

# 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.

## Gordon Rowe: He's The Man From King

BY FRED SIMPSON

Gordon Rowe, a stocky congenial 52-year-old greying veteran of five years as a King Township Councillor for Oak Ridges, sat back in his office chair and talked about, naturally, politics.

"I got into politics to cure all the municipality's ills," he said.

He paused for a second, ran his fingers through his ample hair, and commented, "That was five years ago. We've still got the ills." This last statement was followed by a characteristic "that's life" shrug of his shoulders.

"My philosophy in being a councillor is quite simple," he said. "I do the best job I can, the best job I know how. And if people don't like the job I do they can throw me out. That's politics."

Rowe will be taking on a new challenge come January and regional government which will see Oak Ridges and Lake Wilcox becoming part of Richmond Hill. He'll be the regional representative for Richmond Hill.

"I'm looking forward to the new year," he said. "There's no doubt that it's going to be interesting."

Rowe should have little doubt about his popularity as a councillor for King Township the past five years although he acknowledges that he got a "rough ride from some of the people on cer-

tain issues but that's part of the game. You ride it out. I get along with most of the people."

In every election battle that same Rowe has led all other councillors at the polls. He was unopposed in his recent bid as one of Richmond Hill's two representatives on the regional council. The other is Reeve Donald Plaxton.

How did he come to enter the King municipal swim? "It wasn't something I planned to do," he said. "You might say it happened over the supper table."

Rowe went on to explain that a fellow resident was so fed up with the township's roads that it prompted him to move out.

"I said, 'don't move out', I'll run for council and cure the roads problem. I said it in jest but one of my sons brought it up at the supper table. I thought about it and decided it might be a good idea. So here I am."

Rowe feels that Oak Ridges and Lake Wilcox can do nothing but benefit from joining Richmond Hill although he still feels the whole idea of regional government might have been "decided a little too hastily. But we've got it now, we've got to live with it."

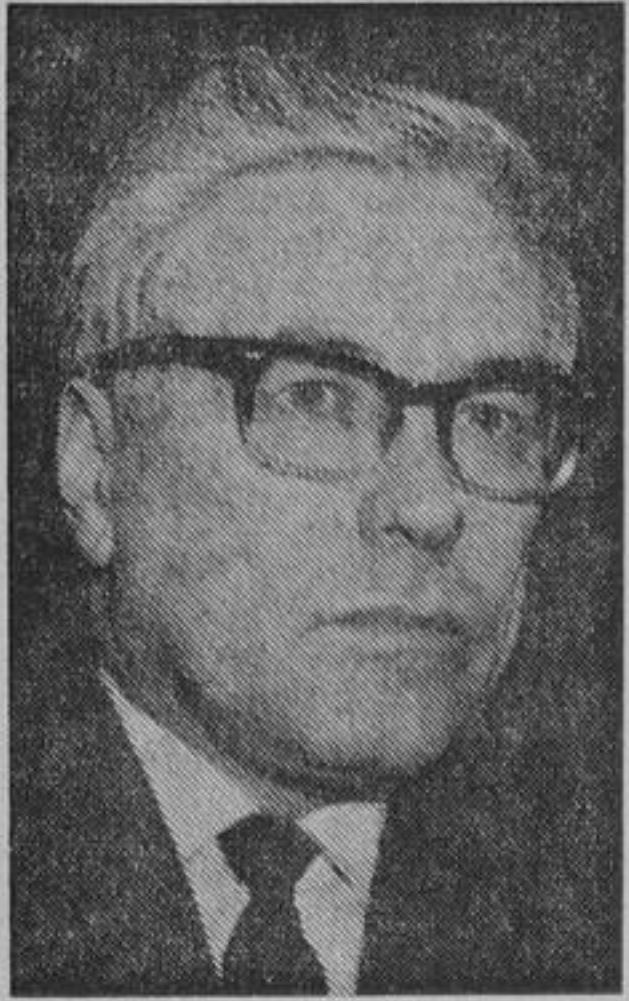
He noted that under the old system that both Oak Ridges and Lake Wilcox were located at "the tail end

of both King and Whitechurch Townships and sometime there's a tendency to be left out of some things, to be forgotten about."

As for his years with King: "I enjoyed my association with people like Reeve Gordon Cook very much. Of course, we didn't always agree but I have all the respect in the world for him. He was a very fine reeve and he certainly had all the qualifications."

He also thinks his associations with the powers-that-be in Richmond Hill will be pleasant ones — most of the time anyway.

Rowe has been in the lum-



GORDON ROWE

ber business all of his life having been born in the heart of the business which was Collingwood.

He has a family of four — Gordon 24, Ted 22, John 20, and Colleen, 16.

Rowe is also concerned with the problems confronting deaf people in the world and for a very good reason. His daughter, Colleen, was born deaf, and is currently in the School For The Deaf at Milton. He was one of the contributors to the Hall Dennis Report On Education as regards the teaching of the deaf.

"My only regret," he said, "is that I don't get more time to work with the deaf due to my business and municipal work. I hope to devote more time in the next few years."

Gordon's wife's name is Melissa who "certainly understands the problems that go with being a politician."

Rowe is the manager of the Cashway Lumber Company in Oak Ridges and a former co-owner of the business.

As for any of his children taking up politics? "One of my sons, Ted, came very close to running in the past election. So I figure he'll be in there pretty soon."

A pause, a rueful smile. "I don't think he'd mind knocking the old man off in an election," he said.

Yes, but after all, that's politics, too.

## TEMPERANCEVILLE NEWS

CORRESPONDENT: MRS. W. G. JENNINGS — PHONE 773-5892

### Church News

The executive of the UCW met at the home of Mrs. Fred Hare December 1st, with President Mrs. Wilfred James in the chair. Plans were finalized for the Sunday school supper for December 12. An invitation is extended to all members and friends of the congregation to attend. It is hoped that the parents will accompany their children, and provide something for the meal, either a hot casserole or a dessert.

Sunday, December 13, will be "White Gift Sunday" at Temperanceville. We are invited to share with the less fortunate, some of the good things we enjoy and take for granted. Gifts of food, toys, clothing, and money will be put to good use, and will be most appreciated.

The Christmas meeting of the afternoon unit UCW will

be held at the home of Mrs. John Umehara on the evening of December 17, at 8 pm; and members of the evening unit are invited to be guests. Each person attending is asked to bring a small gift for an exchange. Devotions and program will be in charge of Mrs. Frank Bell and Mrs. Wilton Wells. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

**Neighborhood Notes**

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bell, who on December 5 will celebrate 59 years of married life. Mr. and Mrs. Bell are both in excellent health. We wish this spry young couple many more years of health and happiness.

Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Harry Hutchinson of Bond Avenue, whose sister passed away last week.

She had been in failing health for some time, but remained keenly interested in her community, friends and family.

She was the last surviving founding member of the Ladies' Aid and WMS of Temperanceville United Church, organized in 1907, and as long as her health permitted was an active member.

Surviving are a son Leonard and daughter Mae, both of Toronto, one granddaughter, Mrs. Timothy Murray of Boston, Mass. and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Harman rested at the Thompson Funeral Home in Aurora, where the Rev. Earle Stotesbury conducted the service. Interment was in Aurora Cemetery.

If I may be permitted, I would like to indulge in a little personal nostalgia and say that my first recollection of Mrs. Harman, as a very small girl, when at school, each "Arbor Day", we trudged up "The Second" to the bush beyond the railroad tracks to pick wild flowers. On the return trip we called at Mrs. Harman's and she always had a large pail of lemonade ready for a very tired, thirsty, group of children. This was typical of her generosity and hospitality.

We will all miss her very much.

### 5 More Charges Here, Jail Kovachis 5 Years

**In King Manslaughter**

Convicted killer Alex Kovachis, 34, of Willowdale and Holland Marsh faces trial in Richmond Hill Provincial Court this week on five new charges.

Last week in Toronto court he was sentenced to five years in jail for manslaughter.

He was convicted last summer for the April fatal shooting of John Redmond, 30, at the Kovachis farm at Holland Marsh in northern King Township.

Kovachis was free on bail until last week.

When Kovachis appeared before Judge Flanigan for sentence, Metro police brought forward an additional charge for an offence that took place before the fatal shooting.

Kovachis got five years for the shooting and an added three months for assaulting a policeman.

Last February Kovachis was driving along Eglinton Avenue West when he ran into the car in front of him, the court was told. He pushed the car into the back of a police cruiser.

When Metro Constable Joseph Patterson went back to talk to Kovachis, he was kicked in the shins, punched, and had his handcuffs taken away.

Kovachis was subdued and then arrested when three other policemen arrived.

The new charges faced by Kovachis in Richmond Hill are dated October 17 when he was out on bail, and include driving while suspended, obstructing police, impaired driving, refusing to give a breath sample, and having liquor.

A few weeks ago in Newmarket Provincial Court an impaired driving charge against Kovachis was dismissed because his car had two flat tires when he was arrested.

### Mrs. Arwood Harman

Temperanceville lost one of its oldest and most respected residents November 25, when Mrs. Arwood Harman passed away in York County Hospital in her 88th year.

Mrs. Harman, the former Jennie MacDonald, lived all her life in this community, and went as a bride to the farm home on Concession 2, King Township, that she occupied for 63 years.

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## York County District Health Unit Notice To Septic Tank Contractors, Etc.

As of December 22, 1970, the installation of private sewage disposal systems (septic tanks) will NOT be permitted until weather conditions are satisfactory in the spring of 1971.

J. O. Slingerland, D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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**Queen's Park Report**

William Hodgson M.L.A.  
York North

### \$4 Million In Provincial Public Works

Public Works Minister John Simonett has approved almost \$4 million in public works projects. Bids will be called, due December 23, for a \$2 million regional office building for the Department of Highways at Thunder Bay and an Ontario Provincial Police Headquarters building at North Bay valued at nearly \$400,000.

Mr. Simonett also revealed that another \$1.4 million in smaller miscellaneous projects across the province will be added to the program during the next four months.

Premier John Robarts has announced plans to appoint a Royal Commission on the problems of the book publishing industry. This commission will investigate all facets of the industry, including sale of Canadian publishing companies to US interests. The three-man commission will be appointed "as soon as personnel can be obtained."

It will examine the industry right across Canada, with the focus on English-language publishers. Special attention will go to publication of textbooks and other printed material used in schools. The first task will be to gather information "about what's wrong with the industry... what are its ills," Mr. Robarts said.

In the meantime, Education Minister William Davis says he is considering six or seven interim recommendations to assist publishers of textbooks.

Shoe factories; luggage, handbag and small leather goods manufacturers; hosiery mills; children's clothing and the foundation garment industry have been the subject of a special study.

The study has been on the effect of Ontario's 30% increase in the minimum wage in 1969. It was revealed that a significant proportion of employees have benefitted. Those most substantially affected were non-office, time-rated female employees. Smaller employers, with fewer than 50 employees, were affected most.

The report indicates that of the 16,203 employees in the five chosen industrialists, 2,635 received increases due to a revision of the minimum wage.

Ontario Housing Corporation will attempt to draw private landlords in Metro Toronto into a scheme to house 500 public housing applicants through a five-year rent supplement program.

Trade and Development Minister Stanley Randall has announced that applicants chosen by OHC would pay landlords according to a rent geared to income scale and OHC will pay the difference. A similar program will be launched in other Ontario centres.

This program will allow the corporation to supplement its construction program by placing larger families in acceptable vacant dwellings, Mr. Randall said.

Although the three, four and five bedroom units may be "hard to come by", the Minister indicated he was confident room could be found for the 500 families. OHC will consider accommodation in semi-detached row of housing or apartment buildings, but will lease only a maximum of 20% of the units in any one complex.

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### Saluki Dogs Worth \$5,000 Killed As Home In King Township Burns

Seven Saluki dogs valued at \$5,000 were destroyed in their basement kennel in a 10 pm November 29 house fire in King Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Tuckey and three children of Lot 15 Concession 11 were away from their frame home when the fire took place. They lost all their household possessions with Christmas looming near.

King Township Police Constable Clayton Aspden investigated the fire. Cause of the fire was unknown.

The property was partly insured. The building itself would be worth about \$15,000 to \$20,000, Constable Aspden said.

A passing motorist noticed the fire and firemen were called from nearby Nobleton. But there was no chance of saving the house. It was on the 16th Sideroad.

The family has relatives in Bolton.

Vaughan Township Firemen at 5:58 am November 24 were called to York Central Hospital. There was no serious trouble, however, as smoke was traced to an overheated starter in the fluorescent lights of the 3rd floor dispensary.

There was a chimney fire but no damage November 25 at 3:38 pm at the home of Albert Kitcher, 83 Oak Avenue, Richmond Hill.

Again on November 27 at 10:18 am Vaughan Firemen were called to 35 Oak Avenue. This time they found the alarm was due to a short circuit in a furnace fan motor.

Harold Cobbald of 7 Oldfield Street, Maple, was almost overcome by smoke from a fire he thought was out. It flared up again in the seat of his car. Vaughan Firemen were called to the home at 7:28 pm November 27. Damage to the car was light.

There was little damage at 4:13 pm November 25 when waste paper caught fire around the engine of a bulldozer at Disposal Services Limited, Teston Road.

A lift truck knocked a fire alarm box off a wall at the Canadian National Express warehouse, Keele Street, bringing Vaughan Firemen out at 11:14 am November 28.

There was a rubbish fire at the home of Wilbert Lee, 9131 Bathurst Street at 6:28 pm November 26.

A CN locomotive engineer reported what he thought was a bush fire at 1:22 pm November 28 at Islington Avenue south on Highway 7 West. But no fire was found.

### Museum Benefit Held Friday In Whitchurch

An evening's entertainment in aid of the Whitchurch Township Museum was presented last Friday December 4 at Whitchurch Highlands Public School, Bloomington Sideroad.

The cast of "Variety" included many talented local people. The money raised will be used to equip a new museum, and to provide shelves and display cases, etc.

It is hoped that work can be started at the new museum this winter, so items of interest can be received for storage.

The plan is to open the museum in early summer.

Master of ceremonies Friday night was Bob McAdorey, the morning man on radio CHFI. He is a local resident.

Included in the show was a duet by Mrs. Wally Koster and Mrs. Henry Nauta.

Also taking part were the Stouffville High School Band, Magician Art Latham, and other vocal and instrumental groups.

There was also a bit of drama by local groups.

Also included were a door prize, afghan raffle and refreshments at the close of the evening.

The museum board has obtained the former Bogartown school to house the historical collection it plans to gather.

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