

# South Cayuga Purchase Kept Secret

**Editor's Note:** The *Globe and Mail*, Toronto, printed an article last week on the government's purchase of the South Cayuga satellite city site. The following is attributed to that story entitled "How purchase of site for a new city was kept a secret at Queen's Park." It was written by Robert Williamson.

Last summer, farmers living in the former township of South Cayuga started phoning Haldimand-Norfolk regional

offices, curious to know why somebody was offering them large sums of money for their property.

Regional officials didn't know, but because of the size of the area being acquired and prices offered, they narrowed two possibilities down to the provincial or federal government.

Senior civil servants at Queen's Park pleaded ignorance. The inquiries, however, piqued their curiosity and soon staff in

the ministries of Government Services and Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs were calling Cayuga and other area persons, trying to discover what was going on in South Cayuga.

James Allan, a conservative who has represented H-N in the legislature for the past 23 years, said he didn't know.

It was not until the end of November that Treasurer John White admitted the province was the buyer.

"He didn't see then the rashes of embarrassment on some senior staff in his own ministry who had been outside the tight circle of secrecy and had had underlings trying to sound casual in their calls to Cayuga for information," the article stated.

Mr. White only needed the approval of six other members of the 26-member provincial cabinet to initiate land optioning by the A.E. LePage real estate firm in South Cayuga. They are

Premier Bill Davis, Management Board Chairman Eric Winkler, Provincial Secretary for Social Development Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development Allan Grossman and Energy Minister Darcy McKeough.

The full cabinet is not involved until the province is ready to buy.

"Some members of regional council were less than enthusiastic about the idea of two cities and were 'deeply disturbed' about the extended secrecy," the article said. The province has also bought land in Walpole-Townsend for a satellite city.

"Mr. White defused the hostility by being flexible on some points when he met the council a month ago. He didn't care, he said, which city was built first

and left that decision, along with the structure of much of the special project corporation which will handle the eventual development to the council.

"But back at Queen's Park the minister's flexibility astonished some officials involved in planning. For nearly a year, provincial planning departments had been basing their work, involving such basics as servicing pins, on the assumption that the Townsend site, the first purchased, would naturally be the first to be built.

"The strong initiatives by the Treasurer in preliminaries to development in Haldimand-Norfolk is the reason that critics both within the civil service and without, acidly suggest the first new community should be called White City."

## Bird Census In Woodhouse

The Woodhouse Christmas Census took place on Sunday, December 29th under cloudy skies and mild temperatures of 32 - 36 degrees F.

Twenty-four observers were out in 12 parties from daybreak to dusk for a total of about 90 party hours. One-third of these hours were spent on foot, two-thirds by car in the official count area made up of a circle with a 7½-mile

radius centred on the village of Renton.

Total party miles recorded were 75 on foot, 370 by car, for a total of 445 miles.

Seventy species were recorded and 1,995 individuals, as compared to 62 species and 5,253 individuals in 1973.

In the area but not recorded on count day were: Pileated Woodpecker,

Tufted Titmouse and Myrtle Warbler.

The 70 species recorded on the official Woodhouse Census day were:

Great Blue Heron (3), Sharp-Shinned Hawk (1), Mallard (596), Red-Tailed Hawk (95), Black Duck (6), Wood Duck (2), Marsh Hawk (10), Greater Scaup (1,600), Sparrow Hawk (54), Common Goldeneye (69), Ruffed Grouse (11), Bufflehead (6), Ring-N. Pheasant (2), Hooded Merganser (7), Gr. Black-Backed Gull (4), Common Merganser (3), Herring Gull (178), Red-Breasted Merganser (2), Ring-Billed Gull (320), Goshawk (1), Bonaparte's Gull (70).

Mourning Dove (439), Northern Shrike (7), Rock Dove (210), Starling (852), Great Horned Owl (3), House Sparrow (3,006), Long-Eared Owl (3), Eastern Meadowlark (45), Screech Owl (3), Red-Winged Blackbird (6), Belted Kingfisher (3), Rusty Blackbird (1), Yellow-Shafted Flicker (1), Common Grackle (5), Red-Bellied Woodpecker (1), Brown-Headed Cowbird (360), Red-Headed Woodpecker (2), Cardinal (79), Hairy Woodpecker

## Missionary Honored

A large group attended a meeting, sponsored by the Cheapside United Church Sunday School, at the Church Friday night. Planned and directed by superintendent Ruby Bartlett, it was in honor of Miss Leola Werner, formerly of Cheapside, who has served in Trinidad as a missionary for many years. She is now home on retirement.

This was the first occasion for her to share the work she did there with her church family. She gave a slide presentation with a fine display of arts and crafts on exhibit.

Another feature of the

evening was a drama enacted by the Sunday School members, with a miniature donkey and cart, symbolic of sugar cane conveyance in Trinidad, was held in front of the church. People came forward to present their offering as they have done every year as sponsors of the missionary. Musical numbers were also presented.

Mr. Arnold Creaser, pastor, closed with a prayer and benediction.

Later everyone retired to the Sunday School room where a bountiful lunch was served. The gifts received in the cart were then presented to Leola.

It was an exhilarating meeting for this small church which has maintained both its own church and missionary.



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