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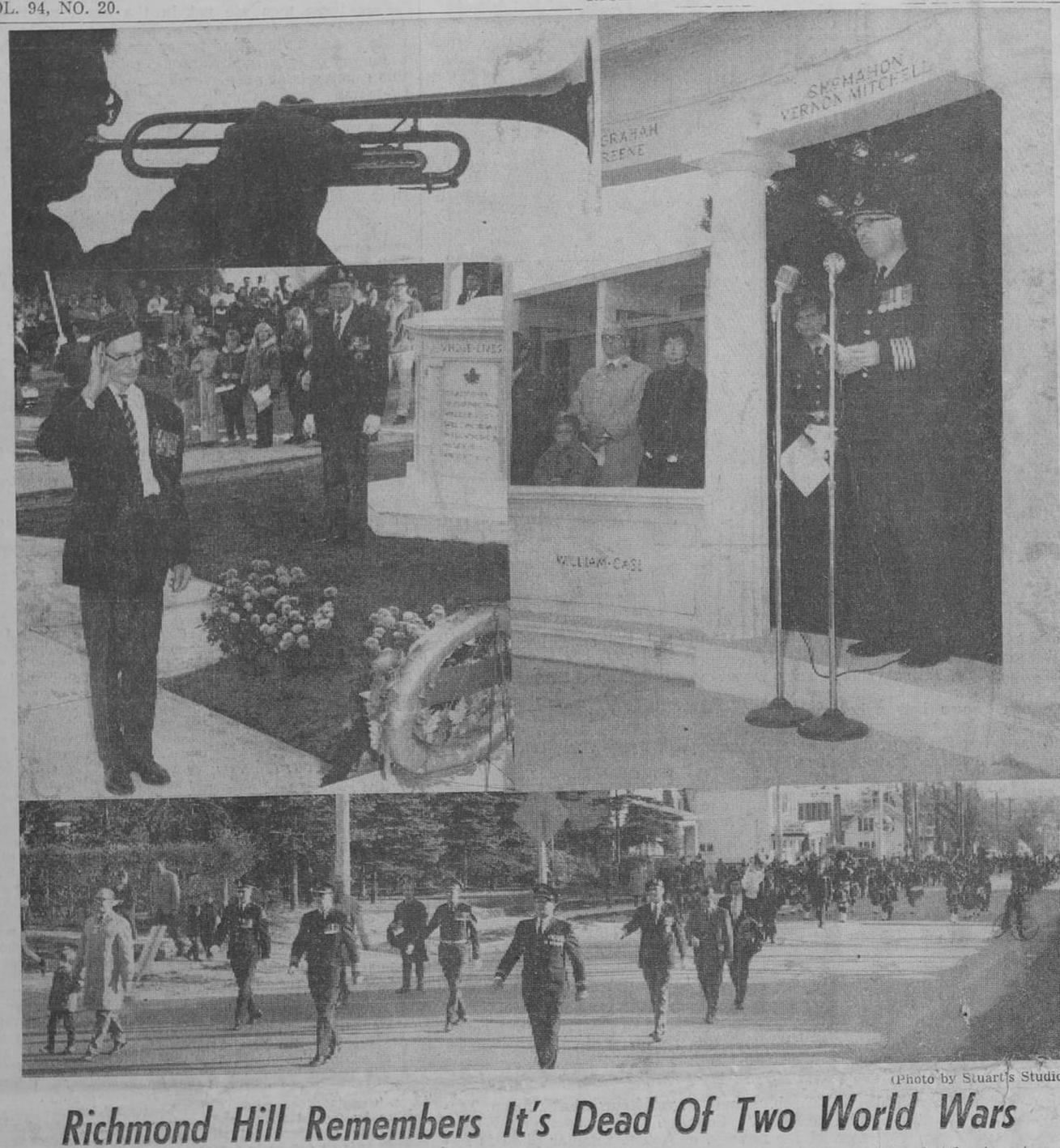

(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Richmond Hill Remembers It's Dead Of Two World Wars

The brave men who gave their lives in two World Wars and the sacrifices of those who survived the battles to return to civilian life were remembered by a large crowd of Richmond Hill citizens at the annual Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph Sunday afternoon.

The above composite photo shows in the upper left hand corner Trumpeter Ron Robbins as he sounded Reveille; below him is Col. C. S. Rutherford, of Keswick, winner of the Victoria Cross in World Ward I as he placed a memorial wreath.

Speaker of the day was Col. William Diggle of No. 3 Canadian Forces Technical Services Agency, Toronto, substituting for Lt. Col. R. J. Ford, whose duties for the government prevented him from filling this engagement. He is seen in the photo at the right with Mayor William Lazenby and son and Councillor Lois Hancey in the left background.

The lower photo shows the head of the parade, with the large Newmarket Legion Pipe Band in the background, followed by marching Legionnaires, members of the Ladies' Auxiliary, sea cadets and two squadrons of air cadets.

The sea cadets were from the Richmond Hill ship HMCS Patriot under the command of Lieut. David Ellison. The local Air Cadet Squadron 778 was under the command of Capt. Vic Vieren and Squadron 172 from Avenue Road was commanded by Major Glen Kessler. The squadron was preceded by its pipe band.

Mel Collier was the parade marshall.

The large group of citizens attending owe a debt of gratitude to Dagmar Construction Company, the contractor for the reconstruction of Yonge Street, who assigned a crew of men and machines to spend all day Friday filling in trenches and levelling the shoulders of the road and generally erasing most signs that a major reconstruction work is underway. The Cenotaph was also surrounded by flowering chrysanthemums placed by employees of the parks works department.

Lazenby Move Beaten

22 Ornamental Lights Yonge Street

Chairman Sam Cook of Richmond Hill Hydro announced this week that the local commission in co-operation with the Civic Improvement Committee are installing 22 ornamental pedestrian lights along both sides of Yonge Street extending north from Arnold Street to Levendale Road.

These lights which are in addition to the regular street lighting will be installed along the sidewalk areas during the current Yonge Street rebuilding program. The lights which will be on a nine foot standard will feature either three or five globes. Seventeen will have three globes while five will have the five globes. The five globe lights will be installed in front of the hydro parkette, the municipal building will have two, Richmond Hill United Church and the St. Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church, one each.

The lights will cost hydro a total of $6,512 and are being manufactured in Canada by a Toronto firm.

Rettie Heads York Region Staff

Jack Rettie, 49, of Newmarket, has been named the founding chief administrative officer for the new York Region Municipal Government at a salary of $32,500 per year.

Mr. Rettie, a Metro native, has been for 16 years the chief engineer for the Toronto and York Roads Commission and York County engineer.

Mr. Rettie was named officiating officer for the regional government earlier this year by founding Region Council Chairman Garfield Wright.

He worked closely with Mr. Wright during the period in which preparations were made for the new regional municipality.

The region council elections were held October 5 and the council's first business meeting was October 29.

Mr. Rettie's appointment was made only after a tough struggle in council.

His experience, capability and qualifications weren't questioned by any member of the council.

But close to half the council appeared to quarrel with the method followed in making the appointment.

There was no recorded vote on the issue, however.

Several region councillors fought hard to have the new region's chief staff job advertised openly to all possible applicants before making the appointment.

But Chairman Wright led a determined majority of council in appointing Mr. Rettie as the best candidate from among the employees of the existing local government corporations being taken over by the new regional government.

* * * *

The drive to have the top job advertised was led by Richmond Hill's Mayor William Lazenby. His motion to advertise the job was seconded by Richmond Hill Councillor Donald Plaxton.

"If Mr. Rettie dropped dead tomorrow, who would we fall back on to fill this position," asked Mayor Lazenby.

Councillor Plaxton insisted that the common practice of advertising municipal government jobs must be followed.

East Gwillimbury Mayor Mrs. Gladys Rolling vigorously opposed the motion to have the position of chief administrator advertised.

"We should consider existing employees. There's no advantage in advertising at this time. The people we have are competent. Let's get on with the job," said Mayor Rolling.

Richmond Hill Councillor Gordon Rowe said the job should be advertised. He said this was the only proper way to make the appointment.

"It may reflect on us otherwise," said Councillor Rowe.

Vaughan Mayor Garnet Williams said, "It is well known we had a straw vote the last time we met, and that we were pretty well unanimous in hiring Rettie."

(Apparently Mayor Williams was referring to previous informal gatherings of the region council).

Newmarket Mayor Robert Forhan said he felt it would be very hypocritical to advertise the job just for form's sake.

Markham Councillor Jim Jongeneel said he didn't think the council would get anyone applying if the job were advertised, since it was well known the appointment of Mr. Rettie was "cut and dried".

Markham Mayor Anthony Roman said in his opinion advertising the job was the only way to consider those from other municipalities who might be interested in the job.

Chairman Wright said it was urgent that appointments be filled without delay, as the new administration had to be functioning without fail on Jan. 1.

He noted that such things as the issuing of thousands of welfare cheques and other such major items of business just absolutely had to be immediately taken care of by the new administration.

* * * *

Chief Administrator Rettie first became involved in York County roads affairs when he was hired in 1946 as a project engineer when the head office was in Toronto.

When Metro was formed in 1954 he was the only engineer who stayed with the Toronto and York Roads Commission, being appointed to the dual post of chief engineer and county engineer.

He moved to Newmarket with the commission offices in 1956.

Mr. Rettie is a Toronto University graduate in science and engineering. He attended York Memorial Collegiate in York Township.

Since moving to Newmarket he has been very active in community affairs.

For five years he was the York County Council's appointee to the Newmarket District High School Board. He was vice-chairman of the board when he retired from his seat the year the York County Board of Education was formed in January 1969. He retired because he felt there might seem to be some conflict of interest in his holding a job with a regional government body and serving as an elected representative on the regional school board.

JACK RETTIE
Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Rettie was president of the Ontario Good Roads Association in 1967, and was on the board of this municipal association for 10 years. His period of office coincided with the years in which a major reorganization of the association was carried out.

He is a past president of the County Engineers' Association of Ontario. He served two 5-year terms on the County Engineers' Advisory Committee to the Minister of Highways.

Mr. Rettie is married and has a son and daughter, plus one grandchild.

He has been active in minor baseball and hockey in Newmarket, now being associate manager of the Newmarket Peewee All-Stars in the North York Hockey League.

He is a member and former director of the Summit Golf and Country Club, Jefferson.

Name '71 Town Council Comm.

A recommendation for the 1971 committees of Richmond Hill Town Council was placed before the organizing committee November 2 by Mayor William Lazenby. Each member of the council-elect had given the mayor a list of the committees on which he (or she) wished to serve in priority sequence. From these lists the mayor came up with the following suggestions:

Works and Property: Chairman David Schiller, Vice-Chairman Shaun Beggs, Stewart Bell and Gordon Rowe.

Finance: Chairman Andy Chateauvert, Vice - Chairman Schiller, Lois Hancey, Donald Plaxton.

Planning and Industrial: Chairman Hancey, Vice-Chairman Lou Wainwright, Chateauvert, Plaxton.

Fire, Traffic, Transportation and Parking: Chairman Wainwright, Vice-Chairman Hancey, Beggs, Rowe.

Personnel and Bylaws: Chairman Bell, Vice-Chairman Chateauvert, Schiller.

Named to the parks and recreation committee were councillors Beggs and Bell; to the arena board, Beggs and Wainwright; to civic improvement committee, Bell; to the library board, Hancey; to the town's Centennial committee, Chateauvert and Schiller.

Provincial Courts To Be On Yonge Street, Civic Centre Or Aurora?

Will the new provincial courts be located on Yonge Street north of the Elgin Sideroad, in the town's central core, in the proposed civic centre at the corner of Vaughan Road and Yonge Street — or in Aurora or Victoria Square? This question is still plaguing Richmond Hill Town Council and came up for discussion at Monday night's meeting.

In September William McCord and Robert Tompkins applied to council for a rezoning of property north of Elgin Mills Sideroad on which he planned to erect an office building, the first phase of which would accomodate the provincial courts. He told council this was the only site available within the town limits on which sufficient parking (two acres) could be provided. He told council that he had verbal approval from the York County Health Unit for installation of a septic tank sewage disposal system and a 10 year lease with the Ontario Department of Public Works.

Council turned down the request on a close vote, but a week later, when it learned that sites outside of the town were being considered, reversed the decision.

Recently it has been learned that the health unit will not approve a septic tank installation but recommends a holding tank with the town assuming responsibility to have it pumped out and the contents disposed of through the town's system. Councillors Dave Schiller and Lois Hancey were appointed to see if another suitable site could be found in the municipality. They reported Monday that a site could be made available in the BAIF civic centre.

In the meantime, Mayor William Lazenby had sought a meeting with Ontario Premier John Robarts to discuss, with him, and the cabinet ministers concerned, the importance of maintaining the courts in the centre of the urban area to be served — that is Richmond Hill. The reply to this request from the Secretary of the Cabinet James Reynolds, read Monday evening, was that Mr. Robarts' heavy commitments are such that he cannot undertake to meet any additional delegations at this time. The Premier suggested the town pursue the matter further with the Ministers concerned. Council decided to seek a meeting with the Minister of Works John Simonett to discuss the matter fully.

1971 - 72 Councillors Only To Make Plans

Only the members of the 1971-1972 Town of Richmond Hill Council, elected October 5, may sit on the organization committee for regional government, Mayor William Lazenby has been informed by Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough in a letter dated November 3.

The mayor had wished to include the two members of Richmond Hill's 1970 council, Deputy-reeve Ivan Mansbridge and Ward 1 Councillor Eric George in the planning for regional government which begins January 1. However, he had carefully taken two counts on every vote — one for the committee including the two who will not be returning to the council table and one for the incoming council. In all cases of a favorable vote, a majority of each was recorded. However, all decisions made to date will be ratified by the members of the 1971-72 council at their next organizational meeting.

The mayor announced he would hold council meetings and organizational committee meetings on alternate Monday nights, with the committee meeting next Monday night.

To Bus Or Not To Bus Bothers Catholic Board

York County Roman Catholic School Board's attempt to set policy for busing of pupils fizzled when trustees could not agree on distances and other conditions for providing transportation for pupils.

A recommended policy was brought by staff to a meeting of the board on November 3. It suggested that buses be provided for all kindergarten children living more than three-quarters of a mile from the school, and that all other pupils living more than a mile from the school be bused.

The policy also established pickup points for rural areas, stating, "The children eligible for transportation as above shall be picked up and returned within one mile of their homes, except in the case of kindergarten children, where the distance shall be reduced to three-quarters of a mile."

Trustee Noreen Lee of Vaughan Township argued that a mile was too far for grade 1 children and asked that the three-quarter mile limit also include primary children up to grade 3.

Richmond Hill Trustee John Taylor pointed out that there were factors other than distance to be considered.

"I am more concerned with safety," Mr. Taylor declared. "Half a mile is too far on a 50 mile an hour highway even for adults, especially since they started 'adjusting' Yonge St."

Mrs. Lee observed that transportation routes had been inherited from the area boards that superceded the county board, that many separate schools are not conveniently located for most of the children attending them. If the one-mile limit is enforced, she said, "We will lose half our school populations, they will go to the more convenient public schools."

Most of the agitation for better bus service has come from new developments in the Thornhill area.

"Staff should have some guidelines," observed Markham Township Trustee Gordon McMahon, "There are rumblings in the subdivisions and we want firm answers for these people."

Dr. William LaCroix, also a Markham Township trustee, observed that it is ironic that, when the board is about to open a school that is within walking distance for all the children it will serve, it is now being asked to establish a bus policy for the whole county, yet the agitation is coming from the new school area.

Since the board came into being in January, 1969, said Dr. LaCroix transportation has been handled very well, even though every route had a different policy.

Richmond Hill Trustee John LeClaire suggested that a safety rider be added to the policy, agreeing. "Administration needs a rule to fall back on." The purpose of the policy, he said, should be to protect the children. On the other hand, argued Dr. LaCroix, it would not do for a bus to pick up a kindergarten child and leave a grade 2 child from the same family to walk to school.

Rural trustees felt there should be discretion in the policy, and East Gwillimbury Trustee Robert Simpson alleged that administration is too remote from local conditions to determine peculiar needs of each school.

"The key man is the principal," said Mr. Simpson. He knows the community and the local conditions best."

The board owns seven buses at present, and it was suggested that leasing arrangements might be made for additional buses, also that more routes might be shared with the York County Board of Education.

In the end, the policy was referred back to staff with a directive that staff research the effects on the schools of the proposed policy and the adequacy of present routes.

Board Chairman Eugene Jacobs predicted, "We will end up with no policy. The research will come up with many different situations."

The staff reports included a rundown of transportation provided by neighboring boards. York County Board of Education provides buses for kindergarten children over three-quarters of a mile from the school, as does the Simcoe County Board of Education. Both boards provide buses for children grade 1 to 6 who are more than a mile from the schools, and grades 7 to 13 over two miles. Simcoe County and Ontario County Roman Catholic Boards provides transportation for all children over one mile, as does the Ontario County Separate School Board.

$100,000 Grant Coming Mill Pond Park Area

"Mill Pond Park offers a unique opportunity to provide a natural area of forest, marsh and pond inside an urban framework for the education and enjoyment of the citizens. The park also offers a wide range of activities related to the pond for Richmond Hill citizens of all ages." This statement, in a report presented by representatives of Canadian Mitchell Associates Limited to Richmond Hill Town Council and a large number of interested citizens Monday evening, summed up the potential of this area.

President James Knox of the consulting engineers, planners and landscape architects, presented a three-stage plan for redevelopment of the 20-acre park under the provisions of the provincial Parks Assistance Act.

He emphasized that the estimated total cost of $285,000 is approximate, with the first phase estimated at $98,000, the second at $99,000 and the third at $88,000.

Included in the first phase will be dredging and deepening of the pond, removal of organic matter from the swampland at the north end, filling a promenade area, enlargement of the island and partial filling of the forest area, which is dying. This work should rescue the pond from a slow, dying process and de-

(Continued on Page 3)

Unhappy Trustees Give Teachers Day Off For Federation Workshop

With all the outward enthusiasm of a platoon facing a firing squad, trustees of York County Board of Education agreed Monday to grant leave of absence for 15 teachers who wish to attend a regional workshop of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation in Rexdale on Friday.

At their regular meeting in Aurora the trustees received a request from the federation that a staff representative from each of the county's 14 secondary schools plus a county-wide representative, Douglas Booth of the staff of Richmond Hill High School, be given leave to attend the two-day workshop on Friday and Saturday.

Trustees suggested that it might have been more appropriate for the teachers to schedule their conference for Saturday and Sunday rather than taking teachers from the classroom.

"This is not professional development", objected the Markham Township Trustee John Honsberger, "It is federation business", observing that the purpose of the workshop is "to train the representatives in the skills of their office to insure a better understanding of the constitution bylaws, policies and established practices governing members of the OSSTF."

"It seems rather strange that they would set this up for a school day and deprive our students of their regular teachers", observed Trustee Louise Aimone, also of Markham Township. "I am surprised that professional people would make this sort of a suggestion."

In a letter to the board, the federation's General Secretary D. S. Felker stated, "The federation will, of course, defray all expenses relating to the staff representatives' absence if you deem this necessary."

Four alternatives received varying degrees of support from trustees in a lengthy discussion:

1. That the board refuse the request.
2. That the board grant leave of absence without pay to the teachers concerned.
3. That the board grant leave of absence with pay to the teachers concerned.
4. That the board grant leave of absence with no loss of pay to the teachers and invoice OSSTF for the salaries of supply teachers.

Although obviously favoring the first of these, memory of the very lengthy contract negotiations, "pink listing" of Metro Board, and delays in hiring were fresh in the minds of the trustees, and they agreed that it would not be diplomatic to refuse.

"We might well balance our budget this way", wryly commented Education Director Sam Chapman. "We would become number one targets for sanctions if we refuse."

* * * *

Teachers from Halton, Peel, Ontario, Muskoka and Simcoe Counties and Base Borden will also be taking part in the workshop, and most of these boards, said Mr. Chapman, seemed to be supporting the third alternative, granting leave of absence with no loss of pay to the teachers and invoicing OSSTF for the salaries of supply teachers.

"Most of them seem to be supporting this", he told the trustees, "but they are not too happy about it."

Most of the teachers involved, he said, were in the higher categories with pay averaging about $60 a day, whereas the supply teachers' salaries would amount to around $30 for the day.

Vaughan Township Trustee Ross Jolliffe, who was chairman of the board's salary negotiations committee in 1969 and a member of that committee in 1970, warned that the board might be setting a dangerous precedent in giving the teachers time off for federation business.

The negotiating committee had been under pressure for two years, he said, to hold meetings with the teachers during school hours.

"They can arrange their seminars for Saturday and Sunday like everybody else" he observed.

Mr. Chapman suggested that, if leave were granted, it should include a strong rider stating that this is not to be considered a precedent for teachers on federation business.

The trustees finally agreed to a diplomatically worded motion granting the teachers leave of absence without pay, adding that they should be reimbursed by the federation for the pay loss, and that this permission was not to be considered a precedent.