

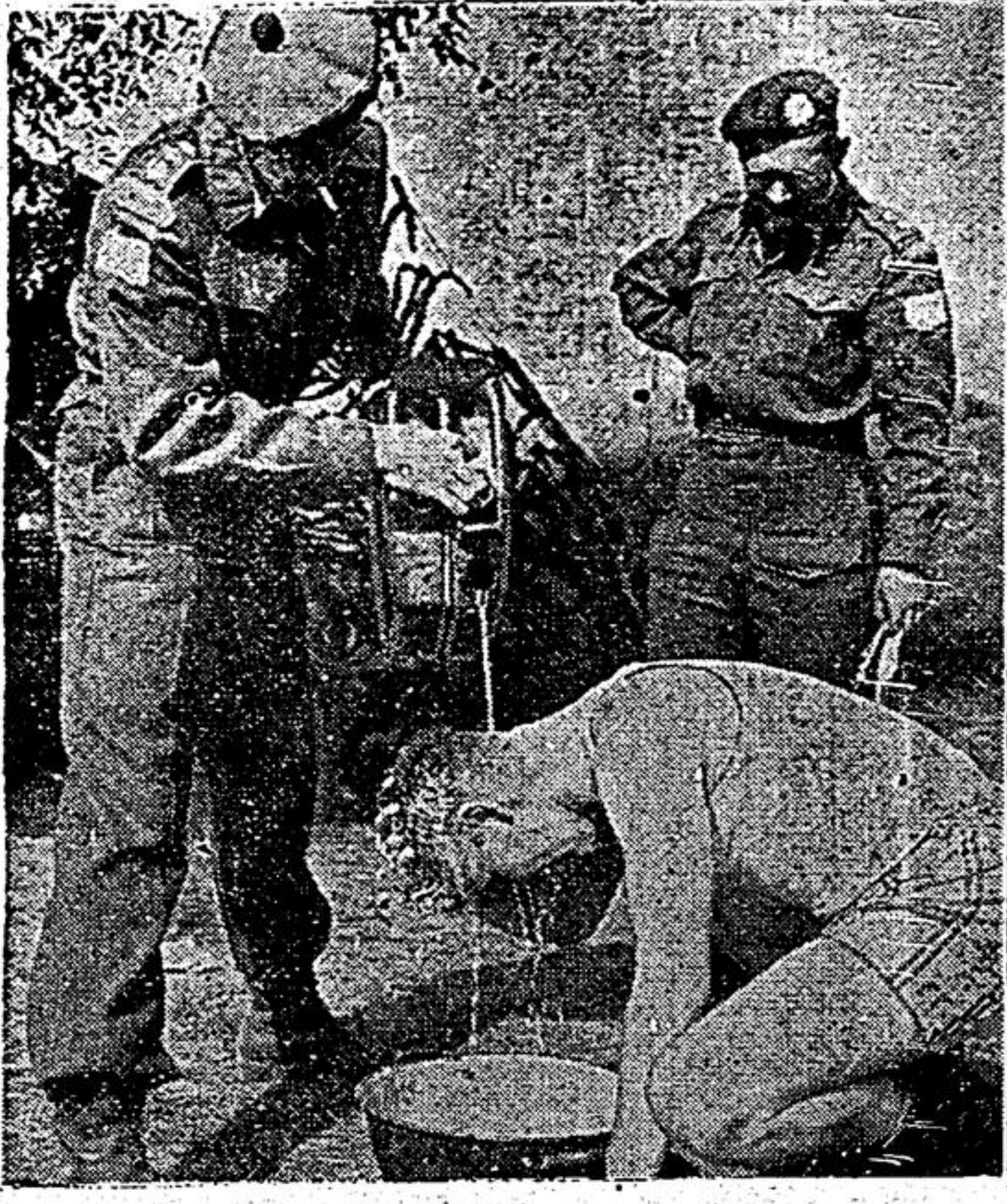
The Stouffville Tribune

Leading Weekly for Whitchurch, Markham, Pickering and Uxbridge Twps.

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STOUFFVILLE, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, SEPT. 7th, 1944

EIGHT PAGES



Shampoo in the field is given to Capt. W. A. E. Roelofs of Galt, by Capt. G. R. Glansville of Brantford. Lieut. D. W. Foley, of St. Catharines, laughs as the cold water hits the victim.

Uxbridge Twp. Boy Tells of Destruction of Caen

(By Aylmer Cooper, attached to the Public Relations Service in Normandy, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cooper, Uxbridge Township.)

"Four weeks ago I stood on a high ridge and watched the Royal Air Force unload thousands of tons of bombs on Caen. Wave after wave of four-engined bombers passed over that night, all with a single target—Caen. That was the beginning of the attack on this Norman city which the Germans had decided to hold against all allied attempts to break through their defense lines. Since that night Caen has been either bombed or shelled by one army or the other almost nightly.

To-day I saw the destruction wrought by this bombing and shelling. Caen—a scene of awful super-destruction by the machines of war—is now only a huge mass of crumbled brick or stone. In a few short weeks it has passed from a lively French city with a peace-time population of between fifty and sixty thousand to a truly ghost city. True, some of the citizens have returned, but there can't be many—there is no place left for them to live. Those who have returned, returned to find their homes hopelessly demolished; their churches damaged or destroyed; and the Caen they knew non-existent. They pick among the ruins trying to find some articles of furniture that they might be able to salvage. These are very few. Anything they happened to find is carried, or pushed on a cart, to wherever they have taken up new quarters.

As one passes from street to street, many almost unbelievable things catch the eye. On one bare wall still hangs a mirror slightly tilted to one side, but unbroken. Still hanging to the inside wall of a house, whose one half has been sheared off by a bomb just as though it had been cut by a huge saw, is a small book-self with the dust-laden volumes still neatly arranged. In another house which was completely devastated, I saw in one of the rooms an unbroken electric light bulb hanging from the shell punctured ceiling. A tall chimney from some factory has been snapped off and the ugly jagged base that remains stands death-like as though it was mournfully viewing the ruins of the city that it once looked down upon from its majestic height. You have to turn out to miss a shell hole in the middle of the street, or slow down to slip along the edge of a bomb crater at the bottom of which can be seen gaping holes in the sewage system. The streets are barely wide enough for two lorries to pass. The small passage that there is was cleared by the bulldozers and the engineers.

You need only see Caen once and you have seen it always. A heap of stone and dust doesn't change much except where men push it around to suit their own purpose. The whole city looks very much like the shapeless pile of blocks that remains when some child has knocked down the house he built.

That will give you some idea of what Caen was like when I saw it. It will gradually resume life as they clear away the mess and rebuild or patch the lesser damaged houses."

Miss Jean Feir has joined the Canadian Bank of Commerce staff here which was recently reduced by the resignation of Miss Gladys Stover now Mrs. H. Ratcliff.

Moves to Establish Historical Society

Markham municipal council at its regular meeting on Monday at Unionville took steps to set up a Historical Society whose duty it will be to compile a history of the municipality. Valuable records of localities, streams, historical objects, etc., in Markham are fast disappearing that were identified with the first settlers, and it has long been felt that something should be done to chronicle these facts in book form, and possibly assemble objects that have historical background.

Mr. A. D. Bruce who is conversant with the situation with a good grasp of pioneer history, addressed the council, and the following committee was appointed to act in conjunction with the Women's Institutes that have done so much toward this end throughout Markham Township:

Reeve Chas. Hooper, Unionville
Mrs. Robt. Rae, Unionville
Mrs. Ewart Stiver, Unionville
Mrs. G. A. Davison, Unionville
Mrs. George Kelly, Gormley RR2
Wesley C. Gohn, Gormley RR2
Mrs. Harvey Moyer, Stouffville
F. L. Button, K.C., Stouffville
Rev. Thos. Mitchell, Ringwood
Max Reesor, Markham
A. D. Bruce, Unionville RR1
R. Armstrong, Locust Hill
J. F. Francis, Thornhill

The foregoing have all been contacted and have agreed to lend their interest and support to the work in hand.

A bylaw was passed prohibiting the running at large of animals other than dogs, as provided by the Pounds Act, R.S.O. 1937, chap. 337.

A bylaw was also passed providing a penalty not exceeding \$50 for persons who obstruct or encumber any highway, bridge, ditch or culvert in the municipality.

A resolution introduced by Councillors Albert Reesor and R. L. Stiver petitioned the Ontario Dept. of Highways for the interim statutory grant under the Highways Act on an expenditure of \$20,000.

Deputy Reeve Clark and Councillor A. Reesor moved the payment of the monthly road accounts running into a sum of \$3,275.18, and Councillor Runney moved the payment of general accounts totalling \$625, and relief items of \$115, of which \$25 relief is payable to North York.

Reeve Chas. Hooper presided and introduced Mr. J. L. Trapp, organizer for the next Victory Loan who outlined the job that North York will be called on to do when the loan is floated this fall.

Returned Man Buys Garage Business

Mr. Alfred Thomas recently returned from overseas where he did his bit in stemming the German war machine in the air, has purchased the garage building at the extreme west end of town, corner of Main and 9th, from Ross Lewis, and will shortly establish himself in the garage business and service station work.

Tax Increased for Whitchurch Twp.

Last Thursday evening Whitchurch township wrestled until about midnight with a bylaw fixing the tax rate for 1944.

The general tax rate will be higher this year, by one-and-one-tenth mills in the general rate, which is about the only rate the council control. However, this does not tell the whole story because the county council went in for more spending and despite the general increase in assessment over the county the county tax rate shot upwards three-tenths of a mill. Secondary education advanced two-tenths, and then there is the increase in public school rates varying in the different school sections. Some sections with increased expenditures have added as much as six mills, and all quite beyond the control of the municipal council. Nevertheless it all registers on the tax bill, and in some sections will mean a very sharp advance, in others a very moderate increase in the total tax to be paid.

Cause for the advance of a mill or more in the general tax rate is largely due to the big gravel program being carried out this year where approximately 10,000 yards of gravel is being placed on the roads or in stock piles.

Members of council predicted that next year the amount of gravel to be purchased would be very low as a result of what is now being done.

Below is the three main tax rates struck, and are given with the comparative rate last year:

	1944	1943
County rate	3.8	3.5
Secondary Education	3.6	3.4
Township General rate	6.5	5.4

The rate for general township purposes of 6.5 is net after deducting the two mills subsidy allowed by the Ontario government. It will be recalled that the government which has been paying one mill on the local rate decided to pay a second mill on school taxes this year otherwise in Whitchurch the general tax rate would be 8.5 instead of 6.5.

Reeve George Leary presided at the meeting and Councillor L. J. Harper was in the chair during the passing of the bylaw. Other members present were Deputy Reeve Evans and Councillors Logan and Eugene Baker.

JOHN G. DALY DEAD

The death of John G. Daly of Napanee in his 80th year recalls the fact that this aged citizen of the northern town once lived in Stouffville, and was employed here during the short period in which the late J. F. Browncombe operated a store in the west end 40 years ago. He is remembered by quite a few of our residents with whom we have spoken. The late Mr. Daly is survived by his widow who is a daughter of the late James Richards of Uxbridge. The Daly family was widely known as tea distributors.

Pickering Not to be Saddled with Ajax Relief - Dr. Vivian

Dr. Vivian, Ontario Minister of Health has given emphatic assurance that the Township of Pickering will not be saddled with possible relief for the hundreds of new home owners at the Ajax plant, should this question arise after the war. Nor will they be obliged to pay hospitalization for indigent patients coming from this area, and compensation will be made to the municipality for any such hospital bills already paid by them.

This was revealed at the regular meeting of the council held at Brougham on Tuesday, when a report of an interview with the Minister was given by Councillor W.H. Westney. While Pickering has a signed agreement with Wartime Housing Ltd. relieving the township of school costs caused by the influx of war workers, no satisfactory agreement was obtained from this federal government concern as to payment of hospitalization and possible relief.

However, on the question of assistance in the matter of the Public Health nurse employed by Pickering, Dr. Vivian could give no help, but claimed that the township was too small a unit, and that payment was only being made to health areas involving entire counties.

The cost of employing a public health nurse in Pickering is about one half a mill, and this the Minister stated, would be the approximate cost should Pickering become part of a county area.

"If a township has enough 'gilt' and interest in the health of its people to go ahead and engage a nurse, they should get help, the same as a larger unit," Reeve Reesor declared. "We might be able to organize a southern group of Pickering, Whitby and East Whitby," he continued.

Councillor George Todd revealed

Municipalities to Issue Hall Licenses

According to word received recently by the Municipal Clerk, The Province of Ontario is no longer licensing public halls within the Province. The announcement further stated that the onus for licensing now falls upon the municipality. Fees paid to the Province after the first of June 1944 will be refunded by the Province in due course.

As the licensing of public halls is now a Municipal responsibility, it will be necessary for the Village to prepare a By-Law which will incorporate what ever safety measures may be deemed advisable by the Council and then set up a licensing committee to see that the provisions of the By-Law are met by all applications for Public Hall licenses.

In view of the tragedies at Boston and the more recent Moose Hall disaster in Hamilton, a serious responsibility rests with the licensing bodies, and in leaving the matter in the hands of the municipalities, the Provincial Authorities, possibly incorrectly assume, that better safety measures will be adopted.

Farm Hand Found Dead in Bed

Visiting Claremont on Saturday night where he had his hair cut and appeared to be in normal condition, Frank Williamson, employee on the Sam Fretz farm at Altona, was found dead in bed about 9.30 on Sunday morning. He had passed away in his sleep quite some time before the discovery was made by the Fretz family. Coroner Dr. S. S. Ball was called and pronounced death due to heart trouble. Deceased was in his 70th year.

Frank Williamson, a son of William Williamson, was born on his father's farm next to the Wideman church on the 8th concession of Markham. Here he grew to manhood and ultimately worked the farm himself. He married a Miss Levans of Listowel, who died some years ago. One son—Arthur survives the father, also two sisters, Mrs. Eli Shank and Mrs. Clark Johnson, and two brothers Fred of Markham and William in Western Canada. One sister and one brother predeceased him.

For a year and a half now Frank had been engaged on the Fretz farm, and was well known in the locality as well as throughout Markham. He appeared in normal health when he accompanied Mr. Fretz to Claremont on Saturday, and on reaching home retired in the usual manner.

The funeral on Tuesday from Clendeney's parlors in Markham proceeded to Grace cemetery, Markham, for interment.

The municipal council September meeting will be held this Thursday evening.

Local CWAC Officer Dines with Royalty in England

Dines at Home of the Princess Royal - Had Experience with Robot

"Here's a spot of news for you—last Thursday, the few CWAC officers in this command, were asked to tea at Harwood, the home of Mary, the Princess Royal and her husband, the Earl of Harwood. We all met her and since she wore an A.T.S. uniform, we first saluted, then shook hands and bobbed (a stream-lined curtsy). It was quite an experience. She was very trim, pleasant and friendly, and in fact, shy, if anything. Half of the immense house is a convalescent home for wounded officers and three Canadian airmen joined in the party. At tea, I set next to Gerald Lascelles. He has some title or other, and is one of the two sons—also very pleasant. We left the place a couple of hours after we arrived and were taken to Leeds to see Alfred Lunt and Lynne Fontaine in, "There Shall be No Night." The Princess Royal didn't go to the play of course.

Then we were taken to a snazzy hotel for drinks and a chicken dinner.

Last evening I was taken to Scarborough and had a look at the North Sea, also spent a day at Officers' Course. The food standards here are so different than ours in Canada. I see plenty to talk about, but say nothing, but boy oh boy what I'd like to be able to say."

"I have just been moved again, and am at Aldershot now, so my mail will likely be forwarded there now.

Spent last night in London and am darned glad to be out of it and in a safe area. Wow, it's quite a feeling to hear old moaning winnie start to howl, then hear a chugging roar get louder and louder, stop, an interminable wait of a few seconds by the watch, and then a wham! I had been in London about an hour and was having the most scrumptious cup of tea when my baptism came. We all stood in an inside corridor away from glass, sipped on tea and listened to the bombs come over. Only a moron wouldn't feel a strange sensation when this experience happens, an eggbeater was whirring inside of me, but I tried to look calm and sipped the jolly old tea.

At any rate I'm out of it and I won't be back there again—thank goodness.

I hope you have about sixty barrels of apples at home—I miss fruit a great deal.

Got a spurt one day last week, and sent a dozen post cards to Canada.

Had a trip over the moors last week. It's very wild and rugged, with fern and heather and hundreds of sheep grazing and not a human for miles. Every so often you see a series of little walls that are rented to grouse shooters. Beaters chase the birds towards these blinds and then "Lord Put-Put" and his pals shoot the jolly little things and have a feed."

Mr. Ernie Woodward, proprietor of the Ajax-Stouffville bus line and the Silverthorn Garage here, was seriously injured in a motor crash at Newtonbrook near Port Hope on the weekend, when his car crashed into a tree. Mr. Woodward sustained severe injury to his mouth and face, also a fractured foot, and is now in the General Hospital in Toronto. A passenger in the same car was badly injured and is a hospital patient as well.

Miss Lou Harvey has returned to Toronto after visiting for two weeks with her sister Mrs. S. W. Hastings.

Tuesday morning's earthquake toppled over 100 chimneys at Cornwall.



Helen Abell, CWAC

Enrolment at High School All-time High

One hundred and thirty students enrolled at the Stouffville High School on Tuesday morning for the academic year about to begin. This is an all-time high for enrolment day and means that the school will carry the largest number of high school students since its beginning.

Principal Murphy will have as his assistants this year Miss Jean Collins, Mr. Paul Skerk who were on the staff last year, also Miss Mary Borisuk of Burlington and Miss Mary Johnston of Hamilton, both new teachers on the staff. There were 42 beginners enrolled while the remainder attended this or some other high school last term.

ALSIKE CROP IS NEXT TO NOTHING

Grain dealers in this locality inform us that the alsike yield in Ontario this year is almost negligible. It is estimated that the whole province will not yield more than five car loads of alsike. It would appear that weather conditions were not conducive to a heavy yield, and much of the seed killed out.

Red clover seed, however, promises to give a better return, and indications are that the yield will be generally satisfactory. Of course these crops do not weigh heavily in the local district, at least farmers on suitable land in Markham frequently have a field of either alsike or red clover, but north of Stouffville it is more rare. All in all these seeds are not by any means a main crop, and are more a side issue.

NOW IN ENGLAND



LAC Harvey Preston recently landed in England after being in training for a year mostly in Western Canada. Harvey is a son of Mrs. Harvey Preston, Vandonr.

—Photo by Sanders

Garageman Injured Near Port Hope

Mr. Ernie Woodward, proprietor of the Ajax-Stouffville bus line and the Silverthorn Garage here, was seriously injured in a motor crash at Newtonbrook near Port Hope on the weekend, when his car crashed into a tree. Mr. Woodward sustained severe injury to his mouth and face, also a fractured foot, and is now in the General Hospital in Toronto. A passenger in the same car was badly injured and is a hospital patient as well.

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Amazing Response to Tax Demand in Stouffville

While only about \$12,000 was due to the village of Stouffville on September first, being the first half of the tax demand for 1944, the ratepayers paid in a sum of some \$20,000, indicating that many took advantage of the 2 per cent discount on the second instalment due in December by paying it at this time with the first instalment. Total outstanding taxes to be received in December will now be not more than \$4,000. This is an unusual record, and is a reflection of the good times the people enjoy.

While a record has been established here in the payment of 1944 taxes, the town can also point to an outstanding record in the matter of unpaid taxes for other years. In this regard we almost have a clean sheet, with only \$54 outstanding on previous years back of 1944. During the depression years we had unpaid taxes totalling around \$3,000, but this has all been paid up and saved for the one item of \$54 the citizens of Stouffville do not owe any back taxes. Few municipalities can point to so good a record.