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Whitchurch Tax Record Arson Suspected During Search For Missing \$900

The Criminal Investigation Branch of the Ontario Provincial Police has been called to investigate a Friday morning fire which may have been due to arson at the Whitchurch Township offices in Vandorf, says Reeve Stewart Burnett.

Records relating to an audit being conducted to try and locate a \$900 discrepancy in the 1968 township books probably were heavily damaged.

"I can't tell you what we have lost because the building is all locked up," the reeve said this week. "We won't know what we have lost until we can get in."

The reeve said it was not true, as previously reported, that records were shoved out of the vault and burned in a pile on the floor. The records were burned right in the vault, he said.

Township officials were hoping to get into the building Monday to try and salvage the records and prepare for an evening meeting of township council.

But the building is locked and under police protection. "We can't even go in. The files are locked up and we can't even get copies of the agenda," said the reeve.

"The vault was found open. It was closed the night before. We don't know if there was any tampering with the vault lock."

Drawers in other parts of the offices were dumped out on the floor. It appeared certain that township records had been heavily damaged, the reeve said.

The Aurora Fire Department answered a call to the Vandorf municipal offices at 8:05 a.m. Friday. When they arrived they found the fire had been going for some time and damage was estimated at \$15,000. The fire appeared to have been started in more than one place. The fire department said very little information could be released because of the investigation ordered by the fire marshal.

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(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Richmond Hill High Prom Queen

The excitement of a dance gains momentum as the time draws near for the announcement of the Prom Queen and this year was no exception at the Richmond Hill High School Prom held recently at the Summit Golf and Country Club.

Rather like the giving of the Oscars, the answer was known only to members of the student council, and as the crowning ceremonies at the witching hour of midnight approached, everyone waited with bated breath as Diane Mowat, Jerseene Sheppard, Brenda Lamoureux and Donna Percival were named as the four princesses and the very attractive girl pictured above, Kathy Willock, was crowned prom queen for 1970 by last year's Prom Queen Alda Bacchi.

Kathy, a grade 12 student, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Willock, Tyneview Lane, Richmond Hill.

County Lost \$3 Million In Grants—Councillor Hancey

Richmond Hill Town Council, in regular session last week decided to take determined action to counteract the increased burden of taxation on residential property owners as the direct result of provincial government policies. Council will apply to the Department of Municipal Affairs for immediate payment of:

- (1) the town's share of the cost of county reassessment, promised by Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough last year when it was announced that the province would take over all assessment;
- (2) the town's share of the difference between the existing grant for educational purposes in York County and the average grant in Ontario. In 1969 York County Board of Education received 46% of its budget in provincial grant, which was the provincial average. Councillor Lois Hancey reported, in 1970 the board of education will receive only 47.6% grant, while the provincial average is 51% as promised by Education Minister William Davis and Provincial Treasurer Charles MacNaughton.
- (3) and compensation for the loss of commercial and industrial tax revenue resulting from reassessment, or that legislation be passed to insure there will be no such loss. This is estimated at \$1 million in the county.

Mrs. Hancey told council that the overall decrease in commercial-industrial assessment in the county was seven percent. Richmond Hill lost only four percent, but this still has an important result on the tax burden which will have to be borne by residential property owners, she noted.

The motion to seek compensation from the provincial government for detrimental effects of its policies on the town's economy was introduced by Mrs. Hancey and seconded by Reeve Donald Plaxton. It received the unanimous support of all council members.

Mrs. Hancey told council that she had spent four long months in collecting in-

formation from various sources. She laid the blame for the heavy burden on residential taxpayers on the reassessment done by the county on guidelines laid down by the province — that is at the 1967 market value.

Added to this was a change in the provincial equalization factor. In 1967 this equalization factor for the town was 38, in 1968 it dropped to 29 and in 1969 to 27. To achieve the equalized assessment, you multiply the actual assessment by 100 and divide by the equalization factor. This governs all provincial grants. "Across the province the equalization factor has not been altered as drastically as it has been in the County of York," she stated. "It doesn't seem reasonable to let this inequity carry on. Mississauga in Peel County has also felt the effects of reassessment," she continued.

"I don't think our taxpayers should be the only pioneers in this field," she stated emphatically. "When academics come forth with a theory all sorts of peculiar things can happen. Although market value may be a good theory, I don't think we should pay for being the guinea pigs."

"It is very important to us to get an understanding from the province," stated Mrs. Hancey. "We must get the message across loud and clear to Queen's Park that because of its policies the ratepayers of this county are going to be heavily overtaxed."

Mrs. Hancey pointed out that Metro's assessment on market (Continued on Page 3)

Roberts Support For Benson?



JOHN ROBERTS
York Simcoe MP

EDGAR BENSON
Minister of Finance

The federal government's White Paper on Taxation will have to come to a vote in the House of Commons before it can become the law of the land. John Roberts MP, York Simcoe in his column raises the basic democratic issue of whether his first loyalty is to the government and this controversial legislation or to his constituents, many of whom have raised strong objections to the proposals.

Read Mr. Roberts' column on Page 11 of this issue. For editorial comment see Page 2.

Liberal Members At Maple Friday

York County has a total of four representatives in the House of Commons at Ottawa and the Legislature at Toronto (two federal, two provincial). Three of these representatives are Liberals, John Roberts MP, York Simcoe and Barney Diamond MP, York North are the federal representatives while Donald Deacon MLA, York Centre is the provincial Liberal.

These three members are holding a public meeting Friday evening beginning at 8 pm at the Maple Masonic Hall. The evening is planned as an open forum and the three top County Liberals will gladly answer any questions from the audience regarding federal and provincial affairs.

Conservation Grant, King Township

William Hodgson MLA, York North (Conservative) who is the lone provincial government representative in York County announced this week that the Department of Energy and Resources Management has approved a \$16,180 grant to the Metro Conservation Authority for use in further capital improvements to the Cold Creek Conservation Area located in King Township.

For more news of additional provincial grants to York County see announcement by Cabinet Minister John Yaremko at opening of Union Villa on Saturday. Read Story on Page 12.

May Bargains Canadian Tire

Emphasis is on the outdoors in the May Sale which began this week at Canadian Tire, 70 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill, and continues to May 18.

Garden supplies and tools, paints, ladders, screening and caulking materials are featured for the benefit of home gardeners and home improvement buffs.

Those who are planning for excursions to the great outdoors will find a wide selection of camping, fishing and picnic equipment on display.

Sports fans are getting a kick on such items as break balls, golf sets, baseballs and bats and outdoor lawn games.

For home fun, the special supplement in this issue of "The Liberal" lists motorized barbecues, lawn chairs, patio tables and garden umbrellas, and for everyday use, bowl mixers, electric kettles, blenders and ice crushers.

A big feature of the May sale is the special on nylon tires. "Still the safest and strongest" at cash discount prices.

Shopping for indoors, outdoors, at home or on the road, it's a real bonanza this month at Canadian Tire.

Mkham, Vaughan Pass Bylaws Stating Intent To Amalgamate

A scant 100 people turned out at Langstaff Secondary School April 28 to discuss with the councils of the Townships of Markham and Vaughan the proposed political amalgamation. Included in the number were five members of Richmond Hill Council and Trustee James Wilkinson of King City Police Village, who were present as observers and at least 10 members of the news media.

Donald Deacon MLA, York Centre, was the moderator of the meeting, which was handicapped by the absence of a public address system.

After an hour and a half of discussion, each council gave third reading to and passed a bylaw, which had been given two readings at regular council meetings held April 20, calling for political amalgamation of the two townships. Each also passed a bylaw calling for amalgamation of the two police forces "whether or not the political amalgamation is approved." This bylaw was given three readings and passed Monday night.

Vaughan Township also passed a resolution that the bylaw calling for amalgamation be "forthwith" presented to the Ontario Municipal Board and rescinded a motion passed in March calling for a Southern Six region.

Mr. Deacon told the audience that the meeting had not been

(2) try for political amalgamation. We feel there are great economies to be realized since we would have a single police commission looking after an amalgamated force. Both forces are practically of the same size and have the same wage scale and both need larger accommodation. Vaughan and Markham are sister municipalities, very much alike in size and problems."

Reeve Garnet Williams of Vaughan Township stated his council believed there would be substantial economies in police and fire protection and provision of sanitary sewers and water by amalgamation. "The board of education has been set up on a regional basis and it is only logical other governments should be on the same basis."

Mr. Williams also noted that amalgamation of planning is also essential. "If we don't, it will be dog eat dog," he stated.

According to Deputy-reeve Anthony Roman of Markham Township the obvious reason for the amalgamation is the attempt being made by Metro to annex Pickering, Vaughan and Markham into the Metro complex. "In discussions on (Continued on Page 19)

Teacher Hiring In York County Is Held Up By Salary Stalemate

All York County secondary school principals met on the afternoon of May 4 with administrative staff of the York County Board of Education and a delegation of these principals met the board in committee in the evening.

The principals expressed deep concern that the hiring of secondary school teachers had been set back to June 26 following a meeting of Ontario School Trustees' Council Saturday.

The committee requested that the board give serious consideration to discussing an earlier date with the trustees' council.

While the trustees appreciate the need that has existed for the boards to stand together, they were sympathetic to the principals' position and realized that the delay in hiring is going to make it more difficult to get the best staff in the schools in September.

Accordingly, the board has asked for a meeting with the boards of education of Metro and the surrounding counties to discuss the advisability of moving the date forward.

It was pointed out that, if teachers are going to move they must have their resignations in to the board by May 31 or their contracts are automatically renewed.

Negotiations with secondary school teachers in York County were broken off after more than a dozen meetings when the teachers rejected board offers of increases averaging nine percent, with greater increases at the lower end of the salary scale. The teachers demanded the same percentage increase for all teachers.

All board offers to the teachers were withdrawn, and the trustee negotiating committee informed the teachers it is ready to resume talks whenever the teachers wish to do so.

Negotiations with elementary school teachers were also suspended last month when trustee and teacher negotiating committees failed to reach an agreement.

York County Roman Catholic School Board is still meeting with its teachers, and both groups have presented proposals for new contracts for the 1970-71 school year. They are scheduled to meet again on May 15.

Separate school teachers in Metro have broken off negotiations with their board and have threatened mass resignation if their demands are not met by the Metro Roman Catholic School Board.

Robert Paul Fountain, 18, a student at Bayview Secondary School, Richmond Hill, has been charged at Brampton with careless driving.

The charge was laid by the Ontario Provincial Police following the April 26 high school car rally accident that killed Hugo Schenk, 18, of 395 South Taylor Mills Drive, Richmond Hill.

Paul Fountain was driving a car in the rally and Hugo Schenk was his navigator. The head-on collision took place on Concession 3 in Albion Township, near Caledon.

Teenager Fountain is still recovering from injuries and no date has yet been set for him to appear in court. Brampton OPP report there will be no inquest held in the case.

Careless Driving Charge, Schenk Death

POW Committee Shows Real Punch

Pollution Danger From Industrial Waste Dumping Draws Huge Crowd At Stouffville

By HAROLD BLAINE

Question: What issue can draw as big a crowd in York County as Robert Stanfield and the White Paper on Taxation.

Answer: The dumping of millions of gallons of industrial waste near Stouffville in Whitchurch Township.

There were close to 1,000 people at the Preserve Our Water (POW) Committee public meeting April 28 at the Stouffville District High School.

The meeting was held to protest continued dumping of industrial fluid wastes at Lot 14, Concession 8, known as the Bremner Dump north of Stouffville. The wastes are coming from all over Southern Ontario and many local residents are frightened and angry.

The dump lies over one of Ontario's biggest underground water reservoirs. This aquifer supplies water for the 4,000 residents of the Village of Stouffville, and for many farms and rural homes in the area.

The issue has been simmering for several years, and came to a

boil in recent months when Merlyn Baker and Gordon Ratcliff became members of Whitchurch Township Council.

Minister of Energy and Resources George Kerr didn't accept the POW Committee invitation to attend the meeting. Instead he sent his director of waste management, John Heaman.

The Ontario opposition party leaders were invited, but didn't attend either. The New Democrats sent Hamilton-Wentworth MLA Ian Deans.

Mr. Deans promised the support of the NDP in the provincial Legislature in bringing about action on the question of industrial-fluid waste dumping.

Whitchurch Township Councillor Ratcliff promised the meeting that the dumping of fluid wastes was going to be stopped by action of the township council May 4.

He said the council directed him to be its spokesman at the POW meeting and had directed him to convey this information.

He said the council met April 27 with officials of the Ontario Water

Resources Commission. At this meeting it was decided the council should direct that the dump be closed, he said. It was the opinion from the OWRC that the township bylaw on dumps would be effective in closing the dump, although the bylaw might need some amendment.

Waste Management Director Heaman, when questioned, told the meeting the Holland Valley Conservation Authority was invited to observe test drilling at the site as the Whitchurch Township Council recently requested.

Former Whitchurch Township Councillor Robert Lewis of Bloomington was chairman of the meeting.

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