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Happy Gift Of Land

Thanks to the happy philanthropy of the Gamble Family a new and very badly needed community skating arena is in the process of rising from its foundations in the Oak Ridges area — the newly annexed part of our town.

We want to enunciate here the heartfelt appreciation we are sure the people of the community feel toward the several generations of this long-time Oak Ridges area family. And this we do by saying, "Thank you very much."

But more than this we want to review for the citizens just what a really wonderful thing it turns out this family did for the community when it gave a piece of land to the town for park and recreation purposes. At the same time we must all remind ourselves of the work of those who recognized the need for recreation facilities and made the need known. They worked hard and contributed in their way, too.

When the Gamble Family last year made this gift of land, the whole situation fairly snowballed and exploded to the benefit of Richmond Hill. Winter works money became suddenly available and thousands upon thousands of dollars are to come to the town free, because people are now given employment in the winter season. The gift has multiplied itself to the point where Richmond Hill will now have this sports facility without a cent of cost to the taxpayers. And many workers in the area have jobs when they would otherwise have been idle.

Had the Gamble family not made the land gift, the town would never have been in a position to take advantage of the winter works opportunity.

As it happens, the same thing came about for the local association that aids retarded children. Land some time ago was given to Markham for a hospital and related facilities. As a result, the association for the retarded had land in hand. Now the community is getting another badly needed social facility because it was ready to use winter work gift funds.

So when we say our thanks to our local Gamble Family for making our Oak Ridges Arena possible, the same thing goes to the man who made that land available in Markham. He is Arthur Latham of Stouffville, a philanthropist whose gifts are a byword in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

As Richmond Hill Mayor William Lazbeny says, if we hadn't had these free gifts of land, we would probably never have had the facilities at all. Or if we did have them, it would have been at tremendous local tax cost.

If in the past few months the towns of Vaughan, Markham or Richmond Hill had received another such gift of land, or had assembled

suitable land for public use, it is probably certain a large day nursery for working mothers would have been built. It would have been just like that being built in Newmarket under winter works and provincial grants at little or no cost to local taxpayers. It would have been on the same basis as the Oak Ridges arena, we are told reliably.

On June 24 of last year in an editorial we asked, "Has Southern York Region any leading citizens who want to make a long-lasting community contribution and help fill a public need?"

Well, we now know we have at least several such great citizens.

We said then in the June 24 editorial that Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham have one great commanding need, the need for land for public purposes. "It's needed in little chunks, big pieces and large tracts. The population in the past decade has grown enormously and the provision of land for all kinds of parks and recreation, athletic fields, squares, libraries and gardens has lagged. And the rate of population growth shows no signs of slowing down. Every inch of ground even now can only be had at a premium. Surely in this day and age we aren't without citizens of greatness, means, goodwill and foresight," we said.

We also said in that editorial, "We can think of no more exciting and joyous report to bring to our readers than an announcement that one of our local towns has been given 30 acres for an athletic grounds and community centre in a suitable place, or perhaps an endowed site for botanical gardens. (We picked that 30-acre figure for a major community athletic grounds because we seemed to remember it was the figure suggested for such a case in the National Capital Planning Commission recreation study published some years ago).

And then in that June editorial we said, "Great citizens, please stand up!"

And now in the Gamble Family and in Mr. Latham we have some such who have stood up. And it was indeed with great happiness we told the stories of the wonderful results of their philanthropy on our front page.

But let us not stop here. Only a start has been made. Our York Region towns need many more such gifts and the communities must make much greater efforts in working out needs and plans if we are to have the kind of place to live that we could have, and should have.

The Gamble Family's gift was a terrific donation, and as the mayor says, the fruit of this gift will help to unify the community. Cannot a more united community do more? We are sure it can.

Baiting The Hook

It is wonderful what elections do to governments in our democratic process. With an election expected later this year the Liberal Administration of Pierre Trudeau is making valiant efforts to put its best foot forward before having to face the judgment of the Canadian people.

In an overhaul of his Cabinet Mr. Trudeau has shunted three of his major liabilities, Benson in Finance, Mackasey in Labor and Basford in Consumer Affairs into other portfolios. These three gentlemen had become very controversial and were obvious political liabilities to the re-election of a Liberal Government. No sooner had Mr. Trudeau's new appointees settled into their new posts than they had started to pour oil on the troubled waters.

John Turner, the new Finance Minister speaking at the Western Canada meeting of provincial treasurers, said Ottawa must begin doing something for the middle class and the small businessman. After ignoring the middle class and saddling him with a soaring tax rate and Social-ist red tape for the past four years the Trudeau Administration, on the eve of a general election, has suddenly rediscovered the dominant group in Canadian society — the middle class. The same can be said of the western farmer. Desperate to improve their poor showing on the Prairies, Ottawa has promised to introduce an improved plan of payments for the hard-pressed wheat producers.

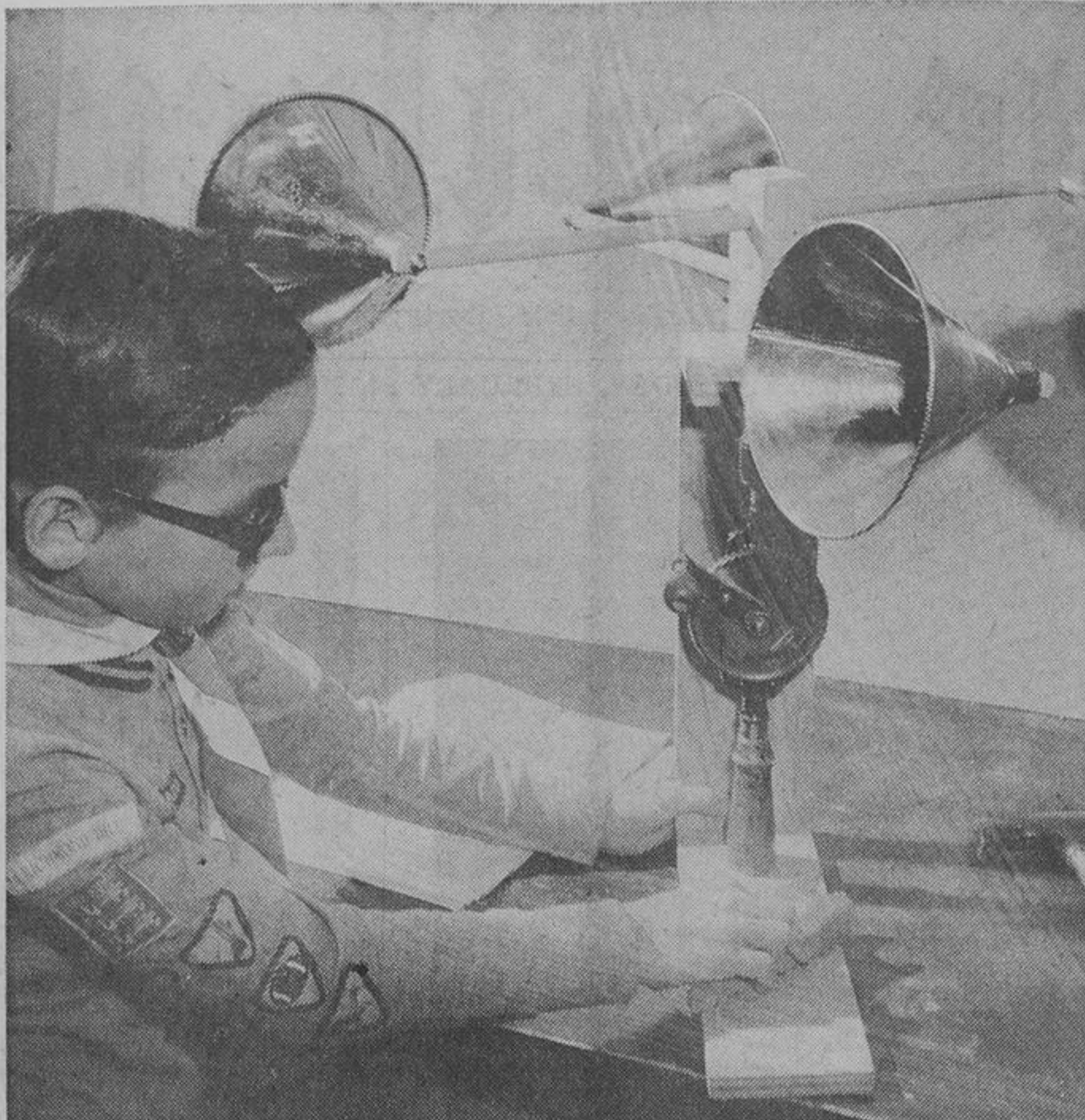
Martin O'Connell, the new Labor Minister, has indicated he will review the controversial part of Mackasey's

proposed labor code which would permit a union to call a strike in the middle of a legal contract if technological change is involved. Basford's Competition Act has been shelved for further study and evaluation.

Speaking in Toronto Editor Peter Newman forecast Prime Minister Trudeau will fight the election in English Canada by promising to adopt a tough line in handling his native Quebec and the French-Canadian question. It is to be hoped the Canadian people will not be misled by this same approach he so successfully employed in the 1968 confrontation and that the Conservatives will not again promote their disastrous "deux nations."

During the past four years Mr. Trudeau has poured millions of tax dollars into his native province. The English speaking provinces have been called upon time and time again to placate Quebec's incessant demands for a greater share of the federal tax dollars as the price of staying in Confederation. For example, Ottawa reports that Quebec has received the "lion's share" of the federal grants for this year's winter works program.

Up until the end of January some \$20 million had been spent in Quebec compared with only \$37 million in the other nine provinces. It doesn't matter whether you turn from grants to Cabinet appointments — Quebec has received preferential treatment from the arrogant Mr. Trudeau. And if any English speaking Canadian dares question his policies, he simply passes him off as a "bigot" of no consequence.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio) Bayview Secondary School will be the mecca for all those interested in Scouting in York Summit District — boys, parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, brothers and sisters — February 26. This date brings the 12th annual district hobby and handicraft show with prizes awarded in many classes. This is York Summit District's contribution to Boy Scout Week in Canada and is in commemoration of Lord Baden-Powell's birthdate. Baden-Powell was the founder of Scouting.

Scout Area Hobby Show Feb. 26

Approximately 1,650 Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and their leaders are registered in the district and it is expected there will be more than 800 entries on display in the show, all the way from Yukon sleds to home baking.

In the afternoon the afternoon will feature live displays and movies and refreshments will be served. The 24 groups in the district will be competing for the George Harvey Memorial Trophy, the various Scout Troops will compete for the Tara Lynn Bullen Trophy and the Cub Packs will compete for a trophy, also a memorial to Tara Lynn Bullen.

Chairman of the show committee this year is Herb McGuffin of 1st Langstaff. He and his committee assure parents and friends of Scouting that the show will be well worth spending a couple of hours viewing. Judging will take place in the forenoon and the doors will be opened to the public between 1 and 6 p.m. In the picture above is Cub Walter Volk who is putting the finishing touches on his entry for the show. He lives at Pemberton Road, Richvale.

Letters to the Editors

ICY SIDEWALKS PEDESTRIAN HAZARD Dear Mr. Editor: I realize that the money market has dwindled and business is off pace in some areas, but I never considered that our medical world was in need of more business. How else can you explain the treacherous condition of the sidewalk on Dufferin Street that runs adjacent to the medical building on the corner of Yonge Street North.

It is of little consolation that any resident who slips and falls on the icy pavement will receive instant treatment from the doctors in the building, or that the X-ray office is but a few steps inside the doorway. After all, a chap with a broken tibia could lie on the sidewalk for hours before some of our citizens would notice.

To point out the more serious aspects of the situation is to focus on the fact that many of our older citizens use the Dufferin Street route to reach their meeting quarters in the Legion Plaza. A busted tibia to our senior citizens could mean an indefinite stay in York Central Hospital.

Could the tenants in the offending building with the huge sign on the roof convince their landlord that good housekeeping also includes keeping the sidewalk clear of ice and snow? ROBERT THOMPSON, 173 Traybom Drive, Richmond Hill.

Winter Morning

It seems so silent outside, looking out from a warm home, it is winter and it is cold. And yet how peaceful, the earth it looks still and calm.

There is no wind, the sky is in its clearest blue, around us the glittering, silvery snow, it feels restful, as if nothing moves.

But there is life, one can see, already white clouds are moving by, everything looks real.

If we could only stop more often in our busy days and rest, see all this beauty, even on a winter morning it also has its best. LYDIA HACHMER, 95 Cartier Crescent, Richmond Hill.

Women's Institutes, Canada's Gift To World - 75 Years Old

One of Canada's greatest gifts to the world is the description often given of the Women's Institute, which celebrated its 75th birthday February 12 at a luncheon at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Guest speaker was Mrs. Olive Farquharson of England, president of the Associated Country Women of the World, the international association of Women's Institutes in 64 countries. The organization now has six and a half million members.

It all began in a very small way in 1897 in the little village of Stoney Creek, not far from Hamilton, which then had a population of only a few hundred. The South Wentworth Farmers' Institute, which served the surrounding farming community, was then a flourishing organization. Each year it held a ladies' night. When the program committee met that year, Eriand Lee, suggested that they invite Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless to speak at the ladies' night, setting a precedent for up to that time the speakers had always been men supplied by the Department of Agriculture to speak on agricultural subjects.

So it was agreed at the committee meeting to secure the regular government speaker for the event. Mr. Lee was left in charge of the rest of the program. He then extended a personal invitation to Mrs. Hoodless to address the farmers and their wives. The government speaker spoke on the care and feeding of calves — but Mrs. Hoodless declared there was a greater need for information on the care and feeding of infants. It is reported that she suggested that women should have an organization similar to the men's Farmers' Institute and at the close of her address Mr. Lee asked how many women would attend if he called a meeting to organize a Women's Institute. All 30 women present stood.

One hundred women attended the organizational meeting held February 19, 1897, with Mrs. Hoodless again the guest speaker — and so the Women's Institute was born. Mr. Lee was named the first chairman. Since then, the WI has grown and grown. First the Ontario Department of Agriculture, realizing its value to the farm wife, set capable women into the yet unorganized sections of the province, to arouse interest and get groups underway. The idea then spread across Canada, crossed the Atlantic to Great Britain, crept south of the border into the United States, and eventually throughout the world. Although it is still fulfilling its original function — to present educational and cultural programs to help women better themselves as homemakers and citizens and

In the Spotlight Leslie Ann Graham Scholarship

By MONA A. ROBERTSON Come Let Us Make A Joyful Sound ...

Probably the most popular "group" in York Region these days is the youthful folk choral organization, the Mixed Blessings whose headquarters are at St. John's Anglican Church, Jefferson, in the Parish of Oak Ridges.

The group began quietly in 1969. They made their first appearance on the chancel steps in St. John's at a Sunday morning family service (family services are held every second month.) I was there on that first, momentous occasion — and I will confess now that it was a bit of a shock to hear a rock choral group singing (albeit it was religious rock) during the church service!

But despite my initial trepidation — it was such an innovation into the formal ritual of my church! I simply enjoyed the spontaneous, joyful and moving songs the Mixed Blessings sang!

Now, three years later, the MB's are recognized as youthful interpreters on: "How to serve and worship God in song and story" — as well as in their daily school and family life. It is beautiful to see and a joy to hear the Mixed Blessings wherever they may be.

Mrs. Graham Carson, Richmond Hill north, has led the group since its inception. She told us those who join are grade 7 and up students. Ten of the original members are still with the MB's and they have picked up another five along the way. Most are now in York Region secondary schools from King City to Richmond Hill south.

Mrs. Carson looks after her large family of songsters not only as a musical leader but from the spiritual and physical aspects too. But, Mrs. Carson says, she also "gives them their heads". In other words, if they wish to make adaptations or changes (some of their popular offerings are songs you've heard to different words on the hit parades) the whole group works weeks to present them as joyous Christian messages. For instance "A Place In The Sun" becomes "A Place With The Son." "Instead of running from God, the Mixed Blessings are running to God," she told us.

Every encouragement to write their own melodies and lyrics is given. One of their most stirring chorales is "Rush" composed by John Gerber (a Bayview Secondary student and member). "Rush" portrays descriptions of the rush of sounds about us as: "Water rushing by . . ." and indicates how all sounds and senses "sing of grace" and are "sung to God."

The Mixed Blessings is composed of as many as two, sometimes three members of a family. The Gerbers — John, guitarist and composer with his sister Heather, vocalist; the Strivers — Ron, guitarist and sisters Kathie and Debbie, singers; the Lockes Dan, Billie and Sue; the Marshes — Janet and Cheryl, singers. Eddie Davidson (like the Strivers a student from King City Secondary), Lynda Earl (Richmond Hill High and one of the 1972 Princesses at the Winter Carnival) and Cindy Wilton. (Hap) David Wilson is lead guitarist. David is also a talented artist whose line drawings were shown last fall at the Richmond Hill Library.

Bass guitar player is Kent Butler, who attends the Brantford School For The Blind but comes home for rehearsals and joins the MB's in their singing engagements as often as possible.

One of the most enlightening notes regarding the work this young folk group is doing, is the fact they never charge a fee to sing — not even for expenses. But a bike-athon held a year ago in May, netted them \$300 for new equipment and a concert held in their own church, St. John's, added \$80.00 to their expense account. Parents and friends volunteer transportation.

And because of their joyful singing presentation other similar groups are starting up on their own in York Region.

The Mixed Blessings travelled over 1,500 miles last year and during January and February this year, singing sometimes twice a week. But Mrs. Carson has had to cut engagement dates to three per month now. She feels that though the MB's are willing to sing at the drop of an invitation, they cannot keep up with their schools and homework and family life under too heavy a schedule.

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York County Ed. Board Amends Leave Policy

York County Board of Education in the latter part of January made a minor amendment to its policy on educational and sabbatical leave. This amendment had previously received the approval of principals in the county system.

The policy (before amendment) granted sabbatical leave to "exceptional teachers who have given excellent service to the board over a considerable period of time." It was not designed to permit teachers to obtain higher qualifications entitling them to increased salary, but as supplementing the board's professional development program.

It states the board will try to reassign a teacher returning from sabbatical or educational leave to the same school in the same position, but cannot guarantee this.

The amendment adds that when a teacher is receiving a responsibility allowance (as a department head, principal, etc.) he or she will be guaranteed a teaching position ONLY on return.

In some instances when leave of absence is granted, however, the position vacated may be filled on an acting basis and the employee will return to the position. Such arrangements may be made at the discretion of the director and each instance will be reported to the board.

Historical Area Map On Sale At Library

A map of the Town of Richmond Hill (and a portion of the Town of Vaughan) has been prepared by Willowdale Artist Ted Chirnside. The map includes the names of all 1878 property owners within the now extended boundaries of the town, plus the concession between Bathurst and Dufferin Street of Vaughan from Highway 7 to the CFB Sideroad.

Around the map are interesting historical pictures and notes, which will make it a treasured wall hanging for any resident of this area.

The maps are on sale at Richmond Hill Public Library at \$2 each and we are certain will prove invaluable for all students of history and particularly for schools.

For history lovers the library also has available copies of Dr. Elmore Reaman's "History of Vaughan Township" at \$5; "The Life Story of David Howard" at \$2.50; and "Fun Was Where We Made It" by Fred Dixon. The latter is an account of the Mount Joy area of Markham Township from 1900 to 1915. It sells at \$4.50 for hard cover and \$3.50 for soft cover.

conducting clinics for tonicslectomies, sponsoring school health inspections and programs. Credited to the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario is a campaign which brought about the introduction of the school nurse. Hot lunches for children in rural schools, free milk for school children, immunization against childhood diseases, all were campaigns waged diligently and successfully over the years.

During the bleak years of World Wars I and II the Institutes gave leadership in their communities by promoting home gardens, sending food and clothing to bombed out victims, running a canning centre where donations of fruits and vegetables were preserved for use in military hospitals.

If, for no other reason, the WI will be remembered by generations to come as the preservers of local history. When Lord Tweedsmuir was Canada's Governor-General his wife, Lady Tweedsmuir, realized that a great deal of Canada's history had never been written and was doomed to die with the remaining few survivors of the pioneer periods in many sections of the country. She suggested that the WI could perform a great service for its country if it undertook the task of collecting all this material and preserving it for posterity.

The WI members welcomed the task and have done an excellent job of researching every possible source of information. They are also keeping these records up to date.