

## Late F. L. Button Was a Leading Citizen Here For Over Fifty Years

A citizen whose name has been most prominent in the business and community life of Stouffville for more than half a century, F. Lorne Button, Q.C., passed away at his home on Main St. early Monday evening, March 12th. Mr. Button was at his desk as usual last week and was at home in the early evening when he was suddenly stricken. His passing came as a profound shock to the community and the entire area, where few men were better known.

Fred Button was born 77 years ago on the 9th concession of Markham Township, one of two sons born to John R. Button and Alma Alberta Jones. Mr. Button received his early schooling on the 9th Line and at Ringwood. He was an honor student at Osgoode Hall, graduating in 1902.

His early business career saw him associated with G. Smith MacDonald in Stouffville and in partnership with Lennox & Lennox, solicitors. From 1906 until 1910, Mr. Button carried on business alone, but in the latter year he entered another partnership with the late Jas. McCullough.

Forty-eight years ago the late F. L. Button united in marriage with Miss Maud Todd, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Todd of Stouffville. To this couple was born one son who graduated from Osgoode Hall in 1938 and has been associated with his father in business.

In addition to a busy business career, this well-known citizen has gained prominence in the community life as well. He was a charter member of the Stouffville Lions Club, and one of the founders of the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club and had the distinction of being president of the District Association when the Australian bowlers visited this country a number of years ago. Curling formed an interest and hunting and fishing were other sports in which the late Mr. Button was an ardent participant. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the home baseball and hockey teams and piloted the intermediate ball club here at one time. He served as chairman of the school board from 1905 until 1909 and led the move to establish the first secondary school in Stouffville.

The deceased was most prominent in the life of the Stouffville United Church and combined with his surviving brother, E. A. Button, some years ago to present the church with a fine pipe organ.

There has been no keener follower of local municipal affairs over the years, than the late Mr. Button. Punctuality was a byword in his business life and his vitality has been an amazement to his many friends and the envy of many men his junior.

Besides his wife, the deceased is survived by one son Reginald H. Button and two grandchildren, Eric and Judith. There also survives one brother, Ernest A. Button.

The funeral will be conducted this Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Stouffville United Church. Interment will be made at the Stouffville Cemetery.

accepting that offer, in order to save the ratepayers money."

Here Councillor Vern Griffin declared, "We gave Mr. Ryder a raise this year. He has done a good job, but I feel he did not go out of his way on behalf of the township. I move that his resignation be accepted, and that we advertise for a replacement."

Here the Reeve pointed out that Mr. Ryder's resignation hinged on only \$200 which was holding out for. Replied Mr. Griffin "We can get another man to do the job for less."

Mr. LeMasurier's reply was in the form of a question, when he asked what effect such a policy might have on the morale of the rest of the employees.

Councillor Donald Deacon voiced the opinion that the treasurer in Markham Township does not have the full responsibility of a clerk-treasurer. "He is still being supervised by Charlie," (clerk Chas. Hoover) he said.

Deputy-Reeve Wm. Clark expressed his opposition of the principle of letting out an employee in this manner, and his thoughts were expressed by Councillor Archie Little.

On the motion of Councillor Griffin, which was seconded immediately by Councillor Deacon, council carried the resolution to accept Mr. Ryder's resignation.

Following the meeting, Reeve LeMasurier expressed his wish to have published a letter written as a resident of the township, dealing with his feelings on this subject. This letter appears elsewhere in this issue.



F. Lorne Button Q.C.

## Missionary on Furlough Presented with Truck

A lady missionary home on leave from the Sudan Interior Mission will be taking a new pick-up truck back to Africa, thanks to the generosity of her friends and relatives around Markham.

Miss Hazel Reesor, a missionary for several years, did her rounds in the Sudan on bicycle. Now the truck will be used as a delivery van and ambulance; also her sleeping quarters.

The money was raised by citizens who felt her work could be furthered if she had a better mode of transportation.

Norman Reesor, an accountant, and Wilbur Reesor, of Locust Hill, started a fund and relatives and neighbours chipped in \$2,000.

When Miss Reesor sails from New York next month, the truck will go too, all expenses paid out of the \$2,000.

## Treasurer's Resignation Accepted

The resignation tendered to Markham Township Council by the treasurer, Del. Ryder, was accepted this week. The decision to end the matter in this way came after a full and heated discussion of recent staff changes.

"It's a form of exploitation of the staff," declared Reeve Alf LeMasurier, as he defended the record of Mr. Ryder. He repeated his statement, voiced last week, that the treasurer had done a good job of reducing tax arrears in the township. The principle was all wrong, he said, when council, to save money, would replace a valued employee with someone who offered to do the job for less.

"I am all for saving the money paid by the taxpayers," continued the Reeve, adding that in this case there might be no end to the process. In this case, he pointed out, one member of the staff had the fortitude to voice his opinion that the salary schedule was wrong, when the treasurer of a busy township is paid less than a first-class constable. "Now we find," said the Reeve, "that we can save money by accepting Mr. Ryder's resignation and replacing him with a man who will do the same job for less. By the same reasoning, as soon as someone appears who offers to take on the job for less, we are pledged to the principle of

## Ice Revue Most Colorful Ever Staged

On Friday evening, March 16, the Stouffville Skating Club will present a colorful Springtime Ice Revue in the arena. The program, under the direction of skating professional Mr. Charles Kiel, will include both group numbers and solos. Aside from our own local skating talent, Mr. Jack Underhill will provide two comedy acts and Guy Revell of the Newmarket Figure Skating Club will do a solo number.

The Club directors, Lionel Spofford, Pres.; Elsie Sanders, Secy.; Walter Smith, Treas.; Jimmy Farr, Ethel Mole and Floyd Forsyth, along with the other members of various committees, have put a considerable amount of time and effort into the preparation of the Ice Revue in order that they might present a high class show.

## Local Business People Visit New York State

Mr. John Houston, local druggist, left last week for Rochester, N.Y., as a guest of the Kodak Company. As one of a group of 32 dealers from Canada, the USA and Peru, he will attend a nine-day conference designed to acquaint the visitors with the latest developments in photography. A feature of the conference will be a weekend visit to Niagara Falls, where the delegates will be able to put their lessons to good use in taking pictures in color and in black and white.

This week saw the return to Stouffville of Mr. and Mrs. Erle Lehman, who spent a busy week in New York City. Highlight of the trip was an evening of entertainment at Carnegie Hall. The couple also saw the Arthur Godfrey Show in production.

## Help Now by Buying Your Easter Seals

Already the sum of \$275 has been raised in Stouffville, since the annual Easter Seal Drive was launched last week, reports Harold Spofford, local campaign treasurer. Stouffville Lions Club have been most active in getting this year's appeal for funds off to a good start, and this year have raised their sights. Objective will be \$1,000. "Last year's target of \$800 was exceeded, and we will be doing our best to top the thousand dollar mark this time," said Mr. Spofford.

The task of raising huge sums of money needed to help in the work of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children is undertaken each year by 211 service clubs. The current drive will continue until Easter. Envelopes have been sent in the mail for your donation. If you do not receive an envelope, do not let that hold you back. Just send your donation to Harold Spofford treasurer, Easter Seals Stouffville, Ont.

## Predict a Grim Tax Future for Markham And Vaughan Twps.

A grim tax future for ratepayers of Markham and Vaughan townships was predicted last week by a panel of experts at the Farmers' Market, Thornhill. Subject of the meeting was "Will Education Bankrupt Us?" Despite dire predictions, the experts unanimously agreed it would not.

Nearly 300 ratepayers heard Prof. Robert W. B. Jackson of the Ontario College of Education, warn that debenture debts of both municipalities were rapidly approaching the point at which the Ontario Municipal Board would refuse to allow further debenture issues.

Dr. Jackson said new residents of the townships are asking for the high standard of services of the cities they left, but with low taxes and all the advantages of rural living. He predicted that education costs "are going to hurt."

One means of controlling costs of services is to insist on the orderly development of sub-

divisions, Murray Jones, planning director of the Metropolitan Planning Board, told the audience.

"If urbanization is allowed to scatter over a wide area, it will cost more for services than if the development is compact," he said.

Chairman of TSA No. 1, Markham and Vaughan townships, William Liddell said that public school enrollment had jumped from 819 pupils in 1951 to about 2,000 this year. He said the current public school debenture debt was \$898,206. An additional 265 classrooms would be needed with the full development of the area "bringing a debenture debt of probably \$5,300,000."

Mr. Liddell called for more industry to offset costs and an increase in provincial education grants. He announced the 1956 public school budget at \$366,100 and said it meant tax rates of 29.07 and 27.6 mills for Vaughan and Markham townships.

## Famous Band Coming For Skating Carnival

The Royal Canadian Army Service Corps outstanding Trumpet Band consisting of 40 men will play at the Stouffville Skating Club's Annual Ice Revue on Friday, March 16th, next. This well known band will play during the Carnival and will perform their spectacular and colourful march on ice, at half time.

Another highlight of the show will be the amusing March of the Clowns. The performers in this different act will come as a surprise to all. Other features during the evening's entertainment will be

solist Guy Revell from Newmarket and comedian Jack Underhill of Hamilton. Eighty members of the Stouffville Club will perform such colourful and fast moving numbers as Thumbelina, Wonderful Copenhagen and scenes from Hans Christian Andersen, amongst others. Don't miss this evening of wonderful entertainment. There will be many valuable door prizes too. Tickets are on sale at the Arena, Ted's Men's Wear, Wagg's Jewellers, Weldon's Men's Wear, Carload Groceries and Thos. Birkett and Son.

## Planning Board Approves Plans for New Sub-Divs.

### NEED COUNCIL OK FOR DEVELOPMENT

Plans for two new sub-divisions containing approximately a hundred building lots, were approved by the Stouffville Planning Board at their regular meeting on Friday evening. The one plan is an extension to the north of the Edgevale sub-division and takes in the acreage immediately south of the former Kellington farm. The second plan is one previously before the Board and owned by Mr. C. E. Watson. The sub-division lies immediately east of Tenth St. south and has access to both Tenth Street and Main Street.

Approval, Not Final

This approval for sub-division is not final and is merely an OK on the structural layout of the sub-divisions as to streets and size of lots. Whether or not the municipal council will permit the development of these sub-divisions is still a question and if they do, what restrictions will be imposed is not yet decided.

Don't Favor Septic Tanks

The Planning Board was in receipt at this meeting of a communication from the County Health Unit stating that this body would not favor any more

sub-divisions, either inside or outside of town, with septic tank installations. Reeve Daniels reported that the Utility Commission now has four new wells operating at the town reservoirs, which should take care of the immediate water problem, providing a new system of chlorination is installed which will permit the full use of the supply main. Pressure is very low in certain parts of town due to the fact, in part, that the large feeder main from the reservoirs is nearly half closed to permit chlorination. In times of fire, the main is opened to full capacity.

School Problem

The Board discussed briefly the local school problem which has become so acute because of the influx of new residents to new sub-divisions.

Chairman Henry Ogden stated that he could foresee the tax rate reaching a hundred mills very shortly if the present rate of increasing school costs continues. Secretary Gar Brown told the Board that the Public School Trustees were desirous of meeting with the Planning Board to discuss this phase of development.

## Markham Township Hires Two, Three to Go

Vacancies on the staff of Markham Township were again under discussion at the Council meeting this week, as it was announced that special sessions had resulted in the filling of two of the positions.

Named to the position of Deputy-Clerk was Mr. Harry Crisp, a resident of the 7th concession, who is presently employed on the staff of Upper Canada College. He was engaged at a salary of \$3,900, to be directly responsible to clerk Chas. Hoover. This vacancy resulted from the move to the staff of Scarborough Township of Lloyd Gohn. Mr. Crisp was chosen from a group of eleven applicants, of whom eight were called for interview.

Next on the list was the position of clerk's assistant. It was announced that this post will be filled at the end of the month by Mr. M. A. N. Shenfield of the Don Mills Road, who was engaged at a salary of \$2,700. He will replace John

Nigh, now on the staff of Scarborough Township.

Assessment Commissioner A. J. Fleming reported the receipt of 13 applications for assistant assessor. Of this number, several will be called for interview this week. Several of the applicants showed promise of good material, said Mr. Fleming. He expected that council would approve of one of the applicants.

Still open are the positions of building inspector and treasurer. The township is presently advertising for candidates to fill these posts. The necessity for a building inspector came about when the present inspector, Walter Craig, was named to head the new water department. In a different category is the matter of the new vacancy in the treasurer's department. Del Ryder's resignation was this week accepted by council only after a lengthy and stormy session. The report of this phase of the meeting is covered elsewhere in this issue.

## Mrs. Leah Steckley Buried Wednesday

In her 91st year, a resident of Gormley, Mrs. Leah Steckley passed away suddenly last Sunday morning, March 11, 1956. She was the widow of the late Joseph Steckley.

## Former Doctor Badly Injured By Mad Boar

Dr. Duncan Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alf Smith of Kemptville, Nova Scotia, was badly injured recently when attacked by an enraged boar. The pig ripped a 27-stitch gash in Dr. Smith's leg and he was rushed to a nearby doctor for medical treatment. According to reports, the wound has not responded to treatment and it is feared that the injury may have permanent results. Dr. Duncan Smith, a graduate of Stouffville High School and of O.V.C. of Guelph, worked in partnership with Dr. Ronnie Smith of Stouffville prior to taking a new position at Kemptville.

Dr. Smith was making a routine call when the accident occurred. He was in the pen with the boar when the rope suddenly broke and the pig went mad. He managed to escape from the pen with difficulty after the animal had cut his leg quite severely with its teeth.

## "Must Make More of Agriculture", Speaker Tells Lions and Farmers

Nearly ninety members of the Stouffville Lions Club along with their farmer guests sat down to supper at the regular meeting of the Club on Monday evening. The occasion was the Lions Farmers' Night.

A toast to the farmers was proposed by Lion Cec Hendricks and responded to by Gordon Ratcliff. The speaker, Gordon Bennett of the Ont. Dept. of Agriculture, was introduced by District Governor Carl Caskey, Mr. Bennett, a graduate of O.A.C., was appointed Associate Director of the Dept. of Extension in 1951 and last year was made president of the Canadian Council of 4-H Clubs.

In speaking of the changes in the agricultural industry he cited the fact that the population of Ontario has increased 38% in 25 years. The population of Canada, he said, is increasing at the rate of 1100 a day, which means that 3,000 more meals have to be prepared each day. Against this growth he pointed out that only 15% of the population today is engaged in agriculture, a considerable drop from a few years ago. The tendency, Mr. Bennett said, is to larger farms with a change in methods. Since 1931 nearly

300% more tractors have been put into use. The trend, as in many other industries, is towards specialization.

The speaker had visited overseas countries last year to study agricultural methods, and he praised Denmark particularly for the development of agriculture there.

"Canada," he said, "must make more out of her agriculture, if she is to maintain her preferred position in world markets."

In closing he cited the 4-H Club motto: "head-heart-hand and help". He said it was imperative that a program be carried on to develop an incentive in young people to continue on the land.

## Big Sale At Ted's

Ted's Clothing Store, formerly operated under the name of R. F. Curtis for many years, will be geared for a terrific clearance sale this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. "We are clearing the store to the walls," says Ted Topping, and he adds that a look at page 5 of this issue will convince you that the walls will be reached at an early stage of the sale.

Mr. and Mrs. James Pearson of Trail, B.C., announce the engagement of their only daughter, Mary Jean to L-Cpl. W. Ronald Walsh, only son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Walsh of Stouffville, Ont., the marriage to take place March 31, 1956, in the Anglican Church at Trail, B.C.

## Breakin at Gormley

During the weekend, thieves entered the office of the Gormley Cement Block Company and escaped with cash amounting to approximately \$300.00. The burglars obtained tools from a nearby C.P.R. shed and used them to break open the safe. Entry was made through a window. The theft discovery wasn't made until Monday morning.

## Driver Hurt as Car Flips Over on the 4th Concession



A new model car, driven by Donald Lockhart, 25, of Scarborough, flipped over on the Don Mills Road, south of Victoria Square, early Saturday morning and came to rest beside a large steel culvert. The driver, suffering from chest and shoulder injuries, was rushed by ambulance to

the Toronto East General Hospital. Two passengers in the vehicle, his wife, Mrs. Shirley Lockhart 25 and her mother, Mrs. Minnie Durie, both of Scarborough were uninjured.

According to Markham Police Constable Lew Durant, the northbound car hit a

cess in the pavement causing the driver to lose control. The vehicle then hit the culvert and flipped over, landing on its four wheels. The pavement was very slippery in the morning, due to a light fall of snow during the night. Markham Township Police say that the Don Mills Road

has become the most dangerous thoroughfare in the municipality. They have named it "suicide strip". More accidents occurred on this highway during 1955 than on any other road in the Township, and Police believe the figure will be increased this year.