



ed of by George Al... The photograph was taken after a recent heavy rain. When the water disappears nearly a foot of mud remains, through which the teachers and pupils of Public School No. 51, opposite the mudpond, have to wade. It covers an area of about 400 feet.

*"Lake Johnson" after a rain.*

THE BROOKLYN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1904.

It certainly would be an excellent time to fill in Lake Johnson. It is actually disgusting to walk along the shore, and it would be nauseating to those who remain along its borders. Water craft and green-coated islands have rotted and become grass grown in the lake and as no natural current disturbs the stagnant filth therein resident, a pregnant condition susceptible to typhoid germs and other diseases awaits the unfortunate mortal who passes by. Now in the days of Noah the protection to health was the care of Divine providence, but now the protection to health is but visionary—a Board of Health lives by virtue of its salary and sleeps by virtue of its cinch! Of course, nothin' will be doin' about this state of as-if-no-importance until several families in the immediate vicinity suffer the loss of their little ones; then it will be too late to save life gone!

WEEKLY CHAT, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1904.

315 - Oak St., Richmond Hill,

Sept. 12/04.

As a resident and practicing physician  
for nine years in Richmond Hill  
I have seen the recurring floodings  
of Johnson Ave. between Junction Ave. &  
Stewart Ave., with each heavy rain. There  
are a number of other spots where the  
flooding after a rain takes place; but  
on Johnson Ave. the water stagnates,  
does not disappear by absorption.

into the soil or evaporation into the  
atmosphere as it does in ~~the~~ varying  
degrees in the other places mentioned.

Such a condition of affairs I cannot  
but regard as very seriously detrimental  
to the health of the residents in the vicinity,  
particularly those whose resisting powers  
are below the standard, - such as  
children. Stagnant water is always  
diarrhoea breeding, and a number of my  
patients have suffered from complaints  
whose etiology could <sup>be</sup> traced almost directly

to the misnomer of such swamps, - for  
swamps they really are.

William Clarence Fiske, M.D.

Richmond Hill, N.Y., Sept. 13, 1904.

To Whom it May Concern:-

The undersigned members of Morris Park Hook & Ladder Company No. 1, located on Johnson Avenue, Richmond Hill, in a wing of the Police Station and adjacent to Public School No. 51, consider the condition of Johnson Avenue fronting our location not only a menace to public health and a nuisance generally, but dangerous to public safety by reason of the extent to which it interferes with getting our fire apparatus in or out quickly in the event of a fire. The street is low at this point, and in time of rain a large quantity of water gathers there which has no outlet. This water overflows the approaches by which our apparatus must pass, making it difficult for the horses to see where they are going; and in winter, when the stagnant water freezes, ingress and exit are alike nearly impossible. On two occasions last winter we were unable to get our apparatus out into the street at all on account of the ice.

We regard this as a very serious matter, and hope that an effectual remedy for it may be found before cold weather sets in.

Signed:

Chas. B. Reilly  
Edmond McCarthy  
Chas. Scheera  
Lawrence B. Reilly  
M. A. Bergstrom  
Edward Spitzer  
Patrick J. Brennan  
George Buttenweich  
Joe Garrauto

Emil Fendly  
John Mulligan  
J. H. Warner

W. T. Scovill, M. D.,

Church St.,

Richmond Hill, N. Y.

October 17th, 1904.

Dear Sir:-

Too much stress cannot be put upon the importance (from a medical standpoint) of having the nuisance and health menace on Johnson Avenue, Richmond Hill N.Y. removed; and I join most sincerely with those interested, in urging You to assist Us in abating such a serious menace to the public well-fare,

Most respectfully,



TO

The Honorable Mr McClellan.

Mayor of N.Y. City N.Y.

Richard Heise, Oct. 25-1904.

To His Honor

The Mayor of The City of New York.

I beg to advise your Honor, in regard to a complaint as to a nuisance on Johnson Str. in front of Public School #51, that, in my opinion, the conditions are such as to menace the health of our entire community, and be directly responsible, under the favorable conditions, which are sure to be present during the coming winter, for an epidemic of infectious & contagious diseases.

L. Leonard Moss, M.D.

Copy..

Oct. 26, 1904..

Hon.. George Maure,,

Member, Local School Board, District 44,

Morris Park, L.I.

My dear sir:-

Replying to your inquiry concerning the disposal of  
the accumulation of water in Johnson Avenue in front of Public  
School 51 Richmond Hill, I beg to inform you that the Board of  
Education will offer no objection to the sinking of a cesspool  
for such disposal in the Northeast corner of the premises..

On the other hand we will indeed be glad to see this  
street cleared of water, and I hope that this cesspool will  
effectually do the work..

Very respectfully yours,

Frank A. Collins.

Deputy Sup't. of School Buildings,

Borough of Queens.

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Very respectfully yours,

Frank A. Collins.

Deputy Sup't. of School Buildings,

Borough of Queens.

October 29, 1904.

Hon. Joseph Cassidy,  
President of the Borough of Queens,  
Hackett Building, Long Island City.

Dear Sir:-

In accordance with the conversation of Mr. George  
Maure of the local School Board here; Mr. <sup>Fredk</sup> ~~Frank~~ Naber, and myself,  
with Mr. Jervis yesterday morning, I beg to enclose a copy of the  
plan which we then suggested to prevent the collection of stagnant  
water on Johnson Avenue, Richmond Hill, opposite ~~Police Station~~ <sup>Public School</sup> 51.  
This plan has the approval of all the residents in interest, and the  
sanction also of civil engineers to whom it has been shown. It is  
our understanding that this will be transmitted by you to his Honor,  
the Mayor, presumably in the shape of a resolution passed by the  
local Board, in accordance with the Mayor's suggestion of early in  
October, that more specific action be taken in the matter than was  
done in the resolution passed September 1 by the local Board of  
Jamaica.

As the abatement of the nuisance does not seem to come under  
the ordinary channels of expenditure, it is our hope that the Mayor  
can find special funds for the matter, under Section 429 of the  
Greater New York charter. We <sup>estimate</sup> ~~assume~~ that the total expense will  
not exceed \$600.

Yours respectfully,

Hubert L. Towle  
272 Johnson Ave., Richmond Hill, N.Y.

Enc.

Suggested Plan to prevent the Collection of Stagnant Water  
on Johnson Avenue, Richmond Hill, in front of Public  
School #51 and Police Station of Precinct 83.

1. Prevent the surface water on Stewart Avenue from turning north into Johnson Avenue by means of a properly constructed water course of crushed stone or brick at the crossing. The water will then flow east on Stewart Avenue one block to Lefferts Avenue, where a drain pipe already laid provides an outlet.

2. Prevent the surface water flowing west on Jamaica Avenue from turning south into Johnson Avenue, by taking up the brick pavement at the intersection, on the south side of Jamaica Avenue, and relaying same to form a water-course carrying the water straight west on Jamaica Avenue. Apply similar treatment at the intersection of Briggs and Jefferson Avenues with Jamaica Avenue, to prevent the water from turning south from Jamaica Avenue into those streets. The water so led will escape by existing outlets <sup>via</sup> from a catch basin already sunk at the corner of Jamaica Avenue and Elm Street.

3. Dig a large cesspool in the yard of School 51 at or near the hollow in Johnson Avenue, and sink drains a little north and south of the lowest place in the street, whereby the water falling on Johnson Avenue, between Jamaica Avenue and Stewart Avenue, may be caught before it reaches the lowest place in the street. Connect the drains with the existing catch basins and cesspool, and connect the existing cesspool with the new cesspool, so that the water

will settle as much as possible before entering the new cesspool. It is believed that the much less serious and more temporary wet condition of Briggs Avenue after a rain, which condition is largely due to water turning into Briggs Avenue from Jamaica Avenue, will be so far ameliorated by keeping the Jamaica Avenue water out of Briggs Avenue as to make special treatment there unnecessary. Even under the present conditions, the water stands there only two, three, or four days before passing away.

<sup>THE</sup>  
**AUTOMOBILE**

THE CLASS JOURNAL COMPANY  
PUBLISHERS  
FLATIRON BUILDING, NEW YORK

October 29, 1904.

Hon. George B. McClellan,

Mayor of New York City, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to the letter of Mr. Hassett, dated Oct. 19,  
I beg to enclose a copy of a letter sent by me today to Borough Presi-  
dent Cassidy. I enclose also copy of our proposed plan for remedying  
the existing conditions on Johnson Avenue, a duplicate copy of which I  
have sent to President Cassidy. I enclose also a few letters from local  
physicians, written at the request of myself and others, from which the  
serious character of the nuisance may be inferred. This portion of the  
street fronts not only on School 51, but on the station house of Police  
Precinct No. 83, and on the quarters of the Morris Park Hook & Ladder Co.  
No. 1, and I enclose a letter from the members of the latter Company.

The remedy proposed in our communication to President Cassidy  
is the best temporary remedy that has suggested itself to us, and it will  
serve till a sewer system can be installed. We are willing however, to  
see any other plan adopted which will accomplish the results sought.

Very respectfully yours,

*Herbert L. Towle*

272 Johnson Avenue,

Richmond Hill, New York.

*copy of a*  
I add also a letter from Deputy Supt. of School Bldgs Collins to Mr. Maure.  
H. L. J.