



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Beautiful Haliburton Scene Won By King Resident

Although the York Central Committee of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society reports that last fall's campaign for funds fell below the objective of \$3,500, the support of members of the community who contributed \$2,500 is greatly appreciated.

The area covered in the campaign included Richmond Hill, Maple, Thornhill, Victoria Square and Thornhill.

Part of the total funds was raised by a draw for an oil painting of a Haliburton scene by Local Artist Harold Howarth. Mrs. Hilda Pring, RR 1, King City, was holder of the winning ticket.

In the above picture (left to right) Mr. Howarth reads the name on the ticket drawn by Liberal Publisher Sam Cook.

Parents Protest School Closings In An Emotion Charged Meeting At Jefferson

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ard proposal, pointing out that the kindergarten teacher at Buttonville teaches at that school in the morning and in a Richmond Hill School in the afternoon.

"This must be very tiring for her," she observed, adding that as the birth date declines this trend will work its way up through the grades and soon there will not be enough children in grades 1 and 2 and 3 to need the full time services of a teacher.

Asked what would happen to the empty schools, they were told the board will keep them for the present as they may be needed.

A father commented, "If you are keeping the schools and using the same teachers all you change is the busing. How does that save money?" Another asked how the taxpayer would benefit if a 100-pupil school was closed and the children sent to a school with 200 pupils, accusing the board of "using the children as pawns."

He was assured that nothing is final, that this is the reason for the meetings so that the trustees can hear all the opinions before arriving at a decision.

CONSIDER WHOLE PICTURE

The board has been considering the best use of school for

more than a year, said Mrs. Aimone, but it must view the whole picture. Most of the schools were built by the area boards which had to operate within certain geographic confines, but the present board must consider the whole picture.

Mr. Houghton assured the meeting that he had an open mind on the question and asked someone to summarize the important issues.

"We have a marvellous school," said Mrs. Watford. "We do not want to gamble it away."

Two factors seemed to present good arguments for closing the schools, he observed — finance and population. Many of the reasons for not wanting the schools closed seemed very selfish, said Mr. Houghton: "My child can walk to school now," "It is a nice school," etc. "We want to be realistic," he added.

One parent protested that there are drugs in Richmond Hill, "I do not want my child in a school where there are drugs." Another pointed out that some Richmond Hill schools have portables, "Why not fill this school up with children from the portables instead of closing good schools?"

Buttonville Principal Howard Atkinson protested, "This discussion has degenerated into picky little nothings," as par-

ents continued to raise objections to the Jefferson play area, traffic on Yonge Street, bus schedules, etc. He urged the parents to stick to the issues that were most important, that concerned the education of the children.

MARVELLOUS SCHOOL

Mr. MacKay assured the meeting that he had an open mind on the question and asked someone to summarize the important issues.

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A man questioned the question of a school, "I have never seen a school board save money yet!"

When Mr. MacKay asked for a show of hands, the parents were almost unanimous in their insistence that the Gormley and Buttonville Schools should be kept open.

Mr. MacKay concluded, "We have inherited many problems from other boards who had to operate within the confines of their boundaries, and now we have to cope with these situa-

tion." He assured the parents, "If we had made up our minds we would not be here."

Mrs. Simpson emphasized that "a fantastic amount of research" has gone into plans for reorganization, that Areas 2, 3 and 4 are interrelated, that what happens in one area also affects the others.

In Area 2 (King and White-church - Stouffville) the board is considering closing 11 schools. They are Pine Orchard, Shrubmount, Vivian, Ringwood, Vandorf, Hillcrest, Pottageville, Strange, Snowball, Eversley and Lloyd.

Meetings are being held with parents from all of these schools, and recommendations will be brought from each meeting to the board.

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500 Ratepayers Don't Want Garbage In Gravel Pit

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the area will be jeopardized. You are making possible private profit to a private individual at the expense of the surrounding community and it serves the assumed plans of Metro and not the people of Vaughan," he charged.

CONNOR KEYS TO SUCCESS

He proposed that the success of the proposal depends on the willingness and ability of Mr. Connor to go beyond his legal obligations if he has to. "There may come a time when the cost of doing what is necessary to prevent pollution will make the operation unfeasible. If that risk matures it will mature with deadly cost to the municipality," he warned as he pointed

out that the municipality might find itself with lawsuits for damage to the environment and health. "What happens three or four years hence when the pollution is there? What do you expect the monitoring system of Metro Conservation Authority shows this operation must be stopped?" he asked, as he estimated the operation as being a truck every 120 seconds to the pit.

"The town will reap a profit only if the project is successfully completed. Otherwise it is faced with untold expenses and you may lose the \$300,000 you are prepared to loan him. Mr. Connor will operate only as long as it is profitable to him," the lawyer continued. "If the figures are erroneous, if the leachate tank fails, if there is another Hurricane Hazel, if there is not enough garbage from Metro (witness the low guarantee), you are not going to have a park, you are not going to have a solution to this problem."

Vaughan's Solicitor Tom Fraser explained the municipality has a firm commitment from Metro to supply a limited quantity of residential type garbage for the next three years. "They expect that the South Thackeray site will not be filled until that time and we can expect that the quantity will increase when the site is filled. In approving the South Thackeray site the OMB adjourned the decision on the North Thackeray site and indicated it would only be reopened in conjunction with an application for the Maple site (Superior Sand & Gravel)."

Former Woodbridge Reeve John McLean recalled the "good fight" waged by the former Township of Vaughan to keep the North Thackeray site from development a few years ago. "This proposal looks like a precedent to me. The question is not how to make a garbage dump but the question is why turn our Vaughan into Metro's garbage gardens? The town will be left to pick up the liabilities and carry out the restoration — an expensive leg-

500 NAMES ON PETITION

Dr. G. W. Archibald reported that a petition is being circulated which had at least 500 signatures at that time. He asked a further meeting after answers to questions have been given and after adequate notice has been given.

A Woodbridge resident asked Councillor Fred Armstrong from that former village about the depth of the municipal wells and if there was not danger of pollution to them from the landfill site. Mr. Armstrong indicated he was not worried on this score, "but will be keeping a sharp watch on pollution." To another ratepayer Mr. Armstrong stated, "I am going to support this. I'm not going to waste my time and council's time in these talks. I've enough foresight to provide for the future." This statement was greeted with boos and cries of "Then get off council," to which he retorted, "Get your name on the ballot."

Mayor Williams stated that "Vaughan is not the municipality to start recycling. It has to come as the eventual solution of pollution. I'm always involved. I save all my newspapers for the Nashville Boy Scouts. You can do the same thing."

"Why save your papers and take Metro's garbage for the next 50 years," challenged an unidentified ratepayer.

RISK NOT IN FAVOR
 Councillor Gordon Risk reported he had originally supported the proposal, "when it was only to fill in the existing hole, but since it has increased in size I can no longer support it."

Pierre Berton reported on a meeting between Mayor Garnet Williams and three ratepayers including Leslie Erlich and Dr. Archibald. He recalled that he was asked to take 10 years, rather than three, to fill the hole, he would not support the move. The mayor denied this statement, to be challenged by Mr. Erlich, "You shook my hand on it."

"We asked if you had considered any alternatives and asked you to look into them," Mr. Berton recalled.

OTHER METHODS
 Donald Deacon pointed out that many methods of dealing with gravel pits are evident in the Hamilton area and that former Minister of Mines Allan Lawrence had published a pamphlet on these alternatives. A member of the audience reported on visiting the Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver, another example of what can be done.

Councillor Dalton McArthur reported that the committee had considered all four alternatives and found them not satisfactory. "However, I am quite willing to sit down with two or three representatives of the ratepayers and listen to their future suggestions," he conceded. "The committee will recommend to council that it proceed with the application to the Ontario Waste Management Branch at the May 3 council meeting."

Mr. McArthur denied that council's prime motivation was to provide Metro with dumping space. He contended that it was to eliminate the gravel pit scarring from the town's landscaping.

Mayor Williams agreed and pointed out that under present zoning the pit may be used for an asphalt or cement plant. "Think of the pollution from that!" "That's blackmail," shouted Mr. Berton.

But "The Liberal" reporter, leaving the council chamber after the meetings, overheard Tim Connor, owner of the property telling a small group of ratepayers gathered around him, "If this doesn't go through you're going to get an asphalt plant."

Trustees Reconsider Closing Of Buttonville And Gormley Schools

At a meeting, April 12, the York County Board of Education agreed to defer a decision to close 13 small schools in Areas 2 and 4, transferring the students to neighboring larger and newer schools.

Several meetings have been held over the past two weeks with officials, trustees and board members to discuss reasons for and against the proposed transfer of students.

A motion that the recommendation that all 13 schools be closed was defeated after lengthy discussion.

Disagreement came largely from trustees of Area 4 where the Buttonville and Gormley School be closed and pupils be transferred to larger schools.

Many arguments had been put forward by parents that had yet to be resolved, it was stated.

There was also a presentation at the meeting by parents from the Snowball and Eversley Schools in Area 2 who argued that they had had no opportunity to present their case to the board.

The proposal is that students from these schools be moved to the new Devins Drive School in the Aurora-Orchards Sub-division.

Education Director summed up by saying, "The board has worked very hard at consulting the people concerned. All of you (trustees) have attended from two to five meetings regarding the closing of schools."

"It is a very sensitive topic, and in a sense we will have defeated the whole aim of consultation if we make a blanket decision. We will be breaking faith with the people."

Markham Trustee Merna Colbourne observed, "I agree with the overall philosophy of closing small uneconomical schools, but we should listen to the trustees from the areas concerned before we make a decision."

Richmond Hill Trustee Deena Simpson told the board that she was firmly convinced that the schools should be closed, but in the interest of the majority, and in fairness to the parents and students involved she urged that another meeting be held and reports made on each school before the matter was put to a vote.

"I know that I am the only one in Area 4 with this point of view," Mrs. Simpson admitted, "but I would like to be present when Area 4 makes its decision. There is a great deal

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