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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1970

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Tax Relief For Vaughan As Council Passes Bylaw

Vaughan Township ratepayers who have been screaming about their taxes soaring this year due to reassessment can officially relax a little.

Monday afternoon saw township council passing a bylaw limiting the tax increases — due to county reassessment — to a maximum of 50 or 10 percent.

It will also limit a decrease in their taxation due to reassessment to 50 or 12 percent. Both the increases and/or decreases are based on their 1969 tax.

Councillor Dalton McArthur emphasized that the 10 percent or 50 increase limit in the ratepayer's tax bill applied "to assessment only."

He said the limit in the tax increase has nothing to do with the natural fluctuation of costs across the township such as an increase in salaries at school costs.

The increase and decrease limitations will apply over a five year period and gradually swing upward.

In 1971 the increase in taxation due to reassessment will be no greater than 100 or 20 percent over the 1969 tax; in 1972 no greater than 150 or 30 percent; in 1973 no greater than 200 or 40 percent; in 1974, no greater than 250 or 50 percent increase over 1969.

A similar scale is applied to decreases in assessment.

It was also pointed out that where there has been a change in the use or character of a property, such lands are excluded from the provisions of the bylaw.

In was in June of this year that

Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough introduced a bill in the Ontario Legislature giving any municipality in the province that had been reassessed the power to limit tax increases and phase them in over a five-year period.

The bill provided that reduction in taxes on industrial—commercial assessment may not be more than 5 percent and increases of taxes on residential assessment may not be more than 10 percent or 50 because of reassessment.

It was enacted under the provisions of Section 526A of the Municipal Act limiting increases or decreases in taxation caused by reassessment in the years 1970 to 1974.

The furor originated because of provincial reassessment on market value which saw a large number of residential property owners discovering their taxes had risen astronomically.

At the same time taxes on commercial and industrial property had dropped dramatically.

This led to protest meetings and an approach to Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough for relief from the problem.

Similar problems had also occurred in Mississauga, the only other municipality besides York County where reassessment has occurred.

Final tax bills in the township are still not ready to be sent out.

No Snowmobiles Town Parks

Last weekend's light snowfall brought out the snowmobile operators into the town parks, resulting in severe damage, particularly to newly sodded grass areas, it was reported at town council's meeting Monday evening.

Parks Chairman Shaun Beggs pointed out that motorized snow vehicles are not permitted in any park in Richmond Hill and that offenders will be prosecuted for any violations of this bylaw.

On instructions from council, Clerk Russell Lynett on October 13 entered an overall appeal against the assessment, but in a registered letter, dated November 6, Regional Assessment Commissioner Kenneth Andrews stated he had been advised that such a letter, as entered does not constitute a proper notice of appeal as required by Section 52 (2) of the Assessment Act.

Mr. Andrews stated that he had therefore not accepted the letter as a notice of appeal.

Mr. Fraser pointed out that appealing the whole roll could lead to lengthy court sessions. He also reported that Vaughan Township has also appealed the overall roll and has received similar notification from Mr. Andrews.

Reeve Donald Plaxton reported it was his understanding of a statement by Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough earlier this year, that this was the only procedure which would make available to the town staff the working papers on assessment in the town and that this was the intent of council's action. Councillor Lois Hancey and Mayor William Lazenby agreed that this was the intent.

Clerk Russell Lynett reported that he had been informed that the assessment review board would sit in Richmond Hill for seven days. With an average of 60 appeals a day, this would mean that more than 400 town property owners have appealed their assessments.

In a covering letter to Board Chairman John MacKay Mr. Chapman said, "This first report attempts to give the trustees and the public an overview of the activities of the board in the first 18 months of its existence. Some mention is made of actions taken by the board itself rather than by staff, and while it could well be argued that such references have no place in the director's report to the board, their inclusion is based on the large part they played in giving direction and impetus to the school system."

The director continues: "No attempt has been made to make this a 'press relations' type of document either in format or in selection of material. The inclusion of facts which indicate success more modest than we might have wished shows, among other things, a conviction on my part that we must be willing to take any risk except

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(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

"What Do You Think?"

It will soon be a thing of the past to see short uniforms and shapely legs flitting around the hospital — Women's Lib. is infiltrating the nursing profession and the pant suit is rapidly taking over!

Not only is the pant suit very practical however, it can look extremely smart, as demonstrated above by (left to right) Mrs. Larry Steadman and Miss Suzanne Ing, members of the nursing staff at York Central Hospital.

Male orderlies needn't worry — the nurses are easily identified by their caps!

Council Won't Approve Change Condominiums

If Humber Wood Products Limited wish to build an apartment building at Centre West and Elizabeth Streets in Richmond Hill, they will have to proceed on their original plan for 40 one-bedroom and 40 two-bedroom suites, which has already been approved.

Earlier this week the firm applied to amend the plan to a condominium development with 5 one-bedroom, 45 two-bedroom and 10 three-bedroom suites. At that time town council decided to defer decision on the matter until comments were received from various municipal departments and boards.

Three replies were considered by council November 9. The York County Board of Education noted that the change in suite size would mean an increase of from 18 to 22 children to be accommodated at McConaghly Public School. Since there are only 49 vacant pupil spaces in

that school and since it will have to accommodate 73 children from development on Cedar Avenue, it cannot accommodate children from the proposed building. Council members feared this would mean a new school would have to be built.

The York County Roman Catholic School Board forsook no problem in accommodating children from the project and Works Commissioner Otto Whalen pointed out that the owners have been most co-operative in granting right-of-entry over land to facilitate the Yonge Street project, pending deed widening transfers, and without a site plan agreement.

However, on a vote a resolution to approve the change to a condominium project (in which the individual suites will be sold with a monthly payment to cover taxes, heat, water, maintenance and repairs, etc.) was defeated.

Enrolment Up In Adult Classes At Ten York County Night Schools

Practical and hobby subjects are the most popular courses at night schools operated by York County Board of Education in ten of the county's secondary schools, with smaller numbers taking academic courses.

Lloyd Morrison, administrator of adult education for the board reports a six percent increase in enrolment over 1969, with a total of 3,530 attending classes.

Bayview Secondary in Richmond Hill has the largest number of courses and the largest enrolment. There are 1,162 people taking night classes at Bayview. Some subjects offered had to be dropped however, when there was insufficient interest. A minimum of 15 people are required.

Grade 9 academic subjects were offered for the first time this year, but failed to arouse sufficient interest. People who needed these subjects were, however, placed in similar courses, Mr. Morrison reports.

Grade 12 geography and world politics also fell short of the mark, as did grade 11 English, geography and history, and grade 10 science and French.

Most popular courses across the county were in sewing, attracting 602 people. There were 228 enrolled as beginners, 178 at the intermediate level, and 206 in advanced classes.

At Woodbridge, where only special interest subjects and typing are offered, the biggest attraction is the Yoga course with 40 enrolled.

Don Head is offering evening classes this year for the first time, and the most popular is the upholstery course with 41 enrolled. There is also considerable interest in gourmet cooking and fancy baking and cake decorating.

Horticulture, defensive driving, woodworking, jewellery making and art metal work, auto body repairs and beauty culture complete the offering at Don Head.

Commercial courses are popular wherever they are offered, and there are 289 in typing courses, 100 in bookkeeping, and 60 learning shorthand.

Women's physical fitness is very popular, with 238 participants in nine schools, but only 28 men are taking similar courses.

Interest in technical shops is only moderate, with 88 taking welding, 85 in beginners' woodworking, 47 in auto mechanics, 43 registered in the electricity course, and 38 in electronics.

Conversational French has attracted 82 students to beginners' classes and 40 to the intermediate level in the four schools where it is available.

Golf is also a popular course, with 87 people enrolled.



LOYD MORRISON
Administrator Adult Education

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Work To Start In Spring

Mill Pond Park To Be Rejuvenated, Developed Stress Natural Beauty

By MARY DAWSON

Richmond Hill citizens are justly proud of the natural beauty of Mill Pond Park. The parks board has already developed the southern portion, south of Mill Street, into a beauty spot to complement the natural beauty of the northern section.

An overall analysis and plan for future development of the park has been prepared by Canadian Mitchell Associates Limited of Bramalea, consulting engineers, planners and landscape architects, and it has been accepted by the Ontario Department of Energy and Resources as an approved park. This means that grants up to 50% of expenditures with a ceiling of \$100,000 will be available to the local parks board. The first \$18,000 grant has already been approved by the provincial cabinet.

The pond, focal point of the 20-acre park, was originally dammed up to operate a planing mill, the report notes. Later the pond became the source of the first municipal water supply, and through the years has served for paddling, picnics, nature study, winter recreation, model boating activity and principally as a day-use area for young children. Richmond Hill Rotarians have erected a picnic shelter in that area.

WILD FOWL
In addition, the park is regarded very highly by naturalists as an area in which to study wild life and plant life, summer and winter. The parks board has maintained a nesting area for wild birds and a winter feeding area for them. Many migrating birds find their way to this pond on their way south in the fall where they join the resident flock which includes several species. This use will continue to be encouraged.

POLISH PARK ADDED
Three years ago the town purchased the former Polish Park and added it to the Mill Pond Park. This area which contains a large grass field is used at present for group gatherings and principally as a day-use area for young children. Richmond Hill Rotarians have erected a picnic shelter in that area.

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LANDFILL
The area is surrounded by landfill operations at present and from this raw fill significant amounts of soil and thereby phosphates and other soil nutrients are going directly into the upper end of the lake. The

report recommends immediate stabilization of the fill with plant materials.

DYING FOREST
To the north of the landfill site is the dying forest, "now in poor condition" of mixed shrubs and scattered tree species. It is situated on a high water table. The report recommends that the ooze and organic debris be deposited there and the forest reclaimed and planted for more intensive park use. Eventually this area would include a "retreat house" with washrooms for day use, a parking lot for 38 cars and woodland trails.

TABLE GRASSLAND
It is also recommended that the table grassland in the north-west corner receive appropriate planting of coniferous and berry producing shrubs to attract birds and wild life and make it more interesting to naturalists. This is where the Y holds its day camp and the Rotarians have built a picnic shelter.

To the east of this grassland is a hemlock-white pine hardwood forest, described in the report as "botanically and topographically unique."

(Continued on Page 3)

Schools To Close 12 Days For Christmas

School children will get 12 days holiday at Christmas this year — four less than they got a year ago. The schools will close on December 22 and open again on January 4.

With Christmas and New Year's Days falling on Fridays, the schools will stay open later in the week and will open sooner than they did in 1969 when these holidays fell on Thursdays.

Since Boxing Day will be on a Saturday, some municipal and governmental offices are giving their employees a holiday on the day before Christmas, while others will be off work on the Monday following.

No Coffee For Council

No coffee will be served at Richmond Hill Council meetings.

Several weeks ago Ward 1 Councillor Eric George received support of the majority of council that coffee be served at a 10 o'clock break.

Since council meetings have been stretching out until midnight and later, Mr. George felt that a break and coffee would help members of council cope with the heavy workload. One night since then coffee was brought in and served — but that was a one shot deal.

At council's November 9 meeting a motion was introduced by Councillor Shaun Beggs, seconded by Deputy-Reeve Mansbridge, that no coffee be served and the motion carried.

augmented by the feces of water fowl.

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Aurora Backs Board Boundary Change

York County Board of Education has found another ally in its fight to maintain the southern boundary of the Region of York.

At their meeting in Aurora November 9, the trustee received a letter from Mayor Illingworth of Aurora supporting the board's brief to Education Minister William Davis and Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough in which it protests plans for expansion of Metro into Markham and Vaughan Townships.

The matter of the southern boundary has been thoroughly discussed in Aurora Town Council, wrote Mr. Illingworth, and it was agreed that the boundary should remain as it is, namely at Steeles Avenue.

"In addition to my personal opinion, I have the united voice of my local council to speak strongly on their behalf at the regional level," the mayor continues.

The present York County Council and the councils of many municipalities inside and outside of the county have also notified the board that they intend to support the brief.

There were evening classes in nine secondary schools in the school year 1969-70 with 3,352 enrolled compared with 3,213 in 1968. Figures for 1970 have not yet been compiled.

As a step toward providing equality of opportunity, the board introduced kindergartens in three northern municipalities where there were none, and Oral French is now taught to all grade 7 and 8 students, while those schools which had been teaching it earlier have been allowed to continue to do so.

Home economics and industrial arts are now available to many grade 7 and 8 students in Markham, Stouffville, Newmarket, Whitechurch and Georgina where this was not previously the case, and instrumental music is offered to some.

By bringing together more grade (Continued on Page 10)

Chapman Reviews First 18 Months

Greatest Progress In Special Programs Reports County Board's Education Director

BY MARGARET LADE

In the first 18 months of its existence, the York County Board of Education acquired 14 new school sites totalling 114 acres at a cost of \$915,399. Negotiations are under way on about a dozen others, and still others have been selected but no action taken.

These facts were included in a director's report presented recently to the board by Education Director Sam Chapman.

Summarizing the activities of the board since it came into being in January, 1969, Mr. Chapman gave an accounting of the activities of the planning department and various other administrative departments of the board.

During the period January 1, 1969 to June 30, 1970, said Mr. Chapman, the 41 subdivisions of more than 50 housing units and 63 smaller subdivisions had been examined by planning staff.

In a covering letter to Board Chairman John MacKay Mr. Chapman said, "This first report attempts to give the trustees and the public an overview of the activities of the board in the first 18 months of its existence. Some mention is made of actions taken by the board itself rather than by staff, and while it could well be argued that such references have no place in the director's report to the board, their inclusion is based on the large part they played in giving direction and impetus to the school system."

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A definition of "Aims and Objectives" states, "Quality which is based on traditional values but enhanced by creative ideas . . . variety which is meaningfully related to differing needs but within available resources . . . and development which keeps the program relevant through carefully planned and evaluated experimentation."

In its first 18 months, the board approved 55 policies designed to serve as a guide to staff.

The county was divided into four geographic areas, each with its superintendent and administrative staff, plus the special education staff, "Area 9" which is responsible for schools for trainable retarded, psychological services, classes for children with learning disabilities, etc.

Because of the difficulty in providing up to date facilities and educational opportunities in one

and two room schools, five small schools were closed in September, 1969, and students from five more were moved to larger schools with better learning resources — such as libraries and resource centres — and larger staff.

While the increased enrolment in secondary schools reflects the high birth rates of the early 1950's, there has been quite a dramatic decrease in the kindergarten enrolments in the last two years.

In 1968 there were 28,658 children in elementary schools and in 1970 there are 30,298 — an increase of 2.8 percent. In the secondary schools there were 11,618 in 1968, and 13,578 in 1970 — an increase of 8.6 percent. Schools for the trainable retarded have increased enrolment from 103 to 152 — up 21.7 percent.

This student population shift is reflected in the budget, for the respective cost of educating second-

ary school students and the trainable retarded is almost twice as great and four times as great as in the elementary schools.

Summer school enrolment jumped from 630 in 1969 to 1,040 in 1970, with almost 55 percent of the secondary students enrolled for special classes in mathematics and 18 percent in French. There were classes for upgrading in major subjects in grades 9 to 13 as well as classes in English and mathematics in grade 8 and some ungraded enrichment classes for interested students. Summer schools were conducted at Thornhill Secondary School, Huron Heights Secondary School in Newmarket, and Woodlands School in Thornhill.

In 1969 there was a \$25 registration fee for summer school, but there was none in 1970 as it is now covered by provincial grants up to 50 percent of the total cost if no fee is charged.

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