

The Liberal
 An Independent Weekly — Established 1878
 Subscription Rate \$2.50 per year; to the United States \$3.00; 5c Single Copy
 Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
 Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association
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 Telephone Turner 4-1261
 "Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"

"People Basically Interested In History"

— Will R. Bird

Weekly newspaper publishers and editors gathered this month for their 33rd annual exodus from business worries to a bit of relaxation and "shop talk" at St. Andrews-By-The-Sea, New Brunswick, where the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association chose the Algonquin Hotel as headquarters for its convention.

St. Andrews, more popularly known as a Canadian summer resort for millionaires, was invaded by over 300, not rich but happy, newspaper men and women and their families, who made themselves sick on lobster and clams, but who managed the morning after to make 8 a.m. breakfast. The town, sitting on the tidal mixed waters of Passamaquoddy Bay, is a pleasure spot, which mixed with a history bettered by no town of its size, is a hey-day for any newsman.

Founded in 1784 by Royal Decree, St. Andrews is one of the oldest towns in the province of New Brunswick, and for many years was of equal importance to St. John, which is only 68 miles away.

The convention was fortunate in having as one of its dinner speakers, Will R. Bird, Litt. D., distinguished author and historian, who expounded the theory that people were basically interested in history — in historic events. To emphasize his point, he related the story of four Americans who, after reading an article in a Maritime weekly about a pioneer who built himself a house on four tree stumps, which as the years progressed grew and grew and eventually raised the house twelve feet off the ground, visited our country with the purpose of getting a look at this phenomenon.

He went on to say that even though the visitors were not able to find what they came over to see, they were so impressed with our country and its other historic spots that they extended their stay in Canada and spent 2,000 of their American dollars here.

The story of the pioneer is, of course, just another folk tale, but it attracted tourists who spent a lot of money during their stay. They could not find their cabin in the air but were pleased enough with substitute historic spots to extend their visit. Maybe if we started a series of folk tales about our district, we could attract rich Americans too.

As a matter of fact, conventioners themselves proved Dr. Bird's statement on the Sunday morning in St. Andrews when Greenock Presbyterian Church was practically filled with history lovers. And all present were certainly not Presbyterians.

Greenock church, completed in 1824, has perhaps the most colorful history of any church in the province. It was the

gift of a wealthy and determined Scotman, Captain Christopher Scott, who as a result of a few uncomplimentary remarks made about his sect, took full charge of the work of finishing the then started Presbyterian church according to his own tastes.

Apparently at this time the Presbyterians were allowed by the Anglicans to worship in their church since the Oatmealers did not have a church of their own. During a public dinner in the autumn of 1822 an over-zealous Anglican took the floor and proceeded to make disparaging remarks about his Presbyterian friends, hinting that they were too mean and stingy to want a church of their own. Needless to say, that was all that was needed to bring out the Scotch independent streak in Captain Scott.

Bearing the entire expense and sparing nothing, Captain Scott completed Greenock church, which today remains the object of keen admiration because of its perfect proportions and superior architectural designs. It is all the more interesting that this wonderful structure was completed almost entirely without the use of nails or metal of any kind.

It is often told how, after the church was completed Captain Scott became annoyed with the congregation because they asked him for the deed to the property. He locked the door of the church, took the keys and went home to his native Scotland. After a time, having repented, he returned, opened the church and placed over the high two-decker pulpit the figure of a brass dove bearing an olive branch as a sign of peace, and perched on the cross of St. Andrew. This may still be seen.

On the outside of the church is represented a green oak tree, the coat of arms of Greenock, Scotland, the birthplace of Christopher Scott, and on the inside in each corner of the ceiling there is a Scotch thistle, further assurance that this loyal son of Scotland might not be forgotten. The present pastor of the church is Rev. H. M. Creaser, whose previous charge was in Ottawa, and who was acquainted with some of the newspaper people because of his ministry there.

Judging from the response we get from our readers after an article on the history of the district is published in our paper, we too agree with Dr. Bird. There seems to be something in the past which attracts people, whether it is a deep-rooted loyalty coming to the surface or just plain curiosity of the life of our forebears, we don't really know. It is probably a mixture of both, but whatever it is, it is rather a compliment to those who came before us. We just hope our successors are proud enough of us to warrant their interest.

Prayer In Our Lives

Last Sunday morning Reverend S. W. Hirtle, minister of the Presbyterian Church in Richmond Hill emphasized in his sermon the lack of prayer in our daily lives, and compared conditions to-day with those of some twenty years ago when morning and evening prayer were never omitted in the home.

This lack of spiritual guidance which most people miss today, seems to show in our day-by-day living habits and our attitudes toward other people. Reverend Hirtle had an excellent thought when he said we should pray for spiritual help every day of our lives and for more understanding of our neighbours and their idiosyncrasies.

He suggested that if the big business firms in the cities would call their employees together each morning for worship there would be more understanding among them. It used to be that morning and evening prayer in the home was a natural course of events, but if suggested to most people to-day it would be classed as silly or being too religious. We are apt to regard some of the habits taught to us in our youth as old-fashioned, but such ones as daily prayer never become outdated.

Our lives would run a lot smoother if more of us would take a lesson from our forefathers in this respect and set aside a period each day to ask for Divine help.

"Dear Mister Editor"

Re: Markham Twp.

Dear Mr. Editor: Reading the minutes of council for July 28, 1952, I noticed four proposals, recorded as follows —

Moved by A. LeMasurier, seconded by A. Lennie: That council receive a monthly detailed report from the Plumbing Inspector. Carried.

Moved by A. Lennie, seconded by A. E. James, That council receive a monthly progress report from the chief of police. Carried.

Moved by A. LeMasurier, seconded by A. Lennie: That council receive a written monthly progress report from the Road Superintendent, regarding finance and construction schedules. The recorded vote was as follows: Reeve Timbers - no, Deputy-Reeve James - no, LeMasurier - yes, Lennie - yes, Hooper - no. Finis.

The first three proposals were carried by council, and rightly so; business conducted properly should receive a detailed monthly report from each department also, I believe these resolutions should have been adopted long before now.

The fourth proposal was rejected by the Roads Committee. Reeve Timbers, Deputy-Reeve James, Councillor Hooper. It is my opinion, of the four departments which should have adopted this plan in its entirety, is the Roads Department, especially with an expenditure for 1952 of \$186,000.00 approximately. I believe that it is the lack of financial and containing reports of this Department which causes such stormy sessions at council.

May I enlighten A. LeMasurier, A. Lennie, the Roads Committee, the council as a whole, by quoting from Procedure By-Law, Clause 29 — The Roads Committee shall deal with all matters relating to the construction, maintenance and improvements of roads and bridges. UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNCIL. Also, included in Clause 29 — The Finance Committee shall deal with all matters relating to the financial affairs of this municipality. I believe we have no special Finance Committee, therefore the council as a whole deal with all financial matters. May I mention in brief, Clause 28 — (A) To report to council from time to time, as often as the interests of the municipality may require, all matters connected with the duties imposed on them respectively, etc. (D) To adhere strictly to the rules prescribed by the By-Laws of the Council. Therefore, I am left with the impression that Reeve Timbers, Deputy-Reeve James, Councillor Hooper, as a committee, were out of order, by ignoring clauses 28 and 29, so help me, I cannot see any sense introducing a By-Law governing council and committee procedure, and not abiding by it, considering the cost involved to the taxpayer.

In conclusion, may I add, I found no clause that gives authority to a committee of council to adopt an attitude of autonomy unto themselves, which seems to me to be common practice in Markham.

Sincerely,
 Kathleen James,
 16 Grandview Ave., Thornhill.

Large Class Registers Temperanceville Sch.

Mrs. Marguerite Gellately, who is the teacher at Temperanceville School, had 12 beginners last week. This is the largest class of beginners that she has ever had in a rural school. Last year seven of these pupils graduated, and six of these have gone on to High School. There are 41 children at Temperanceville this year. Two years ago, with 50 pupils, the school was filled to capacity.

NOTICE

If the owner of a 1933 Ford Roadster, Ont. License No. 767E5 (1951) does not pay storage and repair bill within 21 days, or will be sold for amount owing against the same.

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September 16, 1952

Dear Mr. Editor: To the Richmond Hill District High School Board and Ratepayers

In last week's Liberal in an account of the last meeting of the Richmond Hill District High School Board it stated that the board had accepted a tender for 200 tons of coal for the school at \$15.75 a ton.

Our tender was given for \$15.40 per ton delivered for the identical coal (No. 1 Eureka prepared stoker coal) and was refused. Who pays the \$70.00 extra? Our tender last year was a few cents over and we did not get the contract.

Over the 40 years in business here we have paid thousands of dollars in school taxes alone, as well as building four houses in this village. Now is this fair treatment? We should at least be given an explanation.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your valuable space.
 Ira D. Ramer & Son,
 Richmond Hill.

To The Taxpayers of Markham Township

I noticed an advertisement appeared in the local papers signed by the Reeve of the Township, showing that the Township finances were in good shape.

I would like to draw to the taxpayer's attention that part of this report was omitted. For your information, below is the part that was left out.

"I believe it is the wish of all the citizens that it should maintain the present position. To accomplish this it is my belief that expenditure involving the issuing of debentures should for a few years, be kept at a minimum. Taxes should not be allowed to become such a burden as to make the payment of taxes impossible."
 Signed, N. L. Morton

I wonder why the above paragraph was omitted?
 Alf LeMasurier,
 Councillor, Markham Twp.

"The drivers are swell!"



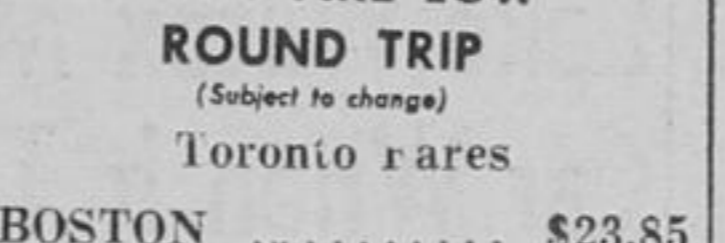
"The next time I go to see uncle Ed I'm going to go on the bus. Last week grandma and I had a long bus trip and the drivers were really swell. When we changed buses the driver helped grandma and me to pick out our new bus and he told her not to worry about anything. The new driver was swell too and he told me he had a little girl like me at home. I sure like going on the bus."

FARES ARE LOW ROUND TRIP
 (Subject to change)
 Toronto fares

BOSTON	\$23.85
LOS ANGELES	\$91.65
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 Riotous Red Skelton as a barker is mistaken for a millionaire oil man!

Monday & Tuesday — September 22 & 23

IT'S THE FUNNIEST COMEDY IDEA IN YEARS!
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THE MAN IN THE WHITE SUIT
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 Romantic Idol of A Fabulous Era!
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