

### 30-Day Penalty Moratorium In Vaughan

Vaughan Township's fight for equitable taxation was carried to the office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough at Queen's Park Thursday of last week. The decision to take this action was announced at the May 4 council meeting, held in the Joseph Gibson School Auditorium in Maple. Participating in the Toronto meeting were three representatives of Vaughan Ratepayers' Association who have been active in demanding that council seek relief for the residential ratepayers, whose assessments jumped out of all proportion due to the provincial government's guidelines of assessment (1967 market value).

In some cases the reassessment has led to taxes being increased from \$400 to \$3,000. The association has collected documented evidence of many of these "hardship" cases to present to Mr. McKeough. Added to the inequitable assessment is a shift in assessment from commercial-industrial properties, which will mean a reduction of \$500,000 in tax revenue from that section of the township, a difference which would have to be made up by the residential taxpayer.

It was also pointed out that all other municipalities in York County will also be affected, "but Vaughan is hardest hit, since it has the most industry." Recently York County Council passed a resolution backing Vaughan in its appeal to the provincial government.

At the May 4 council meeting a bylaw was passed granting a deferment of the penalty on any 1970 tax payment on farm or residential property for a period of not more than one month. It was pointed out that to defer the application of the tax penalty on unpaid taxes levied through the interim bill would not be equitable to taxpayers who have paid the interim bill. Therefore it was decided to extend the same deferment to any tax payment, so that all taxpayers could benefit equitably.

A second bylaw passed May 4 authorized the submission of a petition to the Ontario Government, requesting enactment of a private bill to permit the township to levy for taxes for the year 1970 on assessments made in 1968 rather than on the 1969 assessment. It also asked for addition to the 1968 assessments of the appropriate assessed value for buildings constructed since the return of the 1968 tax roll and provisions for a court of revision on these additions.

When asked if the private bill was the only means of help available by one of the more than 400 ratepayers present, the question was referred to Donald Deacon, Liberal MLA for York Centre. He explained that a Minister's bill may be pushed through the Legislature in two or three days. "This afternoon (May 4) in the House, Mr. McKeough stated he had legislation ready to alleviate a similar condition in Mississauga," he reported, "but he had not yet decided if this legislation would cure the assessment troubles in Vaughan Township.

"If Mr. McKeough fails to bring in the necessary legislation, I will then present a private member's bill, which will have to be studied in committee and then passed by the Legislature. This could take two to three weeks," he explained. "I believe I can rally enough support from all parties to get this bill passed and this

levy a business tax on the hotel. This means the city gets an additional \$200,000 a year in taxes," Mr. Risk continued.

"I believe that this amount of money should be spread throughout Canada and that Vaughan shouldn't have to subsidize the rest of the country." His resolution that similar legislation be sought to enable Vaughan to levy a building tax on the buildings on the hump yard property — not on the trackage, received unanimous support by council.

However, when he attempted to introduce his motion following the discussion on the two bylaws on the private bill and tax penalty he received no support to set aside the procedural bylaw's requirement for a two-third vote to add an item to the agenda.

This was in spite of an expressed desire by the audience to hear his presentation at that time, and in spite of cries of "Cut the red tape" and "If you want to get re-elected". However, his resolution was heard and supported late in the agenda.

A woman ratepayer questioned the legality and democracy of the 15% per month tax penalty, stating that such should not apply until after December 31 of the year in which the taxes were due. She suggested instead that a premium be paid those taxpayers who paid taxes before July 1. Some ratepayers pointed out that there are other errors in the assessment notices sent out last fall. Mr. Risk explained that this has also been pointed out to the assessment section of the Department of Municipal Affairs and that every assessment in York County is being put through an IBM Machine to find out where there are errors and pick out the problem areas. "Then a physical check will be carried out where errors are found," he stated. "We were promised that we would have some answers shortly."

In 1950, the same thing was disclosed in Toronto, where the Royal York Hotel built on CPR-owned property was not subject to building tax. City council made application to the provincial government and a bill was passed enabling them to

### Hire Elementary Teacher County Schools, Contract Talks Continue

Although no contracts have yet been signed, both the York County Board of Education and the York County Roman Catholic School Board report that hiring of teachers for elementary grades is progressing normally.

County Board Chairman Jack MacKay said in an interview Monday that all but a few teachers that will be needed for fall have been hired, and that the remaining vacancies are for the most part in specialist fields.

Roman Catholic Board Superintendent Joseph Hodge reports that his board has most of the teachers it will need for September. Teachers have been hired under terms of existing contracts and adjustments will be made when new contracts are signed.

Meanwhile negotiating committees for both boards are continuing to meet with teacher committees in an attempt to come to contract agreement.

The boycott of secondary schools continues, however, but, says Mr. MacKay, talks are continuing at top level between the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation and the Ontario School Trustees Council.

Trustee negotiators for the county board are scheduled to meet with teacher representatives on May 20. When secondary school teachers in Metro insisted on including a reduced teacher-pupil ratio in their new contract, negotiations ground to a halt between teachers and trustees all over the province.

The OSTF urged its members not to seek positions with Metro boards, and the OSTC agreed to put off hiring to the end of June, or until Metro contracts had been settled.

Negotiations in York County broke down when teachers insisted on an across the board percentage increase for all levels. The board offers averaged nine per cent increase with the greatest increases at the lower levels.

The elementary school teachers have resumed negotiations after an interval of several weeks and announced Monday that May 31 will be the target date for a full release of information to the teachers.

"The teachers have expressed grave concern for the rising tax situation and have moderated their proposals to assist the parents of the children they teach," reports David Semple of Meadowbrook School in Newmarket, chairman of the elementary school teachers negotiating team.

Representatives of five county school boards indicated support yesterday (Wednesday) for the Metro School Board's stand in negotiations with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

Chairman of school boards and directors of education, from the Counties of Halton, Peel, Ontario, Simcoe and York met the committee of board chairmen of the Metro Board to discuss the moratorium on teacher hiring in the province.

Metro Board Chairman Bruce Bone said: "They were naturally concerned to know that we are actually talking and trying to resolve the situation." He said

### "Lex" Mackenzie Died Wednesday

York North's Grand Old Man, Major Alexander A. Mackenzie (Lex) of Woodbridge died in Peel Memorial Hospital, Brampton at 3 am yesterday morning (Wednesday). He had suffered a stroke in the autumn.

The octogenarian descendant of Vaughan Township pioneers, had represented the old riding of York North in the Legislature from 1945 to 1967 and served his constituents well.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed by press time, but the body will be resting at the Scott Funeral Home, 46 8th Avenue South, Woodbridge, from Wednesday until the time of the funeral.

Major Mackenzie will be laid to rest in the family plot in the cemetery at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Concession 7, Vaughan Township.

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### Corporation of the Township of Vaughan Local Improvement Act

RE: The construction of a watermain on Ravendale Court and Ravendale Gate with service connections as a local improvement. Take notice that a Court of Revision will be held on the 4th day of June 1970 at 10:00 a.m. o'clock at the Municipal Offices in Maple for the purpose of hearing complaints against the proposed assessments and any other complaint that persons interested may desire to make and that is by law cognisable by the court.

F. G. Jackman, Clerk  
Township of Vaughan

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### New Neill Datsun Dealership Officially Opens This Weekend

Neill Datsun Ltd., the newly established Datsun dealership, located one mile north of Richmond Hill on Yonge Street, is celebrating its official grand opening this weekend.

The company's President Ian Neill, an engineering graduate, is originally from Sydney, Australia. He came to Canada 10 years ago and started his career in the automobile industry. During this period he has sold nearly all the imports and many of the domestic automobiles.

Prior to establishing his business in Richmond Hill, he was in general sales manager for Canada's biggest Datsun dealership, located in Vancouver (this company sold over 2,000 new Datsuns last year).

Realizing the dramatic sales increase of Datsun cars and trucks would spread to Eastern Canada, Ian decided to open a Datsun dealership in the Toronto area (Datsun is actually out-selling Ford and Chevrolet in some parts of Western Canada, he reports, in fact it is out-selling VW 3 to 1).

In the last two months of operation over \$400,000 has been spent on the existing facility for this dealership and the number of employees has increased accordingly to keep pace with the rapidly increasing number of Neill Datsun customers. "Datsun is a quality product," explains Ian, "and it is our endeavor to give service to match."

The opening of this new dealership coincides with the opening of the \$1,750,000 parts and new car distribution centre for Nissan Automobile Co. Canada Ltd., makers of Datsun cars and trucks in Vaughan Township. This enormous complex was officially opened last week by Ontario Minister of Trade and Development Stanley Randall.

Mr. Randall said the centre, one of the most modern in the world, was contributing to Ontario's 14% increase in investment this year. He said he understood the new centre was a possible step

### Racquet Club Opens Tonight

The new Richmond Hill Racquet Club will be officially opened tonight (Thursday) from 8 to 10 p.m.

Located at Ohio Road off Elgin Mills Road East at the north end of town, the building will comprise a squash court, exercising and shower facilities, sauna, sunroom, kitchen, lounge and bar facilities.

Among those participating in the opening ceremonies will be Mayor William Lazenby and Douglas Allen, president of the new club.

There are already a total of 60 male members with the organization. The night will also feature an exhibition squash match between last year's Ontario Squash Champion John Swann and Bill Bewley, former professional football star. Swann is also an ex-Davis Cup tennis player.

### DON'T MISS "The Suburban Dilemma"

ON CHANNEL 5  
MAY 29, 30, 31

RICHMOND HILL LIONS CLUB  
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### COMING EVENTS

MILLWOOD Recreation Ltd. Open swimming at Slater's Indoor Pool, Don Mills Rd. at Vandeput, Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. t4c16

MAY 22-23 — Spring Flower Show, sponsored by the Horticultural Society in conjunction with the Agricultural Society, in new arena. c1w46

MAY 23, SATURDAY — Rummage sale. Our Lady Queen of the World Parish Hall, Bayview at Crosby. Opening at 1:30 pm. c1w46

SATURDAY MAY 23 — 10 am-12 noon. Rummage Sale at Richmond Hill United Church, sponsored by 1st Richmond Hill Scout Auxiliary. For pickups call 884-1678. c2w46

MAY 23, SATURDAY — Plant and Rummage Sale, Carverville Church 1-4 pm. c2w46

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