

# The Stouffville Tribune

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## Fifteen Years Ago a Hobby, Now a Thriving Business is A. S. Farmer's Mink Ranch



In 1937, nearly fifteen years ago Alvin S. Farmer of Gormley purchased two mink, never realizing that in the distant future these two small pens would be expanded into one of the largest mink ranches in the district.

"It was nothing more than a hobby," commented the proud owner as he cast a glance over his mink kingdom, "one which I never expected would attain these results."

As Mr. Farmer watched his gleaming fur-bearing animals jump crazily in their cages we caught a glimpse of a far distant dream being realized before the very eyes of this well-known Gormley resident. Perhaps fifteen years ago when Alvin Farmer placed two small mink inside their cages he couldn't believe that such a thriving business might develop but in the very back corner of his mind there was a desire, a hope that some day their numbers would be doubled, yes, increased by tens and even hundreds.

When Alvin Farmer began to develop his mink ranch, the animals were not plentiful, although the prices were comparatively the same as today. The dangers of disease and hot weather which has taken a terrific toll from some mink ranches, all had to be faced by Mr. Farmer with encouraging success. Dampness is a definite mink killer and because of this the pens must be kept clean and dry at all times.

During the last few years the Farmer Mink Ranch has expanded greatly. Mr. Farmer can justly boast of one of the finest water systems to be installed in a mink ranch anywhere in Canada. With the turn of a tap some fifty mink can be watered at one time. This job done manually would take over two hours while fifteen or twenty minutes is plenty of time with this up-to-date method. Last year a large new mink shelter was erected which is capable of housing one hundred breeders and three hundred pelters. Other buildings have been repaired to give the fur bearers the utmost protection against the beating summer sun.

Food ingredients play an impor-

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## RINGWOOD RESIDENT ARTHUR EMMERSON BURIED ON TUESDAY

On Saturday, Feb. 2, Mr. George Arthur Emmerson of Ringwood passed away after a brief illness. The deceased although not in the best of health during the summer had been feeling quite well only a few days before his death.

Born near Lemonville, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Emmerson, the deceased lived for some time on the sixth concession of Whitchurch and Bethesda before moving to Ringwood where he has lived for the past year. A farmer in his earlier life Mr. Emmerson had been living retired for some time. He was in his 59th year.

Besides his wife he leaves to mourn his passing one daughter, Mrs. F. Jemmett (Margaret) of Ringwood, and four sons, Melbourne of Stouffville, and Leland, Lorne and Murray, all of Ringwood. There are also two sisters, Mrs. Wilmet Brown of Ringwood and Mrs. Tom Brown of Colborne.

Funeral service was held at the L. E. O'Neill Chapel on Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. conducted by Rev. R. Chapin of Greenbank with interment in Stouffville Cemetery. Pall bearers were Ross Winterstein, Stewart Rae, Clarence Atkinson, Bert Tann, Roy Smith and Earn Legeer.

## LOCAL COUNCILLOR ON MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

Mr. Glenn Ratcliff, local councillor and grocery merchant, will embark on a winter cruise this Wednesday that will carry him through the Mediterranean, returning overland to London, England. Mr. Ratcliff will sail from New York this week. At present his trip calls for a stop of six days in Egypt and Mr. Ratcliff is not certain if plans will have to be altered for this stopover due to the unsettled conditions of the country. Returning our Stouffville traveller will go overland through Italy to Paris and London, prior to returning home. The entire trip will require some two months.

Visitors with Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Briard over the weekend were their daughter, Mrs. L. Gee of Montreal, Que., and their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W. Briard of Collingwood.

## MEET TO DISCUSS 75TH. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

A joint meeting of representatives of all town organizations has been called by the Stouffville Municipal Council to discuss plans for celebrating the town's 75th anniversary sometime during this summer. The meeting will be held in the municipal hall and official notice will be given the executive of each organization by Clerk Garfield Brown.

Last such celebration of this nature was held in conjunction with the Diamond Jubilee Celebration in Canada in 1927.

If it is determined by the forthcoming joint meeting to proceed with a celebration, committees will be named to handle the various program items, and begin preparations.

## SUB-DIVIDER SAYS REPUTATION HURT BY ADVERSE REPORTS IN WEEKLY PRESS

"I should be suing somebody for damaging my reputation and my business," declared Mr. Teetzel, real estate operator, and subdivider of the Harding subdivision in Markham Township. The statement was made at the regular meeting of Markham Township Council on Monday afternoon, and arose over certain statements which appeared in the local press, and attributed to Councillor LeMasurier. The statements concern a domestic water system installed by Mr. Teetzel in the first con. sub-division, and over which there has arisen a considerable dispute.

Councillor LeMasurier in his defence stated that the letter which appeared in the press was a statement made by the Township Plumbing Inspector Mr. Galbraith. Mr. Teetzel stated that his water line was laid out by a reputable engineer recommended to him by the clerk of Richmond Hill. He charged that the matter was a scheme by council to make him pay for a water line along Palmer Ave in which he was not interested. Palmer Ave is a dividing street between Elmwood Park subdivision and Mr. Teetzel's Harding Park subdivision. He stated that he had received a verbal okay to proceed with the water lines.

"We gave an okay to go ahead and get the contractor, but not an okay of the system," stated Councillor James.

"But you must have approved the system," continued Councillor LeMasurier.

"How could we approve a system that wasn't even in," retorted Councillor Hooper.

Mr. Teetzel admitted that he had nothing in writing.

Mr. James told the gathering that he never heard any discussion about getting Teetzel water from Richmond Hill.

"This matter of water service would never have come up if I hadn't inquired into it," stated Councillor LeMasurier.

Mr. Flinn, a resident of the Harding sub-division told council that he had been waiting more than a year for water, and unless there was some action he intended to take the matter further. He was told that the matter was now in the hands of the newly named water committee.

"There's no use in you coming here shooting off," we haven't been idle, but all we can do is what the solicitor and engineer say is the best way," stated Deputy Reeve James.

Following the lengthy discussion a motion proposed by Councillor Lennie for the water committee to bring in a full report on the situation particularly as it effected those ratepayers who had appeared before the meeting with complaints. The resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy DeGeer of Wordsworth, Sask., and the former's sister, Nellie Hayward, of Siloam called on Mrs. V. DeGeer, Tenth St. They are returning after an extended motor trip to Trenton, Ottawa and U.S.A.

## New Markham Councillor Is Centre of Bitter Debate

Markham Township Council meeting in regular session at Unionville on Monday afternoon found their session completely disrupted midway through the afternoon as the conduct of Councillor Alf. LeMasurier, new member on this year's board, became the subject of bitter controversy.

Council received seven applications for the office of assistant assessor and these applicants will be interviewed personally at a later date. As Clerk Chas. Hoover proceeded to open five applications for the newly created office of treasurer, Councillor LeMasurier spoke out in opposition to engaging a new member on the staff.

"I'm opposed to increasing the staff and don't think that there is any justification for hiring a treasurer," declared Councillor LeMasurier.

Deputy-Reeve James informed Mr. LeMasurier he was out of order.

Mr. LeMasurier asked that Mrs. Robt. Rae, a member of the office staff be brought into the council chamber for questioning at this point.

Other members of council strenuously opposed the move but finally consented to allow Councillor LeMasurier to question Mrs. Rae following the opening of the treasurer applications. Mr. LeMasurier told council he believed Mrs. Rae could throw some light on the need of additional help.

"I believe that hiring a treasurer is superfluous," stated Councillor LeMasurier. "What we need is to have the work more properly divided among our present staff," he added.

Deputy-Reeve James stated that he favoured another man in the office to work in the capacity of an under-study to Clerk Hoover.

"You were going to bring in a resolution to let the clerk out," Councillor Hooper declared to Councillor LeMasurier.

"I was no such a thing," retorted the councillor.

"You were going to let Mrs. Rae out too," continued Mr. Hooper.

"I recommend that you hire Mrs. Rae as full-time treasurer, I'm only trying to save the taxpayer money," said Mr. LeMasurier.

"Some of us have been here for a long time and know that our clerk needs more help, you've only been here a month and seem to think you know an awful lot," Reeve Timbers told the new councillor.

At this juncture Deputy-Reeve James turning to Councillor LeMasurier stated, "I've been accused of blocking water coming down from Richmond Hill to Langstaff which is a lot of nonsense."

Councillor Hooper proposed a resolution asking that Councillor LeMasurier publish a public apology in the three local newspapers for statements made concerning the pay received by last year's council.

"I object to statements by Councillor LeMasurier that I brought in a bylaw to raise the pay, anyone knows that bylaws are brought in blank—I also object to the statement that Dalton Rumney received \$30 too much," said Mr. Hooper.

"How long are you going to keep running to the newspapers with little notes—why you don't even treat our reeve with courtesy—you've condemned every employee we have except one, and said there was only one worthy of a raise in salary," continued Mr. Hooper in heated tones.

Councillor LeMasurier attempted to break in with a denial at various points as Mr. Hooper continued his condemnation, but without success. At the conclusion of the debate Councillor LeMasurier demanded that Mr. Hooper apologize for statements made concerning him during the afternoon, but his demand was ignored.

The meeting adjourned at this point, without continuance of further business.

## LIONEL CONACHER HERE FOR CARNIVAL

A big attraction at the Stouffville Athletic Club Carnival to be held on Wednesday night, Feb. 13, will be the appearance of the one and only Lionel Conacher. The ex-N.H.L. pro and former Provincial Recreational Commissioner is known far and wide for his activities in the world of sport. Probably one of the greatest sportsmen that Canada has ever produced, Lionel, nick named the "Big Train" will referee the Pee Wee N.H.L. game from 7:30 p.m. to 8 o'clock. During this half hour all four clubs will have a chance to take part.

No stone is being left unturned by members of the Athletic Club to make their Valentine Carnival one of the finest to be presented. Hundreds of prizes are being offered and all those who take part are aiding in the success of the night's entertainment.

Owing to the King's death, the Lions Club Bingo has been advanced from this Friday until Feb. 22nd.

## The King is Dead

### Long Live the Queen

King George VI died unexpectedly to-day. The monarch of 500,000,000 British subjects died peacefully in his sleep at his country home at Sandringham, 60 miles north of London. Announcement was made at Sandringham and later at Buckingham Palace, at 10:45 A.M. (5:45) Toronto time.

He was 56 and had been monarch since 1936 when he assumed the throne following abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII, now Duke of Windsor.

Princess Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen Elizabeth II by a Privy Council meeting Wednesday and is flying back to London from her tour in Africa.

## 90-YEAR-OLD RECALLS HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS IN MARKHAM

On Monday, Feb. 11th, Mr. James Gleason, retired farmer at North Markham, will celebrate his 90th birthday. Born on a farm near Markham Village, Mr. Gleason attended private school for a number of years before entering Markham Public School. Fifty years ago Mr. Gleason started up farming in North Markham where he remains with his wife at the present time.

In scanning back over the bygone days Mr. Gleason recalls clearly when both the eighth concession and No. 7 were ordinary gravel roads. Markham village at that time extended only to the railroad tracks with the remainder being farm land. Mr. Gleason can remember clearly his public school days where the stern master ruled over his students with a birch bark cane and the children struggled to school over waist high snow banks and in sub zero temperatures. Many of the boys who attended were in their early twenties and because of the necessity of earning money whenever possible they worked during the summer months and attended school in the winter. The celebrated Markham resident recalls walking to school in bitter cold only to find the classroom just as frigid as the weather outside. Mr. Peter Reesor, well known resident of Markham also is the only student that Mr. Gleason could recall attending school during his time.

The present railroad track was constructed in 1872 and Mr. Gleason can clearly remember watching the first train make its way slowly over the newly built rails. There was only one train a day running through Markham at that time and a trip to Toronto was considered quite a day's journey. Since there were no motor cars, residents used the train to a great extent as a means of transportation. To see the mighty engine chugging by was a great experience and residents both young and old would run to their windows to catch a glimpse of the "iron horse". The first automobile was also a wonderful machine. Mr. Gleason recalls seeing in the first engine driven buggy on the streets of Markham and claims that although it was not as fast as the horse and buggy it was a steady means of transportation.

Markham village itself has change considerably during the past years according to the ninety-year-old resident. Although the village has expanded greatly there used to be more factories a number of years ago than there are today. Mr. Gleason commented rather regretfully that, when he takes the odd trip along the Main Street there is hardly a person that he recognizes any more.

Still feeling in the best of health Mr. Gleason claims that he has never been seriously ill throughout his entire life although he did suffer a bad attack of the flu last summer. It was only a few years ago that he could be seen out on his farm busily shocking grain, hoeing turnips or repairing fences and even at the present time he still takes extreme pride in surveying his 85 acres of land.

Mr. Gleason has two daughters, Helen and Sheila. His brother, Joe, passed away four years ago at the age of 80.

As the days come and go it is indeed our wish that this Markham Village pioneer will celebrate many more birthdays in the years to come, a true living symbol of those who struggled and strived in the bitter cold and the beating sun to make this land of ours what it is to-day.

## Urge Enforcement of Bylaw For Peddlers and Hawkers

Local Demonstrations of Cooking Utensils, Nylons, Etc. Eligible for License — to be Scrutinized by Constable Board.

An enquiry was tabled from farmers in the Altona area of Pickering Township that they be established as a fire area or given fire protection under some arranged plan. These Pickering ratepayers feel that they can best be served in the matter of this protection by the Stouffville brigade. There was one fire recorded in this section last year. Under present arrangements, Stouffville's only fire area is in Whitchurch where the township pays \$250.00 standby time, and \$40 a fire covering two hours. In Markham and any other municipality where the brigade is called to go, the rate is \$60 per fire for the first two hours. A new rate for overtime may be drawn up shortly. The matter of the Altona district coverage will be discussed with the Fire Brigade prior to a decision on terms.

A request for street lighting was received from the John Sanders subdivision, Burkholder St., and the hydro committee promised the erection of additional lights just as soon as the town hydro man was back on the job. He has been ill for a couple of weeks.

The tax roll was received from the Collector K. R. Davis and authorization given to the payment of his salary of \$225.00.

A request for the sale of the town property adjacent to the C.N.R. which was received several weeks ago, was concluded with the sanction of a lease for a period of three years of the property to Maple Leaf Auto Sales who now occupy the property. The rent is \$250.00 a year.

Hydro bought by the local department for last month amounted to \$2,907.00, the highest peak yet reached.

Messrs. Harold Dixon and Earl Lehman, appointed representatives of the Stouffville Businessmen's Association waited on the Stouffville Municipal Council at their regular meeting on Monday evening, with the recommendation that the local Hawkers' & Peddlers' bylaw, passed here last year, be given more publicity and be more rigidly enforced. The bylaw calls for a license fee of \$25 for anyone selling goods from door to door, as well as selling the same at an appointed place by means of samples, for delivery of goods later.

Special mention was made of various demonstrations being held in local homes from week to week by outside concerns who demonstrate with samples, later deliver goods for which they have taken orders. The bylaw approved by the municipal board, clearly defines this type of business.

"The charge isn't too bad, but there are too many getting away without paying it," commented Reeve Ogden.

Council agreed that the bylaw should be published, and it will appear in The Tribune next week. The license fee is for the protection both of local residents against unscrupulous salesmen, and for the local businessman who is paying business taxes here.

Permission was granted for the holding of a tag day in aid of the Institute for the Blind, on Saturday, May 3rd.

A request for the use of the town park for the holding of the Stouffville Horse Show, was turned over to the Community Centre

