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Richmond Hill, Vaughan & Markham

Few Candidates In Running Yet For October 5 Vote



Arson charges were laid against two children in this \$250,000 fire Sunday at the Canada Packers Limited Shur-Gain Research Farm west of Maple. Forty Holstein Friesian dairy cows and 125 hogs were rescued from the burning 600-foot long three-storey barn, but 6,500 laying hens were lost.

Arson Charged In \$250,000 Fire

Two 11-year-old boys from Maple were charged with arson following a \$250,000 fire Sunday at the Canada Packers Limited Shur-Gain Research Farm on the Maple Sideroad just west of Maple.

Vaughan Township Firemen were called at 3:06 pm when the resident employees at the farm discovered the fire.

Firemen were on the scene for several days after the initial battle.

About 60 firemen, including all available volunteers from Richvale, Kleinburg and Maple,

were on the scene until 3 am Monday.

Water was forced about three-quarters of a mile from a pond. Three pumper firetrucks were required.

Fire Chief James Davidson said exploding gases from burning hay had apparently set the barn on fire from one end to the other before the flames were discovered.

There was no chance of saving the huge barn when firemen arrived.

Research farm employees were able to rescue 40 prize

dairy cattle and 125 hogs from the ground floor of the barn. The animals were protected by a six inch thick wooden floor above their heads.

But on the top three floors in the centre portion of the huge barn, 6,500 laying hens were destroyed.

The nearby farm office building and machine shed were saved.

Farm Manager George Robson said at press time there was no official estimate of the fire loss available, but Fire Chief Davidson predicted the final total would be close to \$250,000. Insurance adjusters were assessing the damage.

More Consultants To Aid Teachers In Catholic Schools For This Year

All separate schools in the county would be fully staffed for school opening Tuesday, trustees were told at a meeting of York County Roman Catholic School Board September 1.

Superintendent Joe Hodge reported several unforeseen developments which created problems. However all staff recruited are fully qualified teachers, said Mr. Hodge, carefully selected, well-recommended.

"Unforeseen developments" cited in the report included a serious car accident involving a beginning teacher, necessitating a resignation and a replacement; a pregnancy with requested replacement; and a return to Europe because of a family problem, requiring a replacement.

Consultative staff has been increased this year to include a primary consultant, a physical education consultant, and a part-time speech correction teacher.

A directory is about completed, said Mr. Hodge, showing all

staff and personnel in the schools and the system. This should be available this month.

Several academic meetings are planned for September for teachers and principals, including a family life meeting, a meeting of Oral French teachers with Regional Consultant Roy Schatz, a meeting of special education and remedial teachers with Special Education Consultant Dave Macdonald, a principals' meeting, a planners' workshop for principals, and a program development conference.

All of the maintenance work planned for the summer had not been completed, said Mr. Hodge, because of budget limitations. Work that might otherwise have been contracted is being done by board maintenance staff and this work will continue as part of the fall maintenance program.

Special attention has been given to the outside appearance of schools, and grass and weed cutting, which seems improved this year in most areas, reported the superintendent.

Margaret Britnell Is In King Mayoralty Race

By HAROLD BLAINE

One-year King Township Councillor Mrs. Margaret Britnell last week declared herself a candidate for mayor.

She didn't mince any words about the issue of her short experience on council when she talked to "The Liberal".

"Having long experience doesn't necessarily mean you've learned anything," she said, obviously referring to her main opponent, Deputy-reeve Ken MacTaggart, who has been on council for eight years.

"I don't have experience in terms of years in office as people usually think of it.

"But length of years service doesn't necessarily mean you have learned to have vision, or have learned what the answers are," said the outspoken King Township housewife, aged 43, mother of two boys and a girl.

"If tradition and experience had been the thing to rely on in King, the province wouldn't have had to step in and reorganize local government," she said.

"We had the same form of government for 100 years. The problems just kept growing. Going along in the same old way didn't prevent the necessity for a new form of local government," she said.

"We haven't moved forward nearly enough. The present form of government isn't suitable.

"So let's stop wailing and make regional government work," she declared.

Mrs. Britnell says that although she isn't a Progressive Conservative partisan, she thoroughly supports the Roberts Government's Toronto Centred Region Plan.

This plan has to be worked out at the local level, she says. She sees the most important issue in the election as being the new township Official Plan.



MARGARET BRITNELL Running for Mayor

Her opponent MacTaggart may have jeopardized the Official Plan by taking a position at odds with the wishes of the provincial authorities. It remains to be seen whether the province vetoes the Official Plan.

Councillor Britnell feels it is crucial to get the new Official Plan and to implement zoning bylaws for the large areas of

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Darcy McKeough Here Wednesday

Next Wednesday evening September 16 taxpayers in Richmond Hill will have the opportunity to discuss the hardships caused by reassessment on market value directly with Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm in the auditorium of Don Head Secondary School, located just east of York Central Hospital on the Maple Sideroad. Methods available to council on tax relief will be explained.

Richmond Hill Town Council sought this meeting with Mr. McKeough last May and this was the first mutually satisfactory date that could be obtained.

If your taxes increased more than 3.5 times this year because of reassessment you should be in attendance at this meeting since Mr. McKeough's department is the one which laid down the guidelines of market value for assessment. A capacity audience should go far to convincing the Minister that this policy needs modification.

The number of residential property owners in Richmond Hill, whose taxes because of reassessment have increased more than \$50 this year is reported to be about 1,300.



HON. JOHN TURNER, MP

Justice Minister At Liberal Rally

Federal Justice Minister John Turner will be the featured speaker at a community leader's dinner sponsored by Barney Danson MP, York North and the York North Federal Liberal Association to be held September 16 at the Bayview Golf and Country Club.

Mr. Turner represents an Ottawa area riding in the House of Commons and he was a candidate at the national Leadership convention of the Federal Liberal Party in April 1968 that elected Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau party leader. Mr. Turner joined Mr. Trudeau's Cabinet following the June 1968 general election as Justice Minister.

Mr. Danson has promised that the dinner will be followed by a two hour question and answer period during which everyone will have ample opportunity to question Canada's Minister of Justice. A reception at 6:30 precedes the dinner.

Tickets for the event are \$25 per person or \$50 for a couple and may be obtained by phoning 884-5837.

"Meet The Candidates"

A "Meet the Candidates" night will be sponsored by the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, September 30 at 7:30 pm, in the auditorium of Don Head Secondary School.

As this is the first election under regional government in York the directors of the chamber feel it is most important that all voters in the municipality be given an opportunity to see, hear and meet the candidates for the seats on the municipal and regional councils. This opportunity will help them in their assessment of the capabilities of each candidate to fill the position sought.

It is planned that presentations will be brief and the meeting will be well organized.

R. Hill Will Elect Nine, Seven Seats In Vaughan

Political fervor is at a low ebb in Richmond Hill and Vaughan Township it appears as nomination day is only 11 days off. Under the provincial legislation which sets up regional government in York, the elections for a two-year term for the regional council and municipal councils will be held October 5.

Nomination night is also set by the legislation and will be held in all York municipalities on September 21.

In Richmond Hill the nominations will be received between the hours of 7:30 and 8:30 pm in the auditorium of the Richmond Hill High School. It is expected that the usual public meeting will follow at which candidates will be allotted a brief time to present a platform to electors.

Voters in the new Town of Richmond Hill will be asked to elect eight councillors and a mayor. The mayor and two councillors will be elected over the whole new municipality and will sit both on the municipal council and on the regional council, which will be convened immediately following the election to start work on preparing for the advent of regional government on January 1, 1971. The other six councillors will be elected by wards, one to represent each of the six wards in the new town.

The only declared candidate for the mayoralty, so far, is present Mayor William Lazenby of Richmond Hill, who is completing his seventh year of service to the municipality.

To date neither the present Reeve Donald Plaxton or Deputy-reeve Ivan Mansbridge has indicated whether he will seek election, although both would appear to be logical contenders for the other two Richmond Hill seats on the regional government. It is expected both will be in the running come nomination night.

For the six municipal councillors, Eric George has announced his decision to stand for election in Ward 1 and David Schiller will run in Ward 2. Both these men are completing their first year as councillors. Councillor Lois Hancey, with almost seven years of council experience, has decided to run again in Ward 3. The incumbent Ward 4 Councillor Shaun Beggs, who has been chairman of the parks board for several years, has not declared as yet whether he will be a candidate.

Ward 5 is located south-west of the present Richmond Hill boundary, the area in which Vaughan Township Councillor Lou Wainwright lives. Mr. Wainwright has decided to seek this council seat in his new municipality. He is completing his first two year term as a councillor in Vaughan.

Ward 6 is the area between the Gamble Sideroad and the CFB Sideroad and between Bathurst Street and the proposed Highway 404. Councillor Gordon Rowe, who has been on King Township Council for the past six years, lives in this area and has indicated he will seek either the municipal council seat or a seat on the regional council.

His decision not to seek election has been arrived at "after much sincere thought about my home and employment obligations," stated Mr. McLean. "I feel that a political career at this time would be too demanding for me to undertake and my family would suffer."

Mr. McLean went on to express the opinion that the person elected to head the municipal government in the new Town of Vaughan will have to devote his full time to it. "His health and family will bear the brunt of a hard term of pioneering administration," the Woodbridge reeve stated.

Mr. McLean has been involved in the Woodbridge political scene for the past decade. He is employed by Ontario Hydro.

Robert Ross, one of the two

Trustees Ask For Joint Committee For Seneca Campus York County

York County Board of Education would like to work with York County Council in its efforts to persuade Seneca Community College to locate its new campus in York County.

The college first opened its doors in the fall of 1967 in a converted factory building on Sheppard Avenue east of Yonge Street in Willowdale.

Under the auspices of the Applied Arts and Technology Branch of the Department of Education, Seneca is designed to provide practical and academic education for young people and adults of the County of York and the Borough of North York.

Two buildings on the college's first permanent campus at Finch and Woodbine Avenues are now in use and last spring county council learned that the college is looking for a second campus site.

Citing the pressing needs of York County for such a facility, county council appointed a committee of three to approach the college, asking that the new campus be located north of Steeles Avenue. Members of the committee are Reeve Donald Plaxton of Richmond Hill, who is also vice-chairman of Seneca's board of governors, Reeve Evelyn Buck of Aurora and Reeve Gladys Rolling of East Gwillimbury.

York County Board of Education also appointed a committee which is concerned with preparing a presentation to Seneca's board of governors. Those on the board committee

Jaycee Trade Fair September 25, 26

Richmond Hill Jaycees' Trade Fair to be held at the town arena September 25 and 26 is almost ready to go.

Chairman Karl Reisenweber advises that a few booths are still available. Jaycees are sponsoring the event to let residents see what is happening in Richmond Hill.

Radio station KEYE will have one of its traffic helicopters flying out of the fair piloted by Bob Rice, a resident of the Hill.

Features of the fair include a fashion show, hourly door prizes, including free helicopter rides, an auto show featuring 1971 automobiles, and grand door prizes of a set of brand new tires for adults and a shiny new bicycle for a lucky boy or girl.

Further information may be obtained by calling 884-7477.

Former Resident Of Richmond Hill Recalls Magic Of Childhood Days In The Village

Life in Richmond Hill almost half a century ago is recalled by Miss Isobel Cowie, 61 Martin Avenue, Guelph. Miss Cowie was the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. George Cowie, who lived in the white frame house located well back from Yonge Street just south of the home of Dr. James Langstaff.

Mr. Cowie was a blacksmith, coming to the village from Dollar in Markham Township, who had his smithy on the Yonge Street frontage. James Hunt, the last blacksmith at this location, served his apprenticeship with Mr. Cowie and took over the business from him.

The old Cowie home will soon disappear to make room for the large commercial-apartment development planned for the west side of Yonge Street.

The long farm lane referred to is still in existence and leads to the home of Howard Atkinson. It also served the Rumble Farm home. — Editor)

The article in the Globe on Dr. Ralph Langstaff's one-hundredth birthday sent my thoughts racing back to the Richmond Hill I knew. It is the Richmond Hill of vision, the promised land, a place of beauty and security, a sure haven.

There were so many fascinating places that it is hard to know where to



George Cowie's Blacksmith Shop, which served the farming community around Richmond Hill a half century ago, is seen above. It was located on North Yonge Street just south of Dr. James Langstaff's property. In the group pictured (left to right) are: George Cowie, an unidentified man and dog, James G. Hunt who served his apprenticeship in the shop and took over the business from Mr. Cowie, Jim Cowie, Marjorie Atkinson and Agatha Cowie.

lane was deeply rutted, and led over a narrow bridge across the creek. I remember driving the team with the wagon rattling behind furiously over it, as Bill, my nephew, shouted, "Take the lines, Dad. Don't let her drive."

Next was the undertaker's. We did not play around there — the atmosphere was too ominous. The night their barn burned was an awesome one. With all the frame buildings in close juxtaposition, there was imminent danger of the fire spreading. The Richmond Hill Fire Brigade, a volunteer organization, worked desperately to prevent disaster, and each nearby roof had men pouring on buckets of water, for safety. The other day I came across a clipping which had fallen down behind a desk drawer, telling of the undertaker's still-born son, and I thought how little I really knew of our neighbours' stories. That was the first time I had heard of him. It was typical of mother to have kept the clipping; she had sympathy and understanding for all.

The Newtons' beautiful brick home was the scene of my short-lived piano lessons. Earl Newton had little patience with a youngster who would not practice. And although mother extolled the virtues of Isobel McCrae, who could play music to melt the soul, my fingers were not nimble enough to emulate

her. I had taught myself to play hymns by studying a chart of the keys before I was sent for lessons, and mother probably decided that I was to be a musical genius. Alas for parents' fond dreams!

Mr. Newton was the Presbyterian organist, a wizard at the instrument. He encouraged local talent, and with his skill and that of violinists like Aileen Atkinson and David Stirling, and visiting artists, we had concerts to satisfy the aesthetic.

McLeans' white clapboard house stood behind the big elm. The sidewalk was built around the tree, which formed the rendezvous for our hide-and-seek as children, and for secret trysts as teenagers. (The whole of Yonge Street in the village was lined with trees, mostly maples, a green canopy in summer, a flaming arch in autumn.) Old Mrs. McLean knitted assiduously — endless booties and babies' clothes — for an added source of income. She was a dear friend of mother's, and often slipped through the hedge to join her on the verandah in the summer, or the dining room in the winter, both happily clicking their needles as they talked.

The hedge belonged to the doctor, with convenient holes in either border for the neighbors' short cuts. They enclosed a long front lawn, again used

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