

# 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.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

## Oak Ridges Children Learn Joy Of Giving

It was Christmas for the pupils of Oak Ridges Public School December 16, but they were on the giving, not the receiving end. During the Christmas program, jointly sponsored by the pupils, teachers and the Oak Ridges Parent-Teacher Association the youngsters packed the toys they have been collecting and repairing for several weeks and presented them to two representatives of the Georgina Island Indians, to be distributed to the children there.

In the picture above are: front row (left to right) Raymond Jackson, Christina Bahen and George Niemeyer with their arms full of beautiful dolls which will bring happiness to many little girls on Christmas morning. Back row are (same order) Mrs. Andrew Big Canoe, wife of the chief of the Georgina Island Indians, Mrs. Peggy Clarke of the PTA, Principal Ed Burlew and Mrs. Charles Big Canoe, also of Georgina Island.

Included in the Christmas Gifts were other toys, skates, books and baby items.

## Landfill Projects, Property Sites On Fifty Mile Metro Waterfront

The newly established Waterfront Advisory Board of the Metro Conservation Authority has recommended several major steps in the implementation of the 50 mile waterfront plan for the Metro area.

At a meeting December 17 the board recommended two large landfill projects, and a million-dollar property acquisition program along the Pickering Ajax Shoreline for 1971.

One of the landfill projects will create between 30 and 40 acres of land extending from the west bank of Mimico Creek into the lake on a water lot presently owned by Etobicoke.

William McLean, project director of the waterfront plan, reported that proceeding with this work will enable a waterfront development project to be completed in a relatively short period of time. It will provide boat launching facilities and a small park area in a section of the waterfront where these facilities are now lacking.

The second landfill project is at the foot of Brimley Road in Scarborough and will form a narrow headland extending south and west into the lake. This will provide erosion control for the "Needles" section of the Scarborough Bluffs, as well as a scenic park walkway for pedestrians into the lake for viewing the bluffs from lake level.

The board also recommended that meetings be held with officials of Etobicoke and Scarborough and the Toronto Harbor Commission to determine the best means of co-ordinating and constructing the landfill projects.

Mr. McLean told the board that landfill work on Ontario Place which is presently absorbing fill from any construction sites should be finished late in February or in early March. This fill will then become available for other sites.

The landfill on the Etobicoke lakefront is the initial phase of a \$2 million park that includes canals, lakes, ornamental fountains and pedestrian walkways.

The Scarborough headland is part of a five-phase program to preserve natural beauty of the bluffs while opening up that section of the lakefront for public use.

The board recommended spending \$1 million of its proposed \$4 million budget for 1971 to continue assembly of land along the Pickering-Ajax waterfront where more than 2,000 acres of land have already been purchased for future development. Land will be purchased as it becomes available and when individuals are willing to sell, Mr. McLean told the board.

The conservation authority now owns land in the lower reaches of the Rouge River and Dufferin Creek, as well as the Petticoat Creek conservation area and land in the Frenchman's Bay area. Acquisition of further property will be scheduled over a period of years.

The board also recommended a meeting with municipal and provincial officials and a group of several organizations active in the Ashbridge's Bay area to discuss proposals for proceeding with the design for permanent improvements in that area.

Mr. McLean said the Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club, a catamaran club, the Toronto Hydroplane Club, Toronto Sea Scouts and a public launching ramp located at Ashbridge's Bay have difficulty in operating out of the existing facilities due to a continuing silting problem at the mouth of the harbor. He said this problem is accentuated by the storm sewer outfalls to the bay.

A meeting was recommended by the board with officials of the Metro and Scarborough parks departments to determine a basic land use policy for East Point Park in Scarborough which can be presented to the councils of the two municipalities and the board for consideration.

The waterfront plan calls for development of major recreation facility at East Point Park, including a 580 acre slip marina, boat launching ramp, a sailing club, sports field and picnic areas.

Metro is now carrying out design work for a water filtration plant in the area and consideration is also being given to extension of the Highland Creek sewerage treatment plant at the east end of East Point Park.

Mr. McLean said decisions on the ultimate use of the property must be made in the near future so that this can be co-ordinated with these two projects.

The board also recommended that lakefront municipalities review land use proposals close to the shoreline of the lake to avoid having private development conflict with the waterfront development program.

## Alterations Schomberg School Top Priority

Alterations to Schomberg Public School at an estimated cost of about \$51,046, have been given "very high priority" by York County Board of Education.

At a meeting December 14 the board received a report of the Ontario Fire Marshal itemizing 15 improvements necessary in the older part of the school.

To meet these requirements, the board will have a fire alarm system installed, will construct new stairwell enclosures, convert staffroom and corridor to form a library resource centre, replace ceilings with non-combustible materials, order lighting improvements, mechanical improvements in the boiler room, create new door openings and order alterations to the administrative area.

Superintendent of Planning and Development Stephen Bacsalmasi assured the trustees that the work will be done as quickly as possible. "We are giving it very high priority."

## Space Age Opportunity For Whitchurch-Stouffville

**BY HAROLD BLAINE**

The crying need for modernization, streamlining and efficiency in the conduct of Whitchurch Township Council affairs remains as evident at the close of 1970 as it was at the beginning of the year.

The last meeting of council Monday December 7 was typical, although mercifully short, as the old disappearing administration gave all but its last gasps.

Comparison of Whitchurch Township Council's procedures with those of the new ultra-modern municipal manager system adopted by the York Regional Council reveals an almost unbelievable contrast.

It's like comparing the horse and buggy with a space ship.

Hopefully the newly organized Whitchurch-Stouffville municipality and its new council will pull its roots out of the 19th Century and opt for the space age.

The new Whitchurch-Stouffville Council has been holding a series of unofficial meetings and laying the groundwork for the coming year.

Its members could do well to get a handbook on modern municipal administration. They could also very profitably attend a couple of meetings of regional council to learn how the affairs of a municipality can be efficiently conducted.

The new Whitchurch-Stouffville Council has set its regular meeting dates for next year. The council will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm and on the third Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. The meetings will be held in the former Stouffville Council Chambers.

There are a number of items in the old Whitchurch Twp. Council's procedures that the sitting and re-elected councillors could well shake off like dust from their feet.

It will be interesting to see whether Councillors Mrs. Betty van Nostrand, Merlyn Baker and Gordon Ratcliff do act like elected representatives stepping into the space age in 1971.

It would be hard to fashion a council procedure more likely to engender public apathy, exasperate interested citizens and interfere with the public right to know — than the one followed in Whitchurch this year.

Nor could there be a municipal system more likely to allow elected representatives to interfere in the executive and staff functions of the municipality.

All year Whitchurch Township Council meetings have droned on for hours as the clerk read the letters he or she wrote during the past two or three weeks. Then the clerk would read the long list of letters received by the municipality during the same time period.

One would almost think members of council couldn't read for themselves. Much of what is read during council could be screened by a responsible municipal manager and sent directly to the appropriate committee or handled without taking up the time of council at all.

Then the time of council could be taken up with meaningful discussion of the important business. Citizens attending council meetings might have at least a hope of maintaining an interest, instead of being bombarded into unconsciousness by an endless stream of trivia.

Next year Whitchurch-Stouffville will have a new council and a new municipality in a new York Region system of municipal government.

The pattern for the coming years will largely be set in the first few months, and the electors will soon know whether or not the municipality has entered a new age of enlightenment.

## Schiller Raises Objections

## King-Whitchurch Contract With Gormley Firm Stands

Councillor David Schiller failed December 21 in an attempt to have tenders called for the winter maintenance of roads in the portions of Whitchurch and King Townships which will be coming into Richmond Hill on January 1. At its December 14 meeting the organization committee (the 1971 council) had approved a contract with Gormley Sand & Gravel for this work.

Mr. Schiller claimed he had since heard from another area contractor that he had told the town officials some time ago that he would like an opportunity to bid on this contract.

Maintaining that whenever a contract is let for spending of public funds on public services, tenders should be called, Mr. Schiller stated, "There is at least one contractor and there may be four who can tender and be ready to start the work January 1. A single bid contract is a past way of doing business for municipalities. Tendering is the only fair and just way."

Admitting that council could have been wrong in making a decision on one bid, Mayor William Lazenby went on to point out its reasons — the fact that time was running out, that the contractor was willing to do the job, to stockpile the sand and that the town had to have someone ready to start out as soon as January 1 began, if needed.

"Speed is of the essence," stated Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe. "We had secured agreements with Vaughan and Markham Townships to carry on with road maintenance until spring at our expense. King Township had expressed a willingness to go along with this plan, but Whitchurch Township would have no part of it. To get a better price we added the King Township roads to the Whitchurch ones and King Township generously accepted this arrangement."

"The proposal was made in good faith," continued Mayor Lazenby, as he pointed out that once the rates contained in the contract became public knowledge, it would be unfair to reopen the matter.

The company will be paid a standby fee of \$21 a day with \$15 per hour for operational time for graders equipped with plows, wings, etc., \$20 per day standby and \$10 per hour operational time for sanders; \$13.35 per day standby for loader.

Councillor Stewart Bell, who represents the area concerned on the area municipality council, contributed, "Even with Whitchurch looking after the roads, I have had trouble getting out. On some occasions school had to be cancelled because of impassable roads. We had to have someone ready to do the work in sufficient time for him to plan his snowplowing program so that it will be effective."

## Winter Months Bring Increase In Wildlife Rabies Incidence

The arrival of snow and cold weather again brings the warning that the incidence of rabies increases drastically in the winter months. The disease reaches its peak then, particularly amongst foxes and skunks, the two major carriers.

As well, unfortunately, humans also become involved — humane adults attempt to help a wild animal which appears to be in distress, young children try to pet and fondle the new "doggie" or "kitty" that appears in the backyard — and many of them are bitten, have to undergo the tortures of the Pasteur serum treatment to save their lives (since untreated rabies in humans has always been fatal) and months of worry because even it is not always effective and the incubation period can be lengthy.

The York County-Toronto area, in a recent survey conducted by the Department of Lands and Forests, has shown significant increase over 1969 in the incidence of rabies, particularly amongst skunks. Skunk rabies has nearly tripled since 1967. This will be even greater this year because of a high skunk reproductive rate during the past summer, we are warned.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind concerning rabies in wildlife:

Beware of skunks seen during the day or wandering into your yard. Rabid skunks or foxes may appear either friendly or extremely aggressive (strange behavior).

Young children especially should be warned not to touch any animals, wild or tame, except their own household pets, which should be confined in their own yard to lessen the chance of their becoming involved with wildlife. Remember a rabid animal's bite can cause death or many weeks of suffering.

If you have reason to believe an animal is infected, call Canine Control Kennels at 889-1081 or your local police immediately after getting your children and pets inside the house. Keep them there until assured the danger is over.

The Department of Lands and Forests also suggests that in areas where hunting is not restricted property owners should encourage hunters to hunt foxes on their property, especially if there is known to be a large fox population. Adequate harvest of fox population lowers the incidence of contact and consequently the rabies problem is significantly reduced.

## Brampton Reassessment Completed Market Value Parity Is Evident

Reassessment on market value has just been completed in Brampton, the last municipality in the County of Peel to be done. In September, Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough, meeting with Richmond Hill taxpayers in Don Head Secondary School announced that when the reassessment was completed in Brampton the Ontario Government would be able to come up with special legislation for York and Peel Counties to ease the taxation burden on some taxpayers caused by the provincial government guidelines.

A complete review of market reassessment procedures has been carried out to reach a new total assessment of more than \$400 million, the previous assessment was \$77 million. The assessment review was based on 359 home sales in Brampton from October 1 to September 30, 1970 and the ratio of assessment to sale value was 96.76 percent.

In Brampton a basic rate for a 50x110 foot residential lot was set at from \$10,000 to \$14,000 market value. One percent per foot was added for wider frontages and for a 40-foot differential in depth eight percent was added.

All buildings were reassessed at replacement cost minus depreciation so the assessment notices will include the land value plus the net building assessment. Assessment notices are now in the mail and property owners have until January 13 to appeal them.

Total increase in assessment on all types of buildings and land was estimated at approximately six times former values. Residential properties have increased 5.82 times, outlying commercial 6.01 times, core area commercial 3.5 times, industrial 5.97 times and high-rise 5.3 times.

**Reduced Farm Land to \$360**

Last year Chinguacousy Township farmer Cyril Clark received his assessment notice, which because of reassessment rated his land at \$413 per acre. In 1967 and in 1968 his land had been assessed at \$10,000. In 1969 this jumped to \$76,600 and his taxes climbed from \$610 to \$1,400.

In January of this year he appeared before the court of revision and his land assessment was reduced from \$413 to \$260. Peel County appealed this decision and it was heard as a test case last week before the OMB, which upheld the court of revision's decision.

It is estimated the decision could cause a loss in taxation revenue to the township of \$184,775.

Readjustment will probably result in a heavier burden being placed on non-farming communities such as Brampton.

# THE 1970 FARM TAX REDUCTION PROGRAM

The 1970 Farm Tax Reduction Program is the most recent phase in the Government of Ontario's long-term plan to reform the system of local taxation in this province.

This program will help farm property owners to pay their municipal and education taxes.

Farm property owners will receive \$20,000,000 in special assistance from the Government of Ontario. This amounts to 25 percent of the net municipal taxes on eligible farm property.

To be eligible, the property owner must live in Ontario. Also, if the farm property is less than 11 acres, it must have yielded \$2,000 or more in gross income during the year.

Cheques and information leaflets are being mailed out by the Department of Municipal Affairs to every eligible farm owner.

Additional information may be obtained from:

The Municipal Subsidies Branch OR The County or District Offices of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food

801 Bay Street, Toronto 5, Ontario

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS  
W. DARCY McKEOUGH  
MINISTER

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD  
WILLIAM A. STEWART  
MINISTER

## ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF OAK RIDGES

22 YONGE STREET NORTH  
(North of King Sideroad)  
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## College Preparatory Program

WINTER SEMESTER: JANUARY 4 TO APRIL 23, 1971

College Preparatory Courses offer mature students an opportunity to upgrade their academic qualifications so that they may qualify to apply for admission to a diploma or certificate program at a College of Applied Arts and Technology.

Applicants must be 19 years of age or over on January 4, 1971 and have completed a satisfactory level of academic work. All applicants are considered on the basis of individual qualifications and will be required to take either a one or a two semester program.

The following subjects are offered:

Mathematics	Natural Science
English	Chemistry
Physics	Drafting
Typing	Orientation

Each semester is for a length of 16 weeks. The fee per semester is \$48.00 with books and supplies extra.

THESE COURSES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE DAY PROGRAM ONLY AT THE SHEPPARD CAMPUS (AT YONGE STREET).

For further information contact The Registrar, Occupational Training Division, telephone 223-9661.

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"The Liberal" requires a correspondent for THE KING CITY AREA

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