

# County Council Ends 120 Years Service, Hands Reins To Region

The last official meeting of the last council of the County of York took place in the council chambers in the York County Administration Building in Newmarket, ending an era that began 120 years ago.

The council, which normally sits for three successive days in each month, wound up its business in about two hours on December 29 as it prepared to turn over the reins of government to the new York Regional Council which came into being on January 1.

The business session concluded with endorsement of a motion by North Gwillimbury Deputy-reeve Wallace Donnell, seconded by Newmarket Reeve Claire Salisbury, that the council "recess" and remain on call at the discretion of retiring Warden Gordon Cook, Reeve of King Township.

Mr. Donnell explained that the Municipal Act included a directive to retiring councils to sit until successors were fully organized and able to take over all phases of administration. He termed his resolution "a resolution of immortality."

There is some question, said Mr. Donnell, as to whether the retiring council is the 138th or the 120th. Although the County of York was not constituted as a unit of government until 1951, it was preceded by district councils with the same essential responsibilities.

On adjournment, the council dissolved into a mutual admiration society, with nostalgic reminiscing and backpating. Warden Cook observed that 17 of the 28 members of council, himself included, will not be returning as members of the regional council.

"It has been a most enjoyable year," said Mr. Cook. "It has been a real experience to be a warden of the County of York. This has been a year that will go down in history, a year of excitement and change. We have approved extensions to our two hospitals that were badly needed, and finalized completion of York Manor and had its official opening. We should be very proud of York Manor as a senior citizen's home."

In visiting the various municipalities in the county, said Mr. Cook, he had made many friends, and in council cooperation has been excellent. It had not been an easy year, he continued, preparing for regional government.

He thanked his two commissioners, Reeve Albert Laidlaw of the Town of Markham and Reeve Stewart Burnett of the Township of Whitchurch, and senior staff of the county administration for their assistance in the past year.

Regional Chairman Garfield Wright was presented, and the warden transferred to him the warden's chain of office.

Mr. Wright, a former reeve of the Township of East Gwillimbury and a former warden, reminded council that the chain of office had been provided by the Queen's York Rangers, and added that it was an honor to receive it.

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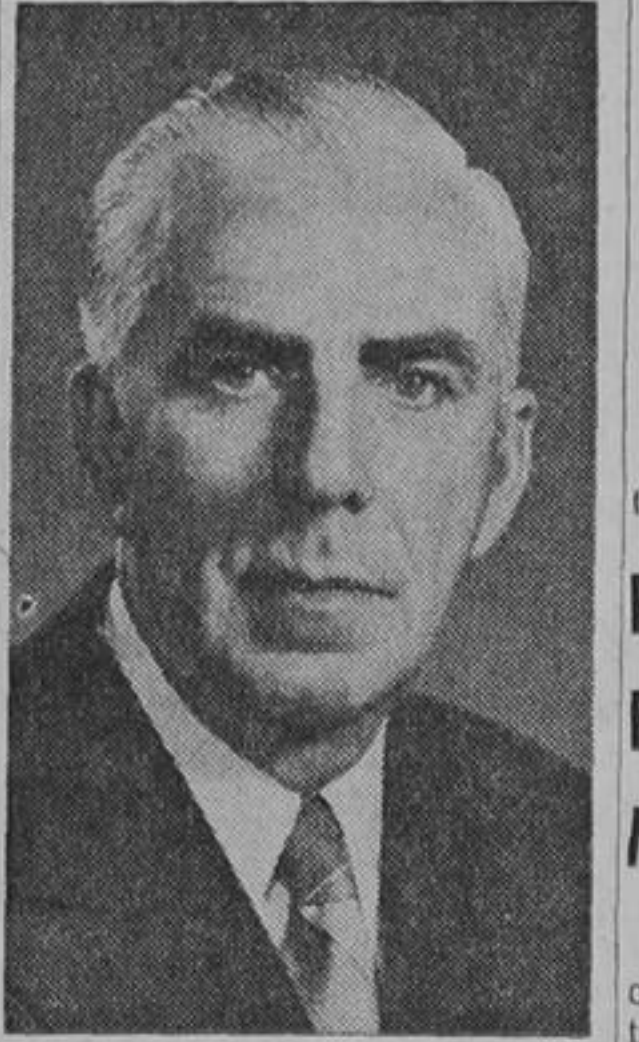
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WM. HODGSON M.L.A. All Eyes On York Region

Each of the 24 members of council present, reeves and deputy-reeves of York County's 14 municipalities, was given an opportunity to speak, and each commented that it had been a pleasure to serve, an educational experience. Several who had been defeated in the October municipal elections declared they had every intention of trying again for election to municipal or regional office.

Deputy-reeve Donnell, a humorous and eloquent orator, had been selected as spokesman for the council to make a presentation to the retiring warden. He spoke of the comradery of the council and of the symbolism that had led up to the selection of a restored lithograph of a pastoral scene, a shepherd leading a flock of graying sheep, as an appropriate gift for the farmer-warden.

Three other former wardens were present and were recognized: Deputy-reeve Albert Rutherford of Vaughan Township, former Reeve Floyd Perkins of Richmond Hill and William Hodgson M.L.A., York North a resident of King Township.

Mr. Hodgson took an optimistic view of the future of York under regional government with a heritage of more than 100 years of county administration which, he said, owed its success to the good judgment of the men and women that had made it work.

The eyes of Ontario will be on the Region of York, said Mr. Hodgson, as it is the first region to be formed without benefit of a large city as a nucleus. He referred to the Ottawa-Carleton Region, and the Hamilton-Niagara Region, Muskoka Region, he added, is "a different situation altogether."

Members of council, administrative staff and guests were invited to remain to enjoy a lavish buffet and reception provided by the Town of Newmarket.

"The conformity of development applications has been ensured by the adoption of an integrated procedure for the processing of subdivisions, official plans, zoning bylaws, and amendments thereto."

"In addition, the staff of the Metro Planning Board has over the past years provided a considerable amount of planning advice and consulting service to a number of the Southern Six municipalities. As with the York County Planning Office, no charge has been made for these services," says the Paterson Report.

"Under the York Act, the Metro Planning Area will be retracted to the boundaries of Metro proper, effective January 1, 1971."

"Until the boundary between York and Metro has finally been settled, however, Metro will continue to have a legitimate interest in the development of those lands between Steeles Avenue and the proposed Highway 407 parkway corridor."

"This is the corridor that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has suggested might become the new (Metro) boundary," says the Paterson Report on planning for the new Region of York.

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## Bayview Collects 20 Cars—Need More

Early in December, Bayview Secondary School appealed to the public for donation of old cars to be used in classes in the school's auto mechanics shop.

By Christmas about 20 had been offered, and a local service station operator was providing free towing to get the cars to the school where they could be dismantled.

The holiday rush and cold and snowy weather slowed down the operation a bit — the friendly service station man was kept hopping attending to business — but the school's Technical Director Don Frise reports that all of the cars should be at the school within the week.

More cars are still needed, however, and the school will accept cars of any make or model that have an engine that might be made to run. They will be responsible for disposing of the remains and surrendering of licence plates.

If you have such a car, contact shop Teachers Peter Rankin or Peter Davis at the school, 884-4453. They will be put to good use in instructing the boys in auto repairs and maintenance.

## Paterson Report Calls For Proper Study Of Metro March North

(Continued from Page 1) of-way for Highway 404 along the west side of Woodbine Avenue (formerly Don Mills Road). Highway 404 will be a continuation of the Don Valley Parkway and intersect with Highway 407 somewhere near Buttonville.

"... Until the (Metro) boundary issue has been resolved, Metropolitan Toronto will have a legitimate concern for the kind of development taking place in the (Thornhill) strip between Steeles Avenue and the proposed route of Highway 407. Referral procedures will have to be worked out to meet this concern."

"Indeed, insofar as the latter (Highway 407) route might be varied as a result of the forthcoming provincial-regional discussions, the Metro interest would extend to the area of such possible variation," says the Paterson Report.

"The Southern Six municipalities of York (Markham Township, Markham Town, Vaughan Township, Woodbridge, Richmond Hill and Stouffville) have been included in the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Area since its inception."

"Consequently they are covered by the Draft Official Plan of the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Area. However, this has never been formally adopted, but is used as a guide in the processing of development applications by the Metro Planning Board."

Through advice to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Metro Board has also been able to assure that the local official plans in the Southern Six municipalities are generally in conformity with the Draft Metro Plan.

"And since the latter is geared to either the availability of Metro sewer and water services, or to upstream plants and ground water supplies approved by the province, the local Official Plans are related to presently committed sewer capacities."

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# County Council Fights Annexation

The battle to prevent Metro from annexing lands in southern Markham and Vaughan is not just a fight to retain land and people, it is a fight for economic survival, says Vaughan Reeve Garnet Williams.

Speaking at the last meeting of York County Council in Newmarket on December 29, Mr. Williams said it is important to Vaughan that the area south of the proposed Highway 407 be retained, but it is even more important to the region.

Mr. Williams was speaking to a York Region evaluation report dealing with the "to Metro" lands, prepared by the planning committee of council of which Mr. Williams is a member.

The Committee Chairman Anthony Roman, mayor-elect of Markham, told the meeting the committee had stayed away from projection of potential in evaluating the effect of the loss of the southern area.

"It is very difficult for anyone to put a figure on the potential," said Mr. Roman, "but anyone who is aware of the industrial potential of this area can envisage what it might ultimately become. It would definitely be a drastic financial loss to the Region of York."

County council's Planning Consultant Conroy Dowson observed that in forming the region the objective had been to ensure an equitable tax system by re-organizing the structure of municipal governments.

"The continuing Region of York will be as well off as the County of York, but there is no way the region can increase its potential for industrial development."

Mr. Dowson observed that the potential for industry is in the southern sections of Vaughan and Markham, but county planners had never considered the possibility of this land being transferred to Metro. "This did not come up until the last minute."

The 15-page report of the planning committee quoted from an address delivered by Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough in Richmond Hill on May 6 outlining details of the government's plan for the new Region of York.

It was in this speech that Mr. McKeough made first reference to a parkway corridor along the route of the proposed Highway 407 and probable transfer of the lands to the south of the parkway corridor to Metro.

At a meeting of county council in September, the planning committee was directed to prepare a detailed submission outlining the result of any boundary adjustment and its impact on the York Region.

Aurora Reeve Evelyn Buck, also a member of the planning committee, observed, "Not only are we losing this land, but Metro is gaining it. It is the only area where they can be industrial development. If this source of potential wealth goes to Metro, we are left to provide services for farms and residential properties."

Warden Gordon Cook observed that Markham Township has spent a great deal of money in servicing land for industrial development, and this would all go to Metro, adding, "Markham Township is taking a great beating in the proposed boundary change."

Mr. Roman observed that there have been a number of ratepayers meetings in the area to protest the proposed Metro takeover, and that more than 90 percent of the people seemed to be strongly opposed to the transfer of land to Metro.

The planning committee report points out that, historically, the pressures for central city growth place great stress on man-made boundaries. The Steeles Avenue boundary, established over 120 years ago, still provides reasonable separation of town and country, however, as only one-third of the north Steeles frontage is developed.

"Moving the boundary north some two miles will not of itself improve the separation of town and country, particularly on a long term basis," states the report.

It states that 18,732 people are located in the "to Metro" lands or 12.5 percent of York's population. This would leave a population of 131,248 in the continuing region.

About 23,200 acres, or six percent of York's area is in the "to Metro" lands. Of this, over 74 percent, or 17,320 acres is agricultural or undeveloped in the urban sense. Of the 5,980 acres remaining, a further 1,740 acres is in public or private open space (mostly golf courses). Only 4,250 acres, or 19 percent of the area is urbanized, and 810 acres is developed for commercial or industrial purposes.

Based on the Metro plan, some 10,800 acres, or about 47 percent of the area is reserved for agricultural uses," says the report. "Very significantly, about 3,350 acres or over 14 percent of the area is reserved for industrial development and 6,030 acres or 26 percent for residential uses — nearly one acre of industrial for every two acres of residential."

Some \$277 million of taxable assessment, or 17 percent of York's total, is located in the area. Further, the residential-farm to commercial-industrial ratio of the \$277 million assessment is 75:23 whereas the comparable ratio of the continuing region is 82:18.



GARNET WILLIAMS Fight For Survival

# Advisors Will Fix Fate Of Thornhill

(Continued from Page 1) "The role of the committees is seen as purely advisory, and it is considered that either committee should hire any staff of its own," said the Paterson Report.

On the question of co-operation and communication between the province and region on planning matters, the Paterson Report goes on as follows: "In discussing provincial planning responsibilities... it was recommended that the province consult the affected regional governments and discuss frankly with them the outstanding matters which have both regional and provincial implications, even though ultimate responsibility for these matters must clearly rest with the province."

"If such consultation is to be effective, it is felt that it cannot be left to the odd, infrequent meeting called only when a matter of acute concern has arisen. It should take place in a more continuous manner, permitting the issues to be readily brought forward for discussion as necessary."

"If this is to happen, however, it seems clear that some kind of organization for it will be required. This would seem to be what the Minister of Municipal Affairs had in mind on May 6, 1970, when he indicated that a joint planning committee of the York Region, Metropolitan Toronto, and the province will be established to create permanent machinery for co-ordinating the planning policies of neighboring municipalities and the province."

"In considering possible committee arrangements, it is immediately apparent that for effective liaison, both political leaders and senior staff members of the effected governments will have to be involved. The question arises as to whether they should sit together on a single liaison committee, or sit separately on two liaison committees, one at the political level and one at the staff level."

"Because the respective concerns of the two groups, while strongly related, will seldom be identical, it is concluded that much time of both would be wasted if they were asked to regularly meet together."

"Accordingly it is recommended that the Minister of Municipal Affairs consider establishing two committees to deal with matters requiring provincial-regional liaison."

"It is further recommended that initially at least, the governments involved in addition to the provincial government, should be limited to those of Metropolitan Toronto and adjacent governmental regions."

"Turning now to the question of specific membership, we come to the most difficult issue to be resolved. Considering the senior committee first, it is essential to keep it small enough to function effectively, even if four regions should become involved. And the question which arises is, where to stop if one begins adding members beyond those who must obviously be included."

"To co-ordinate the activities of the adjacent regional governments and those of all provincial departments concerned will prove one of the more demanding tasks facing planning in this area over the next few years," says the Paterson Report on York Region planning.

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DAVID FRASER QC

## New Queen's Counsel

Vaughan Councillor and Thornhill Lawyer David Fraser was named a Queen's Counsel in the New Year's Honors List this year.

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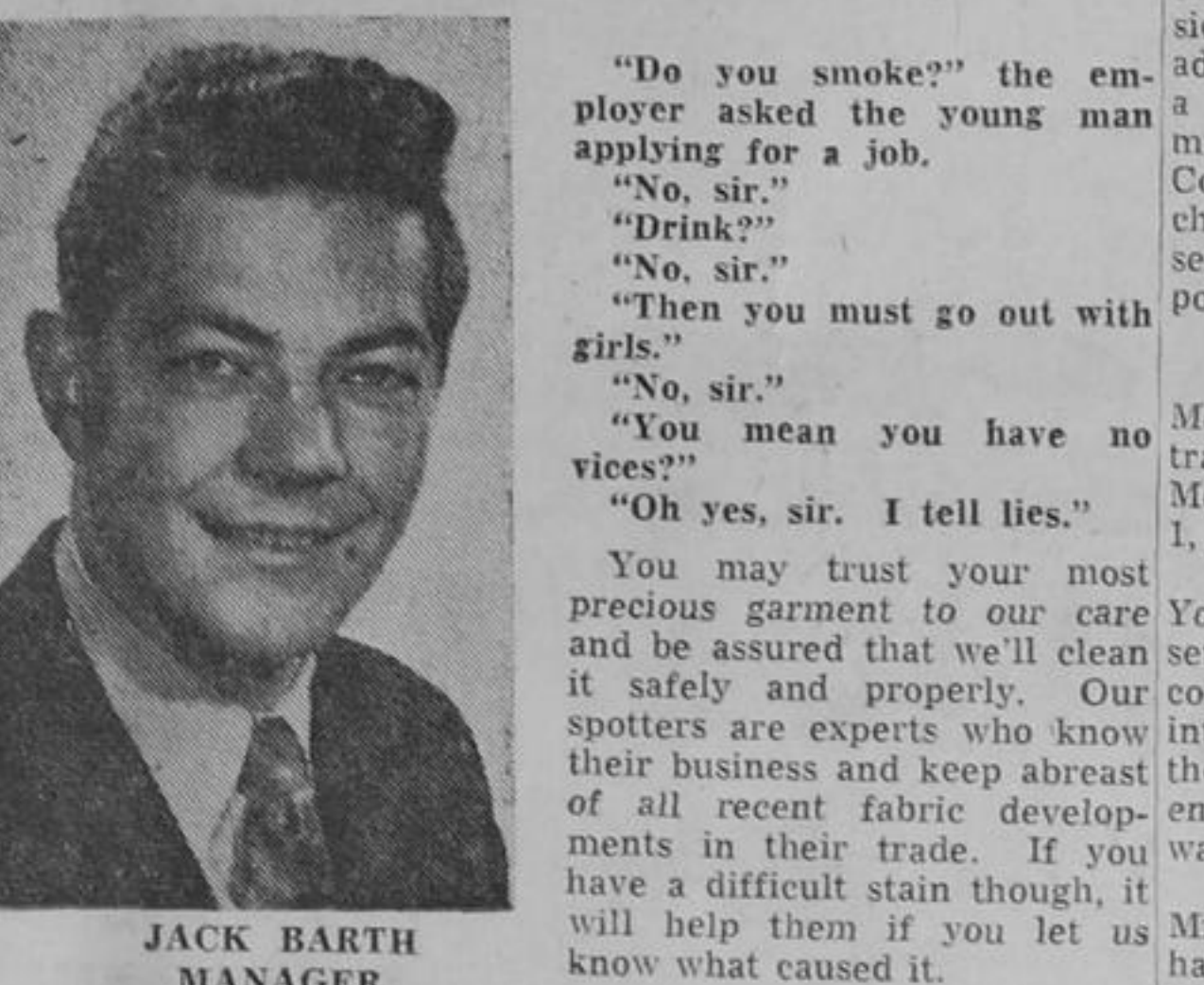
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