



An open house to greet the vanguard of the thousands of new residents arriving in the German Mills (Leslie East) area of Thornhill was held recently at the German Mills Community Centre, a 98-year-old schoolhouse being preserved in trust by the Town of Markham. Shown enjoying coffee in front of a painting of the school and discussing activity plan-

(Photo by Stuart's Studio) ning are (left to right): Community Centre Board Treasurer Mrs. Cindy Elson of Milmar Court; Chairman Miss Jane McLaren of German Mills Road; a recent new resident Mrs. Joan Copoc of 42 Donnamora Crescent; and Secretary Mrs. "Muffet" Frost of German Mills Road.

Open House At Old German Mills School

Board members of the German Mills Community Centre were quite pleased with 50 people, both new residents and old, who came to the Meet our Neighbors Open House November 21. German Mills is almost at the east end of John Street, almost to Woodbine Avenue (Don Mills Road), north of Steeles Avenue.

"We wanted to let people know the building is available. Now there are more people in the area, we feel justified in going ahead to plan a community program," says Board Chairman Miss Jane McLaren of German Mills Road.

About 120 families are now thought to be residing in the German Mills community, with approximately 8,000 people expected, according to an estimate of the Markham Town Planning Office. Final details of development plans are still before the town council for approval, but construction is already heavily underway in much of the single family dwelling area.

BOOKLETS CIRCULATED
Before the open house, attractive booklets were placed in the mailboxes of most German Mills residents inviting them to attend for talk, planning and coffee and cake. Board members were looking for a chance to sound out the residents for ideas on a recreation program. Euchre, art, bridge and handicrafts were mentioned. Also possible are a pre-kindergarten play school, small parties and meetings of such groups as film or garden clubs.

The centre is a little 98-year-old schoolhouse on German Mills Road. It is considered to be the last remaining structure linked with the history of the German Mills settlement, standing on the land where Markham Town was really begun by the pioneers. The open house booklet describes the history as follows:

"German Mills was founded by William Berczy, artist, adventurer, colonizer, who in 1792, brought a party of 64 families from Hamburg in Germany across the sea to New York State. The original destination of these settlers was the Genesee Valley where land had been promised. But when the party arrived after a grueling

thirteen weeks of sailing, it was discovered that the promised land was a trap. The immigrants were to be tenants, no landowners, and they were bitterly disappointed. Berczy went north to Canada to seek land from Governor Simcoe and, in 1794, he led his exhausted little band to the spot on the Don River which was to become known as German Mills.

"This was the first organized group to settle in Markham Township, 64,000 acres which Governor Simcoe offered to Berczy in return for his assurance that he would bring more and more immigrants with badly needed skills to the virgin and virtually unsurveyed territory. So the township was founded on Lot 4 in Concession 3.

"During that first winter the settlers lived miserably in all kinds of temporary and disagreeable shelters; in wagons, tents and rough cabins, barely existing, waiting for spring when surveys would be completed and the people could begin to clear the bush and set up their log houses and barns. They had only the barest necessities of life and just the implements and seed they had managed to drag from the Genesee Valley. There were no medical facilities or drugs, but somehow or other they managed to survive. Saw milling was their first activity and it flourished on the Don River which in those days flowed strongly, unpoluted and fish-filled through the valley. Berczy's German Millers gave the area its name.

"As the community grew, a woollen mill, brewery, smithy, cooperage, tannery and store appeared and the settlers made arrangements for teaching their children. It seems possible that formal classes may have started in the home of Melchior Quantz who lived on Lot 2, Concession 2, and owned one of the first roofed houses in the neighborhood. There is evidence that the first schoolhouse was located where German Mills Road and John Street now intersect. The present schoolhouse was erected in 1874.

"Although the little school which we know today is not the original, it is the best link we have with those very

Lazenby Re-Elected Hill Mayor

(Continued from page 1) the polls closed and the results started to come in.

With unofficial news of his win he visited the local television station, was interviewed and then had his picture taken. All evening he talked with his hands to his young daughter Melissa who accompanied him. She is a bouncy young student at the school for the deaf.

INCONCLUSIVE OFFICIALLY

Back at the official town office election board at about midnight, Rowe shook his head at the still inconclusive results appearing there. He declared the board made him again unsure of whether or not he'd really been elected and went home.

Losing Regional Councillor Plaxton stayed at the official returns board for a while during the evening, then disappeared like everybody else who sought out the individual election headquarters of candidates where speedy vote results were available.

The Lazenby vote by wards, with the Schiller vote in brackets, according to the official returns were as follows:

Ward One 644 (490), Ward Two 678 (538), Ward Three 596 (513), Ward Four 842 (878), Ward Five 746 (684),

Ward Six 527 (578), Advance Poll 144 (160).

REGION VOTE RESULTS

In the three-way race for two regional council seats the results were as follows:
Total: Hancey 4,829; Plaxton 3,970; Rowe 4,107; Ward One — Hancey 726; Plaxton 619; Rowe 630; Ward Two — (H)822, (P)660, (R)486; Ward Three — (H) 804, (P)512, (R)461; Ward Four — (H) 1,021, (P)1,029, (R)821; Ward Five — (H)501, (P)397, (R) 1,199; Ward Six — (H)768, (P)587, (R)470; Advanced Poll — (H)187, (P)166, (R) 140.

AURORA — York County Board of Education has approved a \$3,000 outlay to start up an outdoor resources centre at the abandoned Vivian School on Highway 48 north of Ballantrae. The board already operates such a centre at the old Burlington School in the Kleinburg area.

NEWMARKET — A boating accident last August 7 resulted in John Kaplyn of Willowdale being found guilty of dangerous operation of a vessel. He was fined \$100. The accident occurred at 1 a.m. when an 18 foot fibre-glass boat with 100 hp engine left the water and slammed into the upper deck of a cabin cruiser, tearing off the cabin.

first settlers. Trace's of their dwellings and activities could be seen in the valley until recent years, but these have all now been obliterated by the excavations of a sandpit and the installation of sewers in the ravine.

"The school has a very warm spot in the hearts of local people, many of whom attended it or had relatives who did in years gone by. When, after a long and useful life, it closed its door to pupils in 1963, Mr. Rush, an old man in his nineties, came to tell the children of the grand times he had when he was in Grade 2 there! The last teacher, Mrs. Duncan, still resides in Willowdale.

"The building itself is not architecturally outstanding and it does not qualify as "historic", but when the school board had finished with it, local residents felt it was worth trying to preserve the site for sentimental reasons and also because it seemed to them that further uses might still be found for it. Very soon the area was destined to be transformed into a densely populated subdivision. Surely future generations of children would be glad to inherit this little jewel which stands on the exact spot where their pioneer forbears camped in the woods awaiting their first Canadian Spring and the opportunity to clear and explore the land? There were some problems to be faced.

County School Board

Douglas Allen Tops Trustee Poll In Richmond Hill

In the race for three seats on York County Board of Education in Richmond Hill, a newcomer to the board, Architect Douglas Allen, topped the polls with 3,936 votes. Incumbent Robert Houghton of Oak Ridges was second with 3,318 votes, and Trustee Warren Baillie of Richvale third with 3,132 votes.

Other Richmond Hill contenders were Catherine MacDiarmid 2,558, Peter Sale 1,671 and Robert Thompson 1,558.

In Vaughan Board Chairman Ross Jolliffe won handily with 2,311 votes. The second Vaughan seat on the board was won by Veteran Trustee Morley Kinnee with 2,217 votes. Also running was Maple lawyer John Poot who drew 1,956 votes.

There were 12 contenders for five seats allotted to Markham. Former Board Chairman Jack MacKay was top runner with 3,901 votes. A newcomer to the county board and former trustee in the old Town of Markham is Donald Sim with 3,676 votes followed by incumbent John Honsberger 3,341, Donald Cousens with 3,252 votes and the fifth of the successful contenders, former teacher Mrs. Doreen Quirk tallied 3,197 votes. Also in the race were Andrew Farquharson, 2,587; William Clark 2,355; Stanley Greenwood 1,533; Harvey Cohen 1,449; Terence Smyth 1,131; Cameron Wakeling 1,089; and David Hynes 1,032.

King Trustees Marvin Hunter and Margaret Coburn were returned by acclamation, and in Whitchurch-Stouffville, John McMurray with 1,882 votes, won over Michael Durman who pulled in 1,200 votes for the one seat left vacant when former Board Chairman Arthur Starr decided not to seek re-election.

As Roman Catholic representative from the Towns of Richmond Hill and Markham, Conrad Thompson of

During the 95 years of its existence, the value of the property had increased enormously. The original deed shows that Mr. and Mrs. Chirrey, farmers, sold the land to the school trustees in 1874 for an unbelievable \$143.

"It is now a prime piece of real estate with a possible sale value of many thousands of dollars. The people who wanted to preserve the schoolhouse had therefore to persuade the school board and the township to make a decision based on feeling, not finance. The effort was made, negotiations took place, and the township showed that it had a heart, foresight and a concern for local history. The schoolhouse now belongs to the new Town of Markham and a board has been set up to establish and develop the building as a community centre for the use and enjoyment of area residents."

At present the facilities consist of one large room, two toilets, a double sink, hot water, a kettle and some tables and chairs. Members of the present board are: Miss McLaren, Secretary Mrs. "Muffet" Frost of German Mills Road; Treasurer Mrs. Cindy Elson of Milmar Court; Mrs. Douglas Watt of German Mills Road; Mrs. Basil Weedon of Milmar Court; Councillor Robert Adams of Ida Street; Regional Councillor James Jonegeel of Aurora.

County School Board

Douglas Allen Tops Trustee Poll In Richmond Hill

Richmond Hill was returned by acclamation. The second Roman Catholic representative to the board is John Raniowski of Schomberg with 1,126 votes defeating Willis Newton of Thornhill, who brought in 982 votes.

COMING EVENTS

CENTENNIAL beard growing contest, starting time January 1 - January 10, 1973. Sponsored by the area Lions Clubs. c5w22

DANCE, DECEMBER 9, Saturday, 8 pm — Modern and Square dancing, Saint Gabriel's Anglican Church, corner of Crosby and Bayview, Richmond Hill. Everyone welcome. \$1.50 each. Coffee served. clw23

DECEMBER 11, MONDAY, 8 pm — Family euchre, Our Lady Queen of the World Church, Bayview and Crosby Avenues. Admission \$1. clw23

DECEMBER 12, TUESDAY, 8 pm — Annual meeting of the York North Progressive Conservative Association will be held in the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall, Thornhill. clw23

DECEMBER 12, TUESDAY, 8 pm — Canadian Family Camping Federation, (Willowdale Nomads), Golding Arena Auditorium, Willowdale, new members welcome. For further information, call 889-1091. clw23

THE RICHMOND HILL ECUMENICAL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERTS, Friday, December 15, 8 pm — Our Lady Queen of the World R.C. Church (Bayview at Crosby) Saturday, December 16, 8 pm, St. Mary's Anglican Church (Yonge at Markham). Adults \$1.00, children under 12, 50c. clw23

SCHOOL DAZE

By John MacRae

Maintaining A Proper Perspective

I went to a Grey Cup Party last Sunday. Now I have studiously avoided these annual binges for years but this time I was given an offer I couldn't refuse; old friends, lots of drinks, an exciting game to watch, and a hot meal to follow. I must confess that I'm not much of a TV spectator sport — I don't begin to watch hockey until the playoffs. This must alienate those red-blooded Canadian males who watch every Wednesday and Saturday as those gladiators engage in combat. With a beer in one hand, a cigarette in the other, feet up in their reclining leather chairs they are somehow able to identify with those young healthy professional adults. I really believe they see themselves flying down the ice with Keon, spearing a pass and driving it past a startled goalie. If the truth were known theirs was the generation which originated the "bang" shot, now called the "slap" shot. I can see them now, anking down the ice desperately managing to stay erect by tripping their feet and stick. The "bang" shot was the only one they could get away. The trick was to push yourself up to a more vertical position, take a quick bang at the puck and catch yourself again before you fell prostrate.

We got to the Grey Cup Party late and were immediately made to feel guilty for having attended church. Even my old friends tried to welcome us while the teams huddled. A hurried hand shake and a quick peck on the side of the nose was all we were likely to get in the way of greeting 'til half time. The strain of this game was particularly severe. I'm not sure about the players but the tension in that recreation room was intense. They joined in every tackle and threw every pass. Some drinks were spilled because it's hard to throw a block and guzzle beer at the same time.

When the game was over we got down to serious sports talk. One, a director of education loudly deplored the lack of a domed stadium in Toronto. Here we were in 1972 depending entirely on the weather for a decent Grey Cup Day. A board chairman reminded us of the game in Toronto that was called because of the fog. Expense be hanged! We deserved a stadium appropriate to Toronto's size and importance. We flailed the local and provincial politicians for not having the sense to understand the wishes of the voters. We were enjoying ourselves immensely.

I'd noticed Bill all day and had him marked as an affable pleasant fellow who taught school for a living. He had been adding his quiet comments all afternoon. When we began to run out of steam he started to come on strong. Somehow he got us to agree that the best time for learning a sport was at the elementary school age. He further led us to agree that an emphasis on sports and skills at that level was most important. We all adamantly criticized the lack of developmental programming in the elementary schools. We went so far as to advocate that money be spent to provide facilities, equipment, and trained personnel to meet this challenge. And that's where we went wrong.

According to him there was no school, elementary or secondary, within a five mile radius that had even a cinder track. He conceded that there was a tartan track only 15 miles away but there was no bus service available to students so that they could use it. Apparently in his school the 100 yard sprint had to be practised in a field resembling a goat pasture. There wasn't even a dirt straightaway over 70 yards long.

If a student wanted to practise he did so through a jumping pit, across the access road to the caretaker's room, and down a 45 degree incline. Of course this could only be done in dry weather or the last 20 yards was under water. He asked that we examine the primitive conditions under which our own kids trained before we build a domed stadium for the professionals. According to him his school board hadn't spent a dollar in ten years to improve the physical facilities or equipment for the Physical Education program in the schools. He seemed hopeful that some new board members recently elected would correct this situation.

Fortunately, less radical minds were able to triumph. We assured him that if his young students ever rose to professional level, we'd have a modern beautiful domed stadium where we could watch in comfort.

Two Candidates Tie For Second Place On RC Board In King

The only excitement in the election of York County Roman Catholic School Board trustees Monday comes from King Township where incumbent Trustee Allan Quesnelle and newcomer Gus Clark are tied for second place with 159 votes each. There will be an official recount to determine the winner.

The board has two seats in King, and top spot went to Frank Bescoe of Schomberg who drew in 190 votes to fill the seat left vacant when Trustee Peter Van Dyke decided to retire from the board after four years service. A fourth contender, Marilyn Wagner, got 88 votes.

In Richmond Hill Father Francis Robinson, John Taylor and Malcolm Peake, the sitting trustees, were returned by acclamation. Board Chairman Eugene Jacobs and Trustee Noreen Lee, both of Woodbridge, will represent Vaughan for the next two years. Both were elected when the county board was formed in 1969 and have not been challenged in any municipal election since.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville John McDermott was returned by acclamation for a third term on the 14-member board.

Although two of Markhams three trustees, Dr. William LaCroix and Gordon McMahon, decided not to seek a third term on the board, there was no contest there, either.

When nomination papers were filed in November there were just three candidates from the Town of Markham: sitting Trustee MacGregor and two new nominees, Richard McIsaac and Leo Wigglesworth.

Because of the great population growth in the region since the county boards were formed, the Roman Catholic Board now has two representatives on York County Board of Education. Conrad Thompson of Richmond Hill was returned by acclamation to represent the Town of Richmond Hill and Markham.

John Raniowski of Schomberg with 1,882 votes will represent separate school supporters in the rest of the region. He was challenged by Willis Newton of Thornhill who polled 1,200 votes.

Queen Is Invited To Hill

(Continued from Page 1) garden party.

St. Gabriel's will hold an art show in October and a train trip to Collingwood and Gravenhurst to join the Cavalcade of Color will be held both October 13 and 14. It is hoped to have the train drawn by the old steam engine. October 26 has been chosen for the firemen's ball.

December 26-30 will bring the pee-wee hockey tournament and December 31 the closing ceremonies.

A full listing of events was promised to the service clubs and other interested people within a couple of weeks, so that they may select the events with which they would like to help.

Grant Marshall, representing the Richmond Hill Lions, asked the committee to give guidance and direction. "We've got to have someone give us a push to get us started. Tell us what to do and we'll get the job done." He said the Lions were considering sponsoring a beard-growing contest, each entrant to start clean-shaven on January 1, and the resulting beards to be judged during homecoming week.

Also represented were the Kinsmen, the Civitans, the Kinettes, the Rotary Club, Oak Ridges Lions, Richmond Hill Legion, the Chamber of Commerce and Alhambra. Oak Ridges Lions reminded the committee that all events should not be confined to the boundaries of the

former town. They thought they might be interested in helping with the autumn train trip and also in having a fish derby in one of the lakes in Ward 5.

It was reported the local Shrine Club has volunteered to establish a rose garden containing 100 Shrine rose bushes.

The Chamber of Commerce also exhibited its plans for a town marker to be placed at the southern limits.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 19.

AURORA — Five young people were injured, one seriously, and most of Regency Acres was without light or power for about an hour, when a car left the road on Glass Drive and smashed through a hydro pole.

NEWMARKET — Scoutmaster Jim Nuttall has received the Optimist Club's Friend Of The Boy Award. He has been scoutmaster for 20 years and was a Scout and Cub for 10 years before that, joining the junior organization in 1942.

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