

The Stouffville Tribune

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

Vol. 57, No. 51

THE TRIBUNE, STOUFFVILLE, ONT., APRIL 18, 1946

TWELVE PAGES

Department Representative Finds Strong Opposition to Educational Scheme

Speaking before a considerable gathering of ratepayers from Markham and Stouffville, Mr. Arthur Duffin of the Department of Education declared that the High Schools in either of these municipalities would not be closed without a specific request from these towns, didn't quite satisfy the meeting.

Mr. Duffin was introduced by Inspector McKillop and was addressing a meeting to ascertain the feeling of the community in respect to enlarged school areas. As stated in this paper last week, the speaker had at a previous meeting in Markham said that it was possible that both Markham and Stouffville schools would be closed in order to get the required areas in York County. Consequently there was considerable concern felt over such a drastic move, and the strongest opposition was prepared against any such eventuality.

In opening his discussion Mr. Duffin reviewed the school situation in the province, and stated that the department held the opinion that for the most advantageous system High Schools should have at least 200 students attending. There are 165 High Schools and 200 Continuation Schools in the province, many of them with considerably less than 200 students.

He stated that records showed that only three out of a hundred students ever continue on to University, and the courses such as shop work, commercial and agriculture were not handled to any great extent in the smaller schools because of their small numbers making them impractical.

"We consider that a High School district should have from five to ten thousand population and an assessment of at least \$5,000,000, and a consultant committee has been set up in York County Council to consider the best means of dividing the county into larger areas," he said.

While he stated that the farmers surrounding such a municipality as Stouffville, have not had a great deal of "say" as to the running of the school, on the other hand he admitted, these same people owed considerable to Stouffville for maintaining their school at its present standard.

"Towns have had to build buildings in the past which they didn't really need, where busses could have been employed to transport the children to the larger centres."

"The Department is trying to get more equality in learning over the province," he said.

He stated that in Russia any child, no matter what his financial circumstances can go all the way from Grade I through University.

In conclusion Mr. Duffin said that the Department considered four optional courses of action in the matter, and these were to establish three large schools, at Richmond Hill, Aurora and Newmarket; to establish just two schools at Richmond Hill and Newmarket; to establish a large school at either Stouffville or Markham, or continue with both schools at Markham and Stouffville.

When the meeting was thrown open for discussion, John Rae, Warden of Ontario County was called on to state the case for his municipality, and said that while the matter had never been discussed in Ontario County Council, he was certain that portions of Pickering and Uxbridge Townships would like to enter into school areas at Stouffville and Markham, if these schools are to continue.

Fred Timbers, Whitchurch councillor stated that his township could be divided up to fit into areas for either Stouffville or schools on Yonge St.

"The Ontario Government shouldn't place the onus of setting the school area boundaries on the township councils," Reeve Chas Hooper of Markham township contended.

"Such a plan as the Department is suggesting would wreck our community life, and this aspect should be taken into consideration," stated Reeve Nolan of Stouffville.

"Your Department has just sanctioned a \$16,000 heating plant to service a large school here, and now you suggest that it be scrapped," he continued. Who would pay off the debentures?"

"The district board would take over all assets and liabilities," Mr. Duffin replied.

"And they get their money from Stouffville ratepayers who would also be asked to help build a much larger school at Aurora," the Reeve commented.

"The social life is greater in the smaller centres than in the large, and the student has a much better chance for the desired personal contacts in a smaller school," said J. A. Cattinack of the Markham School Board.

"Are you still prepared to pay our grants, if we decide to build a new school," asked Chas. Todds of the Markham Board?"

"We are," replied Mr. Duffin.

"That's all we want to know," said Mr. Todds.

"If Markham Township went into an area with Richmond Hill could

EDITORIAL

IS DECENTRALIZATION NO LONGER DESIRED?

During the closing years of the war, governments and people were saying that it would be much better if larger communities could be decentralized. Of course, they were thinking partly about the fact that larger centres make good bombing targets, yet they also had in mind that people live better in smaller centres, and may enjoy a higher standard of living on a smaller income. Isn't it amazing, then, to find so soon after this line of thought is promulgated, that the Ontario Dept. of Education is sending out public school inspectors to sell the people a scheme of centralization of education over the province. A centralization that would destroy numerous high schools in smaller towns, at the expense of larger towns. In other words a scheme that would make the larger town bigger, and the smaller town smaller.

When Mr. Duffin was addressing the ratepayers Monday night he was asked if he placed no value on the community life fostered by a High School, and he admitted that there was great value, but that it would naturally be lost in order to have the students attend a larger school. Then there arose in the audience a high school teacher from Toronto, who declared that he would sooner send his children to a smaller school like Stouffville's where the child could be a working part of every activity. In the big centre, he said, 90 per cent of the children do not take this active participation in the life of the school. The very smart become the leaders, and the hundreds of others who might be leaders in smaller schools, drifted into the background.

In storming the province in an effort to centralize secondary education, Department officials completely ignore the fact that only part of the child's education is gained behind a desk.

Whitchurch Sets Pay Rate for Teams

Whitchurch Township Council granted \$100 to the work of the Federation of Agriculture last Saturday, in response to an appeal made by Mr. Dalton Rumney of Markham who spoke to the council. In future a donation may be made to this farm group by adding it to the general tax rate when present legislation is completed.

Clerk Crawford stated when passing the accounts at this April meeting that there were no ratepayers on relief, the first time in some years.

Norman O'Boyle, Stouffville butcher was granted permission to lay a water pipe across the roadway on the 9th, to service a proposed new slaughter house.

The H.E.P.C. requested permission to cut a large elm tree at lot 5 and 6, con. 3, which interfere with the new transmission line being constructed from Leaside to Barrie. A sum of \$10 agreed on as the sum to be paid for the tree.

The Dept. of Highways approved of the road expenditure bylaw in the sum of \$25,000 for 1946.

Mrs. Roy Brown, Bethesda, complained about the condition of the ditches on the 5th which she alleged caused drainage to her lane, and asked that council repair the damage. No action was taken.

Teams will be paid for at the rate of 70c per hour, and for tractors \$1.75 it was agreed. Road accounts passed for payment totalled \$2851.69.

students from that township still come to our school, and if so, who would pay for them?" asked Mr. Cattinack.

"The Richmond Hill area would have to pay for them," said Mr. Duffin.

"The Department has been good in helping us develop our school, and now they want us to scrap it," contended Dr. H. B. Freel of the local board. "There is no larger percentage of students continue on to University in the larger schools than in the small," he said.

"This is a marginal school which could be carried on and will not want to close, and I think by the looks of things there'll be a school here for quite a long time," Mr. Duffin stated, as the discussion drew to a close.

"I don't believe the Minister would sanction a bylaw sending all of Markham Township to Richmond Hill without the consent of Markham village, even if County Council passed it," he concluded.



This fine residence situated in the business area on Main street will shortly bow to a face-lifting when the proprietor Mr. L. C. Rowbotham adds one or two store fronts after removing the veranda across the front. From the front wall to the street line is some 27 feet depth. When completed the

RETIRED THIRTY YEARS JOHN MADILL DEAD

A very consistent old gentleman, and resident of Stouffville for over 30 years, John Madill died at his home on Mill street on Saturday. He was in his 84th year. Born in Markham township, John was a farmer's son, and after his marriage to Dora Topham the couple took up farming spending most of their active time on the 10th concession until they retired in town.

He is survived by his wife, but no

family, and is the last of eleven children born to his parents.

Deceased lived a careful life, and the funeral service on Monday afternoon was taken by Rev. D. Davis. Interment was made in Stouffville cemetery.

Dickson Hill correspondent says: "Mr. Gamble's brother has returned by plane to England following an interesting visit in America. During his stay, he made flights to various points, including Montreal, South America and New York."

Late James H. Ratcliff Was Public-Spirited Citizen

Business Man Here Over 50 Years — Reeve for Several Terms, He Was Regarded as "Father of Our Domestic Water System"

The death of Jas. H. Ratcliff in his 80th year at his home in town on Thursday afternoon came as a shock to the community, since he had been down town and about his duties in the store only a week prior to his death caused by a severe heart attack.

The funeral on Saturday afternoon was one of the largest in town for some time. Service was conducted in the Baptist church by his pastor Rev. D. Macgregor, who took for his scripture reading the 90th psalm, and from Revelation 22. Refraining from mere eulogy on the part of the deceased his pastor sought rather to bring comfort and strength from these portions of God's Word. Two especially favourite hymns of the late Mr. Ratcliff's were sung, namely "Unto the Hills Around do I Lift up my Longing Eyes," and "Wonderful Love." Rev. W. S. Whitcombe and Rev. H. C. Slade who had been close friends, offered prayers. The pall bearers were Mr. Will Johnson, Mr. Russell Johnson, Mr. Thomas Rae, Mr.

later the firm moved down into the main business section where it has carried on for so many years, and is today one of the largest grocery stores in York county. After moving down town his brother John was associated with him until recently when Mr. Glen Ratcliff took over the management.

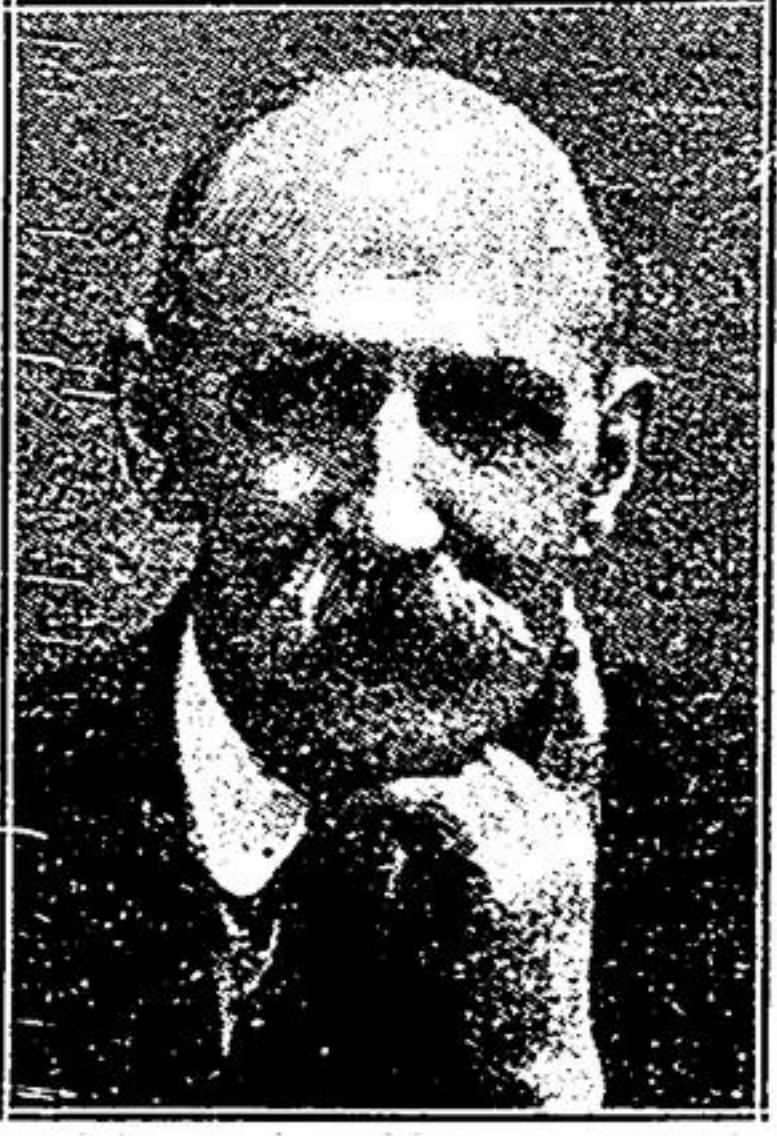
James Ratcliff was a public spirited man, served seven years as Reeve, and along with the late Dr. Walter Sangster was instrumental in securing the present fine domestic water supply the town enjoys. Mr. Ratcliff's determination in the face of bitter opposition at the time brought the matter to a vote in 1897, when the by-law carried by a mere handful.

He was active in the development of the Bethesda & Stouffville Telephone Co., and as President A. D. Bruce stated to The Tribune Saturday morning, "he was one of the old guard who for 28 years held office without a break." Mr. Bruce said Mr. Ratcliff staked his own fortune with others to carry the company through financial difficulties in bygone days. Further, he continued, "I will always remember his loyalty. If a public duty had to be done, his own affairs were set aside for the time. His determination and his vision were impressive," he concluded.

President of the Lawn Bowling Club several terms, he thoroughly enjoyed the game, and was a keen bowler right up to last summer.

Perhaps Mr. Ratcliff's platform powers were inherent, since he was the son of a minister, the late Frederick Ratcliff, while his grandfather was the late Rev. John Gerrie. James Ratcliff was born at Wingham and was educated at Peterboro. Being a son of a preacher of the Baptist faith and following the dictates of his own conscience he was always a staunch supporter of his church. A member of the local Baptist church for over fifty years his place will not be easily filled. Using the words of his pastor, "he was always there." Next to his minister he was perhaps closer to the work than any other member. It was largely through his insistence that the present edifice was built to replace the old church that stood farther east on Main street 25 years ago.

Twice married Mr. Ratcliff is survived by his second wife Clara Moore Lyburner. His first wife, the late Emma Hamilton died April 28, 1928. His family all born to his first marriage and who survive, are three daughters, Miss Frances Ratcliff, Brantford, Miss Grace Ratcliff, R.N., Toronto, Mrs. C. F. Adams (Marion) of London, two sons Ted of Toronto and Glenn who is proprietor of the Ratcliff grocery in Stouffville. Also surviving is a brother John of Stouffville in his 85th year, and a sister Mrs. George Matthews of Brantford.



James H. Ratcliff, a silent tribute in gorgeous floral tributes which banked the bier at the late home was a memorial basket from the Corporation of Stouffville, in recognition of the passing of a man who had served his municipality in a courageous and useful manner for so many years.

James Ratcliff located in Stouffville back in 1890 when he opened "The Pantry," a wet end grocery.

Drive Gets Underway for \$10,000 for Much-Needed Memorial Community Hall

The campaign opens this week in the drive to raise \$10,000 from the residents of Stouffville and district to be invested in a Community Hall to be built in Stouffville, and for which \$6,000 will be voted on in addition to the free-will offering, to make a grand sum of \$16,000 for the proposed building.

The hall will be erected on a site owned by the village now, and will be vested in the corporation. The auditorium will be available for concerts, entertainments, just as the old Ratcliff hall was used. It will be equipped with stage and dressing rooms.

The basement rooms will be available at all times for veterans of the district, and may be rented for serving meals, it will be fitted with kitchen facilities.

It should be understood that the ownership of the hall will be held by the corporation under the Community Hall Act, but basement accommodation for the veterans will be available to them at all times. Under the Act a trustee committee of seven is appointed to administer the conduct of the hall. If surrounding municipalities contribute to the hall then they will have membership on the committee. Otherwise the trustees will all be named from Stouffville, and are subject to re-appointment through the municipal councils from year to year.

The auditorium will be available for concerts, entertainments, etc. just as the former Ratcliff Hall was used. There will be a basement with kitchen facilities, plumbing, lounge, which will be needed for serving dinners, and the lounge will be available at all times to the veterans. To memorialize the veterans, plaques will be hung with the names of those who served inscribed thereon.

Stouffville and district, as all know, suffers from lack of hall accommodation. You owe something to the boys who did a grand job for us in war days. Can we not combine our obligations and find a place for the lads as well as a place for community meetings.

The campaign got away to a nice start this week with a dozen citizens pledging sums of \$200 and \$100, the veterans themselves giving \$500, and the Lions Club is expected to contribute at least \$500. By everybody lending a sympathetic ear (and purse) can we hope to reach the objective. Do your best and the undertaking will be a success.

F. L. Button, K.C. is campaign manager or chairman of the Committee.

HORTICULTURAL MEETING

Are you interested in adding charm and beauty to your home town? Are you willing to give some of your time and talent to a program of beautification? Do you wish to see and encourage a revival of the Stouffville Horticultural Society which did so much for town and community back in the days before the war? If so, you will plan now to attend a meeting in the United Church basement on Monday evening, April 29th, at 8 o'clock, when speakers prominent in the provincial Horticultural Society will be here to help us. Remember, it depends on you. Further announcement next week.

H.O.K.

Hears from Family in Poland

Driven out of Poland during the war and forced to march 200 miles was the fate of the family, brothers and sisters of Mr. Fred Feigl of Victoria Square. His grandparents caught in the area also were started on this terrible walk night and day too, but as the old gentleman was 92 and his wife 80 they could not stand up under the strain, and both died on the march. Mr. Feigl has just received information from his relatives the first since the beginning of the war, and until this recent letter he had no idea of their fate.

His brothers and sisters describe the march under the Germans as a terrible grueling. All they had for Christmas dinner was potato peelings, and said that when they were eating these peelings on the day, they wondered what brother Fred was eating in Canada. These unfortunate people lost all their stock, their home, and were really hit hard. There were ten in the family, but three brothers and Mr. Feigl's grandparents died.

Fred Feigl's wife was the former Louise Colby of Sandy Hook, just north of Uxbridge town, and member of a well known family there 25 years ago.

NO INTERRUPTION IN HYDRO

A notice printed in this issue announces a hydro shut-off this Thursday and again on Sunday. Arrangements have since been changed and there will be no interruption to the service as previous planned.

WILL FLY FROM IRELAND

Rev. Gibson Brown, local pastor of the Ringwood Bloomington circuit, who is visiting his native Ireland, will be back in Canada at Easter and will occupy his own pulpits on Sunday, April 28.

Mr. Brown expects to leave Belfast by aeroplane Easter Monday night to reach New York next day, April 23.

A \$10,000 AUCTION

The Oscar Cox estate sale west of Unionville last week drew a large crowd, Prentice & Prentice, auctioneers, reported. It was a very large auction running to \$10,000. The threshing machine realized \$1,300 going to Joe Percy of Armadale. The fine Holstein herd sold well, cows reaching \$190.

Robt. Snowball Heads Lawn Bowlers

The re-organization of the Stouffville Men's Lawn Bowling Club resulted in the following being elected: President, Robt. Snowball; Vice-president, Robert Johnson; Secretaries, T. B. Rae. Membership committee, W. R. Sanders, Bert Lickorish, Ross Ratcliff. Grounds-committee, J. B. Sanders, Bert Lickorish. Games committee, F. L. Button and T. B. Rae.

Ladies also re-organize.

The Ladies' Bowling Club held their annual meeting at the home of Mrs. George Storey on Friday evening, April 5th. After reports from the committees the election of officers took place, resulting as follows: President, Mrs. William Birkett; 1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. Lud Hoover; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mrs. George Storey; Secretary, Mrs. Gordon Lemon; Treasurer, Mrs. Fred Crossin; Con. Friday night games, Mrs. Thos. Jennings, Mrs. Lud Hoover; Membership Com., Mrs. Thos. Rae, Mrs. Geo. Lee, Mrs. Carl Bowdway; Games Com., Mrs. Rae and Mrs. Storey; Prize Com., Miss G. Todd and Mrs. Birkett. At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Gordon Lemon was presented with a very beautiful table lamp. The first local tournament on May 24th.

MRS. CHAS. WARD GETS UNEXPECTED NEWS

Mrs. Charlie Ward was suddenly called home to Georgetown last week where her father Edward Hill passed away unexpectedly. He was an employee of the Provincial Paper Mills at Georgetown for 30 years, and had recently been off work for three weeks, but appeared to have recovered. On the day of his death he was resting on the chesterfield and his wife and a daughter were engaged washing the dishes. A son was sitting by the father, and without any notice he was gone. Surviving besides his wife are two sons and four daughters. The late Mr. Hill was a Presbyterian, and a highly respected citizen of the district where he spent all his life.

FARM PROPERTIES SOLD

Mrs. Forfar has just sold 50 acres of land at lot 22, con. 8, Whitchurch, to a city buyer. At the same time the Forfars have bought lot 20 on the 9th of Whitchurch from Mr. Alf Yakely.

Another real estate transaction in the same township is recorded where the Chas. Phillip's place at lot 15, con. 8, has been sold to George Fockler.

Ten Assessment Appeals Sustained

Only ten appeals all for very small assessments were made against the 1946 Assessment in the Township of Whitchurch, Court of Revision held on Saturday when it was revealed that practically all appeals were made by cottage owners at Musselman's. In each case the assessment had been increased \$50 on cottages with assessments of around \$300 to \$400. All valuations, made by the assessor Fred Cummings were sustained.

The total roll was increased by \$22,000 due to new construction general small increases, and the roll was confirmed, and court adjourned.

Some of the protests came from cottagers paying as low as \$5.00 for years, and which had gone up to \$8.00 and \$9.00. Councillors styled the complaints as ridiculous.

Reeve L. P. Evans conducted the appeal court, and members were Ed. Logan, I.J. Harper, Ivan McLaughlin and Fred Timbers.