



yesterdays  
by mary dawson

# Gibson House burned in 1837

One of William Lyon Mackenzie's most influential supporters in his fight for reform of the early Upper Canada system of government was David Gibson of Willowdale.

He was a land surveyor and member of the legislature for York Mills. Reformers met at his house on Yonge Street to discuss grievances.

This house was burned by government troops in 1837 and replaced by the present Gibson House (which has been restored) when he

returned from a 10-year exile in the United States. Gibson also organized turkeys on his farm, ostensibly for sport, but in preparation for open rebellion in reality.

In November 1837 it was reported that 400 to 500 people met at Joseph Shepard's farm and mill in Lansing "and were exercised in shooting at marks."

"They were afterwards formed into a body and drilled and Mr. Mackenzie harangued them after the drilling was ended."

During the summer of that eventful year reformers collected arms and planned an armed assault on the Family Compact, addressed at numerous meetings by Mackenzie.

Up at Holland Landing, Samuel Lount, a blacksmith, forged pikes and mobilized support there and in Sharon. In Lloydtown Jesse Lloyd was the leader of the reformers. In Pickering, ex-soldier and farmer Peter Matthews mobilized and drilled his neighbors.

Two hundred miles away in Huron County Col. Anthony Van Egmond, a veteran of the Napoleonic wars, sent word to Mackenzie that he would lead a rebel army.

Groups of reformers were drilling in communities as far east as Kingston and Belleville.

Matthews and Lount were hanged after the rebellion. Van Egmond died in captivity, other leaders were transported to Australia and others spent 10 years in exile in the U.S.A.

By December the rebels had decided to march on Toronto because most of the troops of the garrison had gone to Lower Canada to deal with the rebellion led by Joseph Papineau.

The plan was to seize Bond Head, take him to the city hall where arms were kept and, after arming themselves, persuade the lieutenant-governor to grant responsible government through an executive council.

If he refused they planned to form a provisional government themselves and seek independence.

Montgomery's Tavern on Yonge Street at Montgomery Avenue (the site now marked by a plaque outside the postal station) was the meeting place.

Innkeeper John Montgomery was a reform supporter and was resident at the hotel although he had rented it to another man. The reformers from all of Upper Canada were called by Mackenzie to meet there on Thursday, December 7.

Through a misunderstanding this date was changed to December 4 and although Mackenzie countermanded the orders on December 3 many rebels were already on the road marching toward the rendezvous.

Some arrived by Sunday evening and others on Monday morning.

It was Monday noon when those from the north — Holland Landing, Sharon and Lloydtown — under Samuel Lount passed through Richmond Hill.

That evening Moodie and Bridgeford and Moodie's son-in-law set out from Richmond Hill to warn Bond Head that the rebels were concentrating and Moodie was fatally shot as he tried to break through the pickets at Montgomery's Tavern.

A little later Joseph Shepard II of Lansing took part in a skirmish between rebels and loyalists.

## Limousine to Kingston - \$658

By ALF STONG  
MPP — YORK CENTRE

The auditor's report was tabled in the legislature giving details of continuing wasteful spending.

There has subsequently been considerable controversy about the expenses of the LaMarsh Commission on Violence in the Communication Industry. Its total cost to the taxpayers was \$2,026,245.

Travelling expenses including extravagant use of Government aircraft and cars, as well as a tax bill of \$5,315.

One limousine bill was \$658 — to transport two commission members and two staff members to a conference held in Kingston. Fourteen European countries were visited — cost to taxpayers \$46,000. Five U.S. cities were visited, at a cost of \$10,000.

To add insult to injury \$3,360 was spent on photographic prints of Commission members.

All this for a Commission to investigate a problem that is beyond the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government anyway — a Commission that was established despite constant protests from the Liberal Party that it would be a total waste of public money.

In an effort to keep track of traffic offenders Ontario may tie motor vehicle license plates to the driver not the car according to the Solicitor General.

The Provincial auditor reported that Ontario is owed more than \$26 million in unpaid court fines, mostly for traffic offences.

At present when a car is sold it is accompanied by the license plates, but Provincial officials consider if the owner is required to retain the plates and put them on the next car he owns, it would not be so difficult to trace drivers who owe fines.

Earlier this year the Attorney General reported that experience in the United States indicates that an efficient enforcement system for minor traffic offences depends on "denial of vehicle registration renewal and denial of license renewal rather than a simple suspension of existing privileges".

Amendments to the Ontario Mental Health Act intended to improve the civil liberties of psychiatric patients and protect the confidentiality of their hospital records have been introduced.

The amendments are described by the Minister as "interim changes of the Act that require immediate consideration".

It is understood that while the proposed legislation might die on the Order Paper, it would form the basis for continuing discussions within legal and health profession circles about changes in the Mental Health Act.

The amendments would reduce the time a person may be detained involuntarily on the signature of one doctor — from 30 days to 10 hours.

During the 72-hour period the person must be either released, admitted

to a psychiatric hospital voluntarily or admitted involuntarily.

A second doctor would be required to conduct the psychiatric assessment if the person is to be admitted against his will.

Current legislation allows one doctor to detain a patient involuntarily for up to 30 days, if the doctor believes the person is a danger to his own safety or the safety of others.

I would like to take this opportunity personally to extend to each and every one of you warmest greetings during this holiday season.

I hope for each and every family in my riding the peace and joy which this Christmas season represents.

### ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE

#### THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT ACT PUBLIC NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to The Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, an application will be made by the Minister of Transportation and Communications to the Ontario Municipal Board for the approval of the closing of the following roads in the Towns of Richmond Hill and Whitchurch-Stouffville, Regional Municipality of York, where they intersect or run into the controlled-access highway known as Highway 404.

**Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville**  
(Geographic Townships of Whitchurch and Markham)

1. Part of the road allowance between Geographic Townships of Markham and Whitchurch being Regional Road 14 also known as Gormley Side Road;

**Town of Richmond Hill**  
(Geographic Townships of Whitchurch and Markham)

2. Part of the Road Allowance between Geographic Townships of Markham and Whitchurch being Regional Road 14 also known as Gormley Side Road.

Such application will be heard by the said Board in the Boards Chambers, 198 Dundas St. W. Toronto, on the 18th day of January, 1978 at 10:00 O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON, at which time and place all persons claiming to be interested or affected may attend and be heard.

A plan P-5025-84 showing the portions of roads proposed to be closed may be seen at the office of the:

Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill  
Municipal Building  
10266 Yonge Street  
Richmond Hill, Ontario

Clerk of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Town Hall  
19 Civic Avenue  
Stouffville, Ontario

District Engineer of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications  
West Building  
1201 Wilson Avenue  
Downsview, Ontario

Head, Planning and Design Section  
3501 Dufferin Street  
Downsview, Ontario

during regular office hours, up to January 18, 1978.

Dated at Toronto, this 25th day of November, 1977.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE

The Ontario Municipal Board has also directed that all persons who object to the closings, SHALL FILE PARTICULARS OF THEIR OBJECTIONS, stating their Lot, Concession or Registered Plan Number, on or before the 10th day of January, 1978, by mailing such particulars to:

1. The Ontario Municipal Board  
180 Dundas Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1E5

(Referring to File Number M-77206)

#### AND

2. Mr. M. Ernesaks, Head, Planning and Design Section  
Ministry of Transportation and Communications  
3501 Dufferin Street  
Downsview, Ontario M3K 1N6

At the Hearing on the 18th day of January, 1978, the Board will hear objections to the closings and matters relating to the closings only. If an objector does not attend, the Hearing may proceed in his absence and he is not entitled to any further notice. Claims for compensation will not be dealt with or determined until the roads are physically closed.

Section 22 (1) of The Expropriations Act states that a claim for compensation for injurious affection shall be made by the person suffering the damage or loss in writing with particulars of the claim up to one (1) year after the damage was sustained or after it became known to him, and, if not so made, the right to compensation is forever barred.



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**21<sup>29</sup>**

**Crossed Swords and Ornate Crossed Swords**

Spanish style breastplate and coats of arms on red or black background.

**27<sup>79</sup>**

**25<sup>49</sup>**

**Pistols and coat of arms on Red or Black velvet background.**

**63<sup>79</sup>**

**Pistol on Red or Black Framed velvet background 24" x 18"**

**46<sup>79</sup>**

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