



A Richmond Hill family of seven was included in last week's ceremony to swear in new Canadians at Our Lady Queen of the World Church. Pictured

left to right are James and Margaret McMurray of Cartier Crescent with their children: Patrick 16, Kevin 14, Elizabeth 13, Paul 12 and Jim 9.

## They could all leave for Miami

All six members of the regional planning committee and one member of the staff could attend a convention in Miami Beach at regional expense.

But it is unlikely to happen. Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller suggested that the integrity of regional council had been strained by policies which resulted in political cartoons of jets "taking off from Tokyo or some place with regional councillors hanging out the windows."

But Regional chairman Bob Forhan said it was the integrity of the press which had been strained by creating a false impression with such cartoons. "That budget (for convention expenses) has never been used up."

Aurora Mayor George Timpson felt that the planning committee could

be trusted to come up with a suitable delegation.

Councillor Carole Bell said that such conferences are valuable and they involve a lot of work. "This one just happens to be in Miami Beach."

It is the annual conference of the American Planning Association running from March 4 to March 7.

Mrs. Bell suggested that any member of council should be allowed to attend any conference of a professional group if authorized to broaden their knowledge in all fields.

Georgina councillor M. J. McDonald introduced a motion for discussion at the next council meeting that would require those who go to conferences to report to council on what they had learned when they got back.

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GLASSES SAME DAY

## Mom says

### Board wasted boy's six years

A growing number of parents have become disconcerted with the ability of the York Board of Education to meet the needs of special students and a former trustee admits there are a number of areas of inadequacy.

Judy Hext, of Thornhill, was so frustrated with the board's alleged dereliction, she pulled her son out of one of its educable retarded classes last April.

Bradley Hext, 12, now attends the Toronto Learning Centre and has shown such marked improvement in learning, his mother claims the board wasted six years of his education.

"He was placed in that class without my permission and he's nowhere near being retarded. He has a perceptual handicap and some speech problems but the board said he had emotional disturbances and that's not true," said Mrs. Hext. She had to fight to get her son into the Toronto Centre because the province originally refused to give her the necessary grants.

The Ministry requested a letter of support and referral from the board's Superintendent of Special Education Frank Wilkinson. In that first letter, said Mrs. Hext, the board misused and abused test results that were done on Bradley a number of years ago — they were far from current assessments.

"I spent over \$3,000 to have Brad tested privately and the results showed his IQ to be above average, between 120 and 130. The board used figures stating his level was at 70, from tests done seven years ago," she said.

Mrs. Hext eventually got the grant, which comes up for review this

April. Her lawyer told her she had grounds to sue the board and while she has won some major victories, she said she couldn't afford another \$10,000 for legal fees.

Former Thornhill Trustee Bob McMonagle, who spent much of his time trying to improve special education, said he was involved to the point where he had to persuade a school administrator to write a letter to the Ministry in his efforts of Bradley and his efforts to change systems.

"Though they (the Ministry) at first rejected the application, they backed down at the last minute and provided the funds. The problem was our board wouldn't admit it couldn't handle the educational needs of this child," said Mr. McMonagle.

He claims there were probable grounds for a law suit, especially since so much time had been lost and that the "psyche of the child had been damaged". He also said he's not convinced the York Board is doing the job it should for kids with serious problems.

"The board is still not spending all the money it could from provincial grants — it could hire more special education teachers and receive funding for them," he said.

Though she's still trying to get another \$3,000 for a language therapist for her son, she said she is pleased with the progress he has shown away from the York Board. He is now able to write with full knowledge of vowels and does homework every night in math, history and is reading independently. He takes four buses per day to get to school at Yonge and Lawrence Avenue.

"He's not the same child — they developed him into a human being and haven't treated him like a vegetable the way York County did. He has self-confidence and doesn't consider himself dumb and stupid like other kids used to look at him," said Mrs. Hext.

She claims Mr. Wilkinson's report said Brad was doing Grade 2 level work (last year) — two years ahead of his ability.

"They expected him to get to Grade 4 and now look at him." Mr. McMonagle said both he and his wife, also involved with learning disabled and mentally retarded children, would be happy to support Mrs. Hext when the grants for Bradley come up for review in April.

**NOT MEETING NEEDS**  
In another case, a Thornhill mother said she is being forced to look elsewhere for facilities for her learning disabled son because the board is not meeting his needs.

She asked not to be identified but said her son is currently on a waiting list to get into the York Centre for Learning Disabilities, a mental health clinic in Richmond Hill.

At this point, there are at least 60 children waiting for diagnostic work-ups, according to the Centre's director, Craig Shields.

"I don't like the class ratios the school is using — there's only one teacher for every 13 students. Mr. Wilkinson explained after those students who take part in integrated classes are subtracted from calculations, the ratio for my son's class works out lower than the county average. I have facts to prove that isn't true," she said.

Mr. Wilkinson was asked about the pupil-teacher ratios but declined to comment. He said he'd be happy to meet with the woman at anytime and discuss her problems.

"Mr. Wilkinson said my son would be moved from a class I think has too many 'problem children' to enable my son to get anything accomplished. I don't like it when the principal tries to hide these problems in the class," said the Thornhill woman.

Though her son is five years older, Mrs. Hext noticed him improving when he received individual or one-to-one attention. She also refuses to send him to a school (Woodlands Senior) because of problem students.

She said she has spoken to Margaret MacDonald, Thornhill trustee.

"If class sizes will be reduced in a few years as Mr. Wilkinson said they would, I'd like to know what happens to my son and others like him in the meantime," the woman wondered.

"I can't blame everything on the York Board because I haven't lived here that long... I am expecting a lot more than I'm getting from the school system," she said.

Sympathizing with concerned parents, Mr. McMonagle said the typical parent regards the school as being the ultimate authority on education and children's needs.

"They get reports from the schools which contain phrases like 'he hasn't reached his expected maturation level or his progress is achieving at a slower rate than we originally thought. They aren't necessarily that definitive but people accept them verbatim,'" he said.



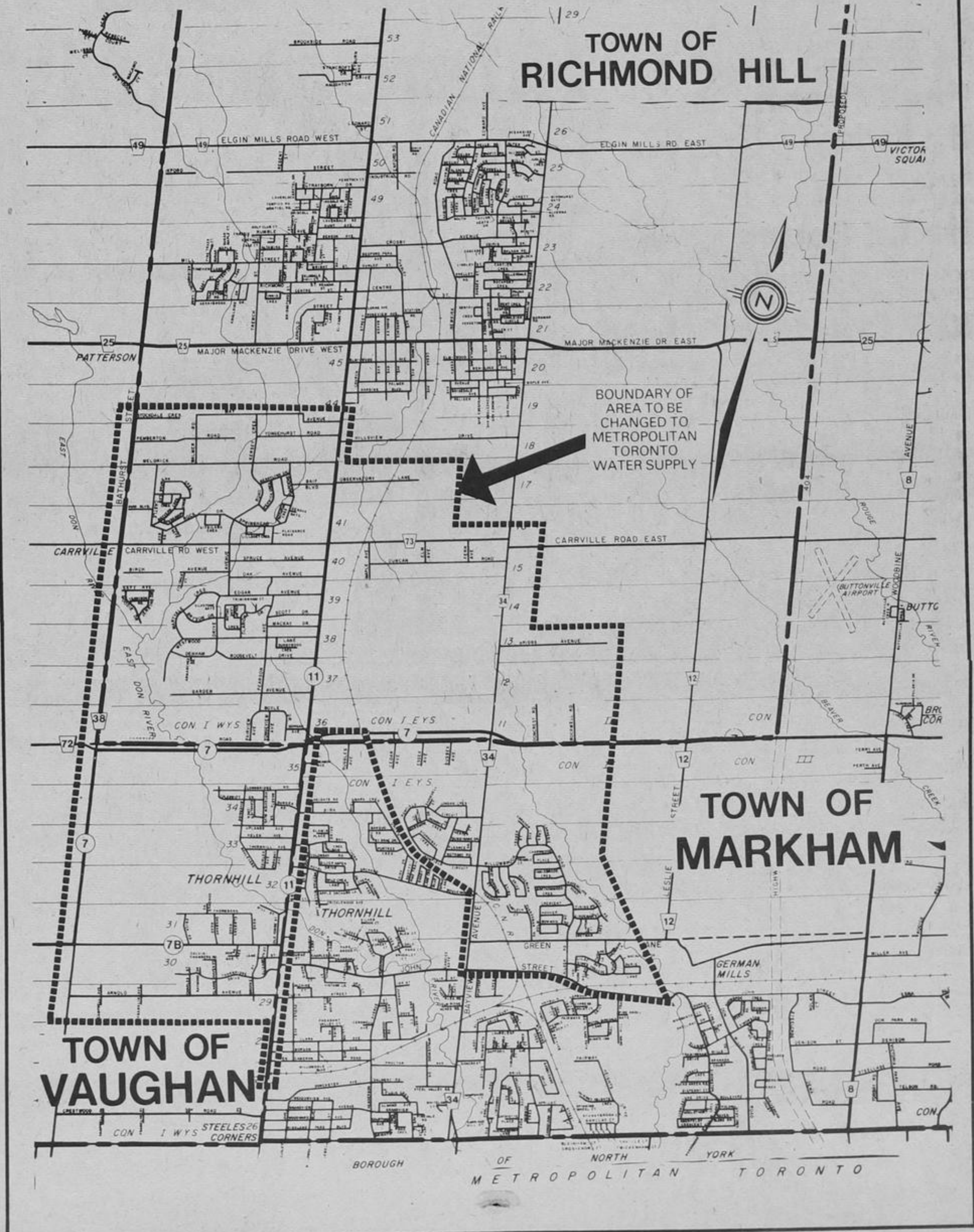
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Please be advised that the water supply to the above noted area is being changed from well water supply to Metropolitan Water supply. This will result in noticeable changes in water quality and in particular reduced water hardness.

In addition, since the Metropolitan Toronto water supply contains fluoride, all persons presently taking fluoride supplements should consult their dentist or family physician in this regard.

Residents of Richmond Hill, north of the subject area, will be notified in the near future of a similar change in source of water supply.

W.R. Hodgson, P. Eng.  
Commissioner of Engineering



## Come to Church Every Sunday

DIRECTORY OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

### ANGLICAN

St. Mary's Anglican Church  
10030 Yonge St. 884-2227  
Richmond Hill  
Clergy: Rev. Bernard Barrett  
884-1394  
Rev. William Prentice  
883-4149  
Rev. Fred Jackson  
884-2418  
Services: Sun. 8 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 10 A.M. - 7:30 P.M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH (ANGLICAN)  
BROOKE ST. THORNHILL  
S. OF HWY. 78 W. OF YONGE ST.  
889-5931

Sunday February 25  
Quinquagesima  
8 am Holy Communion  
9:15 am Morning prayer  
(Nursery and Church School)  
11 am Morning Prayer  
(Nursery and Church School)  
3:30 pm Annual Scout & guide  
Church parade  
Wednesday 10 am Holy Communion

### Presbyterian

THORNHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
271 Centre Street  
889-5391

Minister: The Rev. J.B. Burns,  
M.A., B.D., Ph.D.  
Organist: Mr. C. Hunt, Mus.Bac.,  
A.R.C.O.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1979  
11:00 AM Divine Worship  
11:00 AM Church School (begins in  
Church with parents)  
12:15 PM Presbyterians

### BAPTIST

ST. JOHN'S  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
75 Oxford Street

(Member Baptist Convention of  
Ontario and Quebec)

INTERIM MINISTER  
Dr. S.R. McClung  
9:45 A.M. - Church School  
For Bus: Ministry call 881-2818  
11:00 A.M. - Morning Worship

PREACHING THE OLD BOOK  
THE NEW BIRTH  
THE PRECIOUS BLOOD  
AND THE BLESSED HOPE  
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WELDRICK ROAD  
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Rev. B.T. McSpadden  
Pastor Phone 884-7859

10:00 A.M. - Bible School Classes  
for all ages  
11 A.M. - Morning Service  
7:00 P.M. - Evening Service  
Prayer meeting Wednesday at  
8:00 P.M.

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### LUTHERAN

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN  
10131 Bayview Avenue  
J.S. DAUPHINEE, PASTOR

9:30 A.M. Sunday Church School  
11:00 A.M. Worship Service

### RICHMOND HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

50 Wright Street  
Tel: 884-3091

Pastor Rev. Paul Varr  
9:45 Bible School  
11 AM Morning Worship  
7 PM Evening Service

Tuesday  
6:45 Boys 12 to 18 meeting at  
Richmond Hill High School  
7:30 Adult Prayer and Bible Study

### UNITED

RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH  
Yonge and Centre Streets, 884-1301

Sunday, February 18, 1979  
Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
PERSONALITIES OF THE OLD TEST-  
AMENT: Solomon  
Interim Minister: The Rev. Dr.  
Norman McNaughton  
Nursery Care Available  
Church School during Worship  
Tuesday, Feb. 27 - "Bread and Soup"  
\$1.50 (Shrove Tuesday)  
Outreach Event

### Other Denominations

BETHEL CANADIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH  
148 Thornridge Dr.  
Thornhill  
Minister  
Rev. J. Mulder  
B.A., B.D. - 889-5225

Service at 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA

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26 CHURCH ST., THORNHILL  
CORNER OF YONGE ST. - NO. 7 HWY.

10 A.M. - Sunday School  
11 A.M. Worship and Praise  
7 P.M. Gospel Rally

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