

Thornhill and District News

TELEPHONE AV. 5-3555

The Liberal is always pleased to publish items of interest contributed by its readers in the Thornhill area. Our representative in Thornhill is Mrs. Donald Smellie, who may be reached by phoning AV. 5-3555.

Rowntree-Hendry Group Picnic Held At Thornhill

The first Rowntree-Hendry family picnic was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Knight, Clarke Avenue, Thornhill, on Sunday August 12, in the afternoon. There were 114 present to enjoy the event and it proved quite successful.

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The youngest baby was Myra Jane Wilson, three months old, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Wilson of Toronto; most recently married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Ash, of Edgeley, being married almost three years; eldest lady was Mrs. George Rowntree, of Bolton, who was 75 years old; the oldest man was Mr. Arthur Harrison of Toronto, a friend of one of the families; the oldest married couple were Mr. and Mrs. George Rowntree, of Bolton, married 51 years.

There was an election of officers and Mrs. Tom Knight of Thornhill was elected president, while Mr. Fred Hendry of Edgeley was selected as vice-president. The committee members are Jack Forbes of Downsview, Tom Knight of Thornhill, Gordon Monks of Malton, and Mrs. Olive Wakelin of Sunderland. A collection was taken to help defray expenses.

Then a few sports were held. Mrs. Marion Ash of Edgeley won the shooting prize, and Mrs. George Rowntree of Weston, the lucky spot. Patsy Rowntree of Weston won the children's spot prize, while Janice Collyer of Weston won another spot race. In rolling the ball to hit the bat, the children's prize was won by Donnie Rowntree of Weston, and the ladies prize was won by Mrs. Charles Kitchener of Woodbridge, R. R. 1, and Dorothy Rice of Woodbridge, R. R. 2. Men's hit-the-bat winners were Chas. Kitchener of Woodbridge, R. R. 1, Hugh Moran, Humber Summit and Duncan Wattie of Lansing. The balloon blowing contest was won by George Rowntree, Weston. The family with the largest connection present was that of Mrs. John Rowntree of Weston, totalling 36 in all, counting children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

NEWMARKET: The town engineer has resigned to join the staff of the Toronto and Yorks Road Commission.

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Concerts By Canadian Artists Planned In North Yonge Area

Lovers of fine music in the North Yonge area won't have to go to the city next winter to hear "live" performances by some of their favorite Canadian concert artists.

That is the word from the executive of the newly-formed North Yonge Canadian Concert Association which is busy preparing to stage a series of three or four concerts in Willowdale for the 1956-7 season.

The Willowdale series, according to the plan, will become an annual affair. The association hopes the response will show that there is sufficient interest in music along North Yonge to justify similar annual series in Thornhill and Richmond Hill as well.

The new association was formed early in July following two preliminary gatherings of citizens of Willowdale, Thornhill and Richmond Hill who felt that our leading artists deserve an invitation to this area, so that they can show us in person the vocal and instrumental talents which have won them acclaim nationally and in other countries.

The association is affiliated with the Concert Associations of Canada which was formed in 1951 by Wallace Young, well known in education circles as director of music for Oshawa schools. It will be similar to local concert associations which the parent association has helped to set up in many communities around Toronto and farther afield, including Weston, Leaside, Orillia, Georgetown, Whitby, Scarborough, Stouffville, Newmarket, Markham, and Parry Sound. Each of these places now has a flourishing association, the main work of which is to stage an annual series of concerts by outstanding Canadian artists.

The artists available include Lois Marshall, James Milligan, Maureen Forrester — all world-famous names today — as well as groups such as the Solway String Quartet, and a host of gifted but lesser-known artists. Even the Toronto Symphony Orchestra is available through the parent association which acts as the impresario or artists' agent; but so far none of the local associations has mastered the financial fortitude to invite it to play for them!

The question, which artists are brought into the community, depends on several factors — the tastes of local music-lovers, the financial strength of the organization, availability of desired artists, and so on. Associations with 400 or 500 members (each paying \$5.00 for the series of concerts) are usually able to put on four concerts and to include at least a couple of the most celebrated artists whose established popularity means that they can command higher fees.

The method being followed in the North Yonge area is the same one that has been used successfully year after year in Leaside, Stouffville and the other places with concert associations.

First the association is formed by interested citizens, and an executive is selected. (In North York, this has been done and the president is William Stapleton, an advertising executive living in Willowdale.) Then the campaign manager (in this case Tom Fairley, a CBC publicity editor living in Thornhill), with the help of the other founding members, goes to work lining up canvassers — people interested enough to undertake to sell a few memberships each. Such volunteers, it has been found, will sell an average of nine memberships each. When the canvassers have been found, the executive decides on a future week for "Campaign Week". Memberships are sold only during this seven-day period. Then the money is counted and, guided by the amount available and the preferences indicated by individual members, the artists are engaged and the series planned in every detail.

"When the thing reaches that stage and there are three associations going it will mean dividends for all the members of each one of them," he says. "Each member is free to attend not only the concerts planned by his own association but also those planned by all the sister organizations — provided only that the seating space allows it. Even with things as they will be this coming winter, members of the North Yonge Canadian Concert Association at the concerts in Leaside, Weston, Markham, Newmarket, Stouffville, and other places. Plenty of members in other centres having been using this exchange arrangement to good advantage these last few winters, treating themselves to a feast of music — all for \$5.00. You can see that the idea is not to make money, but merely to finance concerts by a series on a sound basis.

Fairley wants prospective canvassers to get in touch with him (General Delivery, Thornhill) and to get busy lining up members in their own circles. Then, when campaign week arrives, they will only need to distribute membership cards — and collect the all-important crisp blue banknotes.

Apart from Messrs. Stapleton and Fairley, the executive includes Ernest Adams (vice-president), the famous concert and operatic tenor living in Willowdale; Mrs. M. McLean (secretary), a Concord housewife; Trevor Pierce, a social worker, living in York Mills; Miss Margaret Stephen of Thornhill; choir director John Cousins of Willowdale; and John Danaby of North Toronto. (Membership is not restricted to residents of North Yonge and the inclusion of a North Toronto man in the executive reflects the desire to get support from the widest area possible.)

"We were a bit hesitant about this whole idea at first," says Mr. Stapleton. "But the more we thought about it the better we liked the idea of helping to bring our leading artists face to face with North Yonge music-lovers so far as we know for the first time in a planned series. The artists will have the well-deserved benefit of our monetary support, and, as for us, we will all have the pleasure next winter of welcoming them to our community in three or four grand evenings if music."

Thornhill Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Harvey and children of London spent last week with Mrs. Saunders Findlay.

Mrs. E. C. Fraser and her three children of Virden, Manitoba, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Brain, John St.

Miss Ann Rogers of Thornbank Road is spending this week in Detroit visiting Miss Betsy Beardslee.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Pherill with Mrs. W. Dean and Rita have returned from a vacation at Balsam Lake. Mr. Pherill is spending this week in Kingston taking a short course at Queens University.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Plaxton have moved into their new home on John Street and are at present getting settled. They will be spending a few days in Ottawa visiting relatives and attending Mrs. Plaxton's nephew's wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Dalton Harvie and family are spending a week in Prince Edward County. Jackie Duncan, Susan Kaye, Gail Vejlola, Patsy Budge, Lee Davidson, Sheila Craig, Lorraine Anstey, Karen and Tim, Gail Gidd and Wendy Anstey spent 11 days at the Intermediate C.G.I. T. Camp Ashunjoong. Mrs. Don Davidson was a councillor and Mrs. Robert Gibson was the camp nurse.

Courtney-Donnelly Wedding In Runnymede Baptist Church

Tall standards of pink and white gladioli formed the setting in Runnymede Baptist Church, Toronto, for the wedding of Courtney and Miss Kathleen Ann Donnelly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Donnelly, Langstaff, and Kenneth Russell Courtney, son of Mr and Mrs. R. E. Courtney, Toronto, on Saturday, August 18, 1956. The ceremony was performed by Rev. George Bell.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a waltz-length gown of illusion tulle over white satin. The deep V-neckline was embroidered with sequins and seed pearls. Her matching fingertip veil was also embroidered with sequins and seed pearls. Her only ornament was a choker necklace of seed pearls, and she carried a cascade bouquet of red roses and stephanotis.

Miss Elinor Ferguson, Toronto, was maid of honor. She wore a bouffant gown of pink crystal and carried a nosegay of pink roses and carnations. Miss Edith Bell and Miss Ruth Oltmann, bridesmaids, wore blue crystal-ette, and the little flower girl, Marlene Purvey, cousin of the bride, wore pink crystal-ette. All three carried nosegays of red roses and pink carnations.

Frank R. George Jr., Langstaff, cousin of the groom, acted as best man. Ushers were Sven Hansen, Ottawa, the groom's brother-in-law and John Donnelly, brother of the bride.

Miss Lois Johns, Toronto, sang "The Lord's Prayer" and "O Perfect Love" during the signing of the register.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held for nearly 100 guests in the church hall. The bride's mother received, wearing a pale blue lace sheath dress with matching three-quarter length coat and black accessories. The groom's mother wore a two-piece dress of navy blue crepe and lace, with black accessories. Both wore corsages of pink carnations. The groom's grandmother, Mrs. R. Adamson, Toronto, wore turquoise crepe with black accessories.

Following the reception, the bride and groom left by motor on a trip to Muskoka. The bride's going away dress was a two-piece beige linen ensemble. After their return they will leave for Nova Scotia, where the groom is stationed at Camp Aldershot.

Out-of-town guests included Mrs. E. Dougall and son Billy, Estevan, Sask.; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mathers, East Orange, N.J.; Mr. and Mrs. Sven Hansen, Ottawa, Mrs. Alan Cuthbertson, Bowmanville, Ont.

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- (Author's name below) -
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