

Don Deacon reports:

Protest changes in Assessment Act

I was pleased when Municipal Affairs Minister, Bales, rose this week to introduce amendments to the Assessment Act. However, my hopes were quickly dashed when I found the Act failed to deal with the Assessment shift problem which hit York County homeowners so severely last year.

When market value assessment was introduced in the calculation of 1970 property taxes a year ago, tax increases of 50 percent to 100 percent were not uncommon. Incensed taxpayers jammed meetings all over the County as they protested the 20 percent shift in the tax burden from industrial and commercial taxpayers to homeowners. Finally the Province passed two acts which provided for a little temporary relief but did not deal with the shift in burden from one class of assessment to another.

Mr. McKeough promised relief in the next Session. That promise has been forgotten by his successor. In reply to my question, Mr. Bales said there were a lot of unsettled appeals and

also the Towns of Markham and Vaughan were appealing all assessments so the department had decided to wait until the outcome of these cases was settled.

In my view, the municipalities should be given the right to apply a class factor to the assessment so that industrial and commercial taxpayers, as a class, having become accustomed to a certain share of the total tax burden, will not receive a major gift as they did last year in Markham and Vaughan at the expense of the homeowners.

Otherwise, Mr. Bales' new Assessment Act was welcome in that it contained specific provisions to exempt home improvements up to \$2500 from any increase in assessment. When the 1969 Act was originally debated in the Legislature Committee, we contended that those who improved properties should not be penalized. Departmental officials maintained they wouldn't be under the Act. Apparently their contentions did not prove well founded.

Crowds attend auction

By Jean Leaf BUTTONVILLE - On Saturday it seemed as though all roads led to the auction sale at the Kelly home south of Buttonville bridge.

Well before the opening time of 1 p.m. cars lined Don Mills Road for more than a mile on both sides. Other cars were parked on every lane and side street, and in a field donated for the purpose by Mr. Edgar Fuller.

Antique buyers had a field day, but for Buttonville residents it was a sad event. There have been Kellys at Buttonville for four generations. For more than 85 years

Dr. George Kelly and his father served York County as veterinarians. Dr. George was also instrumental in securing land for the present Buttonville Community Hall. His wife, Hilda, a former teacher at Buttonville School, has been active in community affairs. She has participated in church activities, the York Central Hospital Auxiliary, and is president of the Markham Women's Liberal Association.

The Kellys are moving to Newmarket, where their son practices dentistry. They will be missed by the community here.

Resigns post

STOUFFVILLE - Bob McNeil has resigned from the Whitchurch - Stouffville Recreation Committee, it was announced at Tuesday's Council meeting. A letter from Mr. McNeil cited 'pressure of business' as his reason for the action.

Mayor Ken Laushway nominated Edward Grimshaw, of Main St., Stouffville, to fill out the unexpired term for Mr. McNeil. Council voted unanimously in favor of the nomination.

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Markham mayor opens museum

Mayor Anthony Roman addresses crowds outside the Markham Museum, July 10, prior to cutting the ribbon to officially open the project. In the foreground are two members of the Fort York Guards. —Jas. Thomas.

Struck by lightning

By Rene Rennie CLAREMONT - Friends and neighbours wish Glenn Gauslin, who was struck by lightning while working last weekend, a speedy recovery. Glenn is in Scarborough General Hospital suffering from severe burns. According to the latest reports, his condition is improving steadily.

Mr. and Mrs. Stan Linto return by plane this week from a trip to the west coast which included a boat cruise to Alaska.

On Saturday, there will be a community shower for Shirley Hodgson and Ted Robinson in Claremont Community Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Redshaw, of Port Perry, and Mr. and Mrs. Cec. Redman, of Markham, are enjoying a trip out west to attend the Calgary Stampede.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Almack, Margaret and Cory, attended a Ukrainian wedding Saturday at All Saints Ukrainian Church, Whitby. They were

among the 375 guests at the reception. Mrs. Marge Samarillo, Mrs. Ruby Redi of Brougham, and Mrs. Rene Rennie spent Wednesday visiting Mr. and Mrs. B. Kelly of Norwood.

Taxing methods protested

YORK REGION - The York Region Council, at its meeting of July 15, decided to join Peel County in protesting methods of taxation imposed by the province.

A resolution passed by Peel County was forwarded to the Regional Council and to Halton County. This document asks the provincial Department of Municipal Affairs to change present methods of assessment to restore tax ratios previously existing on industrial, residential and rural properties.

Mayor Dick Illingworth of Aurora said that this would "just be tossed into the wastebasket" if sent to the Department as a resolution. He advocated demanding a complete re-assessment of the Region. Council endorsed resolution, and will meet with officials of Peel County and forwarded the Peel County.

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5. Put on sturdy shoes and long pants before using tractor.
6. Be careful when operating on rough terrain. Maintain good footing at all times.
7. Do not let others ride with you nor permit children to operate the tractor.
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