

## Local Reeve Named to Planning Committee For County of York

Reeves, members of council, chairmen and vice chairmen of Planning Boards of most of the municipalities in York County gathered in Aurora on Tuesday evening in a special meeting to determine the advisability of setting up a County Planning Board. Mayor Murray of Aurora welcomed the visitors and Mr. Doug Richardson, chairman of the Aurora Planning Board, acted as chairman.

Mr. C. Laurin of Markham Twp., guest speaker, told the group that the purpose of the meeting was to get the collective thinking of the combined officials of the County. Mr. Laurin is a former chairman of the Markham Twp. Planning Board, and presently chairman of the Educational Committee. He cited the phenomenal growth in and around Toronto and the need for dispersal. "You can't tell people where they must go, but you can tell them where they can't go," he said.

The speaker spoke of the necessity of retaining good farm land close to the urban centres, particularly in case of war and the possible breakdown of communications. Eighty-three per cent of Markham Twp. has been zoned as rural area, he added. To do this, however, a tax structure has to be devised which will make it possible for the farmer to carry on without being taxed

off his land. Mr. Laurin mentioned the decided inequality of school tax as between the small home owner and large land owner.

"Three hundred and fifty acres of farm land, three and a half good farms were required for ten miles of super highway," the speaker said. This was something to think about in advocating highways here and there.

Education and services were other planning factors needing careful study, according to the speaker.

A short question period followed the address. There appeared to be dissatisfaction over the combining of the northern municipalities in the County and those fringe municipalities, such as Stouffville and Markham, where, though they are not in the Metropolitan Area, they are subject to Metro Planning Board guidance. It was concluded that the first move would be for a committee to meet with the Minister of Planning & Development and Metro Planning Board for talks on the organization and advisability of a County Planning Board as well as what should be the position of the fringe municipalities.

A five-man committee was appointed as follows: Doug Richardson, Aurora; L. P. Evans, Whitchurch; Elmer Daniels, Stouffville; C. Laurin, Markham, and R. Kirk, Vaughan Twp.

## HIGH SCHOOL OPEN NIGHT AGAIN POPULAR EVENT

The "Open House" at the Stouffville High School on Tuesday evening again proved to be a most popular event as hundreds took advantage of the opportunity to visit the school, enjoy the entertainment provided by the students and see some of the work on display.

The auditorium was filled for the hour-long entertainment which preceded the visit to the classrooms. Principal Duxbury spoke briefly to the gathering and the School Band under Mr. G. Waite played a number of selections.

Members of the Night Sewing Class provided a Fashion Show at which they modeled their creations. Mrs. Peacock, the teacher, acted as commentator. The school's two prize-winning orators won them the Lions Club first and second prizes at the recent Lions Oratorical Contest. The students are Ron Thompson and Judy Johnson.

Mr. Marshall guided a group of the boys through an exciting gymnastic display.

The art work of the Night Art Class was on display in the auditorium and created considerable interest.

Following the entertainment, the visitors visited the various classrooms viewing the work, the woodwork, the household economics display of sewing and baking and the science room experiments.

Lunch was served by members of the Students' Council.

# Public School Budget Up \$7,780 Expect Grants, New Assessment Likely Help To Lower Mill Rate

Although the Stouffville Public School budget for 1957 jumped this year by nearly \$8,000, it is expected that additional grants and added assessment in town will bring the required mill rate for the school down from '56. The public school budget for this year will be the largest ever presented to council, a total of \$70,781.44. Two years ago the figure was \$47,000. One more additional teacher will be required to begin the fall term, bringing the staff up to fifteen, including the Principal. This extra teacher coupled with regular salary increases form the greater part of the increased budget.

The Board in going over the figures found few places where the budget could be shaved to any appreciable degree. The attendance at the school has doubled in five years which in itself necessitated a considerable increase in the financial outlay. Members agreed that by utilizing another basement room, and the last one available, they could hold off proceeding with a second school for one more year. The forty-year-old school building requires considerable repair maintenance and will continue to do so.

Against this seventy thousand dollar budget the School Board will receive grants totalling \$20,912.88. Main items of the budget are as follows:

	1957	1956
Teacher salaries	\$ 48,420.00	\$ 40,640.00
Teaching supplies	2,531.44	2,650.00
Administration	1,100.00	1,200.00
Operating Plant	6,405.00	6,300.00
Capital outlay	5,665.00	7,186.00

Miscellaneous items, books, etc. make up the balance of the budget.

## NEW COACH LINES BEGIN OPERATION ON APRIL 8TH

Newmarket Coach Lines have received the final okay from the Ontario Highway Transport Board giving them permission to operate a bus line from Sutton to Toronto, via Ballantrae, Ringwood and Gormley. The Newmarket operators made representation some months ago for a license to operate on this route, and a hearing was held last month before the Transport Board. Strongest opposition to the request came from Richmond Hill and the T.T.C. Supporting the application were the townships of Whitchurch, East and North Gwillimbury, also York County Council, Mt. Albert and the Richmond Hill Ratepayers' Assoc.

The new line will commence operation on Monday, April 8th, and will run one round trip daily to Toronto, with additional trips being added as required. The northern terminus will be Sutton, and the line will proceed south on Highway 48 down the 8th con. of Whitchurch to Ringwood, then westerly through Gormley to Bayview and south to the city.

## Well-known Farmer Raises Rare Sheep for Ladies' Valuable Coats

Karakul sheep from which the skins for Persian lamb coats are obtained, are being raised by Mr. Jack Forster at his farm near Saintfield just a little north of Greenbank. Mr. Forster is formerly from Markham Twp. and comes from a well-known family of that municipality.

Mr. Forster got into the Karakul sheep business a year ago and has the only registered flock in Ontario. There are three in Quebec. The animals are quite valuable and most of the pelts which go into coats in Canada, are imported from South Africa and Russia. Mr. Forster was asked \$100 each for the animals to open his flock and obtained his original ewes from Montreal.

Karakuls produce lambs twice a year and Mr. Forster raised fourteen lambs last year and will produce a greater number this year. Their diet is substantially the same as other breeds of sheep, with possibly a little less quantity. They live longer than most varieties, their life span running to fifteen years and more.

There are both black and gray breeds, Mr. Forster having the blacks. Up until recently the pelts for Persian lambs were obtained from the unborn lambs, but in more recent years it has been found that pelts from lambs two to three days old were equally as good. The pelts when graded, bring \$35 to \$40 on the market. It requires a dozen to make a coat. Once the sheep reach normal growth their wool is similar in value to ordinary sheep's wool and has lost that matted kink which makes Persian Lamb coats so valuable.

Stouffville P.S. Board will interview new teachers this Saturday and complete a new salary schedule.

## TENDERS RECEIVED FOR RAISING PHEASANTS

Markham Twp. has received two tenders for the raising and supplying the township with 500 pheasants. A Brock Twp. firm agreed to supply 500 birds, sixteen weeks old for \$1,000, with a guarantee that any loss experienced during the period of raising would be made up by the company. A second offer from a Maple concern asked only \$500 to raise birds to ten weeks of age, but the township would only receive the number alive at the termination of the period. The tenders have been referred to Everett Harper, Game Preserve Officer, for study.

Conservation Council took no further action concerning the purchase of the Bruce Mill, 6th con. as a historical site. However, they did believe that a meeting with their representative on the Metro Conservation Authority would be in order, to ascertain exactly how the Authority would participate in such a project.

Metro Conservation Authority advised council by letter of the opening of an office at Woodbridge.

## POLICE CAR TENDERS VARY TWENTY CENTS

Five tenders were received Monday night by Markham Twp. Council in connection with the replacement of two police cruisers, and two of the bids were only 20c apart. Prices from top to bottom ranged two to three hundred dollars. Tenders differed in that some companies submitted bids on a 6-cylinder car and others on an eight. The figures were referred to the Chief of Police for study.

The police report for the month showed 12,438 miles travelled at a cost of \$368.20. Accidents investigated total 21, and court summonses issued numbered 288. There were 28 dog complaints received.

Councillor Kathleen James suggested that the proposed agenda for council meetings be in the hands of each member by the Friday prior to the meeting, thus giving an opportunity for study and preparation. Clerk Chas. Hoover was instructed to see that this was done.

A revised agreement was adopted covering the erection of a large Dominion Store at the corner of John St. and Yonge at Thornhill. The expense as prepared for council by the road foreman covered cost of culverts \$3,000 of which the government would pay \$2,400; cost of paving the entrance \$3,000 on which the township would pay 50%, but Dominion Stores have agreed to bear \$1200. The net bill to Markham Twp. will be \$900 and it was estimated that the assessment on the property would be in excess of \$50,000. Council passed a bylaw permitting the change in zoning, the land now to be shown as commercial land providing the Municipal Bd. agrees.

In the district, a firm bid would be submitted. If this method failed the township would have the option of making application to the Municipal Improvement Corporation for taking up the issue.

## Buttonville Woman Dies When Car Hits Tree

Mrs. Thelma Smith, a resident south of Buttonville and a mother of four children, died a few minutes after a car, driven by her husband, Orville, went out of control on No. 7 Highway, at Bayview and crashed into a tree. The accident occurred on Saturday evening.

The Smith car was eastbound. As the vehicle descended a sharp grade, it suddenly veered across the road, hit a culvert, side-swiped a tree and turned over on its side. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith were thrown out of the auto into a deep ditch. Mrs. Smith died en route to hospital in an ambulance. Her husband is recovering.

Constable Murray McLeod from the Ontario Provincial Police Detachment at Bond Lake, investigated. Sgt. Geo. Clayton and Constables Don Dukes and John McGhee of Markham township Police were also at the accident scene. The Smith auto was completely demolished. Parts of the wrecked car were strewn close to 100 feet along the roadside.

Police had difficulty in locating a doctor to render first aid to the injured. Although six physicians were summoned, they were either away or too busy. Dr. John Fleming of Markham, seven miles away, answered the call.

Besides her husband, the deceased is survived by four children, Donald 13, Barry 11, Bobby 8 and Eric 5. Her mother, Mrs. Joseph Hales and a brother, Ronald, reside in Toronto.

## OPEN HOUSE AT PUBLIC SCHOOL

Stouffville Public School will conduct its second Open House night on Wednesday, April 17. These events are proving very popular for both teachers and parents and this is the second night to be held in the local school this term.

Easter reports will have been distributed and the teachers will be present to answer any questions parents may have concerning their children's work.

Parents are urged to keep this night in mind, and to avail themselves of this opportunity to know the school and the staff. Refreshments will be served.

## \$115,000 Addition Planned For Markham High School

Markham District High School Board requested approval from Markham Twp. Council on Monday night for the engaging of an architect to prepare plans for a \$115,000 addition to the high school there. Markham Twp. Council asked their solicitor if it would not be possible for the township to finance only that portion for which they were liable, and thus not be a party to the entire debt.

Solicitor Lucas explained that such a procedure would be considerably involved but believed that it could be arranged if all municipalities concerned were in agreement and a method could also be agreed upon whereby a proper equalized assessment could be worked out from year to year. Township Council agreed to the High School Board's request to finance the cost of plans but they wished to give further study to the method of finance.

A communication was received from Vaughan Twp. stating that they are agreeable to the expenditure for an addition to the Richmond Hill High School as previously requested. Markham Twp. under Reeve Alf LeMasurier refused to support the addition last year and council took no action again on Monday night.

Steele's Ave. Bridge

County Council it was stated is expected to agree to assume Steele's Ave. for a distance of one thousand ft. which will take in that portion containing the long-disputed new bridge. Markham will bear some share of the cost of the bridge and the approach.

A bylaw for borrowing the \$129,000 necessary to pay for watermain on Clark Ave., near Yonge St., was given first and second reading. Council discussed the possibility of selling the debentures but no firm bid was submitted. Deputy-Reeve Deacon suggested that a firm interested would make a survey and if found possible to sell them in

## CHIP FROM TREE ENDANGERS EYE

The sight of a young man's eye was endangered last week when a chip from the bark of a tree struck him in the face. Irwin Davis, R.R. 3, Stouffville, was working in a bush near Island Lake when a chip from a tree struck his eye. Suffering severe pain, the injured man was rushed to Stouffville where he was given first aid treatment by Dr. H. B. Freil. He was then admitted to the Toronto East General Hospital. Due to severe hemorrhaging, both eyes were immediately bandaged.

## Markham Township, Loses Appeal On 125 Acre Sub-division Agreement

An unanimous decision was handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada in favor of Langstaff Land Development Ltd. and George Selkirk when an appeal by Markham Township was dismissed. Mr. Selkirk, president of the firm, announced this week. Costs were assessed against the township.

This was Markham Twp.'s second attempt to have a ruling of the Ontario Municipal Board upset. An appeal to the Supreme Court of Ontario was lost last year.

When a 1954 agreement between Langstaff Land Development Ltd. and Markham township was revoked by the township, the firm appealed to the Minister of planning and development. The minister referred it to the Ontario Municipal Board and the OMB ruled the agreement valid. The township appealed this decision, claiming that the OMB had no jurisdiction to hear Mr. Selkirk's application.

"The township revoked its original agreement because it wanted to provide for water in that area," explained township solicitor Douglas Lucas. "The 1955 council decided not to permit any development there unless the subdivider paid \$400 a lot to cover the cost of municipal services. The thinking of council on subdivision development had changed since the agreement had been signed," he added.

Mr. Selkirk explained that approval had been granted for residential development of 206 lots on 125 acres, fronting on Bayview Ave. between Thornhill and Langstaff. Sixty houses were in various stages of construction when the 1955 Township council repudiated the agreement made by the previous council and requested a payment of a capital cost levy of \$400.00 a lot by the subdivider.

"Langstaff Land Development Ltd. refused to comply with this request, considering it unwarranted," added Mr. Selkirk. "We felt that \$400 a lot was too

high a fee to pay for recognition of a previously approved plan and a signed agreement. It had a slight flavor of extortion," he said.

"We tried repeatedly to have our approval and agreement recognized. When we were unsuccessful we applied for a hearing before the OMB in August, 1955. The only support we received was from Ex-reeve Alfred LeMasurier. Mr. LeMasurier took the stand that an agreement had been made and was binding on both parties. He registered his protest to council's action in a recorded vote," said Mr. Selkirk.

"The approval of the department of planning and development was withdrawn from this sub-division for a number of reasons," explained Reeve William Clark. "The township's plans for development of that area had changed from the time the original agreement was signed. It had been decided that no further mass development be permitted in this area with-

out water and sewers, and since the original agreement called for septic tanks and wells, it was revoked. A recommendation was made that a new agreement be made between the township and Langstaff Land Development Ltd.," added Mr. Clark.

"There was no sanitary problem in or around our property," said Mr. Selkirk. "A sanitary problem did exist elsewhere in the township where four lots were less than 1,500 square feet. Such was not the condition in our subdivision where the size of the lots complied with the Health Inspector's requirements. Besides this, water and sewers were not available from the township and they still aren't."

"This water and sewer business was just an excuse," charged Mr. Selkirk. "To hold us up until we agreed to contribute \$400 a lot for nothing."

"Because of these legal actions our development in that area has been at a standstill for almost three years," charged Mr. Selkirk.

(continued on page 3)



Lynda Forster cuddles two day-old Karakul babies



Jack Forster with one of his ewes and lambs — note absence of curl in older sheep's wool