

South Of Hwy. 7, West Of Duffin Creek

Metro Wants Only Part Of Pickering

The ways of government are often hard to understand. Under the regional government for York plan, Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough is planning on giving Metro 50 square miles of land in Markham and Vaughan Townships to allow for future expansion. This, in spite of the fact that both townships have lodged strong objections to the plan, and Mr. McKeough has stated previously that the southern section of the county must remain in York to make regional government economically feasible.

On the other hand Pickering Township has openly, for some time, expressed a desire to be annexed to Metro, rather than to become a part of the proposed Oshawa-Whitby Regional Government. For several years now Pickering Township has been in a financial bind because to accommodate the pressure for housing from people employed in Metro, the assessment has become imbalanced. Residential subdivisions mushroomed without compensating industrial and commercial development. Since the township is Metro-oriented and since its major problems have arisen from being a dormitory community for Metro workers, their plea would appear to have some merit. Annexation of Pickering Township would allow Metro much more acreage for future development, as the proposed extension of its northern boundary from Steeles Avenue to Highway 407.

This would also follow the concepts of the Toronto-Centred Plan recently unveiled by Premier John Roberts, which calls for density of development in a strip along Lake Ontario. Metro Planning Board recently refused to endorse annexation of the Township of Pickering and the towns of Ajax and Pickering. It said Metro should expand its boundaries eastward into Pickering only if invited by the township council.

Metro Chairman Albert Campbell, who has repeatedly warned that Metro is running out of undeveloped land, moved for the annexation. Planning board felt if there is expansion it should be only the west portion of the township excluding Ajax and Pickering Village — south of Highway 7 and west of the East Duffin Creek. The board felt this area should be given borough status. This feeling was supported by Metro Planning Commissioner Wojciech Wronski. Another condition laid down by Mr. Wronski is for the province to provide incentives to stimulate urban development in the new borough.

In a policy adopted by Metro Council in September 1969, annexation of Pickering Township, the Town of Ajax and the Village of Pickering was advocated. This recent decision will see a change in that policy.

The assignment of a dormitory role for Pickering Township, under regional government, according to Mr. Wronski suggests that the municipality will have insufficient financial resources to continue to maintain itself as a separate municipality. Mr. Wronski said urban development on a large scale cannot be expected before 1980 because of the development advantages, including basic services, in the Town of Mississauga on Metro's western fringe. The planner rejects adding the part of Pickering Township east of Duffin Creek to Scarborough, which is virtually undeveloped north of Highway 401. The addition of such a large area could disrupt Scarborough's development plans, Mr. Wronski said.

He felt as a borough, the area of Pickering recommended, has the potential to become a stable municipality. Potential population is from 180,000 to 410,000 and is related to the availability of funds to finance development.

Metro Chairman Campbell has warned that Metro's relations with its neighboring municipalities can be damaged by strong regional governments on its periphery. Metro has always had good relations and no serious arguments with neighboring townships, he claims, and wants these relationships to continue. "We do not want to become isolated from these related areas," said Mr. Campbell.

Members of York County Board of Education were pleasantly surprised, when they received a brief from staff of Thornlea Secondary School in Thornhill asking that a higher pupil-teacher ratio be permitted in the school than that decreed by the board.

Principal Arthur Murch and Teachers Charles LaPointe and Brian McLean appeared at a meeting of the board on June 8 to appeal for permission to continue the policy of accepting a limited number of students from outside of the prescribed attendance area, as has been the practice since the school opened in September 1968.

The "unstructured" program at Thornlea offers students a much wider choice of elective subjects and projects than the majority of secondary schools in Ontario, and when it opened its doors students from outside of the area were invited to apply for the 50 vacant pupil places available at that time.

The policy was continued last year, and approximately 10 percent of the student body was made up of those who lived outside the school boundary area but who wished to attend such an experimental school.

This year, however, with higher enrolment, the trustees had agreed that no additional students would be admitted from outside the area.

The teachers promptly protested, declaring that such a policy was not in the best interest of Thornlea.

In their brief to the board, they stated that when students from outside the area were invited to apply, "The response from the community at large was enormous. At least five times the number that might be accepted applied. . . . Students were admitted on a first come, first served basis."

The trustees were told, "The overall effect on the school of these students was very pronounced and, for the most part, favorably so."

Said Mr. Murch, "These students have come with a far greater commitment than most of the others, and they have had a real effect on the school. These students are self-selected, and their performance has reflected their degree of commitment. They have contributed something that has made it a better school for all of the students."

There are at present, said Mr. Murch, about 71 students attending Thornlea, who do not live in the area. He is prepared to take from 20 to 22 more in September.

"Pupil-teacher ratios do bear on the general quality of education," the staff admitted in their brief, "but the benefits of our present kind of student community far outweigh any problems resulting from one additional student in each class."

"Therefore we wish to go on record as being in favor of continuing the present practice and are prepared to accept the 20 or so additional students . . . without requesting any additional teacher assistance from the board."

The board unanimously approved a motion from Markham Township Trustee John Honsberger seconded by Aurora Trustee Keith Nisbet that the teachers' request be approved.

"It is very refreshing that you are willing to make such an effort to make this work," commented Markham Township Trustee Louise Aimeone.

Trustee Tom Johnston of North Gwillimbury commented, "I only feel badly that we do not have a Thornlea in the north." He added that the north needs a "Don Head" for students who need the practical type of commercial and vocational training provided by the Don Head Secondary School in Richmond Hill.

Mr. Murch admitted, "We have quite a variety of students at Thornlea. Some have done very poorly and others extremely well, but the results from students outside of the area have been better than could be normally expected."



TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND AUDITOR'S REPORT - 1969

The Ratepayers,
The Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill,
Ontario.

In accordance with the terms of our appointment, we have audited the books and records of The Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill and its Boards and Commissions for the year ended December 31, 1969. We report on the attached financial statements as follows:

REVENUE FUND BALANCE SHEET

Cash on deposit in the various bank accounts of the Town and its Boards and Commissions at December 31, 1969 was verified by direct communication with the depositories.

The current operations of the Town of Richmond Hill for the year ended December 31, 1969 resulted in an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of \$179,556 as shown on the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

GENERAL

The tax roll was audited to the extent we deemed sufficient with respect to the accounting for current taxes collected. The tax arrears collections were examined in detail and the subsidiary ledger was agreed with the control accounts. Verification letters were sent to all taxpayers shown by the records to have been in arrears of taxes at December 31, 1969.

The assessment roll was checked for mathematical accuracy, but no attempt was made to ascertain whether all taxable property in the Town was included in the assessment roll.

We have examined the surety bonds carried on the officials of the Town, and, in our opinion, the amounts of the sureties are sufficient and the type of bond carried is adequate. It should be noted that no fidelity bond was carried on the Treasurer of the Public Library Board at December 31, 1969.

We hereby report that in our opinion

1. The financial transactions which have come under notice have been within the powers of the municipality.
2. The audit has been conducted in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Municipal Affairs.
3. The financial statements present fairly the financial position of the municipality as at December 31, 1969 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date.

Date of filing, April 27, 1970

Signature: Joscelyn, Laughlin, Harper, Tory & Associates,
Chartered Accountants.

Licence Number 3744

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE for the year ended December 31, 1969

	1969 \$	1968 \$
Revenue		
Taxation	3,143,312	2,965,215
Contributions from other governments	674,955	657,346
Other	285,604	159,745
Total revenue	4,103,871	3,782,306
Expenditure		
General government	148,195	146,331
Protection to persons and property	453,933	396,006
Public Works	442,973	388,703
Sanitation and waste removal	310,686	271,619
Conservation of health	705	7,820
Social and family services	15,180	48,697
Recreation and community services	171,206	184,742
Community planning and development	37,734	32,345
Financial expenses	20,494	13,668
Education	2,028,208	1,924,566
County — share of expenditure	369,497	392,506
Other	23,090	21,851
Total expenditure	4,021,901	3,828,854
Excess of revenue over expenditure for the year (Excess of expenditure over revenue for the year)	81,970	(46,548)
Surplus at the beginning of the year	97,586	144,134
Surplus at the end of the year	179,556	97,586

CAPITAL FUND BALANCE SHEET as at December 31, 1969

	1969 \$	1968 \$
Assets		
Accounts receivable		
Other — Tender Deposit	15,000	
Total current assets	15,000	
Capital outlay to be recovered in future years	2,401,748	6,224,595
Total Assets	2,416,748	6,224,595
Liabilities		
Temporary Loans	138,000	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities		
Local boards and other funds		
General Fund	157	
Other - Due to Contractor	15,000	23,918
Total current liabilities	153,157	23,918
Net long term liabilities		
General municipal activities	1,428,408	1,525,214
Municipal enterprises	835,183	907,776
School boards (all liabilities were assumed by divisional boards of education from January 1, 1969)		3,762,687
Total liabilities	2,263,591	6,195,677
Total liabilities	2,416,748	6,224,595

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended December 31, 1969

Note 1.
Net Long Term Liabilities
Total long term liabilities incurred by the municipality and outstanding at the end of the year amount to \$4,486,469

In addition, the municipality has assumed responsibility for the payment of principal and interest charges on the long term liabilities of other municipalities, the principal amount of which at the end of the year is 4,100

Of the outstanding long term liabilities shown above, the responsibility for payment of principal and interest charges has been assumed by others for an amount of (2,036,276)

The balance in the debt retirement fund of the Ontario Water Resources Commission which have been accumulated to the end of the year to retire the outstanding long term liabilities shown above amount to (190,702)

Net long term liabilities at the end of the year **\$2,263,591**

Note 2
Charges for Net Long Term Liabilities
Total charges for the year for net long term liabilities were as follows:

Principal payments \$ 146,923
Contributions to the debt retirement fund of the Ontario Water Resources Commission 14,081
Interest 177,231

\$ 338,235

Of the total charges shown above, an amount of \$217,916 was paid from the general revenues of the municipality and is included in expenditure classified under the appropriate functional headings, and the amount of \$120,319 was recovered from the municipal enterprises for which the related net long term liabilities were incurred.

Note 3.
Net Long Term Liabilities to be Specially Assessed
Certain net long term liabilities, the terms of which will require certain lands, owners or occupants to be specially assessed, have been included in the net long term liabilities, classified under general municipal activities. The basis and the amounts of these assessments are as follows:

1. The Local Improvement Act \$ 666,967

Note 4.
Liability for Sick Leave Benefits
Under the sick leave benefit plan, unused sick leave can accumulate and employees may become entitled to a cash payment on termination of service. The liability for these accumulated days, to the extent that they could be taken in cash by an employee on terminating, amounted to \$79,454 for the town and police commission employees and to \$15,487 for the employees of the waterworks department at the end of the year.

REVENUE FUND BALANCE SHEET as at December 31, 1969

	1969 \$	1968 \$
Asset:		
Cash	22,510	3,601
Accounts Receivable		
Other governments		
Canada	5,578	
Ontario	87,263	
Municipal	303	
	93,144	57,542
Local boards and other funds		
Capital Fund	157	
Arena Board	19	
Police Commission	285	
Hydro Electric Commission	517	
Waterworks Department	311	
	1,289	33,134
Other, after deducting allowance for doubtful accounts		7,098
Taxes receivable, after deducting allowance for uncollectable taxes	263,671	238,894
Inventories, at cost	5,112	4,435
Other assets	92,896	24,212
Total assets	478,622	368,916
Liabilities		
Temporary loans	100,000	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		
Other governments		
Municipal		3,854
Local boards and other funds		
Park Reserve Fund	7,000	
Multiple Dwelling Reserve Fund	2,217	
	9,217	4,735
Other	45,849	87,984
Other liabilities		14,757
Reserves	144,000	160,000
Surplus	179,556	97,586
Total liabilities	478,622	368,916

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