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VOLUME 93, NO. 52.

RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1970

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

## Board May Lose 13 Schools, 4,582 Pupils

### Trustees Will Protest Proposed Changes In Southern Boundaries

By MARGARET LADE

Changes in the southern boundaries of York County as proposed by the Department of Municipal Affairs would remove more than 4,500 students from the jurisdiction of York County Board of Education and result in the loss of 13 schools, including Thornhill Secondary School and the new experimental Thornlea Secondary School.

At a meeting of the board on June 8, trustees strongly urged that the board act immediately to inform the Departments of Education and of Municipal Affairs that it would emphatically oppose such a move.

In announcing the boundaries of the Region of York, Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough on May 6 told an audience in Richmond Hill that "At some time in the future, after the incorporation of a regional government in York, lands south of the parkway corridor (the proposed Highway 407) will be brought under the full municipal jurisdiction of Metropolitan Toronto."

This area includes, in addition to the two secondary schools, Baythorn, Bayview Glen, Concord, Henderson, Langstaff, Marklee, Powell Road, Royal Orchard, Thornhill and Sand junior schools and Woodlands Senior School. A staff report showed that this would mean that 3,072 elementary school children and 1,510 attending these schools in September, 1969, would probably be living in the Borough of North York, and an additional 1,194 students living north of the proposed Highway 407 would have to transfer to other county schools or pay tuition to North York to continue attending their present schools.

The report showed that there are an additional 615 students now living south of the proposed highway who attend schools north of it — for instance Thornhill students attending Roselawn Senior School on the Carrville Sideroad. There would be some spaces available in Markham and Woodbridge schools, the board was told, but virtually none in the Yonge Street corridor where most of the students likely to be affected are located.

Education Director Sam Chapman estimated the cost of providing spaces for the students at about \$1.25 million, and a total of 1,809 students who would have to be transferred one way or the other north or south of the line. Markham Township Trustee Louise Aimeone urged the board to consider supporting the stand being taken by York County Council in opposing the proposed change in boundaries.

"We should work with York County Council, Vaughan Township Council, Markham Township Council and the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill." "This board should take its own stand," declared Vaughan Township Trustee Ross Jolliffe. "We will either go along with it, or fight it to ensure that the education of the children in that part of the county will not be interfered with." The change would mean not only a loss of students and buildings, he pointed out, but also a loss of some of the best teachers and principals in the county.

"It is a big enough issue for us to form a committee to work with the municipalities involved and prepare a brief. We should be prepared with the best guns we've got to fight this, to make sure our position is known to all, to let everyone know what side of the fence we are on." Trustee Meena Colbourne of the Town of Markham suggested that school board boundaries do not necessarily coincide with municipal boundaries. The Board Superintendent of Planning and Development Stephen Bacsalmasi added, "We may have two school authorities according to a statement from the Minister (of Education). It has not come up in the Legislature yet."

At a meeting in Thornhill May 5, the day before Mr. McKeough announced the plan for regional government, Education Minister William Davis told a questioner that it was too early to tell what would happen to education in York County under the regional form of government. The Region of Niagara and Welland, said Mr. Davis, has two boards of education in one region, and his department has recommended the continuing of two boards when the counties of Peel and Halton become a united region.

"I cannot tell you what will happen in York," said Newmarket Trustee Jack Hadfield and Sutton Trustee Les Burrows added their voices to those opposing the prospect of boundary changes. "Shotgun marriages are not what they are cracked up to be. We should fight it to the best of our ability, and get cracking now!" declared Mr. Burrows. Chairman Jack MacKay pointed out that no date has been set for the boundary change.

"It is a very loose and uncertain plan. It could be ten years from now. It is like telling a man he is going to be hanged but not setting the date," protested Vaughan Township Trustee Morley Kinnee. "Meanwhile we have to maintain these schools, but for how long? It is very poor planning."

"We should not wait for the municipalities to act. We should get on with it on our own," urged North Gwillimbury Trustee Tom Johnston. "We have to make a strong case on our own," agreed Aurora Trustee Keith Nisbet. "We have to do more than just oppose it. We have to make our own case."

"I am glad to see the people to the north supporting us," (Continued on Page 3)

### Provincial Grant

#### Gain Extra \$18,000 For Mill Pond Park

An additional \$18,000 will be available this year to spend on development of the Mill Pond Park because of a recommendation of Richmond Hill's parks and recreation committee adopted by town council June 15.

A bylaw was passed changing the Mill Pond area to an approved park, which will bring a provincial government grant of dollar for dollar spent by the town in developing this natural beauty spot as a public park. The grant is available under the Ontario Government Parks Assistance Act passed in 1960.

"The water is what makes it eligible as a natural beach approved park," explained Councillor Shaun Beggs who is also chairman of the parks and recreation committee. "It will remain as a town park with no loss control. It is our intent to utilize the natural amenities in the development."

Mr. Beggs reported that the firm of Canadian Mitchell Associates Ltd., of Malton, consulting engineers and town planners, to draw up a plan of development. A meeting with a representative of the Department of Energy and Resources Management had confirmed the fact that the park will be eligible.

Earlier this year town council had approved an entry of \$18,000 in the parks and recreation committee's budget for Mill Pond Park. The government grants will bring the total amount available for this work to \$36,000.

Mr. Beggs listed \$500 for the base plan, \$3,500 for the master plan, \$500 for the necessary legal survey, and \$31,500 for actual development.

### To Prepare Ward System

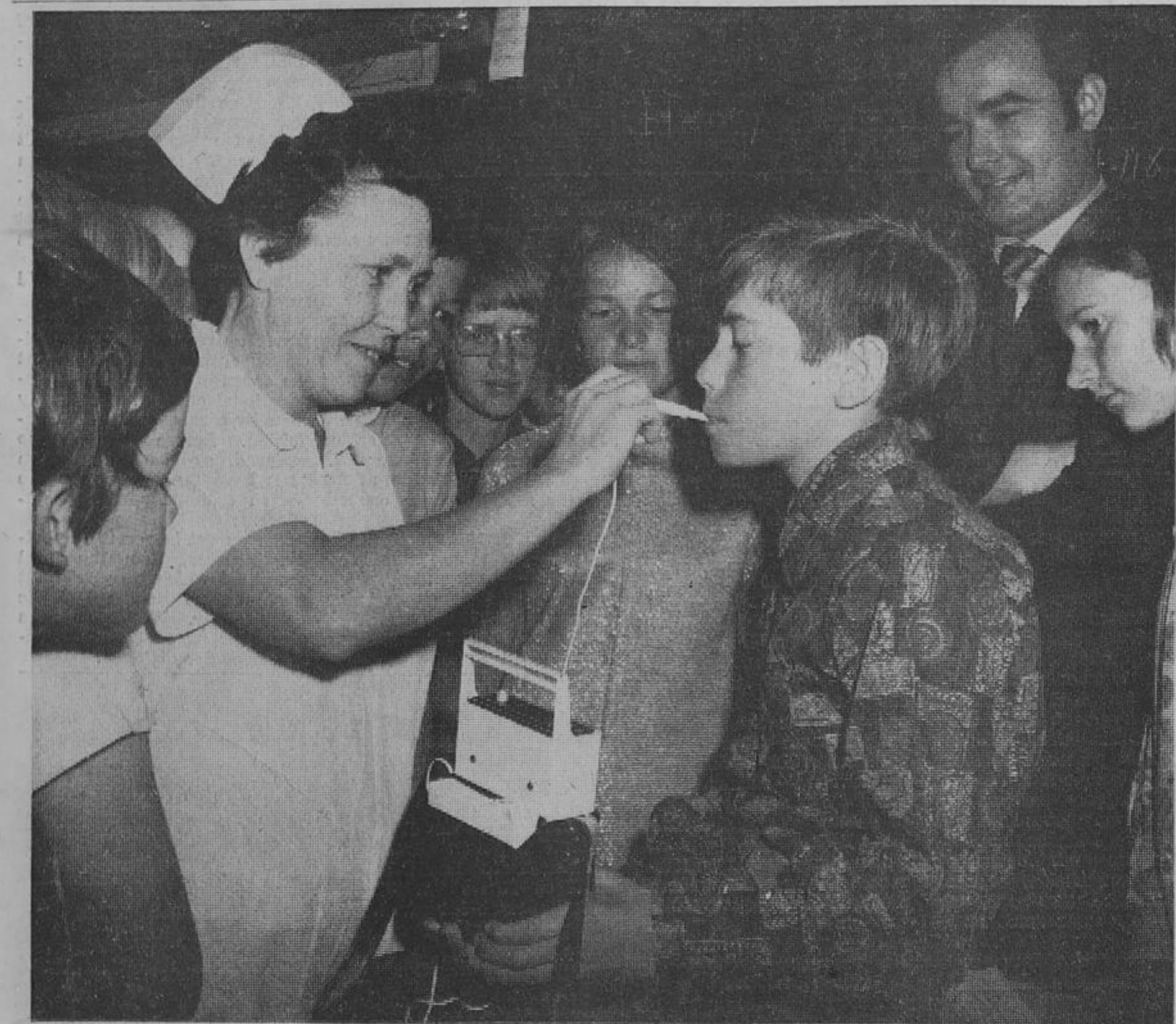
Richmond Hill will ask the councils of Vaughan, Markham, King and Whitchurch Townships to name two representatives each to a committee to set up a ward system in the new Town of Richmond Hill which comes into being January 1. The new town will contain a portion of each of the four townships, since its boundaries will be Highway 7 on the south, the CFB Sideroad on the north, the proposed Highway 404 on the east and Bathurst Street on the west.

The township councils will be asked to delegate their representatives to speak with the voice of council and other interested individuals (if they are not named by their council) will be invited to attend and participate in the committee meetings. An invitation will also be extended to the York County Board of Education to send representatives, since elections to that body will be affected by the ward system.

The present town's department heads were also authorized to consult with their counterparts in the townships to obtain all information available concerning those lands proposed to become a part of Richmond Hill.

"I was elected by the people of this township," replied Mr. Ratcliff. "And I'm not a dictator, I'm a public servant," he said. Then Councillor Baker put in a word. He said he was in favor of prosecuting where the bylaws of the township were contravened. But the judge said he (Sabiston) didn't contravene the bylaw. He was smart enough to keep ahead of it, said Mr. Baker.

"If I get it, I will withdraw my motion at the next meeting," replied Mr. Baker.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

## Public Spirited Students Aid York Central Hospital

Two groups of students have recently made substantial donations to York Central Hospital which serves Southern York County.

The 35 pupils of Miss Judy Davenport's grade 6 class at Walter Scott School presented a cheque for \$320 they had earned in a walkathon. The youngsters had walked 12 miles from the school to Don Mills Road, north to the Gormley Sideroad and back to the school.

The money was used by the hospital to buy an electronic type thermometer which works on a computer principle and enables members of the nursing staff to take a patient's temperature in seven seconds, instead of the conventional 10 minutes. This results in a saving of nursing time and money spent on washing, sterilizing and replacement. The probe of the new thermometer is covered with an individual sterile disposable plastic cover for each patient.

In the above photo RNA Mrs. Jean Lavender is shown taking the temperature of David Woodhead 12, with Cathy Robinson 12, next in line. York Central's Assistant Administrator Frank Bagatlo watches and other pupils wait their turn to have their temperature taken as they learned at first hand about their gifts. (All temperatures were normal).

The second gift was made by students of Langstaff Secondary School. Their spokesmen, Karen Rutherford of the student council and Judy Trueman, asked that their donation of \$1,055.77 be earmarked for the expansion program of the hospital in the pediatric department. This money was also raised in a walkathon, from the school grounds on Garden Avenue to Toronto City Hall, a distance of 15 miles.

Between 150 and 175 students participated. It was a student-conceived and organized event, the two girls mentioned above being the sparkplugs. There were no organized checkpoints or free refreshment stops. The young people just set out, with a plentiful supply of foot powder, bought their own refreshments, and plodded on till they reached the city hall. After a rest on the pavement of the Nathan Phillips Square and some refreshments they made their own way home. Judy Trueman raised the largest amount from sponsors — \$63.

It was a real community effort with sponsors and participants coming from Pine Grove, Woodbridge, Maple, Richmond Hill, Richvale, Langstaff and Thornhill. Hospital Board Chairman John Griffin announced last week his father's estate is donating \$2,000 to furnish a semi-private room in the new wing in his memory.

## Hiring For Secondary Schools Almost Completed

## Teachers Vote This Week On Contract Question

Nearly three months after the usual date for hiring, York County Board of Education signed up 72 secondary school teachers in marathon sessions at the Royal York Hotel and the Ontario College of Education June 12 and 13.

Although no contract has yet been signed between board and county representatives of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, the board got word June 11 that the Ontario School Teachers Council had lifted its moratorium on teacher hiring and the OSSTF had removed Metro from its "pink list" of boards not in good standing with the teachers' federation.

Within hours the York County Board, or equivalent, to those by Board was advertising for teachers on the basis of its latest offer to the local teachers, and meetings with teacher-negotiators and the teachers of the county are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

At a regular meeting of the board on June 22, Education Director Sam Chapman reported that about 13 teachers are still needed, particularly in mathematics and girls' physical education. He advised the board that it might be necessary to advertise outside the province for teachers in these areas, and received tacit approval from the trustees to advertise as he sees fit to ensure that all schools are fully staffed for September.

Teacher negotiators were presented with a "final contract offer" on Monday, and all secondary school teachers in the county will be asked to vote on the question on Tuesday and Wednesday. Final results should be known late Wednesday, June 24.

For salary purposes and teaching status, there are four category divisions, ranging from the beginning teacher with basic qualifications: pass arts degree plus one year of teacher

annual increase of \$400 for every year of teaching up to the maximum allowance for the category.

The latest offers are as follows, with the salaries for the 1969-70 school year in brackets: Category 1: Minimum \$7,200, maximum \$11,800 (\$6,800 - \$11,200) Category 2: Minimum \$7,600, maximum \$12,500 (\$7,200 - \$12,000) Category 3: Minimum \$8,400, maximum \$14,100 (\$8,000 - \$13,500) Category 4: Minimum \$8,900, maximum \$15,100 (\$8,600 - \$14,400).

Teacher hiring usually takes place in March, and deadline for resignations is May 31. When Metro teachers and school boards became deadlocked in their negotiations, and mass resignations were threatened, teachers and trustees across the province closed ranks and both

positions agreed not to accept resignations nor to hire teachers from areas where new contracts had not been approved. It was announced last June 11, however, that the date for resignations has been put ahead to June 30 for this year only, and that resignations will be accepted from teachers who have accepted positions elsewhere in Ontario.

"Does this mean that some Ontario boards have been hiring teachers during the moratorium?" asked Vaughan Township Trustee Morley Kinnee. "I would rather not answer that question," replied Mr. Chapman. Questioned by "The Liberal" the principal of a large York County Secondary School said emphatically:

"Can't I talk. Can't I say probably realizes more than Mr. Ratcliff that there is little likelihood the old guard majority will let this motion pass when it comes up at the next regular meeting of the council. \* \* \* Another matter embarrassing to the long-term members of council came up at the June 15 meeting. And it, too, relates to the pits and quarries issue. The township recently lost a court battle in an unsuccessful prosecution and high court appeal involving a pit operator, known as the Sabiston case. At the council meeting the report of this unsuccessful appeal was tabled. The appeal cost the township \$2,800 in addition to the amounts expended earlier on the prosecution, bringing the

total close to \$6,000 in costs in this one case. Councillor Ratcliff was critical of the old council's decisions in the Sabiston case. "It was very stupid to go into it in the first place. It's a disgrace to put this cost on the taxpayers. In my opinion the municipality should have more strict cost accounting," said Councillor Ratcliff. This criticism brought an immediate rebuttal from the reeve, and another one later by Deputy-reeve Barnard. Reeve Burnett said Councillor Ratcliff should watch what he said in this case, because there was another case coming up upon which the council might not agree with Councillor Ratcliff. He didn't specify what the case would be. "Can't I talk. Can't I say

### Remand Three On Drug Charges

Two Richmond Hill youths and one from Toronto Monday morning in Richmond Hill Provincial Court were charged with possession of marijuana.

They were arrested the evening of June 20 by town police in the Mill Pond area. Three other youths were questioned in the same area the same evening, but police said it appeared one of the three managed to swallow the evidence.

The three charged were David Cormier, 17, of 40 Pengarth Court, Toronto; Steven Bird, 16, of 260 Ruggles Avenue; and Scott Ogden, 16, of 47 Markham Road.

All three were remanded to appear in court the next day, when a federal prosecutor was scheduled to be in attendance on another narcotics case. They were then remanded until July 14 when they appeared Tuesday morning.



NORMAN BARNARD  
Fights Off Attack

what I think?" queried Councillor Ratcliff. "Yes, but you better remember in the next event," replied Reeve Burnett. Deputy-reeve Barnard then waded in, noting that Mr. Sabiston had recently purchased additional Ratcliff land at his quarry site. Mr. Ratcliff replied that he hadn't sold the land, it was his brother. The Sabiston sand pit property lies opposite the location of Mr. Barnard's estate home. Later on, when a pause in the meeting gave him an opportunity, Mr. Barnard waded in again. "Mr. Ratcliff said something to me that was very foolish and improper for him to say as a councillor. A councillor must see that the township bylaws are enforced," said Mr. Barnard. It had been the council's

## Library Extends Service To All Future Residents

Richmond Hill Public Library Board extended free membership privileges to all residents of the new Town of Richmond Hill which will come into being at the beginning of 1971 under regional government. A resource centre, the local library has a large stock of excellent reading matter for all ages and reading tastes on its shelves. There is also a well-equipped reference centre and a children's reference library. Films records and large print books for those with sight problems are also available. Children's story hours are held during the winter and other programs are in existence or well advanced in planning.

The library offers the service of its copying machine and a micro-film reader to the public. It is in close contact by Teletypewriter with regional libraries in Mississauga, Brampton, Chincouacous and Oshawa, and by Telex with libraries throughout the world, so that if the information or book you need is not immediately available it can be secured with a minimum of delay.

The staff welcomes inquiries for information either by phone or in person and will do all in their power to obtain it for you. Exhibits are featured every month and art displays are frequent events and there is an auditorium which may be rented for meetings.

Under the direction of Chief Librarian Mrs. Patricia Hart, the library is compiling pictures and information about buildings which were in existence when Richmond Hill was incorporated as a village in 1873 and would welcome any information of this kind you may have. If you have not yet visited Richmond Hill Library, you are invited to do so at your earliest convenience and learn firsthand about the many services offered. The library is located on the south side of Wright Street, west of Yonge Street. The corner is easily identified, as Wright Street runs west between the town's municipal building and the Canadian Tire Store.

The library is open from 9 am to 9 pm Tuesday to Friday and from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday. It is closed Sundays, Mondays and public holidays.

## Asks Report On "Classroom Loss" Due To Regional Boundary Changes

Vaughan Township Council is concerned at the prospect of losing some of York County's newest and largest schools to Metro should Metro's boundary be moved north as proposed by Minister for Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough.

At a meeting on June 1, the council approved a recommendation that York County Board of Education and York County Roman Catholic School Board analyze and report on the effect of "classroom loss" should the proposed Highway 407 become the boundary between the new Regional Municipality of York and Metro as compared with the loss if the present Canadian National Railway access line becomes the boundary between the two municipalities.

A committee report presented to council pointed out that a considerable number of classrooms, both elementary and secondary, would be lost to the boroughs of North York and Scarborough should the northern boundary of Metro be moved to the proposed Highway 407.

Schools involved, the report stated, included Baythorn, Bayview Glen, Henderson, Royal Orchard, Woodland Junior, Woodland Senior, Langstaff and Thornhill Public Schools as well as Thornhill and Thornlea Secondary Schools.

"The classroom loss would be far in excess of student enrolment in the area since a great number of students are being bused to the aforementioned schools from other areas."

Councillor Gordon Risk pointed out one of the big considerations is the amount of capital in buildings and property that will be lost to the school boards if the boundaries of York County

and Metro are shifted as proposed by Mr. McKeough. "Regional government has been set up without adequate planning," Mr. Risk declared. "They are doing us a tremendous disservice."

Hundreds Of Suckers Die Mill Pond  
Residents of the Mill Pond area in Richmond Hill are deeply concerned about the large number of dead suckers floating on the water. Reports are that more than 600 suckers have died in the pond in the last few weeks. (See Letters To Editors, Page 2.)

Councillor Shaun Beggs, chairman of the town's parks and recreation committee, confirmed the reports reaching this office. He reports that representatives of the OWRC and of the games and fisheries branch of the Department of Lands and Forests have been here to investigate the pond and the dead fish, but so far have not come up with the cause of death. However last week indications were that the problem was abating.

It is also reported that the bass in the pond seem to be unaffected by whatever is killing off the suckers. "The Liberal" has been promised that as soon as cause of the suckers' deaths is known, it will be released for publication.

Councillor Mrs. van Nostrand then added her defence of the old council's decisions in the Sabiston case. She said the old council decided to appeal the Sabiston judgment and had a right to do so. "It is now a dead issue. I choose not to hear of it again," Mrs. van Nostrand said.

But she is likely to hear of it again, since Councillor Baker gave a notice of motion that he was going to ask for an itemized three-year accounting of all the township's costs arising out of court proceedings. Reeve Burnett then said Councillor Baker was entitled to this information, and had only to ask for it. "If I get it, I will withdraw my motion at the next meeting," replied Mr. Baker.

READERS WRITE...  
Letters to the Editor  
EDITORIAL PAGE

## Whitchurch Township Council's New Minority Rips Into Old Guard Majority

By HAROLD BLAINE

The running battle between Whitchurch Township Council's new minority and the old guard majority continued June 15.

First year Councillors Gordon Ratcliff and Merlyn Baker at the June 15 council meeting introduced notices of motion clearly aimed at long-term council members Reeve Stewart Burnett, Deputy-reeve Norman Barnard and Councillor Mrs. Betty van Nostrand.

This time it was mainly Councillor Gordon Ratcliff and Deputy-reeve Barnard who were using the heavy artillery, but Councillor van Nostrand and Reeve Burnett also took their turns on the firing line.

The meeting and the jousting ended with Councillor Ratcliff introducing a sur-

prise notice of motion in which he showed a vote of non-confidence in Deputy-reeve Barnard and proposed that the council remove Mr. Barnard from an important appointment that has province-wide significance.

Mr. Barnard last February was appointed Whitchurch Township representative to the Ontario Association of Municipalities. In that capacity Mr. Barnard was named to a provincial committee on pits and quarries, and was elected chairman of this provincial committee. A provincial controversy is presently raging over pits and quarry legislation proposed by the government.

Mr. Ratcliff proposes in his notice of motion that Mr. Barnard's appointment be rescinded. However, nobody

probably realizes more than Mr. Ratcliff that there is little likelihood the old guard majority will let this motion pass when it comes up at the next regular meeting of the council.

Another matter embarrassing to the long-term members of council came up at the June 15 meeting. And it, too, relates to the pits and quarries issue. The township recently lost a court battle in an unsuccessful prosecution and high court appeal involving a pit operator, known as the Sabiston case.

At the council meeting the report of this unsuccessful appeal was tabled. The appeal cost the township \$2,800 in addition to the amounts expended earlier on the prosecution, bringing the

total close to \$6,000 in costs in this one case. Councillor Ratcliff was critical of the old council's decisions in the Sabiston case.

"It was very stupid to go into it in the first place. It's a disgrace to put this cost on the taxpayers. In my opinion the municipality should have more strict cost accounting," said Councillor Ratcliff.

This criticism brought an immediate rebuttal from the reeve, and another one later by Deputy-reeve Barnard. Reeve Burnett said Councillor Ratcliff should watch what he said in this case, because there was another case coming up upon which the council might not agree with Councillor Ratcliff. He didn't specify what the case would be.

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