of cost in 1968 to 46 percent in 1969, and that Education Minister William Davis has assured the boards grants will be increased to 60 percent, but the county will also need new schools for a growing population.

Meanwhile the property owner must make up the difference, and it is not fair to expect the long-time resident, the farmer and the retired people living on fixed incomes to pay for new schools for "immigrants" to the county.

"The money has to come from somewhere, and without some other source of capital funds we can't build schools to serve the new subdivisions that are being planned."

Markham Township Trustee Louise Aimeone pointed out that education does serve all the people. Education is necessary for development of the economy and the community.

Eleven of the 14 municipalities in the county were represented at the meeting in Markham District High School on February 11, and trustees from all of the municipalities, as well as senior administrative staff were on hand to make presentations and answer questions.

All mayors, reeves, councillors in the county had been invited, and only the Townships of King and Georgina and the Village of Woodbridge were not represented, although it was a very stormy night and driving conditions were very bad.

MAKE SUBDIVIDER PAY

There are only a limited number of dollars, said Mr. MacKay, and when that limit is reached there will be no more money for schools. "You cannot have subdivisions if you can't have schools."

The cost of land is increasing out of proportion because some developers are making a "nice fat fee" out of land they have done nothing with, said the board chairman. They pay \$7,000 an acre, then try to charge the board \$40,000.

He proposed a \$923 lot fee for educational purposes. The present debt for education now amounts to about \$450 on a home assessed at \$5,000. But this, said Mr. MacKay, should not be charged to the new resident. He proposed that this sum be subtracted from the \$1,873 increased cost of school construction per dwelling unit.

The board has set up a committee to study the best way of financing new schools and additions that would be needed to accommodate pupils coming from new developments, and five alternatives had been suggested:

(a) The compulsory dedication of school sites to the board by subdividers, possibly in conjunction with park dedication.

(b) Ability of the school board to levy its own lot or suite fees.

(c) Receipt by school board of a portion of the lot or suite fees received.

(d) The persuasion of subdividers to provide a site at no cost to the board.

(e) The ability of the board

to impose special levies.

Suggestion (c) was rejected, said Mr. MacKay because all 14 municipalities would have to agree before it could be feasible. "The committee finally recommended that the board should seek legal status which would provide it with the power to levy its own dwelling unit fees."

This would not only give the board better methods for obtaining the land it needs, but it would decrease the capital debt for new schools now carried, by people who are long time residents of the county, who have born and will continue to bear the cost of constructing and operating existing schools.

As long as the board has the responsibility of levying its own taxes, it must also have the power to levy its own "dwelling unit fees," Mr. MacKay told the meeting. In this way, too, people would know what they were paying for in educational and municipal costs.

EVERYONE PAYS

Replying to a question from Markham Township Deputy-reeve Tony Roman, Education Director Sam Chapman said one acre is needed for every 100 students, but the proportion of land needed depends on the type of development — single family homes or townhouses and apartments. On the average, he said, developments produce 500 to 600 students per 100 acres.

A small development of 20 units would not need a school site, and in this case the developer would pay cash in lieu of a school site.

Vaughan Township Councillor Louis Wainwright protested that in his municipality there is a lot levy of \$2,000 before a person can dig a basement. It will soon be impossible for the average person to buy a home, he declared.

"If the money does not come from the new subdivisions, it has to come from all the taxpayers," Mr. MacKay pointed out. "The one who is going to use the new school is the one who should pay for it."

He asserted that protestations that added costs for schools would stop development were "a myth."

Newmarket Councillor Robert Forhan suggested that existing schools might be operated on shifts to save money. If costs of homes continue to go up, he declared, many young people may never become home owners.

Mayor Illingworth accused the board of "trying to pull the wool over everybody's eyes," then volunteered to hold up approval of new subdivisions for three months to give the board an opportunity to negotiate for school sites. He also offered the services of his council as arbitrators.

The board already has such an arrangement with many municipalities, said Mr. MacKay. "They have been very co-operative." The rub comes, he continued, when developers put clauses in the agreement that make it possible for them to back out, "and we are caught on the hook."

it would be "bad public relations" if taxes in a municipality took a sudden drop one year and a big jump the next. Under the circumstances, he pointed out, there is little the board can do.

Whitchurch Trustee Arthur Starr, vice-chairman of the board, outlined the new assessment set-up which has shifted educational and other municipal costs from industrial and commercial assessment, increasing the levy on residential and farm properties.

In 1969, residential and farm assessments were about 75 percent responsible for, but in 1970 their share will be more than 80 percent.

School boards and councils will probably be accused of increasing costs, said Mr. Starr, but the increased levy on homeowners really reflects the fact that they are being compelled to pay a larger proportion of the costs of local education and government.

He also predicted dramatic changes in the mill rate as a result of the new appointment of costs among the various municipalities.

"We are prepared to isolate changes resulting from additional expenditures from changes which result from different distribution," declared Mr. Starr, adding, "We know that with the good press coverage your council meetings get you can help this understanding by the comments you make."

AGREE TO DISAGREE

In the interest of good public relations, Richmond Hill Trustee Deena Simpson asked how the board could improve communications with municipalities. "An exchange of information is vitally important, and only an understanding of what we are trying to do will alleviate the fears of the public," said Mrs. Simpson.

The board has had five conferences, and has sent regular news releases and copies of the minutes of all meetings to all municipal councils. "What more can we do to keep you informed?"

She added that, "Up to now you have communicated with us chiefly through the county newspapers, and what we read is sometimes rather surprising to us. . . . We are all working for the same people. How do you want us to communicate? More news releases, minutes, reports? More meetings of this sort?"

Mr. Illingworth suggested a spring and fall meeting with background material and agenda supplied in advance.

"There is not necessarily friction because we do not agree," he declared.

Mr. MacKay agreed. "We would be a pretty dead bunch if we did not disagree."

It was suggested by various municipal representatives that it would help if board members attended more meetings of municipal councils. They were told the board meets on Monday nights, a favorite meeting night for councils, home and school associations and other groups who want to hear from the trustees.

"We agreed that the board will hold no meetings on the first week of each month so that we will be available for municipal and other meetings," said Mr. Starr.

It was pointed out that there are 14 municipalities and only 18 trustees, and that all trustees serve on several board committees as well as representing the board at various meetings in their own areas.

Deputy-reeve Roman suggested a working committee to deal with planning and other matters of mutual concern. "We need to sit around a table and hammer things out."

WANT POOLS - ARENAS

There were some laurels as well as brickbats. Mr. Illingworth commended the board on its policy regarding use of schools. Working with recreation committees, he said, the community is getting better use of schools. He also commented on plans for construction and co-operative use of a swimming pool in the proposed addition to Aurora District High School.

"I don't know where we will get \$40,000 to pay for construction of the pool, but until we have some form of regional government we will have to meet these problems on an individual basis."

Councillor William Steele of East Gwillimbury suggested that the board might co-operate

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## Richmond Hill Curling Club

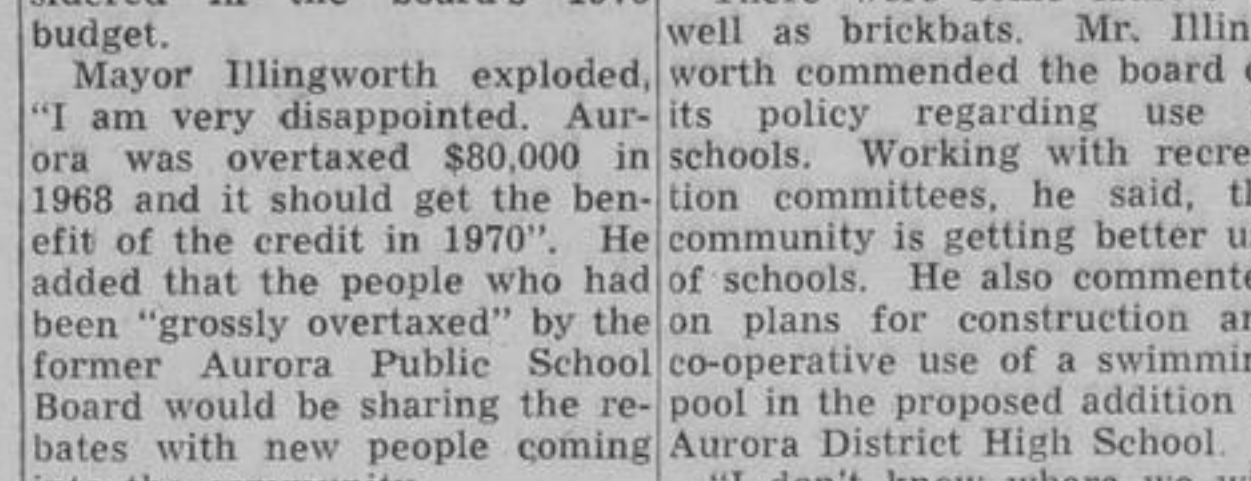
**Coneybeares And Morlocks Top Winners Highland Bonspiel**

Due to the Imperial Life finals being held at the club, not much local news is available. However, the out of town curlers continue to report.

Last week, Irwin and Jean Coneybeare with Gerry and Gina Morlock ventured north and captured the main trophy in the five game Highland Bonspiel. Strangely enough they had to defeat another Richmond Hill rink in their final game. This time it was the rink of Frank and Ruth Ellison with Ross and Muriel Clark. There is also some story circulating concerning a walk that Jean and Gina took across the lake.

Jack Shropshire continues on his winning ways with another victory at the Glen Brier Club at Waterloo. Although Jack and his rink of Dianne Whittaker, Harry Trivett, and Marj Sahrd did not earn enough points to win first prize, they apparently won their share of draw prizes and all rinks were awarded some sort of prize. Top prize went to a rink from the Boulevard Club.

The business girls' bonspiel at the club was also won by a Boulevard Club rink, but Eileen Garrett and her rink of Marion



## Town of Richmond Hill

The Richmond Hill Parks & Recreation Board will accept applications for the following positions for their 1970 Summer Playgrounds:

1. Playground Director
2. Senior Leaders
3. Assistant Leaders
4. Leaders in Training

Salaries will be based on qualifications. Please send applications by March 31st, 1970 to

Alan White  
Parks & Recreation Administrator  
56 Yonge Street N.  
Richmond Hill, Ontario.