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STATION AGENT MOWAT IN FAMILIAR POSE



Station Agent Magnus Mowat Retires After 47 Years of Service with the C.N.R.

This month marks the ending of an era in railroad history in Stouffville as Mr. Magnus Mowat, genial telegrapher, despatcher and station agent retires following forty-seven years of diligent railroad service.

Born in Stouffville, Mr. Mowat received his schooling here under the principalship of Mr. James Hand. In the year 1905 Mr. Mowat answered the call of the train whistle and started on his career with the C.N.R. Following one year's apprenticeship in Stouffville under the able instruction of the late W. J. Byam, Mr. Mowat was moved to the Allandale Division where he served in numerous stations as far as North Bay including Callander, Powassan, Barrie and Orillia. Mr. Mowat's big break came when he was promoted to the office of despatcher in Lindsay and in this position he served for twenty-five years.

He was a member of the first aid class in Lindsay that was awarded the Chamberlain trophy in a Dominion wide railway competition in 1922 and was a past master of the Lindsay Masonic Lodge. Following a ten year term as station agent at Campbellford Mr. Mowat returned to his old home town of Stouffville in 1946 where he has remained until his retirement this week. In all he served under eleven superintendents.

When Mr. Mowat commenced his railroad work as an apprentice in Stouffville over forty-five years ago, the system was then known as the Grand Trunk instead of the familiar C.N.R. as it is called today. There were two lines leading out of Stouffville at that time forming an important junction here in town. The old line, which has been out of commission for a number of years now, ran to the Sutton and Jackson's Point district while the other route which is still in existence stretched north-east to Lindsay. Stouffville,

at that time was a main water depot where all engines stopped to refill on their way through. There have been a great many changes during the last forty-five years of railroading. Mr. Mowat can remember when in the earlier days, the engines would move so slow on certain sections of the route the crew were able to step off the train, pick strawberries beside the track and still not get left behind.

As Mr. Magnus Mowat taps out his final message on the key, hands the engineer his final orders, sells his final ticket to a waiting customer and turns the key on the station door for the last time he does so with feelings of regret in his heart. No longer will he unload the baggage in the pouring rain, bitter cold and beating sun; no longer will he greet his many customers through the wicket with his friendly hello; no longer will he strain his ears for the shrieking signal of oncoming trains but instead will be able to take it easy beside the fire for many years to come.

Magnus Mowat was one of the most pleasant men to fill a station master's shoes and certainly one of the most obliging. Mr. Mowat stands tenth in seniority rating in the list of district agents, only nine in 750 having any longer service.

Tax Arrears Considered Low

Tax collector, Mr. W. D. McDonald reported to Uxbridge Twp. Council at their regular meeting on Monday night that there was just slightly more than \$2,000 in outstanding taxes and a considerable amount of this sum would be forthcoming in the near future. The council members believed that this figure was an enviable record compared with the overdue amounts that had piled up in some neighboring townships.

Herbert Beech of Ringwood Buried Friday

On Wednesday morning, May 14th, Mr. Herbert Beech of Ringwood passed away suddenly following a heart attack. Born in Elyton, Gainsborough, England, in 1883, the late Mr. Beech came to Canada some forty years ago and took up residence in Agincourt. During the first World War the deceased served in the army with the 127th battalion of the York Rangers. In 1931 he was married to Annie Milroy and the couple have lived at Ringwood for the last eighteen years. Besides farming for some time, Mr. Beech also worked for the Roads Commission during the last four years. Although not in the best of health since last August, his passing came as a shock to his friends and relatives. He was a member of St. James Presbyterian Church, Stouffville.

Besides his wife who survives, the deceased leaves to mourn his passing one brother William of Hagerman's Corners, south of Unionville.

Funeral service will be held in the chapel of L. E. O'Neill, Stouffville, on Friday, May 16th, at 2:30 p.m., conducted by Mr. D. McKillican of St. James Presbyterian Church with interment in Stouffville Cemetery.

Whitchurch Taxing Bylaw Sets Rate At 23 Mills

Whitchurch Township Council completed final reading of the annual 1952 taxing bylaw on Saturday afternoon, setting the general township rate for this year at 23 mills, two and one half mills above the 1951 figure. Council felt that they had pared the levy down to the limit under the present conditions of rising costs.

Almost all the school rates are up which was generally expected with increased staff, increased salaries, and debentures for new additions. Only two or three of the thirteen sections and six union sections show any decrease. Gormley public school section shows the greatest increase, a jump from 8.5 to 20 mills. Wilcox Lake with 24 and Oak Ridges Union King at 22.4 are shouldering the highest public school rates. High School rates increased only slightly.

Engagements

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ingleton announce the engagement of their oldest daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, to Howard Anthony Hoover, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Hoover, Markham; the wedding to take place May 31st in the Free Methodist Church, Armadale, at three o'clock P.M.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Havelock, Toronto, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Hazel, to Robert William Clubine, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgerton Clubine, Stouffville. The marriage is to take place quietly on May 30.

New Store Going Up on Main Street

A new store is under construction on the Main Street in town by Harry Stover and will be located to the west of the bakery. The shop will be leased out and the proprietor will deal to a large extent in children's wear. Norman Bunker is the contractor for the job.

Art Storry, Mr. Otto Tranmer, Mr. Milford Rose and Mr. Delos Graham.

War on Musselman's Liquor Carriers, Charge Twenty

Roadblocks were set up by Provincial Police on three roads leading into Musselman's Lake Saturday night as police cracked down on transportation of liquor by persons heading for the summer resort's two dance halls.

More than 400 cars were searched by police under Cpl. Arthur Harrison. A large quantity of beer and liquor was seized and 20 persons will appear in Newmarket court charged with offenses under the L.C.A.

Determined that Musselman's Lake will not suffer from rowdiness by teen-age gangs, Cpl. Harrison said he is ready to search every car heading for the dance halls every night this season if necessary.

Uxbridge Township Names New Assessor

At the last regular meeting of Uxbridge Twp. Council in April the members took it upon themselves to appoint W. G. Cassie to the position of assessor for a term of at least one year. Mr. Cassie, however, on hearing of his appointment declined to accept and the council was once again without an assessor. On Monday night, at the regular meeting, Mr. W. D. McDonald of Goodwood accepted the position for a salary of \$600 plus an extra amount for the rewriting of some 700 appraisal sheets. The assessment of the township must be completed by October 1st.

Markham Auditors Recommend Increased Office Staff

In a special meeting of Markham Township Council on Monday evening, members heard a representative of the Eddis Company, township auditors, recommend a complete new bookkeeping system and additional office help to carry on the business of this rapidly expanding municipality.

Council was told that the recent report of the auditors which was published in this newspaper was in no way an inflection of the work of Clerk Chas. Hoover. Mr. Hoover, it was stated, had some time ago asked for additional help in order to handle the increasing work and in order to be able to bring the township's bookkeeping methods more up-to-date.

By resolution council agreed that the auditing firm should send in a representative to set up a new and more modern system of accounting and it was agreed that once this was done additional help in the form of a treasurer or under-study for the township clerk should be engaged.

Deputy-Reeve James and Councilor Hooper drew attention to the fact that council had sought at an earlier date to engage a new male assistant, but had been opposed by Councilor LeMasurier. Council adjourned to reconvene next Monday, May 19th, for their regular mid-month evening meeting.

Wets Lose Out At Uxbridge

Advocates of the establishment of liquor outlets failed to receive a required 60 per cent majority in a local option vote Wednesday. The village will remain dry.

The 60 per cent majority was lost by 83 votes on the ballot for establishment of liquor stores and by 72 votes on the ballot for brewer's retail stores.

The popular vote was as follows: For liquor stores 580; against, 525. For brewer's retail store, 586; against, 512.

It was a heavy vote with 1,105 of 1,232 eligible voters going to the polls. Oldest voter was Mrs. Mary Thom, who will celebrate her 90th birthday in August.

87 Years Old

Born near Claremont, and for thirteen years now a resident of Stouffville, Nathan Tarr marked his 87th birthday last Wednesday, On Feb. 26th of this year Mr. and Mrs. Tarr celebrated 61 years of married bliss. Mr. Tarr farmed for a short time near Claremont and was employed later with a bakery firm there. The couple spent the thirty-two years prior to retirement farming on the 9th con. of Markham. Mr. Tarr has always been a familiar figure on our Main St. and still enjoys comparatively good health despite his great years.

Chamber of Commerce Will Press for More Protection At Local School Crossing

Traffic hazards in Stouffville came in for a heated discussion at the regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday evening in the municipal building. The secretary was directed by the chamber to send a communication to the municipal council urging immediate action to have some system of better protection established before a fatality occurs.

It was pointed out that the public school board had urged a similar move some time ago but without success. It is known that there is no obligation on the part of school boards to provide this protection, and if they do engage a crossing guard they must take out liability insurance to protect themselves against the guard's negligence. However, a guard can be provided by the municipality as part of the local police force.

It was pointed out that at the present Toronto city council is considering empowering these guards to take license numbers of cars violating the school zone speed limit or disregarding their

orders and such violators would be fined without question.

Mr. Elmer Daniels, member of the local school board, told the gathering that the board had received little encouragement from the Dept. of Highways in their efforts to slow down traffic by the school, although signs have been erected and painted on the pavement.

While it was agreed that the signs were necessary, the general opinion was that the only sure way to safe-guard the kiddies crossing was to post a guard there to see them safely over.

The matter of parking came in for attention, and steps are to be taken to have the parking lot at the arena properly lighted and an attendant there on open evenings. The big problem appeared to be to induce the public to use the lot, but the fact that the place was in darkness with no attendant on duty was believed to be a strong deterrent.

Country news items arriving late Wednesday will appear in next week's issue.

Rural Photo Quiz Starts This Week; Awards for Farmers

It's here! Don't wait; turn to the second page of this issue. There you will find the first in a 26-week series of photo quizzes which are becoming the talk of the district.

The owner or tenant who identifies his farm on page 2 is invited to come to the Tribune office, Stouffville. His reward will include a framed 11 x 14 photo like the one on page 2, plus credit certificates worth \$21 in merchandise from the merchants listed on the photo page.

All photographs used in the 26-week series have been taken exclusively for the Tribune by low-flying airplanes, which some district farmers may have noticed during the past week or so. The pictures have been taken of farms in Pickering, Uxbridge, Whitchurch and Markham Townships.

The interest in the photo quiz is expected to increase steadily from week to week. The contest has been popular in the United States and several parts of Canada, and now is attracting interest in this district, especially among the Tribune's hundreds of rural subscribers. Look for the photo quiz each week.

Merchants who are co-operating with the Tribune in this week's quiz are, Henry Ogden & Son, Stouffville Co-op, Wagg's Jewelry Store, Fred E. Byer, W. G. Garrett & Son, Carload Groceries, Stouffville Bakery, Mole Motor Sales, D. Holden & Sons, Murphy Motors, Altona Feeg & Supply, Stiver Bros., Farr's Radio Electric, Stouffville Motors, Claremont Co-op, O'Boyle's Meat Market, C. H. Bell & Son, Stouffville Planing Mill, L. E. O'Neill, Lehman's Shoe Store and Cy Bellman & Sons.

No one knows in advance the identity of the farm pictured here. The occupant must come to this office to receive awards.

Resident in Markham Thirty-Three Years

On Tuesday morning, May 13th, Mr. George Elson James of Markham passed away after an illness of nearly five years. Born in Cambridge, near Lindsay, in 1867, Mr. James moved to Toronto where he worked as a barber for a number of years. For the past thirty-three years the deceased has been living in Markham. His wife, the former Emma Bonner, predeceased him eighteen years ago. One of Markham's most ardent sport fans Mr. James was always on hand when such activities were in progress until his health no longer permitted him to take an active part. Mr. James was also an enthusiastic musician having played in both the Lindsay and Markham bands.

The deceased leaves to mourn his passing one son, Douglas of Markham, and one sister, Mrs. H. Moore of Cambridge. Funeral service will be held at the Dixon Funeral Chapel in Markham on Thursday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. conducted by Mr. D. McKillican of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Markham with interment in St. Andrew's Cemetery. The pallbearers will be Ken Prentice, Clarke Prentice, Charles Reesor, Frank Burkholder, Joe Fry and O. B. Helsey.

Visitors at Mrs. O. W. Zeller's on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Gren Draper and family of Aha, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Zeller and family of Mongolla, Mr. Frank Ward, Mildred and Eric of Claremont, Mr. and Mrs. E. Ainsworth and family of Toronto and Mrs. White and daughter of Goodwood.

Mr. Hector Batt returned to Stouffville last week after a four month vacation in Jamaica where he was visiting his sister. On the way home Mr. Batt flew to Miami, a one day journey from Jamaica and then took the train home on the last leg of his trip.

Wolf Shot Killing Sheep on Nearby Ringwood Farm

On Monday morning as Mr. Joe Sider passed by the field of his neighbour, Mr. Wilmot Brown, west of Stouffville near Ringwood, and noticed what appeared to be two dogs running among his flock of sheep. At once Mr. Sider yelled at the animals in an effort to frighten them away but when this did not work he notified Mrs. Brown that their sheep were being attacked. Mrs. Brown quickly called her husband and he in turn notified Mr. Lou Baker at Ringwood garage. Mr. Baker ran to the Brown farm with his trusty 22 rifle and dropped what proved to be a 70 pound brush wolf. The second sheep-killer raced from the scene and although the local marksman pumped five shots into the fleeing animal, it made good its escape. When the men came upon the scene of the attack they found one sheep dead in the field. Although the area was searched no trace of the other wounded animal was found.

Bethesda Boy Tops Public Speakers

Harry Hunt of Bethesda, representing the Stouffville High School and the Lions Club in their annual oratorical contest held at Aurora on Tuesday night was placed first on the boys section by the judges and will compete at the C.N.E. this fall. John Kell of Richmond Hill was second choice and will also speak at the C.N.E. Other winners were as follows: Wm. Wilson of Newmarket, Grover Burgess of Markham and Roger Rollings of Aurora. In the girls division, June Ross of Thornhill placed first with Barbara Hisey of Stouffville coming second. These girls will enter into competition at the C.N.E. Other contestants were June Smith of Stouffville, Helen Doane of Aurora and Judith Stevens of Newmarket.

Mr. and Mrs. John Miller of Battle Creek, Mich., have been visiting with Mrs. Sam Irwin.

Estimate Road Damage in Whitchurch Over \$20,000

Following a recent survey by the Department of Highways district Engineer and Whitchurch Township Road Supt. E. Davis, an estimate of damage caused by trucks hauling gravel across the municipality to the new Barrie Highway was placed at slightly more than \$20,000. It will require \$10,000 to place the roads in the condition prior to the heavy haulage period, but fifty per cent was believed caused by general trucking for other than provincial highway purposes.

Approximately 30 miles of township roadway will require reshaping and gravelling, while an additional thirty-one miles was damaged to a lesser degree.

The Department of Highways gave Whitchurch definite assurance several months ago that they would compensate the township for the damage done and requested that a survey and estimate be placed on the extent of the break-up.

Mrs. Topper Dies Suddenly at Lake

On Tuesday, May 13th, Mrs. Arthur Topper passed away suddenly at her home at Musselman's Lake. She was ill less than two days before her death. Born in Uxbridge Township near Glasgow in 1890, the deceased moved to Musselman's Lake district following her marriage. Here she has resided for the last thirty-two years. The late Mrs. Topper suffered a stroke on Sunday night and never rallied. She was in her 62nd year.

Besides her husband, the deceased leaves to mourn her loss, one daughter Margaret (Mrs. W. Garlick) of Cooksville and one son William at the lake.

The funeral service will be conducted from the chapel of L. E. O'Neill on Thursday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. conducted by Rev. D. Davis of Stouffville United Church with interment in Stouffville Cemetery. The pall bearers will be Mr. A. Cowie, Mr. Ed McNelly, Mr.