

Changing Telephone Rate Had Interesting History

By Mr. A. D. Bruce

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Looking backward it is particularly interesting to note how our policy developed. Even the adjective "primitive" suggests a maturity to which we could make no claim. "Nebulous" is the only word that adequately qualifies the degree of our thinking and planning.

In no phase of our activities was this instability more evident than in our thinking regarding rates to be charged for services rendered.

I doubt whether, at our first meeting or at our second meeting, one word was spoken regarding rent to be charged for telephones. All our thinking was in terms of membership in our association. A few weeks before the first telephone was installed, a General Meeting of our members was held, at which a Constitution and some By-laws were passed.

At this meeting it was decided that if any non-members wished to rent a telephone, the charge would be \$12 per year for a residence and \$15 for a business telephone. Of course members were to receive their telephones free from rental charge but each member must keep his telephone in repair: a truly primitive idea.

Before our system had been declared open for business, Dr. I. A. Free became the first person to rent a telephone. He paid several years' rent in advance, the rate being \$15.00. A few weeks later, Mr. Isaac Pike became the first renter of a residence telephone, and he paid for three years in advance.

In the meantime we had passed a resolution requiring renters to bear all costs of extension of line, and of installations that might be necessary in order to give the desired service, the total to be credited on account of rentals — paid in advance. Evidently we were uncertain of the course that should be followed, and were floundering.

One of our earliest and, I believe, one of our greatest surprises, was the discovery that as our business increased, the cost per phone of operating also increased. This is peculiar to the telephone business. In 1908 we had 200 telephones in service and the cost of central office operating was \$2.62 per telephone. In 1910 we had 520 telephones in service and the cost of central office operating per phone was \$2.84. In 1914 we had 700 telephones and the cost of operation had risen to \$14.19 per phone. The dream of free telephones to stockholders soon began to fade and, in February 1907, half rental was charged for shareholders' telephones. One shareholder objected to this change and refused to pay his rent — finally he paid his account and sold his stock — probably in disgust.

In a short time shareholders were charged full rental, but received a cash dividend on their investment.

The next change in rates took the form of a reduction. We had difficulty in determining whether some telephones could be classified as residence telephones, although they certainly were located in private houses. Some farmers were also cattle dealers in a large way, while other telephones that were charged the business rate gave slight return in increased business. One day something came before our Board that emphasized the injustice of charging a certain very poor man a "business" surcharge, and the decision was made to wipe out the distinction. This decision cost the Company a considerable loss in revenue.

By the year 1912 or 1913 it was becoming evident that ere long we might find it necessary to make application for permission to increase our rates. In anticipation of such a possibility, we ceased making three year contracts. In the spring of 1914 we believed the time had arrived for asking for an increase, and brought the matter before the annual meeting of the executive of the Telephone Union. While several representatives agreed that an increase was desirable, none of the other companies in the Union would agree to join with our Company in making application to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board for permission to increase rates.

We decided to proceed without support from the Union, and were considering action, when the First World War created a world-wide explosion, and we postponed action.

When our books were closed for the year 1914 we found that when all accounts were paid, for operating our system; when provision had been made for depreciation; when interest on

FIRST POLIO VACCINE ADMINISTERED HERE



First of the new Salk polio vaccine was administered at the Stouffville Public School on Monday of this week. Children from several public

schools outside of town were brought here to receive the injection and two Ringwood pupils are shown here being

treated by Dr. G. F. Buckley of Stouffville. The children are Donna Lee and Jimmy Mehaffey.

Cars and Tractors Lost in Sunday Morning Blaze

A Sunday morning fire believed caused by lightning destroyed the driving shed on the farm of Arthur Paisley, 7th con. of Whitchurch. The loss included two tractors, two automobiles and a quantity of seed grain. Stouffville Fire Brigade answered the call at four in the morning and were able to save the pig pens and large L-shaped barns which were very close to the burning building.

A sudden electrical storm crossed this area at the time of the outbreak and Mr. Cecil Banks, a neighbor, reported seeing a great flash of lightning envelop the building. Moments later smoke poured forth and the alarm was sounded.

The local firemen with their truck supply of water and chemical were able to give protection to the nearby buildings while a hose line was laid to depend on the Geo. Rodanz property some distance away. A second call was put in for Stouffville's second truck which carried additional hose. Not wanting to leave the town unprotected, Fire Chief Wm. Malloy called in the Unionville brigade to stand by in Stouffville while both local trucks were absent.

The loss is estimated at nearly \$10,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Teasdale of Concord visited at the Rae home, Church St., on Saturday.

Local Reeve "Battles" Council on Issue of Sub-Division Guarantees

Reeve Elmer Daniels "battled" members of his council for an hour at a special meeting last week as he sought to gain what he termed "equality" in the matter of guarantees for services to be installed in new sub-divisions. The issue arose over the installation of services in the new sub-division belonging to councillor Timbers at the west end of town.

General procedure for sub-dividers is that they must install both water mains and roads to the satisfaction of the council before this authority will give final approval to their plan. However, should a sub-divider wish to speed up the process and start building or selling lots prior to finishing the installation of services, council can take a bond to cover the cost of the installation and protect the municipality against any default by the sub-divider. This procedure is general practice in most municipalities.

Only recently, Mr. Hawtin who opened a new sub-division just west of Baker Ave., was bonded by council to the amount of \$1,000 to cover the completion of roads in his sub-division. The bulk of the installation of services were completed, water mains laid, roads graded and ditched and some gravel laid on. Mr. Hawtin wished to build one house and in order to do so had to comply with council's request for a bond. The amount of \$1,000

Job Evaluator Reports to Council

After studying the administrative setup in Markham Twp., a job evaluator appointed by council, has stated that he has found conditions in general to be satisfactory.

In a report made public on Monday night the evaluator who was named by the township auditors Wilton & Eddis of Toronto, suggested minor changes in administration. The changes are designed to permit the municipality to keep pace with the rapid growth expected in the next few years. The hiring of extra stenographic help was also suggested.

The survey covering several weeks, touched into every department and was designed to check the efficiency of the administrative process.

At the request of council the evaluator will remain on the scene for a while to supervise the suggested changes in book-keeping methods.

Word was received Tuesday morning by his brother that Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Smalley of Marathon, Ont., are the proud parents of twin boys. Mr. Smalley is Public School Principal of this northern town having left Uxbridge last summer.

Milk Producers Meet in Buffonville Hall

"The annual banquet of the District No. 6 of the Toronto Milk Producers Assoc. was held recently at Buffonville. The hall was well filled for the occasion and the usual excellent supper was provided by the ladies of Buffonville.

Entertainment was supplied by the Jr. Farmer Quartette and a twenty-minute play was shown through the courtesy of Lawrie Bros. of Markham.

A feature of the banquet that is always looked forward to with enthusiasm are the lucky draws. We wish to express our thanks to the following donors: R. D. Little & Son, H. W. Morrison, Canadian Tire Corp., Perkins Farm & Home Equipment, all of Richmond Hill; G.M.C. Truck Division of Spadina Ave., Toronto; K. C. Prentice, Kinch & Sutton, Conlin Motors, Lawrie Bros. of Markham; Stiver Bros., Green Circle Hardware, and Harry Broadway of Unionville; Stouffville Hardware, Stouffville Co-Op, Fred Byers and Len Haylow of Stouffville and W. R. Woolley Surge Sales of Oak Ridges.

Tenth Teacher Recommended for Local High School

The regular meeting of the Stouffville District High School Board was held in the high school on Wednesday evening, April 13. Principal O. E. Robbins recommended that the 10th teacher to the staff be engaged because of the overload of responsibilities which is carried by himself and the other teachers. The Principal began the year by teaching 33 periods per week along with his other responsibilities. However, he has managed to cut his teaching time down to 26 periods per week. The Markham and Uxbridge school principal's teaching time was compared to Mr. Robbins', and it was found that they were teaching only 21 and 25 periods a week. In addition, the extra load of conducting the students of S.H.S. in the new school and establishing a new system, was placed upon his shoulders.

The school has taken delivery of a new piano for the auditorium. It was revealed that the cafeteria is now being operated on a paying basis. There have been complaints made by the custodian (Mr. Liekurish) concerning the debris of confectionery wrappers being strewn about the school premises from the after-school hours sales in the cafeteria. It was decided that this privilege to the students be discontinued. Confectioneries will be sold during the lunch period only, provided the students cooperate and discard their debris in the waste baskets found about the school.

Miss Harvey's resignation was accepted by the Board.

The Altona W.I. is sponsoring a demonstration on "oven meals" to be held on May 4th and 5th at 1.30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Ed. McAloney, corner of the 9th concession and the townline. Miss Isobel A. Wishart, Home Economist, will conduct the demonstration.

Miss Isobel Collard spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Belfry Hamilton.

Large New Sub-Division Planned For the Eastend of Stouffville

A large new sub-division consisting of fifty-three lots, the property of Mr. Cedric Watson, is being planned for the eastend of town and will be before the Stouffville Planning Board at their meeting this Wednesday night. The development lies just east of Tenth Street with entrances on this street and on Main St., east of the residence of Miss Effie Harding. Other outlets for future expansion are also provided.

Mr. Watson pointed out to the Board as they viewed the plan last week for the first time that the land is quite suitable for sub-division development in the matter of drainage, sloping gently to Tenth Street. Mr. Watson also voiced the need for industry in town and his full support in any plan to bring industry to Stouffville.

Kellington Farm. Mr. John Lundy of the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs appeared before last week's meeting of the local Planning Board requesting that consideration be given to a sub-division plan of the Garfield Kellington farm on the 9th con. of Whitchurch. While the farm is located in the township, it has been established that such a development would place a burden on the Ringwood School and Whitchurch Planning Board has not looked favorably on the plan unless Stouffville would indicate that they were prepared to annex the property.

Mr. Lundy stated that he was aware that two-acre lots would not be acceptable to Stouffville and his department was prepared to have a second plan placed on the property giving road allowances which could be implemented by Local Improvement at a later date should the residents so desire. Erection of houses on these two acre lots would have to allow for such future roads. Mr. Lundy stated, and the roads would comply with future development outlets on the property to the south.

Mr. Lundy took exception to a recent editorial in The Tribune which stated that such housing could not be considered high-class housing. He stated that the government was prepared to go as high as \$5,100 for each lot and house. Mr. Nolan stated that such an amount could not be expected to produce a high-class house and in reply Mr. Lundy stated that it was found that the owners of such houses frequently did a great deal of the work themselves and in this way were able to raise the standard of the dwellings considerably.

Mr. Thompson, Board member, asked Mr. Lundy if he could guarantee what proportion of these large lots would be built on and he replied that there was a considerable demand for the lots since prices of other existing lots were too high for lower wage earners.

Mr. Lundy stated that the Department was willing to make any feasible adjustments to the plan to meet with Stouffville's approval. Chairman Ogden questioned Mr. Lundy on various aspects of the lot division and stated that the Board would make a decision shortly.

Police Radios, Best Investment Says Deacon

"I think you'll find that the installation of 2-way radios in our police cruisers will be the best investment this township ever made," stated councillor Donald Deacon at the regular meeting of Markham Twp. council on Monday evening. Dep. Reeve W. L. Clark stated that the police were working from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. in an effort to curb over-loaders. Mr. Clark said that despite the serious condition of many township roads, many truckers are insisting on carrying more than the specified load limit.

Dep. Reeve Clark informed council that he knew of some property north of Markham Village owned by Mr. Albert Wideman that might be purchased for an industrial site.

Councillor Deacon, in commenting on the one-quarter million dollar industry that was seeking a site in the municipality, said that he did not feel that any large tax concessions should be granted. He felt that the township's land costs and taxes were lower than neighboring municipalities to the south.

A delegation appeared before council requesting financial assistance to operate a school for retarded children at Langstaff. The cost per year would amount to more than \$6,000. At the present time seven students are attending from the township, five from the Front, one from Gormley and one from Milliken. Council felt that they

would be setting a precedent by offering financial aid to the school. They were of the opinion that the Dept. of Education should assume a greater responsibility.

Softballers To Organize

The Stouffville Shamrock Softball Club will hold an organization meeting on Tuesday evening, April 26th, at 8 o'clock in the Municipal Hall. The team definitely intends to operate this season and all those interested are requested to attend.

\$1,000 TO HELP HOSPITAL

A recent contribution to the York County Hospital Building Fund was made by the Provincial Junior Red Cross Society. The cheque for \$1,000 was accepted on behalf of the Hospital in Newmarket by C. A. Cathers, Chairman of the Building Fund, who stated that the money will be used for special equipment in the Children's Ward.

After returning from the Paisley barn fire on Sunday, Stouffville Fire Brigade was called out again in the afternoon to squelch a grass fire at Musselmans Lake.

GONE WITH THE WIND

In its original form, begins a three-day run at the Stanley Theatre on Monday, April 25th. Please note, there will be ONE SHOWING EACH EVENING at 7.30 due to the length of this technicolor production.

Spring Breakup Turns Roads into Seas of Mud

Roads in Pickering, Markham, Whitchurch and Uxbridge Townships have been turned into "seas of mud" due to the annual spring breakup and recent heavy rains. Long-time residents say that road conditions are the worst they have seen in the last twenty-five or thirty years. Road Superintendent Jack Howard of Markham says the breakup is due mainly to the wet fall and the hurricane in October. During the winter a lack of snow enabled the frost to sink deeply into the ground. Road Superintendent Davis of Whitchurch reports all concession roads to be rough and some are impassable. In his fifteen years as road foreman and supt., Mr. Davis reports that roads have never been so badly broken up.

Many farmers have been forced to transport their milk to the highway. Heavy trucks have been unable to make their daily pick-ups on many rural roads. Local mail carriers were not able to cover their regular routes and many were forced to detour when the concession roads became blocked. Local doctors report considerable difficulty in reaching patients in the country. On Thursday afternoon Dr. R. B. Mitchell of Stouffville had to

leave his car on the 5th concession of Whitchurch and walk around a bog hole where he was picked up and taken to his destination.

Dr. K. F. Orr of Markham became marooned in the mud on the 9th of Markham near Box Grove and a heavy tractor was needed to pull his vehicle out of the hole. All cases at the Brierbush hospital were brought in safely.

Mr. Albert Heise, operator of the local school buses, informed the Tribune that his vehicles would stay on the highway as much as possible until the rural road conditions improve.

Pickering Township has also been hard-hit by the breakup. Many roads are reported impassable and some families in the southern part of the municipality were reported to be short of food.

Road Supt. Roy Ward has the township trucks working overtime filling the bog holes with loads of gravel. A number of extra trucks have been hired in an effort to keep the concession roads passable. A number of small community stores are said to be short of supplies and drivers are refusing to transport groceries over the treacherous roads to relieve the situation.

Municipal Board Gives Markham Village 1,350 Acres of Township Land

Markham Village has been permitted to extend its boundaries to take in 1,350 acres of Markham Township property. The Municipal Board's decision was handed down on Saturday by Messrs R. C. Rowland and W. J. Moore. It will become effective June 30th.

The Village had requested 2,500 acres of farm land extending from the ninth concession on the east to the seventh concession on the west and from lot 8 on the south to the Mount Joy sideroad on the north. The Municipal Board permitted the annexed area to extend, however, only from one-half of lot 9 to lot 14, taking in all of school section 15. The Village council has set aside a portion of land west of the town for industrial purposes. The remainder will accommodate more than 10,000 residents. The present population of the village is approximately 2,200.

The decision handed down by the Municipal Board was in agreement with the compromise plan proposed by the Township Council at a meeting held following the hearing. Reeve J. V. Fry of Markham stated that the development of the area would depend largely on a sewer vote which is expected this summer.

Dep. Reeve Mrs. Alma Walker felt that the village would have to make a determined bid to obtain industry.

"We're satisfied for the present," said the village Deputy Reeve. "If we should outgrow this area, perhaps we could obtain more at a later date."

Reeve Alf LeMasurier of Markham Twp. said that the Board's decision was exactly what they had outlined and had submitted following the hearing.

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Local Ewes Prove Highly Productive

Two of the registered Dorset ewes which were purchased at the auction sale of Mrs. Jos. Betz, 10th con. of Markham, by Robt. Cammack of Head Lake, have each borne triplet lambs. A goat also purchased at the sale by the same buyer has also produced triplets, a black, a blue and a white.

Mr. Ward of St. Thomas is visiting his sister, Mrs. Robb, on O'Brien Ave.

PRESENT PEEWEE HOCKEY TROPHY TO ROGER STOVER



Captain Roger Stover of the Maple Leafs is pictured above, receiving the trophy emblematic of the Lions Pee-

Wee Championship, from Mr. Jim Austin, chairman of the Sports Committee. Others standing, from left to right,

are Barry Wilkes (coach), Don Eddington and Rick Wedsell (asst. Capt.). The presentation was made on

Wednesday night at the final Young Canada Night of the season.