

# Ont. Police Comm. Investigator Called "Pain in the Neck" by Reeve Alma Walker Reserve Decision on Budget

Reeve Alma Walker of Markham Village called Mr. F. J. Taylor, an adviser on police services with the Ontario Police Commission "a pain in the neck" on Thursday night, when his controversial 10-page report on conditions within the village police department was aired before a committee of the whole council.

Deputy-Reeve Albert Laidlaw, who chaired the meeting, said that he also disagreed with many of the comments contained in the report. "I take issue with the man because, in my opinion, he has made some pretty wild statements," he said.

Police Chief Fred White attended the 2-hour long session and was able to clarify many of the points mentioned in the brief. The committee, however, did not sanction the hiring of two additional officers and a day-time female clerk. They also refused to approve a 1965 budget of \$53,500. Both issues will be considered later at an open meeting of council. The police budget, as established by the committee, is \$48,955. This figure did not meet with Chief White's approval.

Assessment Up 26%  
Committee chairman Laidlaw contended that since taxable assessment in Markham had increased by 26 per cent in the last four years, the police force should be increased on a comparable basis. This would mean 1 extra man.

Chief White argued that it was necessary to have two men in the cruiser on two separate shifts, 4 p.m. to midnight and from midnight to 8 a.m. The Chief also pointed to the increase in the number of calls; the number of days spent in court and the number of business places (130) in the town that had to be checked. He noted, too, that the annual vacation period extended from June to September which also placed a heavier work load on remaining officers.

Mr. Laidlaw said he could see no justification for hiring a girl clerk in the police office. He suggested that secretarial work could be done in the village Municipal Building.

Mr. White said that much of the correspondence was of a confidential nature and should not be removed from the police quarters.

"It's that confidential, then the police should do it," argued Mrs. Walker. "I feel that the of-

icers have sufficient time to handle it."

"I am only asking for what I feel is necessary," replied the Chief, "you provide what you think is best. It's your responsibility."

In Traffic Court  
Mr. White said that he spent considerable time in Richmond Hill traffic court as the prosecutor in offenses where charges were laid by his own department.

"I don't think we have enough of them," said the chairman. "I've checked with several people on this and they say it's ridiculous."

"Check it with the magistrate," replied Mr. White.

Mrs. Walker said she attended a court session one day and all five officers were present but only one was required to speak. Councillor Douglas Allison suggested that the chiefs of various district departments who have cases on the same day should get together and work out an arrangement where one could act as the prosecutor for them all. Chief White agreed that the idea had merit and he would investigate it further.

Mr. Laidlaw noted that in 1964 only 83 charges had been laid under the Highway Traffic Act. "It doesn't seem like an awful lot," he said. Mr. White said that he planned to make more frequent use of the radar unit.

With reference to the installation of jail cells in the Markham police building rather than transporting prisoners to Buttonville or Newmarket, Chief White agreed that he would be willing to carry on under the present arrangement. He noted, too, that the answering service provided by the Buttonville office in Markham Township was also quite satisfactory.

The Chief said that when all officers in his department were detained in court, Markham Township police were available to take care of any emergencies until a local constable could be contacted. Mrs. Walker said that on occasions, the village had also assisted the township when required. "It works both ways," she said.

Denies Complaints  
Chairman Laidlaw was noticeably incensed over the Commission's statement that the police committee had not co-operated with the Chief and that there was a lack of communication between the two. Mr. White

said that the only problem was that the committee did not always agree to his requests.

"It sounded like we were at each other's necks," said the reeve.

Mr. Laidlaw then charged that there had been poor relations between the officers and the chief and that they, as a group had presented their complaint to the committee in a signed statement.

Mr. White said he had spoken to his men in this regard, and they denied that such a problem existed.

"Then they are liars," said the chairman.

"They were present in a body," said the reeve.

Councillor Paul Horton said that he had not seen a signed statement.

"This report dumbfounded me," said the chief. "I went to them and they said they had no complaints." He said that the Commission Investigator had also interviewed each man.

Mr. Laidlaw agreed that 1964 had been a troubled year with the chief in hospital; the strike at Amalgamated Electric Corp. and the resignation of P.C. Gordon Bull.

Favours Police College  
Chief White spoke in favour of courses as provided by the Ontario Police College. The Commission's report also recommended that such training should be made available to members of the village force.

Councillor Lloyd Abernethy agreed that additional training as provided at such a school was a good idea. "I'm very much in favour of it," he said.

Mr. White said that the program was varied and suited to both new and more experienced officers.

Mrs. Walker said that the main complaint concerning such courses was that once officers had acquired this schooling they were often tempted to seek employment elsewhere.

Mr. White said that the Markham Twp. Department had not experienced this problem.

The committee advocated the continuance of the safety patrol program and school visitations on a regular basis.

Mrs. Walker praised the chief's Christmas aid program but pointed out that she and not Mr. White was in charge of welfare although this was not indicated in the com.'s survey. "Once you helped me out when a man chased me around the table with a hammer, but that was only police protection, not welfare," she said. The reeve also insisted that many complaints, particularly of a

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## Markham Village Police Deny Signing Letter of Complaint Against Chief

Officers of the Markham Village Police Department have, in a statement submitted to The Tribune, denied an allegation levelled by committee chairman deputy-reeve Albert Laidlaw, that they as a body signed a letter of complaint against their chief, Fred White.

The alleged "revolt" was supposed to have occurred in 1964. It was made public by Mr. Laidlaw at a committee of the whole council on Thursday night of last week. The letter was not produced.

Chief White, noticeably shaken by the chairman's remark, denied all knowledge of unrest among his men and said that they too had discounted the report when he questioned them individually.

The deputy-reeve made the charge during a two-hour discussion on police matters within the village force as outlined in a survey completed by an investigator with the Ontario Police Commission. The report noted that morale within the department was low.

## Brenda Horner, Markham Delegate To U. Nations

A fifteen year old Markham girl will take part in the 16th annual United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth as the winner of a contest among high school students.

visit New York in July as one of more than 1,000 student observers of the United Nations from both the United States and Canada. The project is sponsored by the Oddfellows and Rebekah Lodges of America through the Youth Committee of the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

Delegates will study and observe the U.N. in action and learn of the vast work done throughout the world by the various U.N. departments and agencies.

One of the special features of the visit will be a day at the New York World's Fair. The theme of the youth gathering will be "Peace Through Understanding."

Receives Certificate  
In recognition for having won the contest, Brenda will be presented with a parchment certificate at the Grand Master's Banquet in Aurora. A certificate of merit will also be presented to Charles Lumsden of Markham, as the runner-up in the competition.

Sponsors who will pay for the week in New York and the educational bus tour are Metropolitan Dist. No. 39 Independent Order of Oddfellows.

Brenda will be one of 250 students from Ontario who will take part in the tour.



Brenda Horner  
Brenda Horner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Horner, Hawkridge Ave., Markham will

## Brougham News

The Annual Father and Son Banquet and the 1st Brock Pickering Cub and Scout Troop took place on Tuesday, April 20th. Donald Campbell was presented with his "Leaping Wolf" badge by C. M. Hoyt while 10 other boys received their firemen's badges from Scout Master Ken Ramsay. Pictures were shown to conclude the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Campbell and family, Mr. and Mrs. K. Ramsay and family, John and Richard Perkins and David Miller attended 'Scouting in Action' at the Coliseum in Toronto Saturday.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be observed in St. John's United Church on Sunday, May 9th, at 10 a.m. Parents who desire to present their children for baptism should get in touch with Rev. Crosswell as soon as possible.

The flowers in the church on Sunday were in memory of the late Mr. Hollinger of Cherrywood.

David Day and Jim Blake visited the former's cousin in Port Perry Friday and returned home Saturday.

The mixed bowling group closed their regular season on

Friday night with a trip to Toronto to witness the showing of 'My Fair Lady.' High bowlers were: Ladies high single: Frances Day; Ladies high triple: M. A. Annis; Men high single: H. Faulkner.

Mr. and Mrs. Randal Elliott have purchased the Breed house presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Don Rogers.

Mrs. L. Honey, Port Perry, spent last week at the Mervin Annis' home.

There are a number of cases of measles in the village. Douglas Donaldson of Hamilton spent the holidays at his home here.

The evening group of the United Church Women will meet on Wednesday evening, May 5th, at the home of Mrs. Donaldson.

The boys who belong to the Ontario County 4-H Forestry Club, Lorne Annis and Gordon Roberts, have received their trees and are busy planting.

The Brougham 4-H Dairy Calf Club and Junior Calf Club held their first meeting April 21st in the Council Chambers. An interesting agricultural film was shown, followed by a discussion.

## Councillors Wife Dies After Accident



A tragic two-car crash on the Main Street in Unionville on Saturday night resulted in the death on Monday of Mrs. Shirley Eileen Allison, wife of Markham Village councillor, Douglas Allison, Lincoln Green Drive, Markham. The badly damaged Allison car, a 1964 Pontiac, is shown here. Mr. and Mrs. Allison and two of their four children were returning home from the Unionville Skating Carnival when the collision occurred.

### BETHESDA

Cancer Society collections made by Mrs. A. Cruickshank and Mrs. C. Burkholder in Bethesda on the fifth Concession and the Whitchurch side of the town line from Don Mills Road to the fifth, totalled the sum of one hundred and ten dollars.

This is not a complete figure for Bethesda since other collectors go through the sideroads and to the north. Your ready response to this worthy cause is appreciated by your collectors and the Aurora Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Bob Olszewski is presently in Central Hospital, Toronto, following a knee operation where he will spend a few days. Best wishes for a good recovery.

Mrs. W. H. Moore of Sherwood Park, near Edmonton is spending a few days with her sister Mrs. W. Watt. Mrs. W. I. Walker, of Newmarket, another sister, with her husband called on Mrs. Watt, Wilbur and Mrs. Moore on Sunday.

The regular monthly meeting of the Bethesda United Church Women is planned for Wednesday, May 5, at 2:30 p.m. at the home of (Rev.) Mrs. Geo. Davison. Christmas gifts for boys 8-16 years of age to be sent to Nelson House, Manitoba, will be received.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Steckley are spending several days visiting friends in the vicinity.

Smoke rising from the hills tells us that Ray Atkinson and Lloyd Bolender are busy making maple syrup.

Recent callers on Will Empringham who is now at home, were Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Leadlay, Uxbridge, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Giles, Aurora, Otto Barkey Newmarket and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Pattenden and neighbours.

Lawyer: "Now make it brief and to the point. How did the explosion occur?"  
Witness: "The engine was full and the boiler was empty."

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