

The Liberal

"In Essentials Unity; in Non-Essentials Liberty; in all things Charity"

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SUNNYBROOK MEATS

Yonge Street - Willowdale
Special This Week

BUTT

**PORK
CHOPS 49¢ LB.**

Special Legislation For York And Peel

No Working Figures For Municipal Offices

Our Neighbors Fill Auditorium

McKEOUGH DEFENDS MARKET VALUE



Crash Kills King Motorcyclist

Killed in a head-on car and motorcycle collision September 17 at 8:25 pm was a King Township newcomer and college student Douglas Moore, 21, of CFRB (15th) Sideroad, Concession 2. He was the second King Township motorcyclist killed in a crash this summer. The crash took place in a light rain in heavy darkness under very slippery conditions on Dufferin Street, about 1/4-mile north of the King Sideroad. Mr. Moore was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Moore, formerly of Toronto. He had recently purchased the motorcycle for use in attending classes in Toronto. The driver of the car, Dale O'Brien, 31, of Concession 5 and a long time King resident, was uninjured. The accident took place on a level part of the road just north of a railroad crossing. The motorcycle was travelling north and damage to the 1968 model machine was estimated by police at \$900. Damage to the 1964-model car was estimated at \$400. Mr. Moore was pronounced dead of multiple injuries on arrival at York Central Hospital. Coroner Dr. Bernard Granton, said there won't be any inquest. King Township Police Constable Alan Tienkamp investigated the accident.

People from Aurora, Whitchurch, King, Vaughan and Markham Townships and the Town of Markham, as well as those from Richmond Hill crowded the auditorium of Don Head Secondary School, September 16, to discuss the inequities of reassessment, relief from undue tax burden and the future with Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough. Although Mr. McKeough was 35 minutes late in arriving, he spent more than two and a half hours answering questions with the assistance of York County Assessment Commissioner Ken Andrews, and Richmond Hill Mayor William Lazenby, who chaired the meeting.

Mayor Lazenby summarized the problems faced by ratepayers and the municipality, pointing out that the Ontario Government had provided two means of easing the burden on residential taxpayers. Bill 142, an amendment to the Municipal Act, permits a municipality to limit the increase in taxation because of reassessment to 10% or \$50 in any one year, and the decrease because of reassessment to 5% or \$50 in any one year. Bill 143, an amendment to the Assessment Act, enables a municipality to limit increases to the same amount, with the deficit being charged over the general tax rate in the municipality, he explained.

Richmond Hill has been hoping for further assistance from the province, financially, to offset this deficit, but learned at a meeting between Mr. McKeough and the heads of municipalities held recently that none would be forthcoming, the mayor continued. He admitted that he had voted against using Bill 142 in the town because he felt that those who had received decreases had evidently been paying more than their just share of taxes in the past and were entitled to the decrease. Later he stated he was willing to support Bill 143 if council agreed to use it to provide the necessary tax relief.

Councillor Lois Hancey's request to the Minister to use his influence to give the municipalities' access to the work sheets of the assessor immediately, so local ratepayers may be advised, fell on deaf ears. It was explained by Assessment Commissioner Andrews that the assessment rolls will not be ready for the municipalities until September 30. The UNIVAC programming is underway now. This programming is different to the one for the tax notices, which are already out, he said.

"The whole area of taxation is complex and confusing. It has been the subject of a number of studies and of some action," stated Mr. McKeough. Reform of the municipal structure and reform of municipal financing were two areas he named in this respect.

"In terms of total tax dollars, the tax on real estate is a real burden to the people," he continued, describing it as a regressive tax as opposed to a progressive tax. "There are no simple answers, no sweet likes paying taxes."

The Minister claimed he considers "meetings such as this can only be of benefit. They give me an opportunity to learn what is in your minds."

Later in answer to a question, Mr. McKeough stated that "the aim of tax reform is not to impose higher taxes on residential taxpayers and to benefit the industrial taxpayer. We would like to keep the same percentage across the province and can do that by the easiest ways. We can adjust the split mill rate (industrial, commercial taxpayers already pay a higher tax rate than residential taxpayers), and/or increase the business tax. Probably what we will ultimately do is a combination of the two." Mr. McKeough indicated that this solution is at least two years in the offing, until all of York and Peel Counties have been reassessed on market value (the City of Brampton's reassessment is not yet complete) and the assessments have been stabilized.

Mr. McKeough pointed out that assessors in some parts of the province, "on instruction or on their own whim, tended to assess at higher value commercial and industrial property. There are also great inequities within the residential class," he noted as he pointed out that in Richmond Hill, reassessment sharply increased assessment on older homes and newer homes were not increased as much. This was an indication of inequities within the classes as well as inequities between classes.

"Court cases in Toronto and Hespeler have led to decisions that we must have equity within the class. Assessors have created the shifts we now have. In some cases the shifts have been the other way — from residential to industry — mostly in company towns," the Minister told his audience. "I start from the premise the assessment is correct. What I have to do now is to devise a tax system which will balance the tax load."

Mayor Alma Walker of the Town of Markham, reporting that she had been told that Markham Township is going under the Assessment Act amendment, wanted to know if the burden of the relief granted residential taxpayers would be charged back to the present township or to all ratepayers which comes into being January 1. The Minister's answer was that any surplus or deficit with which a municipality enters regional government will be a charge or a credit to that



DARCY McKEOUGH
Minister Under Fire

area which has incurred it. He went on to explain that there will be area rates, just as there are now, where ratepayers in some areas are paying frontage taxes each year for water and sewage services, while others are not. "Hopefully we would like to see evaluation of the area which has incurred it. He went on to explain that there will be area rates, just as there are now, where ratepayers in some areas are paying frontage taxes each year for water and sewage services, while others are not. "Hopefully we would like to see evaluation of the area which has incurred it."

(Continued on Page 11)

1970 Assessments Out Last Appeal October 14

The assessment notices on which 1971 taxation will be based are now in the hands of local taxpayers in Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham.

Issued by Assessment Commissioner Ken Andrews of the York County Assessment Office, this is the first notice since the takeover of assessment by the province.

LAST DAY FOR APPEAL on this assessment is OCTOBER 14.

An accompanying note indicates that errors in spelling, address, inaccurate description of property and wrong designation of school support can be corrected without the necessity for an appeal. Notice of such errors should be given the York County Assessment Office at 896-8644 or ZEnith 58-500 before September 30.

On that date the assessment roll will be returned to the municipalities and may be examined in the municipal offices. Prior to that date, information about the assessment and detailed information at any time may be obtained at the assessment office, located in the York County Building in Newmarket, at 64 Bayview Avenue. It is open for this purpose September 15 to 30, Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 9 pm, and from October 1 to October 14, Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 9 pm.

Because of requirements of the new Assessment Act only the total assessed value of the property is contained on the assessment notice and the assessment roll, so examination of it will not answer all questions. If you disagree with the amount of your assessment, our advice is to enter an appeal before the deadline — and to make certain that the appeal is in the Newmarket office before October 14. If you can then discover that the assessment is on a par with your neighbours' and with other similar properties in the municipality, the appeal may be withdrawn. However, if you wait to have all your questions answered, you may miss the deadline and so have no avenue open to you for another year.

Trustees Make New Offer

Teachers' Salaries Near Settlement

At a marathon meeting in Aurora last Thursday, negotiating committees for York County Board of Education and the county's secondary school teachers arrived at agreement on a salary package for the school year 1970-71.

Terms of the agreement will not be made public, however, until after they have been presented to general meetings of the teachers and the board of education. It is expected that the teachers will meet this week, and the board will consider the committee's report at its regular meeting next Monday.

Negotiations between teachers and trustees began late last fall, but broke down in March when they could not agree on some aspects of the board's offer. The teachers maintained that an across-the-board increase would discriminate against experienced teachers.

Talks resumed in June, and the board made a "final" offer to the teachers, with salaries in most categories on a par with those offered to secondary teachers in Metro.

The teachers objected that the York County offer would give less of an increase to teachers with eight or more years of experience than was being offered to their counterparts in Metro.

A moratorium on teacher hiring imposed by the Metro OSSTF "pink list" was lifted June 11, and York County teachers were hired for September. Salaries were based on the board's offer of June 8.

Agreement with elementary school teachers at levels 1 to 3 was ratified in May, but teachers from level 4 to 7 have the

same basic qualifications as secondary school teachers who are classified in categories 1 to 4, according to academic qualifications. Salaries for elementary school teachers at these levels will be adjusted to the same level as those of colleagues in the secondary schools with the same qualifications. A revised "salary package" was offered to the teachers on June 22, but a vote of all secondary schools teachers in the county rejected the new offer, and talks were again broken off. Teachers and trustees met (Continued on Page 3)

Student Population Up In Public, Catholic Schools Of York County

When schools in York County opened September 8 there were more pupils in public elementary, Roman Catholic and secondary schools than there were a year ago, but not as many as trustees and board officials had anticipated.

The only places where increases were higher than had been anticipated were the schools for trainable retarded and York County Board of Education staff attribute this to the number of children from outside the county who have been enrolled in these schools.

A year ago there were 29,613 children enrolled in elementary schools governed by the board of education and the forecast for this year was 30,298, but only 29,861 showed up on opening day — 248 more than in September, 1969, but 437 fewer than anticipated.

Enrolment in secondary schools increased by 771, from 12,620 to 13,391, but this was 187 fewer than the official forecast.

There was a 153 increase in enrolment in York County Roman Catholic Schools, 4,749 on September 8 this year, compared with 4,596 a year ago.

Staff of both boards noted that the greatest decline appeared to be at the kindergarten level and predicted some late enrolments which might bring the student population of elementary schools to the anticipated level.

Roman Catholic School Board Assistant Superintendent John Zupanec noted that all classrooms and portables are full, adding "Perhaps it is a good thing we do not have as many as we expected."

Superintendent Joe Hodge commented that county population appears to be fairly static at the moment. Many developments are under way, but are not yet occupied.

Both boards have new schools and additions under way or in the planning stages in areas where development is in progress.

A total of 150 children from both boards are enrolled in schools for the retarded.

County Board Assistant Director Gordon McIntyre observed that, on the whole, forecasts had been quite close, with a fairly even distribution of increases and decreases throughout the county.

Elections For Mayor And 3 Councillors In Regional Town Of Richmond Hill

Richmond Hill will have an election on October 5 for the mayoralty and municipal councillors in Wards 1, 4 and 5. All other municipal council, regional council and school board seats were filled by acclamation. A total of 22 nominations were received for the 15 seats, and 19 nominees qualified.

An estimated 200 ratepayers were present when nominations closed at 8:30, but had thinned to a handful by 10 o'clock when the last candidate had been heard. Many were present

Candidates' Night Cancelled

Because of the large number of acclamations to municipal and regional office in the current election, Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce has decided to cancel its candidates' meeting. This was scheduled to take place September 30 in Don Head Secondary School.

In Richmond Hill, the whole town will be voting October 5 in the mayoralty race and elections for municipal councillors will be held at the same time and places in Wards 1, 4 and 5.

Chamber of Commerce President Stuart Casement, in making the announcement of cancellation, suggests that meetings arranged by ratepayers' groups would be much more effective in bringing the candidates and the public together.

east side of Cedar Avenue to boards. He touched briefly on Bills 142 and 143 provided by the provincial government to ease the tax burden on hardship cases. He stated his preference (Continued on Page 11)

Council this year has given assistance to the Richmond Hill Drop-In Centre, the Youth Aid Centre which is run under supervision of the Addiction Research Foundation and has been most successful, Richmond Hill and Area Family Counseling Service, Richmond Hill Day Care Centre, introduction of textured sidewalks on Yonge Street, and modernization of Yonge Street lighting, he reported.

He also reported regional government was fought until its implementation by an act of the provincial legislature for several reasons, particularly because of lack of information on the economics of the region. It was not initiated from the local municipal level and Richmond Hill could have lost its identity and the efficiency of services could be reduced drastically. The mayor listed the victories in this respect as retaining our identity and getting three representatives on the regional council.

Early setting of the tax mill rate was an accomplishment in which the mayor took great pride in view of the earlier financial demands of school



WALTER PITMAN MLA

Council Appeals Equalization

The provincial equalization factor will be appealed by Richmond Hill Town Council, it was decided at the September 14 meeting.

This equalization factor is set by the Department of Municipal Affairs and is used by the Department of Education in determining the percentage of education costs which will be assumed by the province. Although the average contribution over the province was 51% in 1970, York County Board of Education received only 47.6% — the same percentage paid the Metro boards.

In 1969 the percentage in York was the provincial average, and the only change had been the reassessment on market value. It is estimated that this cost the York ratepayers \$1,200,000 this year.

Appeals against the equalizing factor must be made by the individual municipalities, it has been discovered and York County Council has recommended that they do so. Concern is felt about the York factor's relation to that for other areas — not about the distribution of education costs within York.

Mayor Alma Walker of the Town of Markham, reporting that she had been told that Markham Township is going under the Assessment Act amendment, wanted to know if the burden of the relief granted residential taxpayers would be charged back to the present township or to all ratepayers which comes into being January 1. The Minister's answer was that any surplus or deficit with which a municipality enters regional government will be a charge or a credit to that

Meet Local NDP

Peterboro's youthful member of the Legislature and candidate for leadership of the Ontario New Democratic Party, recently met York Centre NDP Riding Association representatives at a gathering in Willowdale.

Liberal Staff Writer Harold Blaine reports on that meeting in a feature story on this page of today's edition of "The Liberal".

Impressed By Former Langstaff School History Teacher

Local NDP Meet Second Leadership Candidate Walter Pitman, Now Making Choice

BY HAROLD BLAINE

York Centre President Roy Clifton of Richmond Hill, along with eight other leading members of the local New Democratic Party Riding Association, last week had a personal opportunity to "size up" NDP Ontario leadership candidate Walter Pitman, MLA from Peterboro and former teacher at Langstaff Secondary School.

A provincial leader will be picked during the Ontario NDP convention October 1 to 4 at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

The York Centre delegates were among the 30 party members who attended a wine and cheese party at the home of Morton Warling, 66 Whitburn Crescent, Willowdale, to get a close look at the young leadership hopeful.

Some time ago York Centre

NDP members had a similar meeting with leadership candidate Stephen Lewis.

Candidate Pitman, 41, a Toronto native and MLA for Peterboro, was accompanied by a supporter, Yorkview MLA Fred Young, Armourdale Riding delegates were also present to meet the leadership candidate.

The other York Centre New Democrats who met and talked with candidate Pitman were: Dr. Robert Price of Markham; Mr. and Mrs. Pat Tirrell of Thornhill; Mrs. Donald George of Maple; Miss Christine George of Maple; Michael Jones of Maple; Allan Mills of Concord; and John Bookalam of Richmond Hill.

The New Democratic Party York Centre Riding Association executive were also planning to meet

last week to appoint a campaign committee. A meeting to discuss leadership preferences may also be held before the delegates go to the provincial convention.

At the meeting candidates Pitman spoke for a while and then answered questions put by the Armourdale and York Centre delegates. Afterwards the meeting broke up and the delegates talked informally with each other and Mr. Pitman.

The leadership candidate said he is impressed by the increased vigor shown in the NDP riding associations he visited during his tour of the province. This was especially apparent in Northern Ontario, he said.

He said he was everywhere being asked, "What would you do if you were prime minister?" This

showed party members were thinking in terms of it being more likely that the NDP will form the government.

Regarding the controversy between party research Professors Wilson and Kaplan, regarding the correct approach for the next campaign, Mr. Pitman said he believed most of Ontario was small "c" conservative, wanting sane, sensible and careful government.

This was his difference with the other leadership candidate Stephen Lewis, who believed there are a lot of politically angry people in Ontario to whom the NDP should appeal in the next campaign.

"Mr. Roberts (Premier) would like the NDP to appear as revolutionaries... economic 'weirdoes' is Mr. Randall's term... in favor of government control and more

bureaucracy," he said. Mr. Pitman said that the people of Ontario want a sane, sensible, sensitive government which will take power in order to hand power back to the people.

"For example," he said, "there are the regional governments and regional school boards that have been forced on the people with insufficient consultation."

Leadership Candidate Pitman said he felt government power should be dispersed, rather than concentrated.

"The Progressive Conservative government has made municipal government a sham. Queen's Park makes the decisions through its grants structure."

"People don't think the PC government is incompetent. People are more concerned about its lack

of sensitivity to their needs," said the NDP member.

Asked about his stand in relation to the radical NDP Waffle Group Mr. Pitman said this question couldn't be answered in a single word because the Waffle is on the political left on some issues and on the right on others.

Mr. Pitman said he therefore agrees with the Waffle on some points and disagrees with them on others.

"In any case," he said, "this matter is not important, because I personally don't set the policy of the party. That is done by the convention."

Asked why he wanted to be prime minister, Mr. Pitman said he feels the NDP can place the province on the frontiers of development. He said a prime minister

in Ontario has more scope than the NDP premier has in Manitoba, or had in past years in Saskatchewan, because of the relatively limited resources in those Western provinces.

"In Ontario the range of resources is much greater and the degree of development by interests from another country has gone on to a much further extent," he said.

"People talk about a just society, but what I would like to see is a compassionate society."

"The Roberts government is not incompetent or corrupt, but it has made Ontario a province of lost opportunities."

"The prime minister of Canada would have to listen to an NDP Ontario premier, because Ontario is the wealthiest province and has (Continued on Page 11)