

## Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion  
By Eric Chapman

### Rosetown Peeewe Tournament To Host 16 Teams From Canada And U.S.A.

While it might appear unusual to report news of a Richmond Hill Lion's club event in a Legion Column, the news is interesting and is therefore reported.

On December 28 the local Lions will hold their Third Annual Invitational Rosetown Peeewe Hockey Tournament in the Richmond Hill Arena. The tourney will host 16 teams from Canada and the U.S., and it will go for three days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On the first day of the tournament, in conjunction with the Richmond Hill Hockey Association and Branch 375, the Lions have scheduled an evening of international midget hockey in which our own Legion Midgets will compete against a team from Hammarby, Sweden.

According to an informed source, the Swedish boys (age between 15 and 16) have been practicing for their Richmond Hill debut since last July, and appear to be odds on favorites to grind our local Legionnaires into the ice.

The informed source, who is a n i c k n a m e d, "Rabbit" Ahearne, because of his affiliation with the European Independent Order of the Bent Ankle Brigade, maintained that there is little, if any, interest in midget hockey in Richmond Hill.

The czar of international hockey apparently drew this conclusion when he recently visited the local ice emporium and found no substantial supporters (except Marsh Tonner) when the Legion Midgets were playing.

Notwithstanding, the organizers are going ahead with plans to receive the 22 players, parents and officials on the 28th. Swedish Ambassador Lars Ljunberg, and a large contingent of Swedish-Canadians will be present to cheer their compatriots on. Later in the evening the whole international shebang will be hosted at a banquet at Branch 375.

The Richmond Hill Lions are hopeful that a few local Legionnaires and other citizens might grope their way to the arena on the 28th, to at least give our hometown team some support.

Christmas is coming the goose is getting fat, and the decorations abounding at the Legion will no doubt provide cheer for our guests from abroad.

The well-decked halls of bough and holly were provided by the following insti-

## Queen's Park Report

William Hodgson MLA,  
York North

### Grits, NDP Almost Delayed Seniors' \$50 Bonus Until After Christmas

Filibustering by the Liberals and NDP in the Legislature and NDP procedural obstruction came very close to depriving elderly pensioners of a welcome Christmas bonus a week or so ago. Senior citizens in Ontario were to be thankful the government stuck by its resolve to provide a \$50 bonus to those who needed it most.

The opposition members put on a display that was as irresponsible as any I have seen during my time in the House. Setting political expediency above the public interest is offensive at any time.

In October the government decided old-age pensioners on fixed incomes were being severely squeezed by the increase in the cost of living. With no help coming from the federal government, the provincial government decided it must do something.

Introduced in the Legislature was a bill to provide a one time payment of \$50 to everyone 65 years and over in Ontario now getting the federal guaranteed income supplement. This cost \$17,000,000 and was a special expenditure requiring Legislative approval.

The government intended this bonus should be received in the first week in December in time for Christmas shopping. The necessary cheques, more than 340,000, were prepared and dated November 28. Such preparation takes quite a while.

**LEGAL TECHNICALITY**

This gave rise to a legal technicality. The government had to have legislative authority for the money before the date on the cheques. But it wouldn't have the authority until the bill passed third reading and got royal assent. The deadline was midnight and the Lieutenant-Governor was standing by to give royal assent as soon as the Legislature gave the bill third reading.

The opposition parties, mainly the Socialists, did everything they could to stop the government from meeting the deadline. However, it turned out there was some doubt later about whether there really legally was a deadline anyway. But nobody knew it until it was too late to matter.

**DEADLINE SEEMED REAL**

As far as the House was concerned, the deadline had to be met or the cheques

would have to be prepared over again and it wouldn't have been possible to get them out until the New Year.

The NDP said old age pensions are inadequate and should be raised, something which nobody really disputes. But they knew these pensions are primarily a federal responsibility. The NDP also knew pensions are under study at the federal-provincial level, with changes expected soon.

Their argument, as far as the \$50 bonus bill was concerned, was irrelevant. Even if the Provincial Government had the power and financial resources, which it hasn't, the government could hardly put such a new program together in a couple of hours during an evening.

The Liberals didn't have any particular point. They are just against anything. So despite all the filibustering the bill was ready for third reading at 9:50 pm. Rules say the House sits until 10:30 pm. There was plenty of time. Debate on the bill was then rare, because by then everything usually has been said, usually several times over.

**DESPERATE OBSTRUCTION**

But the opposition wasn't through obstructing. In a desperate attempt to stop the bill's passage they claimed it couldn't get third reading on the same day as it got second reading.

I have sat in the Legislature for six years and remember any number of times when second and third reading have been done on the same day without a challenge. Still they argued that night until 10:30 o'clock.

The House leader moved the House should sit beyond the normal hours, something he has every right to have done.

But the opposition even called for a vote on the question of sitting overtime. That vote wasn't taken until midnight because the NDP members just wouldn't show up for it until then.

The whole sorry spectacle wasn't over yet. More ploys were tried. None of them had anything to do with the \$50 bonus bill. They were only designed to wear the government down.

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## Elgin Mills - Jefferson News

CORRESPONDENT: CAROLINE LOMAS - Telephone 884-3000

**Church News**

Sunday at St. John's Anglican Church there will be a service of morning prayer and blessing of the Crib and Tree at 10:30 am. At 12 noon the parish Christmas Party will be held. It will be a real mixture of old-time concert and talent time with skills, recitations and music. Families planning to participate are asked to bring enough food for themselves (sandwiches, salads, etc.) and everything will be put into a common pool. Anyone with special talents is invited to participate in the program. Please contact Leah Stephenson at 884-4768 in the evening or Saturday morning.

At 8:15 pm the Ecumenical Choir Christmas Program will be held at St. Mary's Anglican, Richmond Hill. Friday evening the program will be held at Our Lady Queen of the World on Bayview Avenue and on Saturday it will be presented in the Aurora United Church.

At St. John's December 23 there will be a service of Lessons and Carols at 10:30 am. December 24 at 10:45 pm there will be informal carol singing in the church and at 11:15 there will be a celebration of Christmas Communion. Family worship will be held Christmas Day at 10:30 am.

The Mixed Blessings sang at the Fishnet Coffee House in Richvale last Saturday evening.

Flowers on the altar at St. John's last Sunday for the celebration of Holy Communion were placed there to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Chatterly by their daughter, Dorothy. At a vestry meeting in

the upper room, following the service Leonard Lomas was chosen people's warden by acclamation. The rector, Rev. Earl Gerber announced that he had appointed Graham Carson as rector's warden.

At 7:30 pm there was evening prayer in the church and then fellowship in the upper room.

**Community News**

This week birthday wishes go to Diane Dannenfeldt who will be 10 today (Thursday) and to Shawn MacKay who will be 12 Sunday.

Students of Jefferson Public School are preparing a program they would like to present to their parents December 20 at 7:30 pm sharp. Santa Claus will be visiting them.

The staff of Jefferson School is encouraging each child to consider giving a small item to a needy family this Christmas. It is suggested that if the children wish to do this, they may each bring one item of canned fruit or canned vegetables, wrapped in white and deposit it in the bin provided on the evening of December 20. The Richmond Hill Lions will use the gifts as part of the Yule baskets to be delivered December 22.

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