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VOL. 96, NO. 52. RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1973 HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878 PRICE 15¢ PER COPY



Clerk Russell Lynett, who has served Richmond Hill in that capacity for 31 years and the town's First Mayor William Neal unveiled Centennial marker.

Province Honors Centennial Town

Settlers came to this district about 1794 after the construction of Yonge Street from York (Toronto). The settlement prospered as a way station for travellers. Known as Mount Pleasant, the community was renamed, following a visit in 1819 by the Governor-in-Chief of British North America, the Duke of Richmond. Mills along the Don River preceded the establishment of tanneries and carriage works.

The first church, erected by Presbyterians, opened in 1821, the post office in 1836. By 1835 a railway station was located nearby. A County By-law, passed in 1872, incorporated Richmond Hill as a village and its council first met in 1873. Town status was achieved in 1957 and its boundaries were greatly extended in 1970.

This is the text on a plaque erected in front of the Richmond Hill Municipal Building by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Branch, Historical Museums Branch, Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and dedicated Monday afternoon, June 18, 1972, by the Centennial Committee Chairman Robert Warner presided over the 2 pm ceremonies, attended by about 150 citizens. Greetings were extended by Mayor William Lazenby and Chairman Garfield Wright of York Region.

Chief Librarian Mrs. Patricia Hart, historian of the Centennial Committee, read a short resume of the town's history and professor William Ormsby of Brock University, representative of the Historic Site Board, spoke briefly of the duties of that board.

The unveiling duties were shared by William Neal, first mayor of the town and Russell Lynett, who has served as clerk of the town since 1942 and is retiring at the end of the month.

The dedication was performed by Rev. Earl Gerber of St. John's Anglican Church, which this year is celebrating its 125th year of service to the community.

The group adjourned to the council chamber where Mayor Lazenby read a personal letter from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, expressing regret at not being able to participate in the weekend's activities and recorded the fact that he had received letters of regret from Ontario Premier Wil-

liam Davis and all members of his Cabinet, from local representatives in the provincial and federal houses, from representatives of neighboring ridings and from mayors of Burlington and Kingston. The former town is also celebrating its Centenary and the City of Kingston is celebrating its Centenary this year.

Excerpts from the County of York minutes of June 17, 18, 19, 1872, when the bylaw of incorporation was being passed were read by the mayor. One item concerned a petition of James Fuller and others for a grant of money to improve the county line between King and Albion. King Mayor Margaret Britnell, seated in the audi-

Richmond Hill Tax Rate Varies From 22.530 To 30.748 Mills

The final report of Richmond Hill's finance committee approved by council at its meeting Monday afternoon revealed the following breakdown of the mill rate for all areas in the town.

There were 16 mill rates in town again this year with 1975 the target date when there will be only four rates — public school residential, public school commercial, separate school residential and separate school commercial.

OLD TOWN
 Within the boundaries of the former Town of Richmond Hill the mill rates will be: public school residential 24.530, public school commercial 27.965, separate school residential 27.034 and separate school commercial. This will mean a tax bill of

\$490 for public school supporters on residential property on the average assessment of \$20,000. A separate school residential supporter on the same assessment will pay \$540, a commercial public school supporter \$558 and a commercial separate school supporter \$614.

FORMER MARKHAM AREA
 When the new town was formed in 1971 the area coming in from Markham had the lowest mill rate and still remains two mills below the highest rate, which is in the old town. The rates in that area will be: public school residential 22.530 (\$450), public school commercial 25.965 (\$538), separate school residential 25.034 (\$500), separate school commercial 28.748 (\$574).

FORMER VAUGHAN AREA
WHITCHURCH AREA
 In 1971 mill rates in the areas which came into Richmond Hill from Vaughan and Whitchurch were practically the same and this year are the same—just one mill lower than in the old town. The 1973 rates in these areas will be: public school residential 23.530 (\$470), public school commercial 25.965 (\$538), separate school residential 26.034 (\$520), 29.748 (\$594).

FORMER KING AREA
 Public school residential owners in the area of Richmond Hill formerly in King Township will pay in 1973 on the basis of the following mill rates: public school residential 23.430 (\$468), public school commercial 26.865 (\$536), separate school residential 25.934 (\$518), separate school commercial 28.648 (\$593).

Total amount to be raised in 1973 is \$6,053,106.16 on a total assessment of \$238,857,367 (\$218,418,834 for public school supporters and \$20,438,533 for separate school supporters).

The levy for town general purposes is \$2,050,263.93, for secondary school education costs is \$1,414,718.14, for public school purposes is \$1,424,011.77, for separate school purposes is \$183,069.31 and for regional purposes \$877,130.66.

Broken down, the expenditures will be as follows: region, \$1,202,853; library, \$76,446; elementary schools, \$1,640,394; secondary schools, \$1,463,899; general purpose, \$825,345; roads, \$760,200.

The total residential mill rate is 21.000, the same as last year, while the commercial mill rate is 23.987, down .009 from 1972.

Separate school supporters have an elementary school mill rate of 8.143 mills residential and 9.048 mills commercial, compared with 7.369 and 8.188 mills, respectively last year.

The rates, however, do not include special area levies for services of water, sewers, garbage and the industrial fire area.

Councillor Mike Bevan said that, "In holding the line, council has met with the highest approval of the provincial government," and had become eligible for a 6 percent grant, which was passed on to the people.

A Year Of Celebration
 CENTENNIAL EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK
 June 30—Squirt Boys' Softball Tournament
 —Official Opening Legion Hall 1:30 pm
 July 1—Six-team Soccer Tournament

2 Elementary Schools Needed In Hill If Adopt Official Plan

Two new elementary school sites will be required in Richmond Hill if a proposed amendment to the latter's Official Plan is adopted.

The amendment, which would phase out several industries north and south of Markham Road and provide residential zoning in their place, is now before York Regional Council for approval.

The areas formed would be the Town Park Neighborhood, with Centre Street as its northernmost point and Markham its southernmost point; and Palmer Neighborhood, south from Markham Road to Hillview Avenue.

The amended areas would consist of 420 acres, and if developed to their maximum capacities, would provide an additional 1,154 elementary pupils, and about 523 secondary school students.

Meeting Monday evening York County Board of Education said that neither M. L. McConaghy or O. M. MacKillop Public Schools — the two schools in the attendance area — could accommodate the expected increases in student population.

As a result, it approved the staff recommendations calling for eight-acre elementary school sites to be established in the Town Park and Palmer Neighborhoods.

It agreed also that temporary accommodation would be provided for secondary pupils, who would be in the Richmond Hill School and Bayview Secondary School attendance areas.

Clifford Grant, assistant superintendent of planning and development, told the meeting that, when the amendment was first before the board in 1971, it was recommended that two elementary schools and one secondary school site be acquired.

However, the revised amendment showed a decrease in density over the first proposal, so the recommendation for the high school site was dropped.

The board also agreed with a staff recommendation that a school site was not required for a proposed 46-acre subdivision in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

An estimated 153 elementary students and 45 secondary school pupils were shown for the development.

Reviewing the plan earlier in the year, the board commented that a school site wasn't required providing the parklands dedicated to the municipality were located immediately to the south of and adjoining the Summitview Public School site which would accommodate K-7 pupils. That has since been complied with.

Also, assurance has been received from the town council that the parklands will be improved with an underground sewer, and the gully will be filled, graded and seeded to make an acceptable play area to be used in conjunction with the Summitview School.

Grade 8 students would be accommodated at Stouffville District Secondary School.

Two Richmond Hill men were among six members of Satan's Choice Motorcycle Club, who have been charged with obstructing and assaulting police, following a brawl between the members and York Regional Police, June 22, about 10 pm.

Wayne Kelly, 25, of 30 Benson Avenue, president of Ontario Satan's Choice, and John Tortolana, 23, of 99 Crosby Avenue, face six counts each on the two charges.

Tortolana also is charged with dangerous driving.

Also faced with six counts of obstructing and assaulting police are Gerald Waring, 21, of Scarborough; Wayne Hogan, 28, of Willowdale; David Nelson, 25, of Thornhill; and Robert Cadwell, 22, of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The charges resulted from a police car being almost hit by a dune buggy being driven without any lights on Concession 6 in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Police chased the buggy to a house in the area, where they were met by members of the Satan's Choice, who tried to drive them off the property.

Reinforcements were called and the members were taken into custody.

Markham Town Taxes Turn Up 3 Years Of Tax Cuts Come To End

After three years of decreasing property taxes, Markham is having a tax increase this year. The new regional town includes that portion of Thornhill postal area north of Steeles Avenue and east of Yonge Street. It also includes Victoria Square, Buttonville, Unionville and the areas east to the Ontario County boundary.

"For the past three years we have prudently and regularly reduced taxes," Town Treasurer Alex Barton told council recently as the annual budget was made public.

Treasurer Barton Brings In Budget Barton said it has been necessary to increase taxes on a minor scale this year to pay for the additional recreation, parks and fire protection services being provided for the town's fast growing population. Generally, taxes this year will be approximately at the level they were in many Markham areas four years ago.

Actually, the tax rates over the past three years have been a complicated "mixed bag" of figures. They vary by area and category according to type of property, school board supported and area services received. They also vary according to location in former municipalities and school areas. Different tax areas existed before the recent organization of a single county-wide school board and regional government system.

NEW COMMON RATES
 But this year the geographical differences in the rates within the town have been eliminated. There are common rates for the first time throughout Markham, one for all residential and one for all commercial property. These only vary according to school board supported.

PROVINCE CUT GRANTS
 Treasurer Barton in his budget explanation pointed out the town this year has lost revenue in the provincial grant category. Also used last year was a \$120,000 surplus not available to offset this year's expenses.

PROVINCE CUT GRANTS
 The town treasurer said some tax increase is necessary from time to time in a growing municipality. The increase set for this year is a reasonable one made necessary by reason of increased services, he said.

With the annual budget presented, Mayor Anthony Roman thanked the staff and the town's committees and boards for all the hard work and co-operation necessary in the budget preparation.

MULDREW EXPLAINS
 North Thornhill Ward 2 Councillor Roy Muldrew, chairman of the finance committee, explained some points in the budget.

"We have a real capital works program in parks this year where previously we really had only maintenance. With a parks budget double last year's, we should see an instant improvement in parks," said Finance Chairman Muldrew.

"We are supplying sidewalks in areas previously ignored and catching up in areas where they are needed," added Muldrew. He also explained that the town's provincial grants in three years have decreased from \$421,000 to \$250,000.

"This budget is a good budget. Our taxes are much lower than in North York and Scarborough," said South Thornhill Ward 1 Councillor Gary Kay.

UP PAY V'GHAN
 Council, Hydro
 Raise Your Own Pay Most has been recognized by most municipal councils from here to Metro during the past year, and last week it was Vaughan's turn.

Meeting June 18, council approved increases that would give the members \$7,000, retroactive to January 1, 1973, and \$7,500 effective January 1, 1974.

At present they receive \$5,500. Mayor Garnet Williams will see his \$10,000 salary jump to \$11,500, retroactive to January 1, 1973, with another \$1,000 increase starting January 1, 1974.

While there was some dispute between Councillors Mike Bevan and James Cameron as to whether the increases were above or below the 8 percent of government guidelines in such matters, neither opposed it in the final voting.

Councillor Ab Hollingshead said he felt the increase was "justifiable," while Councillor David Fraser said that his calculation in raising the salaries was that the members had gone up from "55 cents an hour to 70 cents."

The meeting also approved a change in salary rates for the chairman and members of the Vaughan Hydro Commission.

The chairman will receive \$650 a year, plus \$50 for each of the monthly meetings, making a total of \$1,250 annually.

The six commissioners will receive \$400 annually, plus \$50 for each meeting, for a total of \$1,000 annually. In 1972 the commissioners received \$600, with the chairman receiving an extra \$250.

TREASURER BARTON
 "reasonable and necessary"
 "This budget is a good budget. Our taxes are much lower than in North York and Scarborough," said South Thornhill Ward 1 Councillor Gary Kay.

ADAMS CRITICAL
 Markham Regional Councillor Robert Adams of Thornhill was critical of the provincial grants cut. He said the town is suffering from a large inequity in this regard because the provincial grant system penalizes rapidly growing municipalities like Markham that have been well managed financially and held the line on taxes over the years.

"Especially when water and hydro rates are taken into account, we are far better off than the (Metro) municipalities south of Steeles Avenue," said Regional Councillor Adams.

Treasurer Barton reported to council during budget study some very interesting figures on the comparative tax levels in various municipalities in this area.

TAX COMPARISON
 According to the Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs Department, the provincial equalized mill rate comparison for various municipalities, with Markham lowest and about half of North York's level, are as follows: Aurora 19.732, Markham 12.761, Newmarket 19.333, Richmond Hill 16.942, Vaughan 14.916, Whitchurch-Stouffville 14.257, East Gwillimbury 15.047, Georgina 16.066, King 15.722 and North York 23.985.

Building Inspector Resigns
 Jack Hollowell submitted his resignation as building inspector to Richmond Hill Council Monday evening. His resignation will be effective June 29.

Mr. Hollowell has served the municipality in this capacity for the past 19 years.

Charge 2 Hill Men Satan's Choice Raid
 Two Richmond Hill men were among six members of Satan's Choice Motorcycle Club, who have been charged with obstructing and assaulting police, following a brawl between the members and York Regional Police, June 22, about 10 pm.

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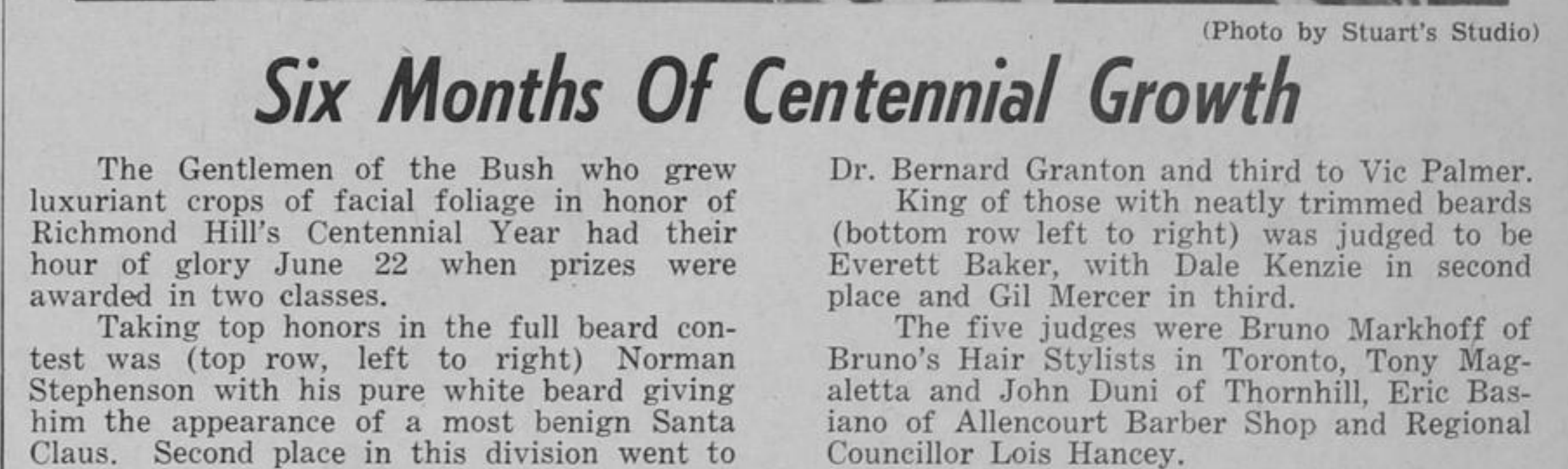
Reinforcements were called and the members were taken into custody.

Six Months Of Centennial Growth
 The Gentlemen of the Bush who grew luxuriant crops of facial foliage in honor of Richmond Hill's Centennial Year had their hour of glory June 22 when prizes were awarded in two classes.

Taking top honors in the full beard contest was (top row, left to right) Norman Stephenson with his pure white beard giving him the appearance of a most benign Santa Claus. Second place in this division went to



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)