

# Secret signal worked

When Col. Robert Moodie fell from his horse at the barricade outside Montgomery's Tavern, he was the victim of his own foolhardiness and a sniper's bullet.



**yesterdays**  
by mary dawson

Col. Bridgford and Captain Stewart, who accompanied him, rode around the hotel, leaping the fences.

Although they were fired at several times, they succeeded in reaching Yonge Street south of the hotel.

There they met a man named Powell who had a fresh horse.

Bridgford told him to ride on ahead and warn the governor the rebel forces would be attacking the capital within two hours.

Paralyzed When Bridgford reached Toronto, he went straight to Government House and found all in consternation.

Governor Sir Francis Bond Head was so paralyzed with fear that he did not know what to do.

Having obtained permission Bridgford ordered all bells in the city to be rung. He also assisted in the arrangements then undertaken for the capital's defence.

He was commissioned by Col. Fitzgibbon, who was in command of the garrison, to ride back north to raise volunteers for immediate active service.

It was agreed that if he should run into difficulties he was to signal by displaying his silk handkerchief, an arrangement which proved to be of great value later.

He was accompanied by Prime Lawrence on his northbound trip.

Taken prisoner Both were taken prisoner by Mackenzie's men near Montgomery's Tavern, located at the corner of what is now Montgomery Avenue and Yonge Street.

The spot is now marked by an historic plaque outside the postal station. Bridgford secretly handed his papers to Lawrence, who managed to escape and fulfill the mission.

A rebel consultation

was held and it was decided Bridgford should be hanged as a spy.

But David Gibson, whose Willowdale house was burned that year by supporters of the government, suggested that instead Bridgford be held as a prisoner of war and thus saved the man's life (Bridgford's second close call in his country's service).

To be shot

With several other prisoners Bridgford was placed under guard in the ballroom of the hotel where he was interviewed by William Lyon Mackenzie. Mackenzie told him he was to be shot the next day at noon.

Bridgford asked to have the execution deferred until 2 p.m., "because you will then have enough to do to look after your own neck without attending to mine."

When the troops from the city, led by Colonels McNab, Fitzgibbon and Jarvis, appeared with an overwhelming force, Bridgford hung his handkerchief from the south window of the hotel.

The loyalists then did not fire their grape and canister charges into the room where the prisoners were confined.

The insurgents, many of whom were armed only with pitchforks or pikes, fled from the scene.

The prisoners were freed and the hotel was burned.

Vaughan reeve William Harrison, in his historical writings of 1888, reports he heard the above details from Bridgford, himself, who lived in Richmond Hill until his death in 1868 at the age of 75.

Bridgford was elected to Vaughan's first council in 1850 and was deputy

reeve from 1852 to 1858 when he became reeve. He was instrumental in the founding of Richmond Masonic Lodge and was its first worshipful master.

He also served on the school board.

Built hotel Bridgford married Lucy, daughter of John Stegman and built a two-storey hotel of hewn logs, northwest of the corner of Centre and Yonge Streets.

In front was the cor-

duroy bridge, connecting the Hill with Duck Valley. The north end of the settlement then was a swamp through which a fair-sized stream meandered its way to the east branch of the Don River.

Alongside the bridge was an unsightly ditch, the home of a beaver for several years.

Bridgford ran the hotel successfully for many years, purchasing his supply of beverages from Quetton St. George.

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NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE TOWN OF MARKHAM WITH PROPERTIES ABUTTING THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL.

NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION TO THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD BY THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL for approval of a by-law to regulate land use passed pursuant to Section 35 of the Planning Act.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill intends to apply to the Ontario Municipal Board pursuant to the provisions of Section 35 of the Planning Act for approval of By-law 21-76 passed on the 5th day of February, 1976. A note giving an explanation of the purpose and effect of the by-law and stating the lands affected thereby is also furnished below.

ANY PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY MATTER which may be affected by the by-law, together with a statement of the grounds of such objection, should be given to the Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill, 10266 Yonge Street, P.O. Box 30, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 4Y5.

THE LAST DAY FOR filing objections will be the 21st day of April, 1976.

DATED AT THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL THIS 7TH DAY OF APRIL, 1976.

C.D. Weldon, Clerk, Town of Richmond Hill, 10266 Yonge Street, P.O. Box 30, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 4Y5

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

BY-LAW NO. 21-76

A By-law to Amend By-law No. 2325-68 of the Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill by the Regional Municipality of York Act, 1970, to remain subject to the provisions of Markham By-law Number 2325-68.

WHEREAS the lands affected by this By-law were situated in the Township of Markham and were annexed to the Town of Richmond Hill by the Regional Municipality of York Act, 1970, and remain subject to the provisions of Markham By-law Number 2325-68.

AND WHEREAS there has been no amendment to the Richmond Hill Official Plan proposed by the Council but not approved at this time with which the matters herein set out are not in conformity.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. By-law No. 2325-68 of the Corporation of the Township of Markham amended be and is hereby amended by:

(a) Deleting Section 2.9 and by substituting the following:

2.9 OFFICE USES PERMITTED  
Nothing in this By-law shall prevent, in a Residential Zone, the use of part of a single family detached or semi-detached dwelling for an office provided:

2.9.1 That only one person resident in the said dwelling, plus one assistant, who may or may not reside in the dwelling, may operate in and from the said office.

2.9.2 That an area equivalent to not more than thirty-five per cent (35 per cent) of the total floor area of the dwelling, or a maximum of five hundred square feet (500 sq. ft.) whichever is the lesser is devoted to such uses.

2.9.3 That there shall be no advertising other than a plate or sign which is not flashing and is not larger than one square foot (1 sq. ft.) indicating only the name, occupation and practicing hours of the occupant. The plate or sign shall be attached and parallel to a main wall of the building.

2.9.4 That there shall be at least one off-street parking space for every three hundred square feet (300 sq. ft.) of floor space occupied as offices in addition to any residential requirements.

2.9.5 The residential character of the dwelling is not changed.

2.9.6 That no machinery or instrument shall be used in the said offices that is not normally used in a residence or is not compatible with a residential area.

(b) Adding the following to Section 3:

3.13 Not more than one dwelling may be built on any lot except that in an Agricultural (A1) zone one single family detached dwelling for the use of personnel employed on the premises may be erected in an addition to the owner's single family detached dwelling.

3.14 Nothing in this by-law shall prevent, in a Residential or Agricultural Zone the use of part of a single family dwelling for a home occupation as defined in Section 2.9.

(c) Deleting Sections 4.3 and 4.3.1.

(d) Deleting the words "The following uses are permitted" from Sections 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 and substituting the following "Any one of the following uses is permitted":

(e) Deleting the words "Home Occupation" from Sections 4.2, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1976.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1976.

READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1976.

"H.D. Schiller" Mayor  
"C.D. Weldon" Clerk

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

BY-LAW NO. 21-76

EXPLANATORY NOTE  
The Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill enacted By-law 21-76 on the 3rd day of March 1976 and circulated its notice of intention to apply to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval. The summary of the purpose and effect of the by-law read as follows:

To permit only one dwelling on a lot except that in an Agricultural Zone another dwelling in addition to the owner's dwelling is permitted for employees.

To permit the use of a part of a dwelling in a Residential or Rural Zone for "Home Occupation" which is a pursuit compatible with a domestic household.

To permit only one of the uses named in Section 5 Rural Residential on a lot. The section reads — "The following uses are permitted: Single family dwelling, place of worship, elementary school, medical clinic, etc.

As a result of comments from the Regional Municipality of York, the Town has repealed By-law 21-75 and enacted By-law 21-76 which incorporates the same provisions as in 21-75 but also deletes the definition of "Home Occupation" which is no longer necessary and permits the use of part of any dwelling in a Residential Zone subject to the limitations set out in the new Section 2.9 which By-law 21-76 creates.

## Gardening

### Planting time

Bright spring weather is the "call of the wild" for home gardeners, and according to an Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food horticulturist, it's time to start thinking about planting early vegetables and starting transplants.

"Just as soon as the frost is out of the ground and the soil is dry enough to prepare, the cool weather vegetables can be planted," states R. A. Fleming.

"Radishes, which will germinate and grow even in quite cool weather, are a good indicator crop. Lettuce, carrots, spinach and garden peas can all be sown as soon as the ground can be prepared."

He suggests that before seeding, a light application of a fertilizer high in phosphorus will help the seedlings' growth.

With transplants such as cabbage and cauliflower, he recommends sidedressing with a good fertilizer to encourage new growth.

Fleming cautions gardeners about being overanxious when it comes to starting their tomato and pepper transplants. In warm, heated homes with poor light conditions, the plants tend to become weak and spindly when they're started too early.

"The second or third week of April is early enough to sow the seed of your favorite varieties. By the time the seedlings are ready to transplant to flats or individual pots, the warm days of May will permit the young plants to be set in a bright, well-ventilated area during the day."

Transplants grown this way will not be large, but they will be stocky, healthy plants ready to be planted outdoors at the end of May or early June.

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