

The Liberal
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Organized Sports

The formation of Richmond Hill Track and Field Club is another step in the direction of organized sport in the village which is looking forward to the eventuality of a systematic sports program for its boys and girls.

The Club has requested council for the establishment of a Recreation Committee which would qualify it to receive one-third of its yearly expenditures in the form of a grant from the provincial government. Such a proposition, which will involve no expenditure by the village, would be a boost for the club which is in the initial stages of organization. It has been suggested that three members of council serve on the committee with two other members who will probably be appointed from

the service clubs.

Having the backing of the village in such an undertaking will give additional incentive to the club which has undertaken an ambitious program by its practices and meets which are held four nights weekly.

The discouragement which, in past years, has been felt by sponsors of sport because of lack of support should not be allowed to creep further into organizations which are run by those interested in seeing the children of the community get a broader training in the sports field.

It is hoped the establishment of such a Recreation Committee will not be put aside but will be used to boost as well as co-ordinate sports activities.

New Trend In Schools

It is interesting to note the new trend in elementary schools with regards to holding of graduation ceremonies. For many years the traditional graduation festivities have been restricted to the high school and university levels. However, recent items in The Liberal have indicated that the trend is towards graduation ceremonies for public school students too.

The transitional period from elementary to secondary education is one of the most important phases in the life of every young Canadian. It seems only fitting that this juncture is a suitable spot for graduation ceremonies. In past years, entrance certificates have reached the successful students through such an unostentatious medium as the mail. Surely the value and seriousness of this important step in education is worthy of more recognition than this.

Recent news clippings show that schools in the Township School Area No. 1 Markham and Vaughan, as well as those in the King and Oak Ridges areas are quickly taking up the challenging opportunity to impress upon

students the importance of education in our complex society.

Actual Public School graduation ceremonies held in recent weeks in this area have included the presentation of diplomas, school year pins, banquets and in many events the presentation of awards and scholarships. In several of the communities, particularly in the Langstaff-Thornhill area, Home and School Associations have been to a great extent responsible for the rising importance of public school graduation exercises and the presentation of scholarships.

It is a trend which has grown up in this area in a comparatively short time but one which has done much to foster an enthusiasm for and an interest in public schools. In the past, the business of creating alma-mater loyalties and interests has been left entirely to high schools and universities, leaving the elementary schools more or less out of the picture. The inauguration of grade school graduation exercises has done a great deal to raise this most important level of education up to the position of respect and honour it deserves.

Teaching The Mentally Retarded

Walter F. Koerber of the Jarvis School for Boys recently gave a word of caution to those who are entrusted to care for mentally retarded children at the first Canadian Conference on reading held at the University of Toronto recently. He asserts that these children can be taught to read if allowed to mature sufficiently first. They should be neither hurried nor permitted to vegetate, but given a program of suitable activities. Although the term "mentally retarded child" covers quite a number of categories, Mr. Koerber's advice is relevant in many instances.

"Backward" and "mentally retarded" children have been the subject of much study throughout North America in recent years. This interest arises partly from the fact that the causes of apparent slowness and dullness can often be identified and remedial action taken. Then, too, people nowadays are less apt to regard the retarded child as an embarrassment or a nuisance. With a franker, more tolerant view of mental handicaps and deficiencies has come a greater desire for intelligent treatment.

Among those termed "retarded", some are congenitally incapable of mental growth, though they may be trained to a certain extent. Others are not without learning capacity, despite low intelligence quotients. Still others are potentially capable enough — even bright — but are backward because of causes that can be dealt with once they are known. The trouble may, for example, be an unrecognized shortsightedness.

In Montreal recently, the National Association for Mental Health was told that commonly used eyesight tests may not reveal all defects. Mr. Frederick Brown, a Long Island teacher in special classes for the backward, has discovered short-sighted children who had become balky and aggressive because they were put down as mentally retarded. Once proper glasses were supplied, they moved ahead in their studies and their dispositions improved.

In all these cases, impatience and haste can do only harm. The individual should be studied thoroughly and treatment should be adjusted to his ascertained needs.

Way Back When

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

OCTOBER 5, 1903
At the Newmarket Fair last week, Mr. W. Trench acted as judge of carriages, agricultural implements and mechanics manufactures, and Mr. A. S. Russell, Warden of the county, filled a similar position in judging heavy horses.

Mr. J. A. E. Switzer and Mr. Geo. McDonald represented Richmond Hill Council of Temperance at the Temperance Convention in Toronto.

Mr. T. F. Boynton of Victoria Square carried off six prizes in the large breeds of swine at Newmarket Fair.

Three young men from Lansing were arrested last week charged with starting a Metropolitan Rlwy. car down the hill at York Mills and causing malicious damage to the property. They were taken before Mr. Wingfield, J.P., and committed for trial.

JULY 30, 1942
More than 300 pheasants have been released in Vaughan Twp.

George Dewsbury of Vandonf has been appointed constable for Whitchurch Twp. Other members of the force are Chief Constable Robert Windson and Constable R. Yake.

Richmond Tailors took over the business of the Langstaff Cleaners last week.

Richmond Hill council called for tenders for construction of a pump house at the site of the new well. Some delay has been caused in pump installation through scarcity of materials and necessity for priority orders.

JULY 30, 1942
North Yonge Radials rolled up an operating profit of \$8,291.40 for the months of April, May and June, 1942, a new high record.

Richmond Hill farm committee group has been active this week. Members of the pitchock brigade who worked on several district farms included Wes Middleton, Russell Lynett, Bob Moodie, John Martin, Lauder Glass, George Agar, Lloyd Foote, Bud Jones, and Carl French.

JULY 28, 1927
The citizens of Richmond Hill are up in arms against the present condition of the water supply. The taste is such that it is almost impossible to use it, and as many as can are looking to wells for a drinking supply.

Elgin Mills Athletic Association advertised a Garden Party for August 10, featuring a tug-of-war between Markham and Vaughan, a softball game between Maple and Elgin Mills, the Elgin Mills Concert Band, and a dance in the pavilion.

Residents of North Yonge Street district sent a complaint to the City of Toronto against the practice of jail farm prisoners riding on the Metropolitan Street Cars.

JULY 31, 1902
The personnel of the Richmond Hill rink taking part in the lacrosse game at Aurora on Saturday in a downpour of rain was Goode, Michael, Harrison, Trench, Newton, Sims, McKenzie, French, Glover, Campbell, Clifford and Elgin. Goode, Sims shone with unusual brilliancy and put up the best game of the day.

Mr. Robert Shaw of Glanford was engaged by the High School Board to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Glass, mathematics and science master.

Chas. Sanson and Mr. Hendrick of Headford and John Weldrick, East York, were among the farmers who had their barns struck by lightning during the severe storm over the week-end.

Editorial Comment

The old saying "Out of the mouths of babes," has given a local family a laugh the other day. The young lad of the family has recently been extending his vocabulary in anticipation of entering the fourth grade.

A few days ago, the parents, who were going out for a short visit, were cautioned by the lad, "Don't be long, I might get lousy." Both amusement and consternation was caused by this comment. "What do you mean," the mother questioned, a little concerned. "Oh you know," the boy explained, "lousy — it's like getting sort of tired." We presume that the correct pronunciation of "drowsy" is now firmly implanted in his enterprising young mind.

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BETWEEN OURSELVES

BY Archer Wallace

THE SEED OF THE CHURCH
Nearly seventeen centuries ago, Augustine, one of the fathers of the early Christian Church, after witnessing at first hand, the bitter persecutions suffered bravely by early believers, said: "The blood of the Martyrs is the seed of the Church." The Church grew as persecutions increased in severity.

Courage is a virtue which people of every nation understand. There may be difficulty over controversial points of view, but there is no doubt about courage; as there was none on the part of the Roman soldier who said at the crucifixion of Jesus: "Surely this was a good man." It was said of one noble man: "Nothing became him better than the manner of his dying."

Among the earliest Christian martyrs was Polycarp, who was born of Christian parents about the year 70 A.D. He was a disciple of St. John and loved to repeat his words as he remembered them. Polycarp had a follower named Irenaeus, and it is from him we learn the facts about Polycarp's martyrdom.

At the great Pagan festivals feelings against Christians were frequently aroused. In the city of Smyrna, where the aged Polycarp was leader of the loyal band of Christ's followers, eleven Christians were thrown to the wild beasts during the annual games. A few, not many, recanted when they were faced with death; the courage of others made a deep impression upon the multitudes who demanded their name. One brave young man named Germanicus, so far from being unnerved, dragged the reluctant lion to him and this further excited the populace in their lust for blood.

The savage mobs called for Polycarp, now 86 years of age, and still leader of the church at Smyrna. His friends led him away from the city to a little farm where he passed the time in prayer. His pursuers went out as if against a thief, Polycarp could have escaped, but he refused, saying: "The will of the Lord be done."

He was in an upper room when they arrived and he went down and talked with them. While they marvelled at his courage and great age he quiet-

ly talked with them and had food and drink set before them. His request to be allowed to pray was granted. For two hours he prayed earnestly, remembering all that ever had dealings with him including those who had come to arrest him. Even these men were deeply touched by his brave gentle spirit and regretted that it had befallen to them to assail so good a man.

He was led back to Smyrna, where excited crowds awaited his arrival. The High Sheriff and others pleaded with him to renounce Christ and declare: "Caesar is Lord." At first he made no answer, but when they persisted, he said: "I do not intend to do as you advise me." This so angered them that they threw him from their carriage and bruised his shins. He was then brought into the stadium, where a vast crowd shouted: "Polycarp is taken."

The Proconsul gave him a last chance: "You are a very old man," he said, "and a few words can save your life. Recant and your life will be spared. Curse Christ and I will set you free." It was then that the aged man uttered words which have been repeated for 18 centuries: "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He has never done me wrong; how can I blaspheme my King and Saviour?" They bound him without nailing him, and while the fire was being prepared beneath him he prayed: "I thank Thee, Lord, that Thou didst deem me worthy of this day and hour, what I should take my part among the numbers of the martyrs in the cup of Thy Christ to the resurrection of life eternal."

The flames made a sort of arch around him, and for a while his body was not scorched. This angered the pagan spectators, who demanded that a slaughterer take his life by a dagger thrust. And in this manner the aged man's life ended on earth, but his memory had been a benediction down through the ages.

Our quotation today is by Rev. Dr. F. W. Campbell: "Precept at its highest perfection falls far short of example."

Dear Mister Editor

Comments Vacation Bible School

Dear Sir:
We would like to express our appreciation and thank all those who were in charge of the Daily Vocational Bible School, which was conducted under the supervision of the Rev. A. A. Chote, at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill, recently.

Our three children thoroughly enjoyed the Bible Hour, Handicrafts and Recreation provided so kindly by the many women who acted as Leaders and who gave much time and thought to their young pupils.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Hal Robertson,
Elgin Mills

Re: Unionville Satellite Village

Dear Mr. Editor:
Since the Markham Township Planning Board set the seal of its approval "in principle" on the Victoria Gardens Subdivision abutting the Police Village of Unionville, speculation has been rife in the Village, and property values have taken an alarming drop.

Looked at closely by a taxpayer in the Police Village itself, this provides a sorry future for this charming little community.

The total revenue collected in the village is in the neighbourhood of 4,000 dollars yearly. Out of this magnificent sum the Village Trustees maintain all the side streets, trees, the Main Road, the bridge by the Planning Mill, storm sewers, half of the Pomander Road, street lights, and 25 per cent of the Fire Department, and also contribute to the Community Centre, the Library and various other activities.

Surely even the present Municipal Board would not consider the issuing of debentures to cover the installation of sewers and water and the necessary repairs to the streets, at reported increase of 50 mills in the tax rate, nor could the Trustees maintain these services.

Should Council approve the plans for the Victoria Gardens Subdivision and the debentures be approved by the Municipal Board the ratepayers of the Police Village of Unionville will find themselves with a road to keep in repair over which the necessary construction materials for 400 homes, roads, sewers, commercial as-

essment, water pumping station and sewerage disposal system have been trucked, and also the materials for seven more subdivisions etc. to be constructed north of the village.

At the present time all normal, healthy growth in the area is being held up. Repairs and reconstruction are being kept at a minimum, which is in itself an unhealthy sign. Property values will further depreciate to the point that many fine old homes housing one family will be sold to accommodate three or four families, which will cause a school, health and police problem second to none in the county, especially as more than 30% of the residences in the Police Village are equipped with only very rudimentary forms of sanitation.

The sewerage treatment plant is not to be located in the village as these places depreciate property values, but will be located on the creek below the railway bridge. Every heavy rainfall causes a flood in this area, which could spread pollution over a wide area, and will certainly curtail any decent development to the east.

According to recent press releases the subdividers have enlisted the approval of both the school and village trustees on behalf of their project, as well as the patronage of a number of prominent people, few of whom pay taxes in the Village. However, Council has stated publicly that they gain the approval of such Boards before proceeding with any such developments, so no doubt this matter will be attended to before further negotiations are undertaken.

The school population in the new development will be taken care of in the new 14-room schoolhouse, financed by a much depreciated Provincial grant, due to the increase in population in the school section, \$400.00 a lot from the subdividers and the rest from the ratepayers in the Unionville Public School section.

Another million dollar High school is, of course, inevitable. Those people who have been sold a bill of goods on free sewers and water in the village should take a close look at the total cost before they expect for more than they expect.

Unionville Property Owner

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Our quotation today is by Rev. Dr. F. W. Campbell: "Precept at its highest perfection falls far short of example."

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