

KING CITY, OAK RIDGES LAKE WILCOX

"The Liberal" is always pleased to publish items of interest regarding people and events in the Oak Ridges - Lake Wilcox and King City districts. Our news correspondent in Oak Ridges - Lake Wilcox is Mrs. Elisabeth Orton, Yonge Street, 773-4635, in King City Mary Dawson, 884-1105.

Reassessment Blues Plaguing King Twp.

The storm over reassessment and the resultant startling leap in taxes for a number of King Township residents has already started to plague the municipal council.

"I'm in sympathy with you," Reeve Gordon Cook told a protesting ratepayer July 6. "But there's nothing I or council can do. I don't know what to do."

He was addressing his remarks to Robert Pinder of the 17th Sideroad who appeared before council with Paul Olson to protest the "Exorbitant increase in our taxes with no seeming justification." Council also received several letters from other ratepayers in the same complaining vein.

Mr. Pinder admitted to being perplexed because, "I don't know who to complain to. My assessment is up 41 percent and my taxes are up 41 percent this year."

"I'm just one taxpayer who is asking your help. What can you do for me?" Mr. Pinder owns 11 acres of residential land.

Reeve Cook, who is also Warden of York County, explained that "We as a council in King have no control over assessment. That's the job of county council."

Mr. Pinder interposed to state that he had approached the county but, "All they told me was that they had no control over taxes, that this part of the problem was council's responsibility."

Mr. Cook agreed stating that "The county does the assessing and it's up to the township's to do the taxing. But taxes are based on assessment, and that is out of our control."

The reeve said that the municipality had done its best to hold the line on taxes noting that

Lady Flora Eaton

Lady Flora Eaton, part-time resident of King Township for more than half a century, died July 9 at her Toronto home on Old Forest Road. She was 91 years of age.

Born Flora McCrea, daughter of an Omemece cabinet-maker, she became one of Canada's best known personalities, as a philanthropist, patron of the arts and a gracious leader of society as well as matriarch of a family which controls a \$400-million business empire. She was noted for her great zest for life.

She sang in Massey Hall, bred a prize herd of dairy cattle which she gave to OAC in Guelph a few years ago and shared her wealth with many cultural groups.

On the local scene, she took an intense interest in the activities of charitable groups of the area and had a policy of allowing such groups to use the beautiful lawns and gardens of Eaton Hall Farm, Concession 3, King Township, for money-making endeavors. These events served a double purpose, they enabled the charities to raise



LADY EATON
National Figure Dies

money for their projects and enabled Lady Eaton to share the beauty of her home with her neighbors in the area.

Included in local groups which took advantage of her generosity in this way were the Richmond Hill YWCA and the King City Cancer Society.

So that the historic stone Eversley Presbyterian Church would be preserved for posterity, she purchased it a decade ago, when the congregation joined with that of Strange Presbyterian Church in forming the new congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in King City.

Eaton Hall was used, with Lady Eaton's permission, during World War II as a convalescent centre for wounded sailors of the Royal Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy and navies of other allied countries. Representatives of these navies will be at Eaton Hall September 18 at a dinner at which Earl Louis Mountbatten of Burma, Admiral of the Fleet, Royal Navy will be guest of honor. Sponsors of the dinner are the Canadian Navy League of which Lady Eaton was a patroness.

Flora McCrea married John Craig Eaton, son of Timothy Eaton, in 1901, and became Lady Eaton in 1915 when her husband was knighted for home front service in World War I. She is survived by her six children: Timothy Craig, John David, Edgar Allison, Gilbert McCrea, Florence Mary and Evelyn Beatrice, who was adopted.

At her funeral service Saturday morning at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Aurora, Mayor Dick Illingworth served as an aide to Lieutenant-Governor Ross Macdonald. Mr. Macdonald's regular aid, 48th Highlanders Lieutenant Colonel Frank McEachern, is Lady Eaton's son-in-law and was consequently occupied with family matters.

A former Wing Commander with a lengthy record of service with the RCAF, Mr. Illingworth served for many years as aide-camp to the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

Whitchurch Council Hears Protests As Tax Bills Hit Citizens' Mailboxes

The tax bills have arrived in the mailboxes of Whitchurch Township and this municipality's taxpayers have joined in the county-wide chorus of complaints about the new market value reassessment.

Close to 30 taxpayers crowded the township council chambers for the regular meeting July 6. In Whitchurch it appears right now that it has been the farmers who have suffered the biggest tax surprise.

But there was one owner of land on the Gormley Sideroad that complained her assessment on a vacant property of three acres increased 40 times, from \$690 to \$32,600.

"This is downright preposterous. Down there at the assessment office, to put it in common language, they're nuts," said Mrs. Doris Strachan of RR 1, Richmond Hill.

Mrs. Strachan said she was in England when the assessment notices came out last fall, and she had no opportunity to appeal to the Court of Revision.

Herbert Simpson of Ballantrae appeared as spokesman for the delegation of Whitchurch Township farmers. Mr. Simpson has frequently served on municipal tax appeal courts.

He said he was almost ashamed to be sitting on the Court of Revision in North Gwillimbury last year as he heard the farmers describe what had happened to their assessments.

"We're here, not to tell you what to do, but to ask you what you can do for us," said Mr. Simpson. It was all right for those farmers who had their assessments go up about five times, he said, but some assessments had gone up nine or 10 times.

Mr. Simpson listed instances where farmers

had large increases in their taxes this year. One farmer with 250 acres had a \$700 tax hike, another with 100 acres had a \$400 increase, and a third with 125 acres had a \$350 tax increase, he said.

"This isn't funny. Is this the end? Are we going to get it again next year?" asked Mr. Simpson.

He said the farmers wanted some action and didn't want to have to organize a county-wide protest unless they were forced into it.

"The Court of Revision of North Gwillimbury recommended that farm land assessment in York County should be reduced 50% to allow farmers to make a reasonable living," said Mr. Simpson.

Deputy-reeve Norman Barnard pointed out to the farmers that the township council was already doing its best to deal with the problem of tax changes due to reassessment. The due dates for tax bills had already been held back a month to July 15 by council, he said.

Mr. Simpson said the farmers wanted relief before the first tax payment was due July 15. Reeve Stewart Burnett said it would be impossible for the township to act before the July 15 due date.

Action would be considered as soon as possible, said Reeve Burnett. The council was to meet in a few days with an official of the Department of Municipal Affairs to get advice on the new provincial legislation just passed at the end of June. The council would have to determine the extent of its new powers to provide tax relief for those with big increases due to reassessment, and determine how these powers might be applied, the reeve said.

19 Mill Tax Increase In Cookstown For '70

Residents of the Village of Cookstown face a severe tax increase of 18 mills this year, it was announced recently. The rate on residential property goes up from 78 mills in 1969 to 96 and on commercial from 87.5 last year to 107 this year.

Cookstown is in Simcoe County, where reassessment has not taken place and so was not a factor in the increase. Main cause of the jump was an increased levy for public schools (from \$33,840 to \$44,221). Of the increase, \$3,037 was because of an under-levy last year, it was explained.

Roman Catholic school supporters will pay only 71.63 mills this year, compared to 70.44 mills last year due to an over-levy last year.

Population of the village is about 800. The municipality will raise about \$68,000 through direct taxation, will receive \$37,000 from the province in grants and \$10,000 from other sources, for a total budget of \$155,000.

Members of the village council are: Reeve Norman Brown and Councillors Mrs. Isabel Rowe, Robert Riley, Derek Osborne and Dr. John McKay.

King Police Settle '69 Contract

A year and a half later after negotiations began King Township and its police association have reached an agreement over salary terms.

But that's only for 1969. Negotiations for the 1970 salary agreement will now begin.

It was announced at the July 6 council meeting that the 1969 settlement had been reached with terms retroactive to January 1, 1969.

Salaries as agreed upon in different classifications with the 1968 figures in brackets are as follows:

- Sergeant, \$8,950 (\$7,600);
- first class constable \$6,200 (\$7,100);
- second class constable \$7,700 (\$6,800);
- third class constable \$7,400 (\$6,500);
- probationary constable \$6,200 (\$6,000);
- cadet \$5,300 (\$5,050). This means an approximate salary increase of 18% for sergeants, 15.5% for first class constables, 13% for second class constables, 13.5% for third class constables, 3% for probationary constables and 5% for cadets.

The present force is made up of Chief Les Pengelly, two sergeants and 14 constables. Councillor Gordon Rowe is chairman of the police committee.

Oak Ridges - Lake Wilcox News

Invitation To The Ladies

A ladies' ball team has been formed at Lake Wilcox, all married ladies, we might add. Practices are held Sundays at 2 pm at the regular diamond, north of Lake Wilcox School.

Vandorf has also put a team together and Ballantrae is doing the same. Are there any ladies in Oak Ridges interested? Either in forming another team or joining the Lake Wilcox team.

Irene Goddard Is It Apathy?

At the beginning of my column some weeks ago, the editor of "The Liberal" was kind enough to give some prominence to a letter I had submitted about the formation of an association for children with learning disabilities. I am still anxious to have one formed in this area and find it most perplexing that although all three schools in the area have "openness classes" or special education classes, if you will, no one answered the letter - not even to tell me to mind my own business. Actually, it is very much my business as we have a son who could benefit greatly from such an organization.

Admitting that we have a child who needs help is sometimes the best thing we can do. From there on we try to do something about it.

Richmond Hill has an association for children with learning disabilities, which does much to help their children. After talking to the public health nurse who visits Oak Ridges I know that many children have been helped immeasurably.

PLEASE think about this again and call 773-4635.

Water Safety Program

After a somewhat confusing start July 6, things are going "swimmingly" at the lakefront in the water safety program. Two instructors are kept busy from 10 am to 12 noon with the beginners' class.

The playground program at Lake Wilcox School is well attended and the recreation committee members wish to bring to the parents' attention the fact that the program is free. Any monies collected as registration fees for the playground will be returned. So please send the children along.

The program will continue until August 21, on which date the children will go on an overnight camping trip to Humber Trails Conservation Area. Volunteers are needed to accompany them and camping equipment (loaned or donated) will be most appreciated - especially sleeping bags. Call Mike Scanlon at 773-5303 weekdays with your offer of help and/or equipment.

was showered by Miss Paula Kennedy July 6 at the Kennedy home, Aubrey Avenue.

Many friends and neighbors attended the kitchen and pantry shower. Karen will be married to Doug Kennedy July 25.

We certainly hope that Mrs. Marty Hendricks is feeling much better after her recent heart attack.

Five residents of Oak Ridges were most fortunate on the morning of July 8 when the car in which they were riding was involved in an accident at King Sideroad and Parker Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Labelle, Mrs. Grace MacNeal and daughter Penny and baby Labelle all escaped with bruises and a shaking up.

An invitation track and field meet will be held at the Aurora Ontario Hospital this coming Saturday between 1 and 4 pm. Residents will compete with residents from Edgar Rehabilitation Centre and Orillia Hospital School.

This should prove to be a very competitive afternoon as the boys at Aurora have been busily practising and training for some weeks now.

Oak Ridges Gas Line Gets Safe Clearance

Members of King Township Council last week received a form of assurance that a natural gas pipeline running along Yonge Street at Oak Ridges is being installed in accordance with provincial standards and poses no danger.

A letter from Consumers Gas informed council that a 12-inch diameter pipe and a six-inch one supplying the Yonge Street corridor and Oak Ridges had been relocated so it was not under the travelled portion of the highway now being rebuilt.

It also stated the installation complies with the pertinent government regulations as well as Department of Highway standards.

The pipeline is to be of all welded steel construction.

The letter also assured that the pipeline will be regularly inspected.

The question of the pipeline came up last April when Oak Ridges Barber Bill Craig expressed apprehension regarding the line which runs near his barber shop.

He said that "With the heavy equipment using the street now being rebuilt it wasn't beyond the realm of possibility of the line being accidentally ruptured."

Mr. Craig referred to natural gas explosions at Malton and a recent disaster in Osaka, Japan, noting that "I don't want that to happen here."

Council at that time agreed to contact the gas company.

Soon Home Numbering Oak Ridges Residents

Once upon a time when you were wanting to visit an acquaintance in Oak Ridges the worst thing you could do to find them was to ask for their house number.

Reason: No house number.

The usual method to guide friends to your home was to say the "16th house on Bond Avenue, the one with the blue roof and picket fence." Then cross your fingers.

Not any more, at least not much more.

Members of King Township Council were informed last week that numbering of homes to date in Oak Ridges has reached 70 percent.

The number will soon be up for the rest.

TEMPERANCEVILLE NEWS

Correspondent: Mrs. W. G. Jennings
Phone 773-5892

Neighborhood Notes

Friends of Mrs. John Durham will be interested to know that she is now a resident at the Villa Private Hospital, Bathurst Street, Vaughan Township and would be pleased to see any friends who could drop in for a little visit.

Mrs. James Brillinger of Woodbridge entertained friends and relatives at a shower on July 8, in honor of Miss Marilyn Keast of Toronto, who will become the bride of Robert Beynon later in the month. Among those attending from Temperanceville were Mrs. Clayton Beynon, Mrs. Wilfred James, Mrs. Nelson Thompson, Mrs. Everett Phillips, Mrs. Milton Wells, and Mrs. Stewart Paxton. Mrs. Maurice Beynon, Aurora was present also.

Wednesday, July 8 was a memorable day in the Brillinger household, as well as having the shower, they welcomed a dear wee baby girl to their family. Congratulations to all.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Fred Hare, and other members of the Ash family in the passing of her brother Eldwood Ash. Mr. Ash passed away

at his home Lake Wilcox last week after a lengthy illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Lloyd and Marilyn of Delhi spent several days last week visiting their parents and other relatives in the area, on their way to a short vacation in the Peterboro Haliburton region.

Mr. and Mrs. John Travin and family from Melfort Saskatchewan visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Mitchell and family the first week of July.

Timothy Henshaw and Norman Darrach, members of the Woodbridge 4H Club have returned from attending the Regional 4H Conference at York University. The conference was a seminar for fifteen year olds. Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Cunningham will be sorry to hear that Mr. Cunningham has been very poorly since they arrived at the East Coast, where they are spending the summer among friends and relatives.

Barnard Beats Back Attack

Whitchurch Deputy-reeve Norman Barnard July 6 kept his appointments as member of several Ontario, municipal organizations.

By a majority of three to two the township council defeated Councillor Gordon Ratcliff's motion that would have stripped Deputy-reeve Barnard of his appointments.

Councillor Ratcliff was supported by Councillor Merlyn Baker.

Deputy-reeve Barnard was supported by Reeve Stewart Burnett and Councillor Betty van Nostrand.

Councillor Ratcliff's motion was to rescind the council's February 2 resolution under which Deputy-reeve Barnard was appointed to the joint committee of the Association of Ontario Mayors and Reeves, the Association of Counties and Regions of Ontario, the Association of Rural Municipalities, and the Ontario Municipal Association.

Councillor Ratcliff gave notice of his motion two weeks earlier after a hot debate in council over costs involved in a court case the township lost against a gravel pit operator. One of the offices the deputy-reeve holds due to his municipal organization appointments is the chairmanship of a provincial committee on gravel pits.

200 Already Registered

Oak Ridges Children's Plan Underway

The Oak Ridges area summer recreation program for children aged six to 14 was scheduled to start this week at the Oak Ridges Public School.

Two hundred children were registered before the program started, and additional children can register for the six-week program for a one dollar fee.

This fee includes a swimming pool program. Pools have been donated.

Final plans for the summer program were hammered out last week by the local recreation committee. The program is being pushed hard this year because of the need to keep children away from the dangerous construction work going on along Yonge Street, through Oak Ridges.

It was only at the last minute that it was known the school gymnasium, classrooms and outside facilities would be available.

The program includes both the Whitchurch and King Township sides of Oak Ridges, although the extent of financial support to be available from Whitchurch Township isn't yet known, says Ken Blyth of South Road. He represents the

Whitchurch Township side of Oak Ridges on the recreation committee.

Through the King Township recreation director's office a playground supervisor has been provided, as in four other areas of the township.

The Oak Ridges supervisor is Heather Sedore, a first year physical education student at university and veteran of four years service as a swimming life guard.

The summer program is divided into two age groups, junior for ages six to 10, and senior for ages 10 to 14. Any younger children must be accompanied. Volunteer mothers will be organizing care for these very small children in one corner of the school grounds.

Mr. Blyth last week attended a meeting of Whitchurch Township Council to seek funds as the Whitchurch share of the Oak Ridges program.

The Oak Ridges group was late getting its budget in to Whitchurch Council, and anyway the councillors had felt the Oak Ridges area would be served by the Lake Wilcox recreation committee.

Mr. Blyth told the council

Oak Ridges wasn't included in the Lake Wilcox recreation operation, and that Benson Street had always been the boundary between the two communities, both for water service and school purposes. He said he was surprised the members of council weren't aware of this.

After deliberating, the council told Mr. Blyth that Oak Ridges would have to share the available Lake Wilcox recreation budget. Mr. Blyth said Oak Ridges didn't want to take money away from another area, but was given no alternative. The amount of money to be made available to Oak Ridges from Whitchurch Township must therefore still be determined by the council recreation committee.

Mr. Blyth complained that Whitchurch Township had given Oak Ridges the "run around" in lots of respects, and if something wasn't done soon, it would be too late for this year.

The Oak Ridges recreation group plans to seek a meeting soon with Richmond Hill officials to get an early start on plans for next year as part of the new expanded Town of Richmond Hill.

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