

The Liberal

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Angry Vaughan Ratepayers To March On Queen's Park

By MARY DAWSON

A march on Queen's Park to support their demands for relief from the inequitable burden of taxation placed on residential property in Vaughan Township was given unanimous approval by more than 400 angry ratepayers in Maple Community Centre Monday evening.

The matter of a tax strike was left for decision to a meeting called for April 24 at 8 pm in the Joseph Gibson School, Naylon Street, Maple. All ratepayers in the township are invited to attend this meeting.

Vaughan Township Council had agreed to hear a delegation of 40 ratepayers from the Crestwood Road area at a special session at 8 pm Monday evening in the council chamber of the township building. As the scheduled hour came, the chamber which can accommodate only about 75 people was packed to capacity. An equal number of people were packed into the lobby of the building and as many more were gathered outside the main door and more still in the parking area. Arrangements were quickly made to transfer the meeting to the community centre. By the time proceedings got under way at 8:40 every one of the 400 available chairs was occupied and other ratepayers stood throughout the two hour session.

At a meeting April 18 attended by approximately 100 residents, Vaughan Township taxpayers appointed a committee of seven to ask council why residential property taxes have risen so astronomically. Chairman of the committee, Anthony Reale, Crestwood Road, acted as spokesman. He was assisted by former Reeve Brian Bailey of Birch Avenue, who is acting as a consultant. Other members of the committee are: Secretary Don Bailey, Treasurer Larry Price, Alex Openshaw, Anthony Canale, Neil DeProfio and W. H. Francis.

Points raised with council by Mr. Reale were:

1. Postponement of interim realty tax levy due May 1, 1970.
2. Assurance that residential property is assessed properly and that land designated as agricultural, but not used for agriculture, is assessed at its true value and not as agricultural land.
3. Assessment was done by the county, which also appointed the courts of revision. Where is the fair hearing?

North Terminal GO Transit

William Hodgson MLA, York North government representative in York County, announced 2 developments this week of special interest to area residents. Both concerned the field of transportation.

Queen's Park has taken a further step regarding the promised establishment of a northern GO transit system linking the county with Metro. They have purchased the former five acre Art Close auto dealership site just outside of Newmarket as the northern terminal for the Gray Coach and railway service.

At the same time Mr. Hodgson announced that the Dot Construction Company and the Clarkson Construction Company have been awarded a \$2,416,363 provincial government contract for the grading, drainage, granular base and paving of Yonge St. as part of the planned reconstruction of this main thoroughfare extending from Bedford Park Avenue in Richmond Hill to just south of Aurora. Work is to commence on May 1.

The reeve agreed with this statement, pointing out again that assessment was made by the county assessment commissioner and his staff who arranged a series of meetings throughout the county to explain the method of assessment and its impact on taxpayers. However, since assessment notices had not yet been received by the taxpayers, little interest was shown in this meeting. "I've forgotten whether it was one or three ratepayers who turned out at the meeting held in Langstaff School," he reported.

7. There is no formula for reducing assessment where there are no sales, was another committee claim.

Burden Shifted To Homeowner

Reeve Williams laid the blame for the increased burden on the residential taxpayer squarely on the shift of assessment from industry to residential. He pointed out that more than 70 industries had settled in Vaughan in the last six years. They were not complaining about their assessment.

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Markham - Vaughan To Amalgamate Towns And Village Also Invited



Seniors Honor Stan Wood

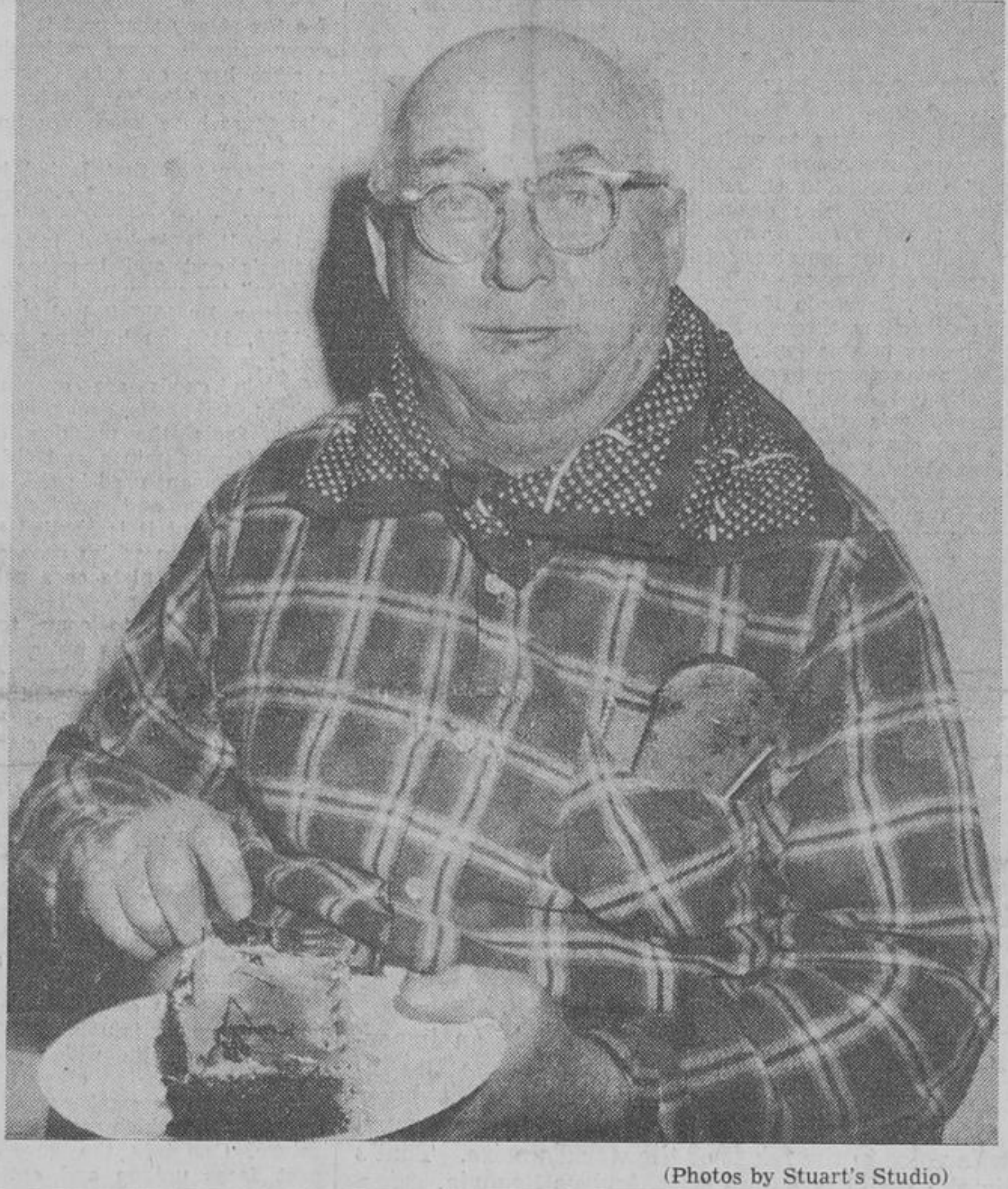
It was a very happy 75th birthday for Stan Wood (left) lifelong resident of the Carrville area, when fellow members of the Richvale Senior Citizens honored him with ice cream and a birthday cake at their April 1 meeting. Included among the guests were Mr. Wood's daughter, Mrs. Frances Purves. Mr. Wood is shown about to enjoy a giant serving of birthday cake.

The "April Fool" theme was carried out when Mr. Wood found it impossible to blow out some of the flaming candles on his birthday cake.

The seniors had decided to change the format of the meeting for this day coming in costume and carrying refreshments in lunch boxes for a "hardtime" party. Mrs. M. "Gramma" Bailey dressed as a train engineer and Mrs. Elena Karpus (top) were among the prizewinners for costumes. Mrs. Karpus and her husband Peter appeared in traditional Lithuanian costumes and both were awarded prizes.

Other prize winners included Mrs. Alice Duckworth, Edith Marnef, Reitta Alexander, Winnie Tonks, Alice Jordan and Ina Lan.

We trust that Mrs. Bailey had something a little more edible than slippers in her lunch box — or perhaps she was just prepared for "a big shoe!"



(Photos by Stuart's Studio)

November Richmond Hill Police Raid Results In Hashish Convictions

Wayne Kelly, 21, 402 Markham Road, Apartment 101, and Thomas Hough, 20, of 32 Burnley Court, Downsview, were convicted Monday afternoon of hashish possession.

They are to be back Friday in Richmond Hill Criminal Court to be sentenced by Provincial Judge William Camblin.

On that day Kelly also still faces a further separate charge of possessing cannabis resin (hashish) and a charge under the Food and Drug Act.

Kelly and Hough pleaded not guilty and were represented by Lawyers Alfred Stong and Donald Plaxton.

During the trial town police told the court about the night of November 26 in Richmond Hill.

Town Police Constable John Moorhead told of making a telephone call to a number that had been obtained, 884-3116. He was answered by a female voice and asked for Wayne.

male person came and answered. Constable Moorhead said he was Steve Burke, and wanted to buy some hashish.

The male voice asked how much was wanted.

Constable Moorhead replied, "a dime bag." A dime bag was later described by a former RCMP undercover narcotics agent as \$10 worth of hashish on the illicit drug market.

The telephone call had been made from the police station at 8:30 pm and they arrived at the lane leading to the apartment at 8:40 pm. They proceeded on foot, met a car coming out, yanked the doors open, arrested and handcuffed Kelly and Hough.

The "dime bag" of cannabis resin was later found between the front seats of the car and more illegal drugs were found in the apartment when it was searched, the court was told.

Found in the apartment, police said, were John Flannigan of Richmond Hill, now in jail

for an offence involving drugs; Joseph Brancatelli who identified himself as a resident of the place; George Lenneville of Ferguson Avenue, Lake Wilcox, and the now Mrs. Diane Kelly. Hough and Kelly denied knowledge of Constable Moorhead's telephone call and denied knowledge of the presence of the "dime bag".

Kelly denied ever using illegal drugs, but Hough admitted smoking marijuana half a dozen times last summer.

Judge Camblin found the two accused guilty. He said he didn't believe any of the evidence given by Kelly and Hough.

Douglas Rutherford, Crown Attorney prosecuting drug offences, said Kelly had a record of causing a disturbance.

Constable James Tait, member of the RCMP Toronto Drug Squad and for six months an undercover narcotics agent, gave expert evidence in the case.

In February, 1969 she presented a resolution calling for the establishment of a Southern Six municipality to a meeting attended by representatives of all six municipalities. The motion was approved by that meeting, but failed to get support in any of the six municipal councils.

Markham Township Council at its regular meeting Monday evening unanimously voted to give first and second reading to a bylaw authorizing an application to the Municipal Board for an order of amalgamation.

All members of council were present. It was the same bylaw Vaughan Township Council approved earlier in the day.

Markham Reeve Stewart Rumble added that Stouffville, Markham Town, Richmond Hill Town and the Village of Woodbridge are earnestly invited to join in the amalgamation.

Monday afternoon Vaughan Township Council gave two readings to a bylaw calling for the amalgamation of the Townships of Markham and Vaughan. A similar bylaw was scheduled for consideration by Markham in the evening.

Arrangements have been made to hold a special council meeting in the auditorium of Langstaff Secondary School on the evening of April 28, at which the councils of both townships will discuss with representatives and ratepayers of both municipalities the merits of amalgamation, and if reaction is favorable, both councils will give third reading and final approval to the bylaws.

At the insistence of Councillor Dalton McArthur, Richmond Hill Town Council will be extended to the Town of Markham and the Village of Woodbridge, if they indicate a desire to participate, it was decided.

Decision of the two township councils was reached at a meeting held April 15 at Bayview Country Club, arranged by Markham Township Council and attended by five members of Vaughan Council plus one member of staff, it was reported.

The decision was influenced by the fact that due to lack of space in the Vaughan Township Municipal Building, the township police, who now occupy the basement, had to be asked to seek other accommodation and will have to rent such. In Markham Township additional accommodation is also needed for the police department. It was apparent that a joint operation would effect greater efficiency with elimination of duplication with one police force under one authority, it was stated.

Comments with respect to efficiency of other functions of municipal jurisdiction were also made, it was reported.

Although the ultimate aim of this amalgamation bears a striking similarity to the Southern Six concept, it was reported that many attempts to bring the Southern Six into being over the last eight years have ended up in utter chaos. It was reported that the Village of Stouffville has made it known it wants no part of the Southern Six, but feels its destiny lies with Whitechurch Township.

"We have a problem with planning, so we have decided to amalgamate instead of duplicating services," Reeve Garnet Williams summed up. "We found it fairly easy to come to an agreement when only the two municipalities were involved in the discussions. If we build on this basis a municipality at a time we may reach the desired conclusion."

Mrs. Lois Hancey, who, as a Richmond Hill Councillor, has been a strong supporter of the Southern Six concept, was present at the meeting as an observer.

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Saying that the question was a matter of such importance that he should not confine himself to the chairmanship of the meeting alone, Reeve Rumble said he felt he must make a statement.

"We have no intention of pulling out of York County. We're going to be a stronger and better municipality contributing more within the county. We hope to be able to do more for the people," said Reeve Rumble.

He added that the reasons for the Markham - Vaughan amalgamation would be explained when both councils attend a public meeting next Tuesday at Langstaff Secondary. Each council at that meeting will consider reading the amalgamation bylaw a third and final time, he stated.

Markham and Vaughan Townships are very similar sister municipalities, Reeve Rumble said. The township had long been willing to join with neighboring municipalities to achieve the available economies of scale. The amalgamation would also overcome some problems, such as that of integrating and improving the Yonge Street corridor.

The reeve said it had long been felt that there were three natural areas in York County, the south, the middle and the north. Since the other municipalities in the Southern Six had not been ready to make an amalgamation decision,

Markham and Vaughan Townships finally decided they were going to make their own decisions.

Councillor James Jongeneel said the southern municipalities are too fragmented for efficiency. Several municipalities, including Markham Town, were approached without success, he said.

Councillor Eldred King said it appeared York County was in the middle of a change in government. Amalgamation of Vaughan and Markham was a logical step in order to have some control in a larger system of government.

Deputy-reeve Anthony Roman said Markham Township has always maintained that the adjustment of internal county boundaries must be through amalgamation. "If the last meeting with Vaughan is any indication of the future cooperation to be expected, we have a real good chance of success," he said.

The members of council stressed the township's need for new police facilities, just as was the case in Vaughan. The townships already cooperated to a large degree in such fields as fire protection. Formation of a joint police force now had all the possible advantages of efficiency and savings, it was said.

The report proposing joint operation of the two township police forces was also approved by council's unanimous vote.

Councillor Lois Hancey

Criticizes Finance Committee's Handling Of 1970 Town Budget

A vote of non-confidence in Richmond Hill Council's finance committee, moved by Councillor Lois Hancey, failed to get a second or support from other members of council at the April 13 council meeting.

Mrs. Hancey based her motion on the fact that the finance committee:

- (1) Had not consulted with all committee, boards and commissions prior to making recommendations for budget cuts to council;
- (2) Failed to assess and report to council increased costs to the taxpayers as a result of government policies, so that council could be informed and take appropriate action, if it saw fit;
- (3) Failed to communicate to council members, prior to budget day, its recommendations for budget cuts so that council members could research, investigate and analyze the effect of such recommendations on services to the taxpayer and enable them to decide more intelligently on the allocation of tax funds.

Mrs. Hancey also charged that the first time she saw the budget of a committee of which she is vice-chairman was on budget day. Later she told "The Liberal" this was the works committee.

Members of the finance committee are Deputy-reeve Ivan Mansbridge as chairman; Reeve Donald Plaxton and Councillor Eric George, with the mayor



LOIS HANCEY Expresses Deep Concern

an ex-officio member. The reeve is also chairman of the works committee.

Mrs. Hancey also stated that she had not learned of the additional funds available in September until the end of the budget day sessions. The budget committee reported that this was the first they had known of the existence of these accounts, which were allocated to development of the Mill Pond Park and improving of the parking area behind the municipal offices and the public library.

Predict Use Of Hard Drugs Will Triple In Summer

Doctors Ask For Drop-In Centres In Schools To Help Combat Drugs In York County

By MARGARET LADE

Use of hard drugs by young people in York County will triple this summer unless some action is taken, warned Dr. John Denison of Mount Albert at a meeting of York County Board of Education on April 13.

Dr. Denison, a general practitioner in the Newmarket area, was spokesman for a group of four doctors who were appealing for use of drop-in centres during the summer months. Others in the delegation were Dr. Owen Slingerland of the York-Oshawa Health Unit, Dr. William Hughes, head of psychiatry at the York County Hospital in Newmarket, and Dr. William Shaw of Scarborough General and Scarborough General Hospitals, a specialist in child and adolescent psychiatry who will be heading the staff of the psychiatric section of the proposed addition to York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill.

About 400 young people in the county are already using "hard" drugs such as speed, heroin, or combinations of drugs according to estimates of police, teachers and medical people in the county, Dr. Denison declared. To date there have been only two or three deaths in the county that could be specifically attributed to the abuse of drugs, but with the long hot summer ahead, and with thousands of teenagers at loose ends, this could increase dramatically.

New York City, said Dr. Denison, is predicting 800 deaths from drugs this summer.

"This is a social problem, and

treatment is difficult and unwarranted. It is something we cannot deal with on our own," he told the board. "We do not have the facilities or the knowledge to deal with it."

He commended the Town of Richmond Hill and its Youth Aid Centre for doing something positive in coping with the drug situation but the problem extends into Aurora, Newmarket, and perhaps as far north as Sutton.

Drop-in centres in Richmond Hill, Aurora and Newmarket have proven very popular and are successful in providing an alternative to drugs for the hundreds of young people who "have nothing to do, nowhere to go," said Dr. Denison, but they are open only one evening a week, and are regarded by many adults as a "garbage bag,"

adults associated with these centres have found that the young people police themselves very effectively, but they need more room. They also need youth clinic services for those who have become involved with drugs.

At a recent symposium on drugs one local doctor said he had not had one case of drug abuse in his office, but this does not mean the drug users are not there, Dr. Denison declared. The young people do not want to go to the family doctor for fear their parents will learn about their problem. They are going outside the county for help.

On the other hand, he said, he had been stopped in the streets by many, many young people asking for help. "Because I have an English accent, long hair and side-

burns they do not identify me with the medical establishment," he explained, adding that he had trimmed the sideburns before appearing before the board.

Within 36 hours of a meeting in the Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora, he said, 740 young people had indicated that they would use a drop-in centre if it was available, and 70 had volunteered to actively assist in its operation.

In organizing such a centre, said Dr. Denison, young people would be more effective than "middle-aged adults."

The young people do, however, need adult backing. "And it is only people like yourselves who can do something about it."

The doctors' presentation was a result of a decision of the trustees

in December to look into the use of drugs in the schools of York County, and to take whatever action might be appropriate.

Board Chairman John MacKay pointed out, "We have come a long way since December." Meetings of students, parents and public have been held in a number of the county schools.

Principals of all county schools with an enrolment of at least 100 pupils were polled to determine the nature and extent of drug education programs offered in the schools, the extent to which adults from the community were being involved in such programs, either as learners or as resources for the programs, and the role of the principal in educating pupils and adults about drug use.

The survey showed that gener-

ally, study of drug use and abuse is included in group guidance and health classes in grades 9 to 12, in the secondary schools and drug usage is part of the family living (also called community living) or health program in grades 7 or 8 in the elementary schools.

Senior public schools report trying to handle the drug abuse problems as they handle topics such as personal hygiene or reproduction, analytically and rationally.

Many principals feel that their staffs are considered by the students to be uninformed, inexperienced and unreliable in matters of drug abuse and that they are, in fact, vulnerable to such charges.

Several high school staffs, however, have become well informed and very active in communicating

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