

# JENNINGS, JOHN RAY



Timeless King

## EARLY LIFE

**Mar 3, 1898**

Born in Barrie Island, Ontario to John and Margret (Coutts) Jennings.

**1901 Census**

Age 3

Lived in Barrie Island, Ontario with John Jennings (head of house – father, age 31), Margret Jennings (mother, age 26), Frances Jennings (sister, age 4) and Myrtle Jennings (sister, age 4).

**1911 Census**

Age 12

Lived in Barrie Island, Ontario with John Jennings (father, age 40), Margret Jennings (mother, age 36), Frances Jennings (sister, age 14), Myrtle Jennings (sister, age 10) and Mabel Jennings (sister, age 3).

## MILITARY SERVICE

**Mar 20, 1916**

Attested to the 199<sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion, Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force

**Attestation  
Paper**

- **Number:** 754476
- **Present address:** Barrie Island, Ontario
- **Next of kin given:** John Jennings (Father) of Barrie Island, Ontario
- **Trade or calling:** Farmer
- **Married:** No
- **Previous military experience:** No
- **Religion:** Presbyterian
- **Physical attributes:**
  - **Age:** 18 years
  - **Height:** 5'9"
  - **Complexion:** Medium
  - **Eyes:** Blue
  - **Hair:** Brown
  - **Distinctive marks:** Scar on outside of right leg

**Aug 8, 1916**

Departed Canada through Halifax.

Age 18

**Aug 19, 1916**

Arrived in Liverpool, England.

Age 18

**Jan 28, 1918**

Private Ray Jennings was discharged because of medical unfitness. He had persistent problems because of empyema. He suffered from numerous headaches and pains.

Age 19

## AFTER THE WAR

Sep 12, 1922

Age 24

Married Evelyn Diana Bovair, daughter of Walter and Annie (Todd) Bovair of King, Ontario.

Oct 31, 1981

Age 83

Ray Jennings died.

## TIMELESS KING ONLINE

### *King Township Council 1963, 1964, 1965*



Reeve Raymond Jennings



Deputy Reeve Gordon Cook



Councillor William Curran



Councillor Kenneth MacTaggart



Councillor Jack C. Rouble

*Township of King Council 1963, 1964, 1965.*

## MENTIONED IN TEMPERANCEVILLE TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY

### *Women's Institute – Temperanceville: Part 28 of 29 pg. 3*

After my marriage to Ray Jennings in September, 1922, we lived on the farm to assist with the work. Being an only child there were no boys to take over. Our children, Ewart, Emerson and Betty were born there, and Ewart has remained there. In June 1946 he married Shirley Akam. Ewart and Shirley with their family, Diana, Nancy, John and Christopher, still live on the farm.

In January, 1949, when Ewart took over the farm, my mother and father (Walter and Annie Bovair), Ray and I moved to Aurora. We lived there for six years then moved to the farm opposite Lot 13. Mother and Father passed away in Aurora.

In November, 1921, Clarence Doolittle, who had been overseas in World War I, bought the property through the Government. In November, 1926, Ray Jennings purchased it from Clarence Doolittle and it is still in Ray Jennings's possession.

**MENTIONED IN EARLY SETTLEMENTS OF KING TOWNSHIP**

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in 1907. Evelyn, only child of Walter and Annie Bovair, married Ray Jennings in 1922, and lived on the farm to assist in its operations. In 1949, Ewart Jennings (son of Ray and Evelyn) and his wife Shirley took over the farm, and his grandparents and parents moved to Aurora. Today, Christopher, Ewart's son, is the sixth generation to carry on farming operations on lot 13, concession 2. The original house was a two-storey log cabin, just across the lane from the present white brick house which was built about 1882. When Mrs. Walter Bovair (Annie Todd) was a young girl, she named the farm "Highview Farm" because of the fine panoramic view of the countryside, and the name has never been changed. The house and barn are perched high on the hilltop, and the views at sunrise and sunset are unsurpassed because of the location on the divide of land between Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe.

**IN THE NEWS**

**Marriage Announcement**

The Toronto Star

Wednesday, September 20, 1922 pg. 18

**JENNINGS—BOVAIR.**

At the old homestead, Highview Farm, King, where the family have been in residence for over eighty years, the marriage took place of Evelyn D. Bovair, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bovair, to J. Ray Jennings, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Jennings, Temperanceville, Ont., niece of Mr. J. D. Todd of Toronto.

The ceremony was conducted by their pastor, Rev. J. W. Fox, B.A., in the presence of some forty guests. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a gown of ivory canton crepe, trimmed with orange blossoms. She carried a shower bouquet of Ophelia roses and baby's breath, and wore a string of pearls, the gift of the groom. The wedding party then motored to Woodbridge, where the happy couple boarded the train amid showers of confetti and good wishes, for Owen Sound and thence by boat to Manitoulin Island to spend their honeymoon. The bride traveled in a brown broadcloth suit with hat and shoes to match. On their return they will reside in Toronto.

## Acclamation For King Council Ray Jennings, New Councillor

There will be no municipal election in King township. All offices were filled by acclamation on Nov. 26, at the annual municipal nominations held at Nobleton community hall.

Reeve Elton Armstrong will continue for his sixth term in office and Deputy-Reeve Wm. Hodgson will return for a third term. Councillors Wilfred Aitchison and William Kehoe are in office for a third term.

The only change from last year's council is that Ray Jennings will replace Douglas Wellesley as a councillor. Mr. Jennings served three years as councillor until two years ago when he was defeated by Wm. Hodgson in the deputy-reeveship contest.

Mr. Hodgson was nominated as reeve and W. F. Aitchison as deputy-reeve. They did not qual-

ify, having accepted their original nominations for deputy and councillor respectively. Mr. Hodgson announced he would contest the reeveship in 1955.

Earl Black, Albert Farren and Carl Black were acclaimed as trustees on King township Area No. 1 school board, Kettleby, for a two year term. No other nominations were received. Lorne Goodfellow, Nobleton, was chairman of the meeting. It was attended by over 60.

### Reeve Reports

Uppermost in the mind of Reeve Armstrong in his general remarks was the suffering and devastation by the flood. "Everything bad that ever happened was seen after the flood," he said. He offered sympathy on behalf of the municipality to the afflicted districts. "Out of it all is coming orderly remedial

measures through the efforts of municipalities, the provincial government and the Central Hurricane fund."

He expressed appreciation to the municipalities of Bradford and West Gwillimbury and their reeves; to the provincial members for Simcoe and York and to the Ontario government. "Help came from everywhere," he said. Mr. Armstrong praised the King township road superintendent and his employees.

The greatest flood damage was in the Holland Marsh, the reeve said. It was a difficult job but it had been completed successfully. Fifty-eight percent of the Marsh lies in King township and is under the Holland Marsh Drainage commission which was initiated by West Gwillimbury. There is approximately three percent within Bradford and the remainder is under the jurisdiction of West Gwillimbury. Mr. Armstrong explained this in discussing the rehabilitation program. The Marsh was drained 30 days after the flood and by spring 75 percent of the land will be seeded, he added.

This was done at no cost to the municipalities.

### Future Planning

An eye must be kept on taxation and the slow development of farm lands, Deputy-Reeve Hodgson told the meeting. As a member of York County council's finance committee, one of three committees on which he served, the deputy outlined the difficulty of budgeting on an assessment which had been reduced from \$250 million to \$18 million. The first budget cut the grants, but by June there was 10½ mills. For county purposes there was an increase of five percent to a mill rate in King township of 8%. Special roads' budget was cut with no allowance for additional roads.

The deputy said there was a "more united body" in the new York County council. Mr. Hodgson observed he would try to have something done to remove the restraining order from the Oak Ridges subdivision to help these people attain the place to which they are entitled with their properties.

**1955 Municipal Candidates for Election**

The Newmarket Era & Express

Thursday, December 1, 1955 pg. 9

**KING**

Reeve, Elton Armstrong, William Hodgson.

Deputy-Reeve (accl.), Wilfred Aitchison.

Council (three to be elected), Raymond Jennings, Douglas Hutchins, Norman Taylor, W. H. Fuller, D. M. Findlay and Douglas Wellesley.

Kettleby School area (two to be elected), John Fawcett, Donald Cheyne and Carman Tilson.

**1955 Municipal Election Results**

The Newmarket Era & Express

Thursday, December 8, 1955 pg. 1

**King Township**

Reeve—William Hodgson, 1,282; Elton Armstrong, 1,099.

Deputy-reeve (accl.) — Wilfred Aitchison.

Council (first three elected)—

Raymond Jennings, 1,170;

Douglas Wellesley, 1,121;

Douglas Hutchins, 1,031;

Norman Taylor, 736; D. M.

Findlay, 615; William Fuller, 427.

Kettleby School area — John Fawcett and Carman Tilson.

**Campaign Advert for Reeve**

The Newmarket Era & Express

Thursday, November 22, 1962 pg. 3

To The Electors Of

**KING TOWNSHIP**

For Progressive, Economical  
Municipal Government

ELECT

**RAY JENNINGS**

REEVE

**December 1st.**

(10.00 a.m. - 8 p.m.)

**8 Years Council Experience**

## Ray Jennings Elected King Township Reeve

Former member of King Township Council for eight years, Ray Jennings, 64, of Peranceville district, was winner of the three candidate race for reeve in Saturday's municipal elections. He polled 1,730 votes. Mr. Jennings defeated Ronald C. G. G. G., a lawyer, who polled 1,375 ballots and Donald M. Dale, Q.C., also a lawyer, who polled 635 votes. The deputy-reeve's position was settled at the nomination stage when incumbent councillor Gordon Cook, a 17-year veteran of council, recorded an acclamation. Among the six candidate ballots was William

Curran, re-elected for a second term with 1,781 votes. Making his first try for a council seat, Kenneth MacTaggart, a retired Nobleton farmer, polled 1,471 votes to finish second. Incumbent Councillor Jack Rouble was re-elected for a third term as he counted 1,375 ballots. Schomberg merchant, Elwood Dale, in his first attempt for a seat on council, finished fourth with 1,176 votes and Mrs. Ruth Mabee, another first-timer, polled 844 votes. Last candidate on the council slate was Donald Bowie, who

chalked up 545 ballots in his first try for a council berth.

Two of three questions submitted for voters' approval were passed with the third defeated. The extension of the municipal franchise drew 1,607 "yes" votes to 1,180 "no" ballots and the two year term for council was approved 1,731 to 1,130. The township school area question was vetoed as 1,296 voters marked "yes" ballots but 1,320 of the electorate opposed the measure, providing a negative majority on the question.

There were 7,395 eligible voters on the voters' lists of King Township for this election and the total vote reveals that 43.6 per cent of the figure cast ballots. This was approximately five per cent more ballots than the 38.6 per cent cast in the 1961 election.

King