

# The Stouffville Tribune

Vol. 59, No. 49

THE TRIBUNE, STOUFFVILLE, ONT., APRIL 8, 1948

TWELVE PAGES

## Early Action is Urged On Vandorf Subway

Harvey Rose, Chief Engineer for York County, was instructed to communicate with the Board of Railway Commissioners to expedite a hearing for Toronto and York Roads Commission for approval of alterations to the subway at Vandorf on the 4th concession of Whitechurch at a meeting on Monday.

J. Kingsley Graham, K.C. chairman of the commission, said the subway was a bottleneck and a threat to traffic. CNR tracks run over the subway, which was planned by railroad officials. It was reported that the commission has received many complaints of the conditions.

Mr. Graham said that should the Board of Railway Commissioners want the hearing to be held in Ottawa, the commission would be willing to attend.

## Will Send Ottawa Account for \$27,000

Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. at Ottawa will have to consider a claim for \$27,000 made this week by combined councils of Pickering township and Ontario County for services to the wartime housing community at Ajax.

An official of the corporation in Toronto said the claim, when received here, will be passed to Ottawa for a final decision.

The council said claims were based on expenses incurred for administration of crown lands at Ajax for the past six years.

The bill totals costs for administration of justice, care of neglected children, indigent hospitalization, after-care of tuberculosis patients and education for secondary school students.

## DOGS OFF THE STREETS

Constable Rusnell is warning one and all persons owning or harboring dogs that the bylaw forbidding them to run at large will be enforced from the date of this notice. During the winter season no effort was made to force dog-owners to live up to the terms of the by-law, but now with gardening about to commence, and lawns being tended, it is very annoying to have dogs racing over them. Especially at this season when the grass is tender, dogs become a nuisance, and therefore must be kept on leash.

Owners of dogs running at large therefore may incur a fine of \$5 if they do not keep their dogs tied up or on a leash.

## Ninety-One



## ELIZABETH HILL

A keen conversationalist, Miss Elizabeth Hill poses at her home in Bloomington before The Tribune camera last week, on her 91st birthday.

## Dust Nuisance Resembles Horse and Buggy Days

The surface treatment given our Main street pavement last September by the Toronto & York Road Commission is proving highly unsatisfactory to business men and persons who live along Main street.

Dust from the soft stone put on carries us back to the days of the old gravel road. Town workmen have been unable to properly sweep the surface, and as we go to press efforts are being made to get fire hose to flush the street in the business area at least.

Action of the county in laying this material on the pavement and seemingly spoiling our fine road surface is strongly resented, which according to the reeve was done without any notification. It is now hoped that the alleged error can be corrected, and representation will be made to the Dept. of Highways in Toronto in respect to the matter. The Dept. of Highways now have the care of this surface in their charge from the 10th concession to the C.N.R. tracks.

## MOVED FROM MARKHAM TWP. TO WHITCHURCH

Mr. and Mrs. Harry White who have farmed on the 4th of Markham for some years moved from the place last week and have taken up residence in the Emmerson house at Bethesda. The farm at Gormley has been sold to a Mr. Mumberson.

## GORMLEY BUSINESS MAN WILL BUILD NEW HOME

Feed and fuel dealer at Gormley, Mr. Frank Harvey is holding an auction sale of household furniture prior to vacating the residence now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey next the M.B.C. church there. The property has been taken over by the church as a parsonage.

Mr. Harvey has acquired a small acreage on the 4th concession just south of Old Gormley and will commence building operation there right away. Just as soon as the garage is completed they will occupy it while the house is being built during the summer.

## Wig-Wag at Crossing Comes Expensive

Markham Township Council did not look with favor on the proposed installation of a wig-wag warning sign on a railway crossing in the south-east part of the county, when it was learned that the installation charges would be \$3,600. After that there is an annual cost for upkeep of \$250 per year of which the municipality would pay half.

It is expected that a petition will be circulated in the municipality against the installation of the proposed warning sign. Said one observer: "the crossing referred to is no worse than several others over the municipality, and if one gets a wig-wag, then the others should have them," and the cost is just prohibitive."

There are definite warning signs on all these crossings, and accidents are caused by the deliberate indifference of the car drivers. It cannot be expected that tax payers are to be burdened with heavy payments for this sort of protection for the few who will not take the time to safeguard their own interests when approaching railway crossings.

## Moved from Lemonville Burned Out Two Weeks

Moving from the Ira Ramer place north of Lemonville, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hill lost their home which they just got settled in near Vivian, together with all the contents last Sunday by fire.

After giving up employment with Mr. Ramer the Hill family consisting of mother and father, one daughter and two children, (wards of the Children's Aid,) moved to a house on the farm of Mr. Hill's father west of Vivian. From some unknown cause the frame dwelling caught fire on Sunday, and was burning lively before the occupants knew it was afire.

Mr. Hill was barely able to get the children out, and the family dog was burned so badly it had to be destroyed.

All possessions the family had in the world were lost, including the last bit of clothing they owned, and everything about the house in the way of furniture and linen, dishes, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cook of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, were visiting at the home of Clarion Baker last week. Clarion met Mr. Cook on his trip to Poland two years ago, and the pair enjoyed a reunion at the Baker home in Whitechurch.

## BIRTHS

**McDOWELL**—At the Tillsonburg Soldier's Memorial Hospital on Monday, March 29, to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley H. McDowell, R.R.1, Tillsonburg, a daughter, Beverly Joyce.

**SHELSON**—At the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville, Saturday, April 3, 1948, to Mr. and Mrs. James E. Shelson, Stouffville, a daughter, Margaret Jean.

**STECKLEY**—At the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville, Saturday, April 3, 1948, to Mr. and Mrs. Levi Steckley, Gormley, a daughter.

**DICKINSON**—At the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville, Sunday, April 4, 1948, to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Dickinson, Goodwood, a daughter.

Coming to the Stanley Theatre, May 3 and 4, "Louisiana," all star cast, proceeds in aid of Memorial Hall fund.

## Buys Fifty Acres At Auction Sale

Forest Johnston was the purchaser of the 50 acre farm belonging to the estate of the late William Whittleton, and located on the 3rd concession of Uxbridge south of Goodwood a few miles.

The sale was made on Saturday when the place passed under the hammer of Auctioneer A.S. Farmer, who dropped the place to Mr. Johnston for \$2,500. The auctioneer declared that the buildings alone were worth about the total paid for the farm, located in a rather difficult sideroad that is isolated in winter season.

## German Foe Tells of Last Fateful Battle With Nephew of Local Couple

It is just five years last Saturday since Pilot Officer John Newton Miller's Spitfire spun into the Mediterranean off Cap Passero, Sicily, marking the flight to death of young Miller who was a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. John Miller of Stouffville, resident on Montreal street since coming here five years ago from Goodwood.

Strange as it may seem, the tribute to a gallant officer comes from an advisory who participated in that last air battle of Miller's.

Full of respect for a worthy foe, Lieut. Heinz Schlechter, Messerschmitt pilot of the German Luftwaffe, tells of young Miller's last fight. One in which the Canadian RAF flyer accepted two-to-one odds and came within a split second of coming off a winner. It was a split second in which the leader of a German two-man section got in a burst of fire across Miller's line of flight as the Spit was bearing down on the number two man with guns blazing.

Years after the incident, Lt. Schlechter could not get the memory of the battle out of mind. As the lone witness to the encounter still alive he wrote about a year ago to Maurice Smith, assistant editor of "Flight," British Aviation magazine. The letter has been forwarded by the British Air Ministry to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Miller, 166 Hampton Ave., with a notation from the air officials. "Investigation has proved that it (Schlechter's letter) undoubtedly referred to your son," the note said.

The German tells that he was flying in a section on patrol off Sicily and spotted a Spitfire slowly circling a spot above the sea. He and his lead, Lieut. Bernd Schneider, a 21-year-old veteran with 27 confirmed kills, turned their Me109's to attack.

"Bernd attacked but the Spitfire got away so quickly that the attack was fruitless. I did not fire but covered my friend from the rear. Our unknown enemy dodged every attack," wrote Schlechter. He explained that during the attack the reason for the Spitfire's low circling was evident. A man was clinging to a life-raft in the sea. (Subsequent investigations by the ministry established that this was Miller's commanding officer who had crashed.)

After 15 minutes, the letter tells, the Germans gave up and climbed away. Fuel was getting short. Suddenly, however, the Spitfire was on their tail. "We realized what we were up against.....This man was no novice but a first rate man who meant to settle this fight one way or the other.....It would have been easy for him to have gone into cloud, but he did not. Suddenly he came toward us with the evident intention of shooting one of us down. I was so surprised I forgot to fire, but Bernd fired a fraction of a second before the Spitfire pilot who flew into a hail of bullets."

The letter continued that the Spitfire went out of control and plunged into the sea without catching fire. "The waves rolled high like a memorial which the unknown man had erected as a token of parting with life, then swirled together and closed the gap made by the aircraft."

Schlechter described the section's return to base. "Bernd climbed out of his aircraft and was quiet. War had its will and we lived from day to day.....I have never forgotten this man."

## BOWLERS ATTENTION

Meeting of the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club will be held in the Telephone office on Wednesday, April 14th, at 8 p.m. All members and prospective members are urged to attend. T. B. Rae, sec'y; Robt. Snowball, pres.

## RINGWOOD COUPLE RETURN FROM MONTH IN UNCLE SAM'S DOMAIN

Mr. and Mrs. Delos Graham are home again after spending about a month in the United States on an extended visit among relatives. They visited the homes of his three brothers, Isaac, Norman, and Edward, and the families of his two sisters who are now deceased. The trip took them through Michigan, and on to Chicago and Minneapolis, travelling by train.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham report that excellent weather prevailed throughout, and a warm welcome wherever they visited was accorded them.

## Longest in Business



## J. MONKHOUSE

Fifty-seven years on main street, John Monkhouse, merchant tailor, is the dean of the local business men. He is down to work every business day, and recently marked up another birthday.

## Magistrate Makes First Visit to Town

David Dunn, former garage owner in Stouffville, was awarded \$178.24 with costs in Division Court on Monday against Mel. Venn, for paint job and repairs on a car owned by Venn. The original claim was \$203.24, reduced by the court \$25, on account of alleged bad workmanship particularly on the paint job.

Reg. Button represented Dunn, while Venn conducted his own case. He maintained that the apprentice work on the car resulted in gouges being made in the body with the electric sander, and Dunn admitted that there was some defect around a door of the car.

The total account of \$203.24 included certain rental agreed to be paid by Venn for use of space in the garage where he could repair cars, since styled himself a mechanic.

Magistrate Factor presided, and this being his first visit to Stouffville he was officially welcomed by the reeve.

## High-Class Pickering Farm Changes Hands

After 35 years on the one farm, Mr. Chas. Gostick, this week entered into an agreement for the sale of his 150 acre farm at lot 26, con. 8, Pickering, to Mr. David McDowell of Markham township.

The Gostick farm is one of the best in Pickering, under high state of cultivation, with good buildings throughout. Mr. Gostick's thoughts turned to selling because he does not feel equal to the heavy work any longer, and with hired help hard to get, he decided to give up after these 33 years of successful farming.

On Tuesday, April 20, Mr. Gostick will offer by public auction his fine herd of Ayrshire cows, young stock, and all the implements, etc., on the place. It will be one of the big sales of the year.

## Native of Uxbridge, Mrs. John Forgie Dead

The death of Mrs. John Forgie who passed away at her home in Dunbarton, will be learned with general regret by a wide acquaintance of the family in the Claremont and Uxbridge township locality. Mrs. Forgie was a daughter of Uxbridge pioneer Mr. and Mrs. James Howitt, in which township she was born.

After her marriage to John Forgie the couple settled on the townline north of Claremont on the Dawson farm. Ten years ago they retired in Dunbarton. Besides the husband two sons survive the mother, they being William Forgie of Detroit and Murray of Markham. Four sisters also survive Mrs. Forgie, they being Mrs. George Coates, Uxbridge township; Mrs. Wellington Wideman, Markham Township; Mrs. Bertha Carruthers, Atha, and Mrs. John Soden, Brougham.

Mrs. Forgie was active in church work and all worthwhile undertakings for the benefit of the district in which she lived. Her death was the culmination of quite a long illness.

The funeral proceeded to Ershine cemetery, following a public service held in the Dunbarton United Church.

## CLAREMONT

The Mission Band will hold its April meeting in the Sunday School room of the United Church next Sunday at 2.30 p.m.

Mrs. Roy Morgan and Miss Mary Morgan and friend from Stouffville visited Mr. and Mrs. Archie Fleming of Unionville on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Ball and daughters Helen and Donna visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Morgan on Sunday.

## Local Musical Festival Draws Capacity House, Continues This Week

A packed house for the opening evening of the Sacred Musical Festival on Saturday evening in Stouffville showed the youthful contestants the interest of the community on their behalf.

Each in their turn did a grand performance, and the audience were only sorry they couldn't all win.

Rev. Norman Rowan acted as chairman for the evening, and the judges were Mr. David Tees, choir leader of Fairlawn United, assisted by Miss Rushton who judged the piano technique.

Cash prizes were donated to the winners in the sum of \$15, \$10 and \$5.00.

The prize winning contestants

were as follows:

- Male Quartette  
1st—Dixon's Hill Quartette, Bob McDowell, Lloyd Wideman, Warren Moyer, Lawrence Barkey; 2nd—Stouffville Quartette, Bert Stouffer, Howard Baker, Keith Clarke, Dave Ratcliff; 3rd—Uxbridge Quartette, Harold Brethour, Ted Cleland, Garnet Gray.
- Ladies Solo  
1st, Mary Hutchinson; 2nd, Helen Ratcliff; 3rd, Isabel Stewart.
- Piano Solo  
Thirteen years and under, 1st, Patricia Stansfield; 2nd, Louise Clarke; 3rd, Jean Paisley.
- Girls Solo  
Under 13 years, 1st, Roberta Bone; 2nd, Marilyn Bone; 3rd, Ellen Steckley.

## Maple Syrup Production Is Normal on Local Farms

Ratcliff Bros., or perhaps we should say Howard Ratcliff, has been extracting sap from 2000 trees on the McCormick property at Vivian, which was acquired from the estate several years ago. Mr. Sam Fretz is taking the luscious liquid from 400 trees and several other farmers have smaller tappings of 100 and 200 trees. Thus the maple syrup harvest in the nearby locality is about normal again this spring, with the run of sap being a good average.

The price of maple syrup \$5 per gallon has taken the edge off for some householders who feel that the price has got beyond their capacity to pay. However, farmers who hire help in the bush pay 50c an hour and cannot afford to sell for the old price of syrup of around \$4.00 to \$4.50 per gallon.

Last year some parts of Ontario were paying as much as \$6 and \$7 per gallon, hence the rate in this

district does not seem so high in comparison. However, it's a long way from the so-called good old days when you were asked no more than \$2.50 a gallon.

In the light of all other costs maple syrup is not too high at \$3 gallon, and while many people will not pay that price, there is no lack of buyers to take up all the available syrup that will be made in the Stouffville district.

One of the best runs came last weekend, and those who did not tend their bush over night found the pails running over. The run last Sunday was said to be good, and so far as we know farmers saw to it that the sap did not go to waste, and other farmers even boiled that day.

On the Sam Fretz farm no effort was made to collect the sap. "We take the Sabbath day for rest," said Mr. Fretz, and do not worry about the sap, even if the pails run over.

## Gravel Prices Recede from Peak in Markham Township

Gravel will be laid down on the roads of Markham Township this year at a cost of \$1.25 per yard, a reduction of 10c per yard as compared with a year ago. Frank Roberts is again the successful tenderer. He has been selling gravel to the municipality for 17 years.

Stouffville Sand & Gravel tendered a little higher price. Mr. Roberts will provide 4,000 yards of gravel in the bin at the pit for the township truck at 55c a yard, which was also a tender quotation.

A group of ladies from Victoria Square spent an hour at the council chambers observing how a council functions. On behalf of the group Mrs. R. Brumwell expressed their thanks, and Mr. Griffin assured them they would be welcome to return at any time.

Councillor Win Timbers and Councillor Fred Wicks moved a resolution to purchase a Case Tractor with mower attachment at a cost of \$1735. Unanimous approval was found for the move, and the machine is expected to be on hand for the first cutting of weeds. In fact immediate delivery is likely. Last year the township spent over \$1,100 cutting weeds with rented equipment, and estimated the machine will pay for itself in two years.

Culverts required by farmers or others will not leave the township yard until paid for, according to a stand taken by council, and passed on to the road superintendents.

The reeve refused to approve of a resolution which Deputy Reeve D. Rumney said he would support and which Councillor Win Timbers favored to pay some \$300 balance expended by Mr. Bartlett for a private drain at south end of Unionville. Mr. Timbers said "this man should not be out of pocket on this and I don't see why we couldn't pay him and try to collect from the people benefited in the area served by the drain."

Mr. Bartlett caused the drain to be built and met the entire cost. It is of benefit to ten or fifteen property owners who it was said felt the benefit this spring by having their cellars drained.

"We simply have no authority to contribute to this drain. It would be illegal to do so, and I favor consulting our solicitor before we come to that," said Reeve Griffin, who further termed such a move, "a misappropriation of funds."

Councillor Fred Wicks said that if the council paid this item, they may expect to do so in many other instances for private drainage. "I think these people ought to pay who empty into the drain, and

I am willing to interview them," said the Reeve, who promised to do so shortly. He will be accompanied by Superintendent Wm. Clark.

The Isolation Hospital, Toronto, notified council that rates had advanced and henceforth non-resident patients will be charged \$8 per day instead of the former \$4.

It was decided to advise the local telephone companies that they should notify the township any time they contemplate a new pole line in the township, since many lines now serving are set in the ditches in such a manner as to be in the way of road machinery.

## Engagements

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hoover announce the engagement of their only daughter, Margaret Jean to John Bruce Empringham, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Empringham of Gormley; the wedding to take place on April 10th, in the United Missionary Church, Markham.

Mr. and Mrs. George Middleton, Stouffville, announce the engagement of their daughter Velma Jane to Donald William Scorgie, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Scorgie of Toronto, the marriage to take place quietly in Stouffville, April 24th.

## Lions Disbursed \$1000 on Various Charitable Works

A summary of monies expended by the Stouffville Lions Club last year on various local charitable works discloses that practically \$1000 was disbursed from the club's welfare funds.

Medical accounts paid amounted to \$46.50, and sight conservation \$12; sports activities \$395; the boy scouts were given \$100 and Ashunyoong camp \$100; the Stouffville High School Memorial Fund received \$300 while miscellaneous amounts totalled \$22.

The Easter Thankoffering meeting of the W.M.S. will be held in the United Church on Thursday, April 8th, at 2.45 p.m. The worship service will be conducted by Mrs. Clayton Baker and the guest speaker will be Mrs. W. R. Lang, sec'y of Temperance and Christian Citizenship on the Dominion board. There will also be special music. All the ladies are cordially invited.