



# 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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 "Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"

## Strong Leadership Needed

The creation of the Metropolitan Area, and the separating of southern municipalities from the rest of the County was a major step in the municipal development of the County of York.

The action taken by the Provincial government in passing legislation establishing the Metropolitan area was too long postponed, and the newly created municipal administration under Super-Mayor Fred G. Gardiner faces many difficult problems. However it would appear they are facing up to those problems and making some progress.

The division of the County also created major problems for the municipalities which will continue to make up York County after next January 1st. Recent reports would indicate that we are not making much progress in meeting these problems or the preparation for the municipal administrative responsibilities which will be ours after the New Year.

The drifting and indecision of recent months must be replaced by decisive and strong leadership in the weeks ahead if we are to launch forth as a strong and efficient County organization in 1954.

The new County of York which will include all that part of the County north of Steele's Corners will face many difficult and perplexing administrative problems. So far as reports indicate County representatives have thus far made little progress. Few definite decisions have been made. So far County representatives haven't definitely decided where the new County offices will be located. It would seem that this question of location of the County seat has engaged the attention of some county councillors to the exclusion of consideration of other important matters and that even on this question there is a lot of lobbying and wire-pulling.

The County received a very generous offer of a gift of the Davis estate property in Newmarket as County headquarters. We know this as a most desirable property and the generosity of the donors was most commendable. The generous offer was accepted subject to reservations, but now according to the Newmarket Era the County committee appears to be working hard to find reasons for not going ahead with the acceptance.

In urging the acceptance of the offer the Newmarket Era says —  
 "The county committee which has been investigating possible locations for

the new county headquarters appears to be working hard to find reasons for not accepting an offer of the Davis estate in Newmarket. The main reason Warden Cook and members of his committee give is an unfavorable report on the building. The report was made by an engineer, not an architect as previously reported, who was called in by the Warden and committee. Yet the "unfavorable" report by the engineering firm conflicts with an earlier opinion given by the county engineer.

The Davis estate is the only logical location so far suggested. The County should accept the offer of the estate as a gift, made by Miss Mabel Davis. Whether the residence is 100 percent suitable or not, there is far more than sufficient room to erect a new building on the same property. No one knows anything about the county's future financial position as yet. A free building and a large amount of free land is available. The county could use the building for a few years without being faced with any major expenditures. Then if the county finds itself in a better financial position, it can erect a larger new building on the same property.

Although the property may not be worth \$100,000 or more, the acceptance of the gift will mean a saving of far more than \$100,000 to the county. How municipal representatives could think of refusing such an offer, such a saving to the new county, and then return to their municipalities and face their electors, is difficult to understand. If the offer is refused, then it must be assumed that there are more important things in county politics than ordinary logic. It is possible that other factors crowd out plain thinking in county affairs, jealousies between municipalities and between municipal representatives or the returning of favors for favors. It is well known that "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" has been the unwritten and unspoken but accepted rule of county politics for many years. Elections of wardens and commissioners are usually settled long before the vote is taken.

It would be difficult to say how much of this kind of "politics" is going on in the choosing of the county town. There are dozens of weak reasons put forward for not accepting the Davis offer. There are stronger reasons for accepting the offer which are not being put forward. It is difficult to understand how well they are avoided.

## How's Your Driving

With the motorist-traffic situation being one of Canada's greatest domestic hazards, the matter of becoming good drivers should be of paramount concern to everyone who owns or operates an automobile.

On the average, authorities claim, Canadians are good drivers and, although the accident rate has greatly increased in recent years, the number of automobiles has tripled. The tremendous volume of traffic which flows through our cities and towns and along our highways with comparatively few accidents seems to be indicative that Canadians are not bad drivers. After watching hundreds of cars milling through a city intersection every few minutes it seems amazing that there are not thousands more accident casualties every year.

Of course there are always a few people who cease to be ladies and gentlemen when they get behind the wheel of a car. They forget the courtesies of living and (in most cases unintentionally) they become selfish and belligerent. These are the motorists we all know, those who are afraid to lose a minute to let a pedestrian cross or permit another motorist to make a difficult turn; there are also the ones who consider it an undeniable right to use the

centre lane as a speedway, disregarding laws and endangering innocent people besides themselves; and we all know the fellow who jams on the brakes, swerves, cuts in, passes on hills . . . , the ones who cause a real threat. It is generally conceded that it is not the driving ability of these people but rather the carelessness of other motorists around them that prevents these maniacal speed-demons from being involved in more accidents.

It is expected that the higher percentage of youth-driver accidents should be appreciably cut when the effects are seen of school driving courses and safe driving tests. Adult tests have also become a feature of many public service clubs. However, whether young or old, every motorist should take inventory of his or her driving, regardless of the years of experience.

The advent of high-powered cars has greatly stepped up the general driving tempo of all motorists. With autos that have more speed than is safe or even possible to use, it is up to the motorist to use discretion in handling these machines which can be a pleasure or a murderer — It is an enviable reputation, "A nation of good drivers", but it is up to every Canadian motorist to make sure that this reputation is not destroyed.

# SUNDAY AFTERNOON

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Invisible Spirit  
 It isn't so much what happens to people in life that matters but the way they take it. The same wind that blows out a match fans a flame to a greater extent. An experience which makes one man bitter and resentful serves another as a stepping stone to higher and to better things.

Fanny Crosby, the blind composer of a number of hymns was born in America in 1820 and lived to the age of ninety-five. She was only a baby of six weeks old (and had been born with perfect eyesight) when she caught cold in her eyes and severe inflammation followed. Their own family doctor was away and the stranger who came in his place advised that hot poultices be put on the baby's eyes. Some mistake had been made, with the result that Fanny became totally blind.

Later on in life she says, "I have never once in my long and happy life felt a spark of resentment against that doctor, because I have always believed that God, by this means, consecrated me to the work I am still permitted to do." What a striking illustration of the truth St. Paul expressed when he said, "All things work together for good to them that love God!"

One day the great English novelist, Arnold Bennett, was sitting in a restaurant in London. He saw a fat, ugly, grotesque-looking woman come in and sit down nearby. The sight of her excited amusement among other customers, not untinged with ridicule. As Bennett watched her and took in the situation, he reminded himself that she had probably once been a young and attractive girl, with charm in form and movement, and

he asked himself the question: what is it that comes into people's lives which so completely changes them from being attractive to being an object of ridicule? That led to his writing one of the greatest novels of modern times. Old Wives' Tale.

One often wonders what it is that causes, not the lessening of physical charm, but the decay of moral force in so many lives. It is a sad picture, and one upon which we do not care to dwell too much. Yet there need not be this withering blight in middle life. Surely God can deliver people from the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. It is possible to carry on through middle, and into old age, charm and sweetness and beauty. That is one of the true messages of all spiritual religion: God keeps a light, the glow of His love, in the heart of every man.

The philosopher, Montaigne said: "Old age sets more wrinkles on the spirit than on the face." This does not always happen and it need not. Many of the best natured people in the world, are living on borrowed time, if we accept the Psalmist's span of seventy. There can be no defeat of the truly religious. There is a life which survives all destructive forces from cynicism and despair. When the novelist, George MacDonald was asked if he believed man had a soul: "I do not care to put it that way, man is a soul and has a body." As Socrates said of his judges: "No evil thing can befall a good man." That is to say, no circumstances need be allowed to crush his spirit.

Our quotation to-day is by Henry Austin: "Unless you are beaten within, you're bound to win."

## "Way Back When"

Excerpts from the files of The Liberal  
 Home paper of the Richmond Hill district since 1878

### SEPTEMBER 6, 1888

The Masons have agreed to rent Library space to the Mechanics Institute in the Masonic Hall for the sum of \$10 yearly, the institute to furnish its own light and fuel. The rent is to be paid half yearly.

The return cricket match will be held between Richmond Hill and Carville in the park next Saturday.

Thompson's early stage, commencing on Monday, September 17, will leave Elgin Mills each morning of the Exhibition at 6 o'clock, returning from the Schiller House in Toronto, at 6 p.m. Fare from Richmond Hill, single 40c, return 75c.

The Mechanics Institute has authorized the purchase of \$40 worth of new books.

### SEPTEMBER 6, 1906

The Bank of Toronto has announced that counterfeit \$10 bills have been discovered in circulation in the area.

Mr. Isaac Crosby has surveyed the front of his farm into village lots. The land which is within the price range of all is to be handled by Mr. H. A. Nicholls.

Five run-away freight cars left a train in the village last week. They reached a speed of about 50 miles per hour and continued unobstructed until they crashed into an engine at the Don siding. The engineer and fireman jumped to safety.

Forty new pupils presented themselves for the first form on

the opening day of the High School.

### AUGUST 30, 1928

The descendants of Michael Sagoon who was born in 1764 in France and who emigrated to the Bond Lake area in 1799 held the first family reunion to be held in Canada. The family came from all over Canada and the U.S. to gather at Maple.

The King Horticultural Society held its first annual flower show last week.

Mr. John McLaughlin of Whitchurch Township has had a record crop of potatoes this year. The yield has averaged 200 bags to the acre.

Misses Margaret and Eva Barnard, Detroit, visited their old home here where they lived with their father, the late George Barnard. The property was sold to Mr. Alex Moodie.

A farm just south of the village which was purchased by Mr. J. G. Alcombrack 22 years ago for \$9,000 has been sold recently for the reported price of between \$90,000 and \$100,000.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1947  
 Markham Township council criticized recently by ratepayers who complained that both the assessment and weeds are too high in the township.

Farmers in the area are having considerable difficulty in obtaining farm labour.

Canada Savings Bonds will be on sale on October 14.

Local builders say that there is a keen inquiry for homes in the area.

## Edgeley Pioneer Farming

By Mrs. R. Stuart

The panorama of Edgeley and neighbouring communities' history has many threads, but all, save a few are of the same pattern. Life was at first very primitive. The hardships endured by the settlers almost defy description. Except for small settlements along the Great Lakes and adjacent waterways, the whole province was an unbroken wilderness and this brushland had to be cleared away before they could build their houses and ultimately the community.

Land was very cheap in those days and in some instances was even free. By the year 1794, lots of 200 acres each had been indicated in Vaughan township. Apart from certain lots held as "Clergy Reserve" (Alf. Bagg, Roland Keffer's) and that part of the McCleary farm formerly owned by Carson Smith, most of the district had been granted to officers of the Queen's Rangers and it was from them that a number of original settlers bought their farms. Others received a grant of 200 acres on the understanding that they would clear a certain amount of land within a specified time. Their sons and daughters also received a grant of 200 acres each, the sons on reaching 21 years of age and the daughters on marriage. Several farms in the community are still held by the descendants of pioneer families who are by now of the sixth or perhaps eighth generation; namely the Stong, Smith, Puterbaugh, Hoover and Keffer families.

Those who did purchase their 200 acre lots, as they were called in those days, bought them very cheaply. It is interesting to note how land values increased with the clearing of the land and the settling of the community. For example, one two hundred acre lot (Darlington's and Broadbent's) was purchased from the original owners for the sum of £5 (five) in 1827. Five years later a new owner gave £200 (two hundred)

for the same two hundred acres. In the year 1854 the sum of £1,000 was paid for the east half of the lot. Land values also increased rapidly on other farms in the community until today they are worth many thousand pounds each.

By the year 1805 the farms were all taken up and the sturdy pioneers began the grim task of clearing the land, compromising with the Indians, trapping bears, tapping maple trees, building houses and barns, spinning yarn and weaving cloth. Only through patience and endurance was the small settlement slowly transformed. About thirty acres were all the settler could clear in his first three years. It was several seasons before their clearings in the bush yielded crops sufficient for their support. It is little wonder that the settlers regarded trees as his natural enemy. He could hope for little improvement until his fields were clear of them. What a different struggle it is today with emphasis on the conservation of our forests!

Because to cut down and root out trees required years of labor, our first farmers sometimes found it necessary to "ring" the trees so that they died, thus enabling the sun to reach through. Here beneath the dead trees, a few seeds were planted. Their farming implements were the simplest: the hoe with which they broke the ground, the scythe to cut the grain and the flail to thresh it. They had few cattle and horses.

Since those days, life on the farm has become happier and easier. Farming has become more scientific. The farmer has comforts and luxuries of which the pioneer did not dream. The old isolation is gone forever. Although privation, hardship and toil were our first farmers' common lot, it was cheerfully endured in order that posterity might ultimately be able to gaze upon a rural district unsurpassed for loveliness, productivity and equipment anywhere on the continent.

## "Dear Mr. Editor"

Re: New Thornhill High School

Dear Mr. Editor:  
 We have followed recent articles in your paper concerning the type of secondary school proposed for the Thornhill area.

We have also noticed with satisfaction a growing tendency in the province on the part of high school administration to round out the standard academic education with such practical options as wood and metal working for boys and cooking, sewing and commercial training for girls.

Modern domestic life requires knowledge of the use of tools both at the workbench and in the kitchen. These practical subjects also provide a relief valve for some students of lesser academic calibre who would lose interest in straight academic study.

No further proof of the need of these options is required when we are informed that, since they were added to the curriculum at Richmond Hill High School, 100% of the first year students have voluntarily enrolled in them.

For these reasons we regret the government's decision to rescind provincial grant on the construction of classrooms for practical education; but nevertheless we feel that we are investing wisely if we can have practical options incorporated now.

The additional cost of four practical classrooms depends upon a decision between the two following alternatives —

1. Add them to the presently recommended 27 classroom academic units.

2. Add them in lieu of 3 academic classrooms.

The additional cost of the former is estimated to be \$135,000.00, while the additional cost of the latter would be about \$80,000.00. These figures, based on an \$8,500,000 school area assessment, represent a yearly additional cost to the average area taxpayer of \$2.50 and \$1.50 respectively.

This cost might well approximate the direct cost of sending area pupils to other schools to get the practical education not provided in the proposed Thornhill unit.

We admire the courage of the area High School Board in recommending a double gymnasium at a cost of \$180,000 for this school, since the province has withdrawn financial support for this also. We agree that a gymnasium should be provided and we are willing to bear the additional expense providing the area is willing to endorse the practical options as the first order of business.

Let us remind ourselves that we are faced with a large investment and that it would be a great pity if sufficient funds are not provided to give a balanced education for all to make this investment worthwhile.

R. W. Masters,  
 Chairman,  
 Elgin St. Community Assoc.

Backs Trustee Dean

Dear Mr. Editor:  
 I have been following with great interest the controversy in your paper over the proposed Thornhill High School, and wish to say that I am thoroughly in accord with Mr. Dean.

It would seem to me that the academic course with practical options is of more value to pupils in this area than a purely academic course with a \$180,000 gymnasium, which most consider an unnecessary frill. The young people of this district have a better opportunity for outdoor exercise than the city pupils, and are not as likely to earn their living by the vocational options advocated by Mr. Dean.

Our population is expanding so rapidly that the 31 room school at a cost of \$625,000 for which a grant of \$540,000 would be received would appear to be the best plan. A gymnasium would be added at such time as we could better afford it or Mr. Frost agrees that it is a necessity.

Sincerely,  
 Margaret C. Tucker

DEPT. OF HEALTH  
 TWP. OF NORTH YORK  
 To Avoid Infection

- Remember these points:  
 (1) Adequate rest is essential. Over-fatigue is dangerous.  
 (2) Wash all fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating.  
 (3) Protect all food from contamination by adequate hand-washing, refrigeration and protection from flies and dust.  
 (4) Avoid large gatherings of people when an infection is prevalent.

CARL E. HILL, M.D., M.O.H.

## HERE'S HEALTH



Eustace at forty was overweight. So he tried to reduce before too late. He found, to escape the middle-age bulge, in less rich foods he must indulge.

Dept. of National Health and Welfare

# The Richmond Theatre

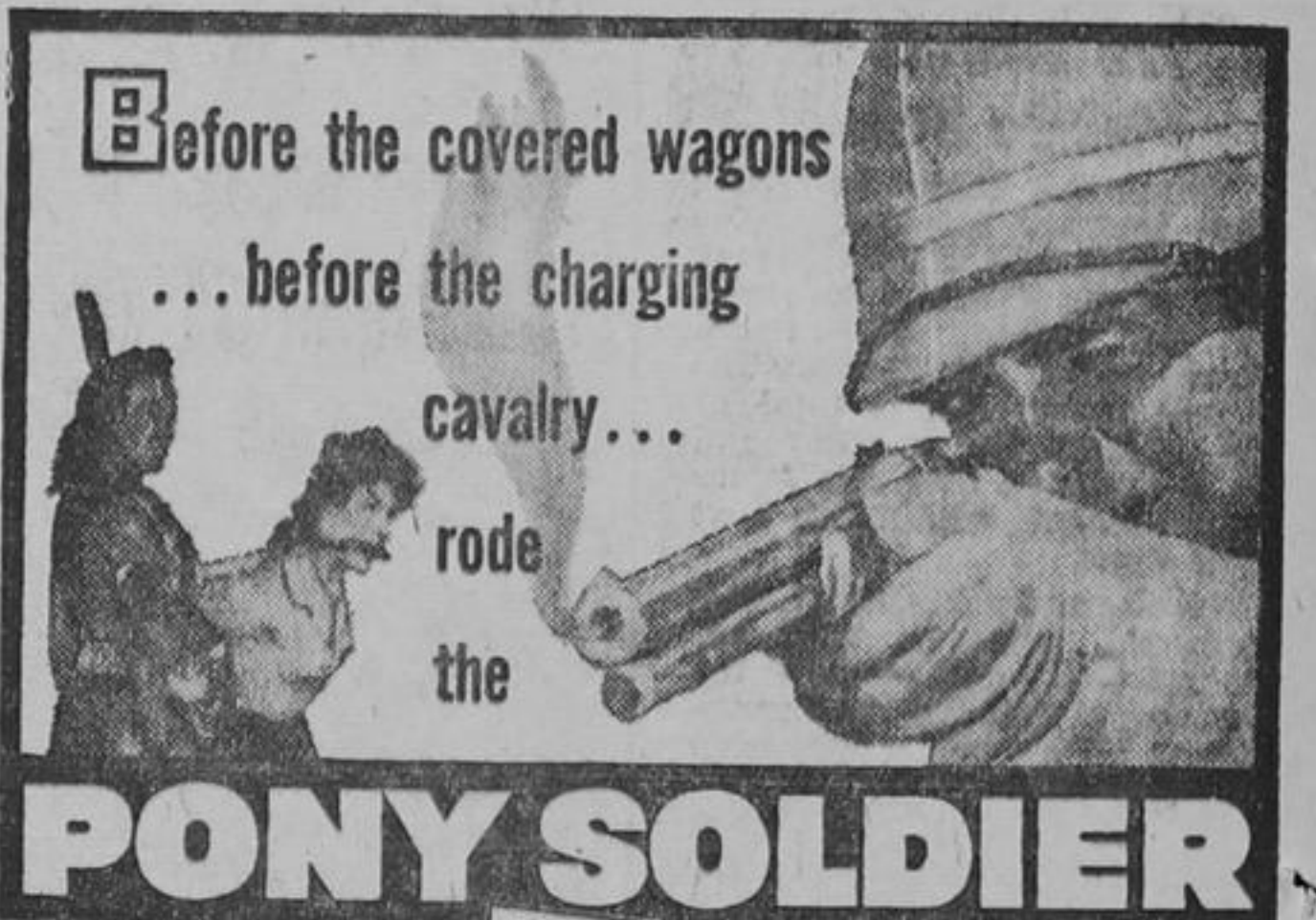
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