

# Hill carved out of Markham, Vaughan

Three years ago, Richmond Hill celebrated its 100th anniversary as a municipality, although, of course, its history goes back 80 years farther.

The 1873 incorporation was not the first attempt the people of the settlement had made to separate from the townships of Markham and Vaughan, claiming that they paid considerable sums into the coffers of the two townships and received little in return.

The first agitation for separation came in 1853, but it was found the legislation then on the books required a minimum population of 1,000 for a village.

## Second attempt

The legislation was modified shortly thereafter and another attempt was made in 1857 with Amos Wright M.P. presiding and Matthew Teefy acting as secretary.

Moving for incorporation were G.P. Dixon and Col. David Bridgford, with J.K. Falconbridge, J.R. Arnold, John Palmer, E. Sheppard, G.A. Bernard, and Messrs.

Dixon, Wright, Law, Warren and Terefy also were active in support of the move.

Not everyone wanted incorporation. Leading the opposition were Dr.



**yesterdays**  
by mary dawson

Duncumbe and Richardson, a watchmaker.

## Attempt failed

Although Mr. Harrison recorded in 1889 that Duncumbe was not too popular at the time because he had seized all the instruments of the settlement's first brass band to satisfy a debt of \$4, the move for incorporation was to no avail.

The northerly limit of the proposed village was set north of the Elgin Mills Sideroad, creating too great an acreage for the number of residents.

Before that decision was made, however, Harrison wrote that Duncumbe had called Dixon brazen-faced. Dixon retorted that it ill became anyone who had swallowed a whole set of brass instruments to call anyone else brazen-faced.

## Final Success

The next attempt (a successful one) was made in 1872, when a petition signed by nearly every ratepayer was taken before York county council by

Erastus Jackson of Newmarket on June 18.

It was passed through its various stages without going into committee, and was granted.

## First election

The first election was held in January 1873 and resulted in A. Law, J.P. being elected reeve and Messrs. Warren, Powell, Hopkins and Brillinger councillors.

Matthew Teefy, the postmaster, was named the village's first clerk.

William Harrison recalled he was asked to run for the reeveship in 1873, but declined. However, he became the

village's second reeve, being elected to that office in 1874.

Harrison was followed in office by William Trench who served from 1875 to 1879 and in 1881 and 1882.

## Village boundaries

The southerly limit of the village was set at the Markham-Vaughan Road and the northerly at the northerly limit of Lots 48.

The easterly limit was the CNR line and the westerly an irregular line in the vicinity of the Mill Pond.

At the time of incorporation the population was 631 and the assessment was \$114,900.

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