

RICHVALE RECORD

Correspondent — MRS. MARY WATTS
43 Spruce Avenue 889-5787

Richvale hockey Fun Day started holidays with bang

To start the Christmas holidays off with a bang, it was Fun Day Sunday in Richmond Hill's Old Arena. Many of the boys belonging to the Richvale Hockey Association brought their families to enjoy an afternoon of free skating.

The large group of local majorettes, sponsored by the Richvale Lions, opened the festivities. Then came an exciting game of hockey between members of the ladies' auxiliary and some of the "All Star" pee-wee team under handicap — the boys being permitted on the ice with only one skate!

Santa then arrived, complete with skates, to frolic around the rink with both young and old, who had donned skates, some of them for the first time this winter — others for the first time in years!

It was indeed a pretty sight — the girls all showing off their spins and pirouettes, junior taking his tumbles now and then, but nevertheless proud to try out his blades for the first time.

Some mothers and fathers brought their skates out of

hiding and very quickly got back into the swing of things.

All agreed it had been a tremendously enjoyable occasion, and there should be more such events.

Carol singing

This traditional program is fortunately still being provided by St. Andrew's College for Boys in Aurora. This is the 40th Christmas season when the whole student body becomes involved in giving their parents and friends a most delightful rendition of carols. My friend and I found this year's "sing" a most delightful experience.

Not since leaving England several Christmases ago have I heard young local voices sing the joys of Christmas as a traditional event in school. They certainly honored the birth of Christ, when in candlelight procession the choir boys made their way down the aisle to the altar where they were to stand around a big lighted Christmas tree, their voices singing the words of "The Cradle Song" by Vaughan Williams.

The remainder of the

students were assembled directly in front to join in the choruses of such popular refrains as, "Joy To The World," "Adeste Fidelis", and "Silent Night".

"Masters In The Hall", a French two part song, was handled beautifully by Rick Mann and Danny Hung (whose home is in Hong Kong) together with Mike Bedard and David Behart.

George Edwards, 14, sang angelically the solo part of "The Little Road to Bethlehem". Choices from around the world — "African Noel", a Liberian folksong, and St. Jean Brebeuf's "Huron Indian Carol" from Canada were significantly accompanied by the beating of drums.

"Rocking" from Czechoslovakia was sung delightfully by the whole assembly as was, "Angels We Have Heard On High" from France. "March of the Kings" from Provence was another two-part song majestically presented by Rick, Danay, Mike and David.

The young soprano soloists Robert Summerville and George Edwards gave a

delightful rendition of "Good King Wenceslas" with Rick and Danny joining in alternate verses.

To wind up this Christmas spiritual evening, "Praise To The Lord" was a most significant choice.

The boys received their excellent training from Robert Jones and Gillian Greenwood, both experienced teachers in the musical field.

Another enjoyable evening of entertainment which bears some recognition (I failed to see any mention of it in the Toronto papers) was a one evening only presentation of "The World of Gilbert and Sullivan" (I am a fan) by six travelling members of the world famous D'Oyley Carte Opera Company.

These players are better known perhaps as the Savoyards — they now travel the globe in small groups to bring their

delightful voices and expertise in acting to us all wherever we may be.

They were in the Minkler Auditorium at Seneca College November 29, and it was filled to capacity by a most appreciative audience who gave these professional players a standing ovation.

The artists reciprocated and expressed their delight to be in such an artistically planned theatre. It is, I understand, one of the finest designed entertainment halls in the country, offering the best in acoustics and seating arrangements.

For all those interested, auditions are being held for the newly formed Seneca

Symphony, being formed by Seneca Music Centre to involve members of the community — professionals, students and senior citizens with musical inclinations. Musical director Melvin Burman of international repute as performer and teacher will hold rehearsals Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 12 noon. Hopefully there will be three concerts annually. For further details phone 491-8877.

The theatre is off Don Mills Road and Finch and a large parking area is provided.

And now, Happy Holidays to you all, in honor of the Birthday of Christ!

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Your government's position on negotiations with the Civil Service Association of Ontario.

The Government of Ontario has offered the CSAO an average 20% pay increase over one year and is prepared to go to arbitration. CSAO leadership has refused this offer and also refuses to go to arbitration. We believe, as your government, we have offered a fair and reasonable contract.

For almost three months now the Government of Ontario has been trying to negotiate a new collective agreement with the Civil Service Association of Ontario covering some 19,000 civil servants in the Operational Services Category.

With less than two weeks' negotiating time left before the current contract expires and the CSAO threatening an illegal strike on January 1st if it doesn't have a new agreement by then, we thought it was time to let you, the taxpayers of Ontario, know directly how and where things stand.

After all, it is your tax dollars that will be used to pay for any wage settlement we make with these employees. And it is your services that will be threatened with disruption if the CSAO carries out its threat of an illegal walkout.

The government has tried to negotiate in good faith.

Government and CSAO negotiators have had a number of meetings since September. At them our representatives have consistently tried to bargain seriously and in good faith. We have shown reasonable flexibility in our position. When that approach failed to draw a response from the other side, government negotiators on December 3rd put their full mandate on the bargaining table.

By contrast, CSAO negotiators in September demanded a 61½ per cent increase in a one-year contract for 1975 — an increase that would cost you, the taxpayers of Ontario, almost \$100 million in additional wage bills next year. The CSAO refused to move from that position until December 13th when it put forth an equally unrealistic and unreasonable demand for a 41 per cent increase in one year.

The government has made a fair and reasonable wage offer.

The government's current offer was made in a sincere attempt to be fair and reasonable with our employees, while, at the same time, recognizing our wider responsibilities to the taxpayers and economy of our province.

In recognition of the current inflationary climate in Canada, we proposed a one-year contract so that both sides could return to the bargaining table within 12 months and review the situation in the light of economic circumstances at that time. For 1975 we offered wage increases averaging 20 per cent for the 19,000 employees involved. These increases would cost an additional \$32.7 million next year.

The government wants a settlement — but it must be prepared for an illegal strike.

The government remains ready to negotiate seriously and in good faith within the framework of its current proposal. We have already offered to submit the matter to an arbitration board. And an arbitration board, we might add, which would be constituted in a way which would meet the CSAO's own demand for equal representation on such boards.

In the meantime, since January 1st isn't far away, the government has had to formulate contingency plans in the event the CSAO leadership persists in calling an illegal strike. We hope that doesn't happen. But if it does, we are determined to meet our responsibility to maintain those services you rightfully expect to receive from your government.

We believe we have been fair and reasonable with our employees and responsible to you as taxpayers and to the economy of our province.



Government of Ontario
Management Board

This statement represents the status of negotiations as of publication deadline.



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