

Marg. Britnell: Mayor For All People

By FRED SIMPSON
Newly-elected King Township Mayor Margaret Britnell will be nothing if not a "people's mayor."

Mrs. Britnell, the first woman mayor in King's 118 year history, made that clear in a recent interview with "The Liberal".

"I'm definitely against any closed meetings with the exception of those few special ones pertinent to employees or other personal problems not of general interest to the public."

She was just warming up to the subject.

"Why should we hold private meetings when the business we're dealing with is the business of the public? The public should be the first to know what we're planning to do. They shouldn't find out after it's a fact. It's their business."

The subject was recycling — not roses — recently when Mayor Britnell commented at a council meeting that the municipality's reports were being printed on too expensive paper.

She suggested that recycled paper could be used for the township office.

"There is really no reason for these reports to be printed on the quality paper," she said.

Mrs. Britnell continued: "I believe we should involve the people of the township as much as we can whether by just informing them of what is happening or getting them involved in a more active way such as special committees."

"All too often in the past the people just found out by accident what had already become a fact. I want them to know well ahead and have their say in it."

She said that it was still up to council to make decisions "but not until all the evidence is in. I realize I have a lot to learn, I recognize I'm going to make mistakes."

"I think the people know we are just human and subject to

errors. But I'm not afraid to be wrong, I can admit when I'm wrong. We have nothing to hide. Let's state our opinions and reasonings in public and be prepared to be judged by them."

She also feels that with the tendency to bigger, remote governments that "the various councillors are getting farther and farther away from the public. We've got to get back to the people and increase our communication with them. None of us can afford to stand on pedestals."

Above all: "I want the people to realize that you not only can fight city hall but you can beat it," she said.

She cited the controversial Ontario Hydro line which was designed to go across King Township.

"The people fought hard and wouldn't be discouraged by some failures and got their point across. You can fight city hall."

On other subjects: "I'm opposed to any further increase in council salaries. I really feel we're too money oriented in our councils today. We think too much about what we can get out of the public and not enough of what we can contribute to it."

Mayor Britnell stated that she realized "that council is time-consuming and getting more-so and a councillor should be paid a reasonable sum. But he should consider it also a responsibility to serve the public, put something back in the community."

She said her salary as mayor will total \$12,000, \$6,000 as local council representative and \$6,000 for serving on regional government. Local councillors are paid \$3,200.

Mayor Britnell is also concerned about the municipality "dragging its tail in passing our zoning bylaws to complement the official plan which has been passed since 1970. The official plan is useless if you have no bylaws to enforce it."

She cited the lack of proper

bylaws as the reason for the municipality being wide-open for objectionable uses or ones that are located in the wrong areas.

"If incoming people know you have bylaws they also know what they can and cannot do. They don't always want to break a law but they've got no law to go by. I'd like to see this changed as quickly as possible."

She said she realized that "maybe some of the zoning by-law might prove to be a detriment to the township. Well, then we'll change them. Not everything is perfect but at least we'll have something. If they prove wrong in some cases we can always amend the by-law."

On her "serve the public" theme, Mrs. Britnell said she hoped to hold a number of public meetings on questions which will be of interest to the people.

"I want to get them involved, hear their opinions before the fact and not after it. People get frustrated when they are kept in the dark and then they get angry. They can be very understanding if you just talk with them."

Mrs. Britnell agrees that she will be only one voice on council but "I think we have some very reasonable members who want to serve the municipality as a whole and not just isolated areas. I think we'll get along reasonably well although we might disagree on some things which is the way it should be. Right out in the open."

One thing she really regrets: "As mayor, I'll be in a position where I'll have to be more of a conciliator than a participant. I'll only get to vote on issues in case of a tie. I rather regret this because I like a good fight once in awhile."

Mrs. Britnell, who lives on King Summit Road near Concession 5, was also King's first lady councillor in 1969.

She later opposed Ken Macgartt for the mayorship position in 1971 and lost by 148 votes.

What a difference a year can make.

Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion
By Chris Ratchford — 884-5260

Need More Pipers & Drummers

As you all may have gathered from recent rumors reported in this column, the town of Richmond Hill and Branch 375 Royal Canadian Legion have come up with a pipe band. The nucleus of this band practices every Wednesday night at 8 pm in the Legion Hall.

There have been rumors that this is a competitive band. This is not necessarily so. There may be some competitions planned for the future. Right now it is a marching band. This is a different kettle of fish altogether. So far there are only 16 members and more are urgently needed. Using the music of "A Gordon For Me," we submit the following:

A piper for me; a piper for me
If you're nae a piper, you're nae good ta me.
A drummer for me; a drummer for all
A piper, a drummer in kilts for us all.

It is poor verse but you get the idea. We know there are many former piper and drummers in this area. To make our marching band a success, why not contact Bob Dickson (band committee chairman) either at home (884-4907) or at the Legion (884-0086). Further instructions in piping and drumming are given each Sunday at the Legion from 12 noon to 1 or 1:30.

This band is for the benefit of the whole town and one that has long been needed. Don't sit back and pass the buck. Let everyone that can get out and show just what can be done. Sorry, your reporter can't carry a tune, let alone play a drum or the pipes, but will support the band to the best of our ability. How about you?

Now that we have that little storm off our chest, let's see just what is in the mail bag.

There is a note here stating that very sincere congratulations are to go to Lorenzo and Janet Johns on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary. The big day is January 24. To all celebrating such events or birthdays please accept our very good wishes also. May you all celebrate many more happy events.

We hear that many of our comrades and friends have fallen victims of the "London Flu". For everyone that falls down with this complaint, two or three come back. Our sympathies are with you folks.

Still others are in worse shape than most of us: Freddie Smith is slowly improving in Sunnybrook Hospital while our very own Mickey Smith has been transferred from the hospital in Taunton, Massachusetts, to another place of incarceration in Boston. Hurry up Mick, we miss you very much.

Just where we? Oh yes, now we recall, Last Wednesday evening members from Branch 375 travelled from

ELGIN MILLS - JEFFERSON

CORRESPONDENT: CAROLINE LOMAS
Telephone 884-3000

School News

The grade 5 and 6 students in Jefferson Public School's team room enjoyed an excursion to the Royal Ontario Museum January 9. The grade 5 students toured the excellent Chinese Exhibit, while the grade 6 students viewed the display of fossils for their science program.

Four community mothers, Mrs. Irene Boyle, Mrs. Alice Mashinter, Mrs. Beverly Jackson and Mrs. Marilyn Watford accompanied the children as supervisors. A special thanks is extended to them.

Jefferson Public School is holding a Centennial Winter Carnival during January on two or three afternoons a week. Any student may join in the fun. Events planned are hockey games, toboggan races, snowball throw, skating races, largest snowball in a set time, toboggan pull, tug-of-war and ice sculpture, which will be done in groups. When the events will take place depends on the conditions and the snowfall.

Everyone who enters will gain points for their house leagues. Winners will get extra points.

Committees from room four have organized and are running each event. Captain of the co-ordinating team is John Walker.

The first events, hockey championships, were held last Friday. The winning boys' team was composed of Richard Hughes, Tim Miller, Ross Hazelhurst, Clark Canning, Doug Case, Steven Whitten, Arnold Stehouwer Mark Denny's. The champion girls' team included Barbara Mashinter, Kathy Lund, Shari Ashton, Louise Whitton, Roberta Ball, Sheryl Jackson, Tracey Kennedy, Janice Jackson and Evonne Johnson.

The girls, with the help of Richard Hughes, then played

Zone Commander At Legion Auxiliary

New Year's greetings to all members of the Ladies' Auxiliary of Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion.

The first special event for the year 1973, was a whist party at the home of Gloria Sandford. There was a good representation present and prizes were won by a visitor, Frank Titshall, and by Elsie Good.

Grete Tonner is recruiting waitresses for a banquet to be held Saturday and is looking for volunteer helpers.

The first general meeting of this year will be at 8 pm Monday at the Legion Hall, and a good turnout is anticipated to meet the new Zone Commander Betty Gordon.

WINEMAKERS COMPLETE LINE OF SUPPLIES

- Complete Counselling Service
- Quality Ingredients
- Reasonable Prices

QUALITY • VALUE • SERVICE

E/R WINE SUPPLIES

Selling Wine - Art Products

89A Yonge St. S., Richmond Hill - Phone 884-1300
NEW HOURS
Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. — Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday Closed

WESTVIEW GOODYEAR SERVICE CENTRE

MID-WINTER SNOW TIRE CLEARANCE

PICK YOUR TIRE - PICK YOUR PRICE ON ANY DISCONTINUED LINES

GOOD YEAR POLYGLAS WINTER TIRES

TUBE TYPE - Full Warranty

CLEARANCE SALE \$ **21.95** List up to \$48.75

SAVE OVER 50%

White Walls Of Course (FREE TUBES)

WE WILL NOT KNOWINGLY BE UNDERSOLD

GOOD YEAR Suburbanite XG SUREGRIP IV

TUBELESS WHITEWALLS & BLACKWALLS MUST BE SOLD

List up to \$40.80 SALE PRICE \$ **14.95** Save up to \$25.95 60%

Full Warranty TUBE TYPE SOME

SAVINGS on FARM TRACTOR & TRUCK TIRES

GOOD YEAR DE LUXE ALL WEATHER BATTERY

\$19.95 24C & 24F WITH TRADE-IN INSTALLATION \$1.00

GUARANTEED FOR 36 MONTHS

BATTERY GROUP SIZE	FITS	PRICE
22FC	Popular G.M. and Ford models—1962 to 1971's cylinder and small V8's.	\$19.95
24C and 24F	Popular G.M. and Ford models—1962 to 1971—with V8 engines, 327 cu. in. and larger; Also, Most 1956-72 Chrysler products, Mazda 1970-71.	19.95
27C and 27F	Big cars: Cadillac, Lincoln, Imperial, Buick plus Ford products with big V8 engines over 400 cu. in. Also, Jaguar 1956-70, Mazda 1800, Mercedes-Benz.	22.95
29NF	Ford, Mercury and Thunderbird 1956-64 and most Anglia, Austin 1800 and Consul Cortina.	20.95
42	Volkswagen 1967-72.	21.45

Brakes 29.95

Effective from Monday, Jan. 22nd to Saturday, Jan. 27th only

GOOD YEAR WESTVIEW TIRE SALES LIMITED

OPEN TO 8 P.M. MONDAY - FRIDAY. OPEN TO 5 P.M. SATURDAY.

DON MILLS ROAD GORMLEY 888-1046

295 YONGE STREET SOUTH RICHMOND HILL 884-4423

SPECIAL Jan. 22nd TO 27th

HERE'S WHAT WE DO:

- Reline and install quality brake linings on all 4 wheels.
- Repack front wheel bearings.
- Lubricate and clean brake basing plates.
- Inspect hydraulic wheel cylinders.
- Inspect front and rear wheel seals.
- Measure and inspect brake drums for trueness.
- Inspect master cylinder.
- Inspect brake lines and hoses.
- Inspect brake shoe return springs.
- Check brake lights.
- Road test vehicle.

GUARANTEED 24 MONTHS OR 24,000 MILES