



(Photo by Photique Studio)

Special occasions are important to the children at the Richmond Hill Day Care Centre, and their teachers help them to make the most of special days. Valentines for family and friends, Easter bunnies in spring and pumpkins at Hallowe'en.

At Christmas time, the 65 children at the centre presented a concert for parents, brothers, sisters, friends and relatives. They also had a Christmas Party for themselves — complete with Santa Claus. The children decorated the rooms they occupy in St. Mary's Anglican Church with mobiles and hangings of their own creation and set up their own Christmas Tree.

As everyone knows, tots do not need a reason for a celebration, but it helps. Jill Kocher is pictured above as she received her gift from Santa in December.

### Day Care Centre Model For Others

By MARGARET LADE  
Each week day morning at 7:30 am they start trotting in—65 children from two years old to six — and some of them are there until 6 pm.  
A little more than two years ago the Richmond Hill Day Care Centre opened its doors in St. Mary's Anglican Church with an enrolment of 12. It was an experiment, the first municipally operated day care centre in York County. Now visitors come from all over Ontario to see how a municipal day care centre operates. They

gram. These students, usually 14 and 15, spend half a day at the centre assisting staff and learning about the care of young children.

The Social Planning Council of Richmond Hill recognized the need for a day care centre several years ago. It enlisted the support of Richmond Hill Town Council and a board of directors was appointed early in 1969.

The church offered space and Mrs. Johanne Kuntze of Richmond Hill was appointed supervisor. Staff was assembled. The Department of Social and Family Services approved the program. On November 1, 1969, the day care centre was in business.

When regional government was introduced in January, 1971 the centre came under direction of the regional social and welfare services commission headed by Dr. Owen Slingerland of Newmarket. Plans for the first regional day care centre to be built this year in Newmarket were based largely on the experience of the Richmond Hill Centre.

A citizens committee in Aurora also studied the Richmond Hill program before going ahead with its plan for a municipal day care centre.

Since the Department of Social and Family Services announced last fall that \$10 million would be made available for establishing day care centres in Ontario a number of municipalities have sent representatives to Richmond Hill to observe the program, to discuss the philosophy of a municipal day care centre. The architect for the new York Regional Centre also paid a visit to Richmond Hill.

Although the centre receives municipal and provincial subsidies, it tries as far as possible to be self-supporting. Rates have gone up from \$15 a week to \$18 a week in the past two weeks, with a charge of \$30 a week for two children from one family. But in some cases the rate is as low as \$2.50 a week.

About 25 of the children come from one-parent homes, and in some cases the day care centre is responsible for keeping families off welfare. The province provides up to 80 percent subsidy for people who cannot afford to pay the established rate.

All of the children are not children of working mothers, says Mrs. Kuntze. She works closely with the public health unit and the York Central Mental Health Centre. Sometimes children are brought to the day care centre because the mother is in hospital or because the mental health centre feels the child would be better off away from home during the day.

These children may stay for only a short time. "But we cannot refuse them, even if we are full," Mrs. Kuntze explained. The Children's Aid Society,

too, often sends children to the day care centre.

At present there are 12 children on the waiting list, and the centre averages five calls a week from parents who would like to enrol their children.

"It is terrible when you have to tell them 'no,'" said Mrs. Kuntze.

Many of the requests are for infant care, which the centre cannot provide. The new centre in Newmarket will have facilities for 75 children two to six, 20 infants and 20 children who are mentally retarded.

Plans for a similar centre in Richmond Hill have been presented to York Regional Council.

The facilities in the church are excellent, Mrs. Kuntze said, but if they had their own building many things would be different. With other groups using the same facilities evenings and weekends it is impossible for staff to set up some of the programs that would be possible in a building devoted exclusively to the care of children. Like all day care centres and nursery schools, the Richmond Hill Centre is inspected regularly by municipal and provincial health and child welfare officials.

Mrs. Kuntze received her training in early childhood education in Germany and operated her own day care centre, which was open from 6 am to 6 pm, before coming to Canada 13 years ago. She worked for a time at the Orange Home in Richmond Hill. Her assistant, Mrs. Gwen Cardwell, trained in England where a kindergarten operated as part of the day care centre.

Others of the child care staff are graduates of early childhood education programs in community colleges. Some of the community college students who have come to her in search of summer work or permanent employment have unrealistic expectations, however.

Since there are so few full-time day care centres, said Mrs. Kuntze, most of the community college students have had work experience only in nursery schools which take pupils for half days only. One young woman, Mrs. Kuntze recalls, was shocked when she was asked to put dry panties on a child who was not completely toilet-trained. "I am a teacher!" said the girl indignantly.

Most children adjust very quickly to the new surroundings, said Mrs. Kuntze. There is so much for them to do, and so many different toys to play with. The average family could not afford the variety of play things, equipment and educational material that is available at the centre. The children also like the routine and enjoy having playmates of their own age.

A mother, said Mrs. Kuntze, who is herself a mother, does

not have the time to set up a routine for her preschool children and really follow it. When she has a house to run and a family to look after she cannot devote all her time to the child as the staff at the day care centre do.

Parents are not left out, however. Most of them appreciate the progress made by their children, the evidence of growing self confidence and self reliance. Many turn out regularly for the monthly parent-teacher work shops and discussions.

These meetings are attended also by Public Health Nurses Patricia McKay and Janis Williams. At the last meeting January 20 discussion centred around the film "Growing Up Safely".

Not enough parents come to these meetings, said Mrs. Kuntze, but those who do seem to appreciate the opportunity to talk with other parents, the nurses and the staff. Some of the children do not arrive at the centre until about 9 am, but there is juice and a snack at 8:45 for those who arrived earlier. This is followed by classroom activities, stories, painting, singing.

From 10 to 11 am is outdoor play time in the small but well equipped play areas. The children have an outdoor play time in the afternoon as well, but in winter they don't always get the full hour outside. It takes time, Mrs. Kuntze explained, for them to get their outdoor clothes on and to take them off again. It would be much quicker, she admits, if staff dressed the children. "But that does not teach the child anything."

The children get a hot meal at 11:30 am. On the day "The Liberals" reporter was there the menu was tuna casserole, green beans, cole slaw and butterscotch pudding. The day before the children had roast beef and mashed potatoes with vegetables and dessert.

Kitchen staff Mrs. Mae Wilson and Mrs. Emmy Bubeloff also prepare the morning snack and in the afternoon they set out sandwiches, fruit and milk, for some of the children that will not be picked up until 6 pm.

When the centre first opened Mrs. Wilson faithfully followed a text of suggested menus and recipes published by the Day Nurseries Branch of the Department of Social and Family Services, but after two years of experience she evolved variations of her own. She makes sure that the children get everything they need to keep them healthy, and that the daily round of meals and snacks is not monotonous.

Following the noon meal the children have a nap. Camp cots are set up with blankets and pillows. Staff relax but keep a watchful eye on their charges. All is quiet — for awhile — at Richmond Hill Day Care Centre.

### Town Must Allocate Sewage Capacity BAIFF Disposal Plant

The only reference to the Cabinet order on the BAIFF sewage disposal plant which he could find is in Hansard, Matt Smith, Pleasantville developer, told Richmond Hill Planning Committee March 7.

Mr. Smith, who has owned the property for 18 years, has an 85-lot subdivision immediately to the east of the existing Pleasantville in the works. It has been approved by the planning committee and council with the provision that water and sewage disposal facilities are available, and that two acres of land at the south of Pleasantville Public School grounds be offered to the York County Board of Education at the cost of raw land.

Reading from the printed record of proceedings in the Legislature, Hansard, Regional Councillor Donald Plaxton informed planning committee that the order read that the BAIFF plant would provide sewage disposal facilities for York Central Hospital, the extension to the hospital, Don Head Secondary School and 4,200 people in Richmond Hill. The order was issued before regional government and the extension of the town's boundaries was introduced.

According to a survey undertaken by Proctor & Redfern for the town, Planning Director Hesse Rimon reported, the number of people in the southwest corner which could be served by the trunk sewer to the BAIFF plant is 2,600, leaving a further 1,600 person capacity to be allocated. Population of the 85-lot new subdivision is estimated at 340.

Mr. Smith reported that the region officials said that allocating the town's share of the BAIFF facility is the responsibility of the town.

Planning committee decided to

recommend to council that provision be made to take care of the extension of Pleasantville in the BAIFF plant.

Ward 6 Councillor Lou Wainwright pointed out that several people in the Richvale area within a stone's throw of the trunk sewer should also be given the privilege of tapping into it. Other members of the committee agreed and will ask the town's works department to undertake a survey of the area to determine the need and demand for this service.

Regional Councillor Plaxton recommended to the committee that it and council should begin negotiations to have additional capacity provided and a drainage ditch which has been plugged "since Hazel."

### FAIR QUEEN CONTEST

Sponsored by the

#### Richmond Hill Agricultural Society

Contest open to residents of the Area Municipality of Richmond Hill who are between 16-21 years of age on August 31, 1972.

#### Prizes

(1) \$100 — (2) \$60 — (3) \$40

Entry forms are available from Mrs. Shirley Ryan, Secretary Box 81, Richmond Hill

#### Town of Richmond Hill



### Tenders Invited For The Sale Of Town Owned Lot In The Town Of Richmond Hill

Tenders for the purchase of a building lot will be accepted up to 12:00 noon, Monday, March 20th, 1972 in the Clerk's Office, Municipal Building, 56 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Tender forms, conditions of sale and all information are available from the Clerk's office, telephone 884-8101 or 889-4928.

The Town reserves the right not to accept the highest nor any tender.

#### DESCRIPTION OF LOT

Lot 2, Registered Plan 2539, Richmond Street. Lot size - 30'x125'

Zoned R2A By-law 1000, Single Family Detached Dwelling.

Services - paved road, water and sanitary sewer.

William C. Lazenby Mayor

Russell Lynett Clerk

### No Town Grant To Roseview

Mayor William Lazenby informed Richmond Hill Town Council Monday evening that he had received an apology from Roy Caven, spokesman of the Roseview Community Workshop for giving incorrect information to "The Liberal" in a recent news release.

"I gave him a letter of intent under my hand that we would give moral support to this effort," stated the mayor. "But I made it perfectly clear there is no way they can expect financial assistance from the town, unless we are shown that they are giving an essential service. There has been no actual commitment." Mr. Caven had reported a grant of \$2,000 from council.



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FRIENDLY MERCHANTS  
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★ FANS....

Drop in at the Centre tonight (Wednesday) between 9 and 9:30 p.m. and be part of the gala festivities to welcome home this great team. Let's show them we're proud!