



# The Liberal

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## Study Common Problems

Westchester County in New York state is sponsoring a series of six meetings during October and November to discuss problems common to the suburban municipalities. Civic officials throughout the county have been invited to attend and participate in the discussions.

Topics to be discussed include: How far can zoning go toward balancing the local economy by distributing school costs among taxpayers?

What can be done about the housing developments that come faster than public services can be provided, and are slow-down restrictions advisable?

How much new zoning for business is good for the community?

How should the appearance of a community be regulated?

How can a Board of Appeals be prevented from upsetting a master plan?

What can be done about the vanishing of open spaces and recreation areas?

Is the preserving of neighbourhood seclusion and quiet a lost cause now that expressways, more people and more business are arriving?

York County might take a leaf

from its neighbour to the south and organize a similar study program for municipalities throughout this area. Suburban municipalities lying on the fringe of mushrooming metropolitan areas such as our own county are faced with many pressing problems. A real measure of assistance and guidance could be afforded the smaller municipalities through such a joint co-operative effort. The free exchange of ideas would prove invaluable to a host of local officials. Invitations could be sent to council members, school trustees, planning board members and administrative officials.

Experts in the various fields of municipal planning and finances could be asked to address the gatherings. These could include not only officials from the provincial government but also from private business. Lecture periods could be followed by open debate.

The net result of such group meetings would be to give municipal leaders a better understanding of their common problems. The knowledge gained through such a conference could assist in the preparation of future provincial and municipal legislation.

## Markham Wants Action

### Parkwood Site

Critical of what they feel has been an unnecessary delay on the part of the Department of Highways in approving Parkwood Motors proposed new \$550,000.00 showroom and service centre for the Yonge St. area of Highland Park, Markham Township Council served notice Monday if the department has not found some solution to the problem of a Yonge Street entrance by October 1st they will go ahead and issue a building permit in any case.

"The province has been depriving Markham of this badly needed commercial assessment for the past three years," remarked Councillor Mrs. K. James. The department has ruled that Yonge Street cannot be used as an entrance to and from the property.

"We have already lost \$60,000.00 in assessment through the refusal of the Department of Highways to approve for this very same reason, the new Dominion store at the corner of John Street and Yonge Street in Thornhill," stressed Reeve W. L. Clark.

Councillor Mrs. James felt if the province was going to restrict the type of commercial development permitted along Yonge Street, then, "any such policy should apply to everyone." Mrs. James was critical of the department in allowing the erection of a large supermarket on Yonge Street at Lansing in North York.

"Traffic congestion along Yonge Street in Willowdale should be just as important as it apparently is in Markham Township," remarked Mrs. James.

## Ask For Fence

# Town Ditches Are Death Traps Say Irate Ratepayers

Richmond Hill Town Council decided in session Monday night to visit the Beverley Acres subdivision as a body this week to view again the distressing drainage problem and decide what is the best means of giving temporary relief and protection for children in the district.

John McDiarmid who lives at the corner of South Taylor Mills and Neal Drive attended the meeting and told council that the situation is deteriorating. He said the hazard for children was increasing and that the removal of silt as recommended by engineers has not reduced flooding. He suggested the construction of a chain link fence around the ditch from Taylor Mills to Crosby, as a protection for children.

Council discussed the subject at some length. It has been the matter of concern to council and residents of the district for some months and while the completion of the proposed drainage scheme will provide the ultimate solution some temporary relief was very urgently requested. It was stated that it was unlikely the box drain project could be finished before next June 1st.

Mr. McDiarmid and other ratepayers present emphasized the danger of the existing situation. It was stated that a petition for a fence is already largely signed. "Of 146 homes contacted we got 145 signatures," said Mr. MacDiarmid.

It was pointed out that a link wire fence such as erected around the waterworks tower would be required and that the cost of such a fence would be about \$5,000. Councillor Haggart pressed hard for the erection of the fence. He argued that the money would not be wasted as the fence could be utilized in other places. He said one child had already been rescued when found face down in the ditch, and that the existing conditions certainly constitute a safety hazard.

Deputy Reeve Perkins agreed it would be terrible if any happened. "We certainly don't want any child to be drowned," he said.

Mr. MacDiarmid said many children walk along the ditch in going to school, and others play in the water. "They think they're at the seaside," he said.

A ratepayer in attendance at the meeting said he had been told by supervising Principal Rose to keep home his five year old child until council did something about the death-trap.

Mayor Neal said the whole trouble is that the particular area concerned is lower than the outlet for the present drainage system and that you just can't make water run uphill. At present ditches are acting as reservoirs for the water which can't get away.

Engineer Phillips suggested some alterations to culverts which might help the situation. On motion of Councillors Tinker and Haggart the engineer was instructed to see about getting this work done at once and that the sub-divider be asked to bear the expense.

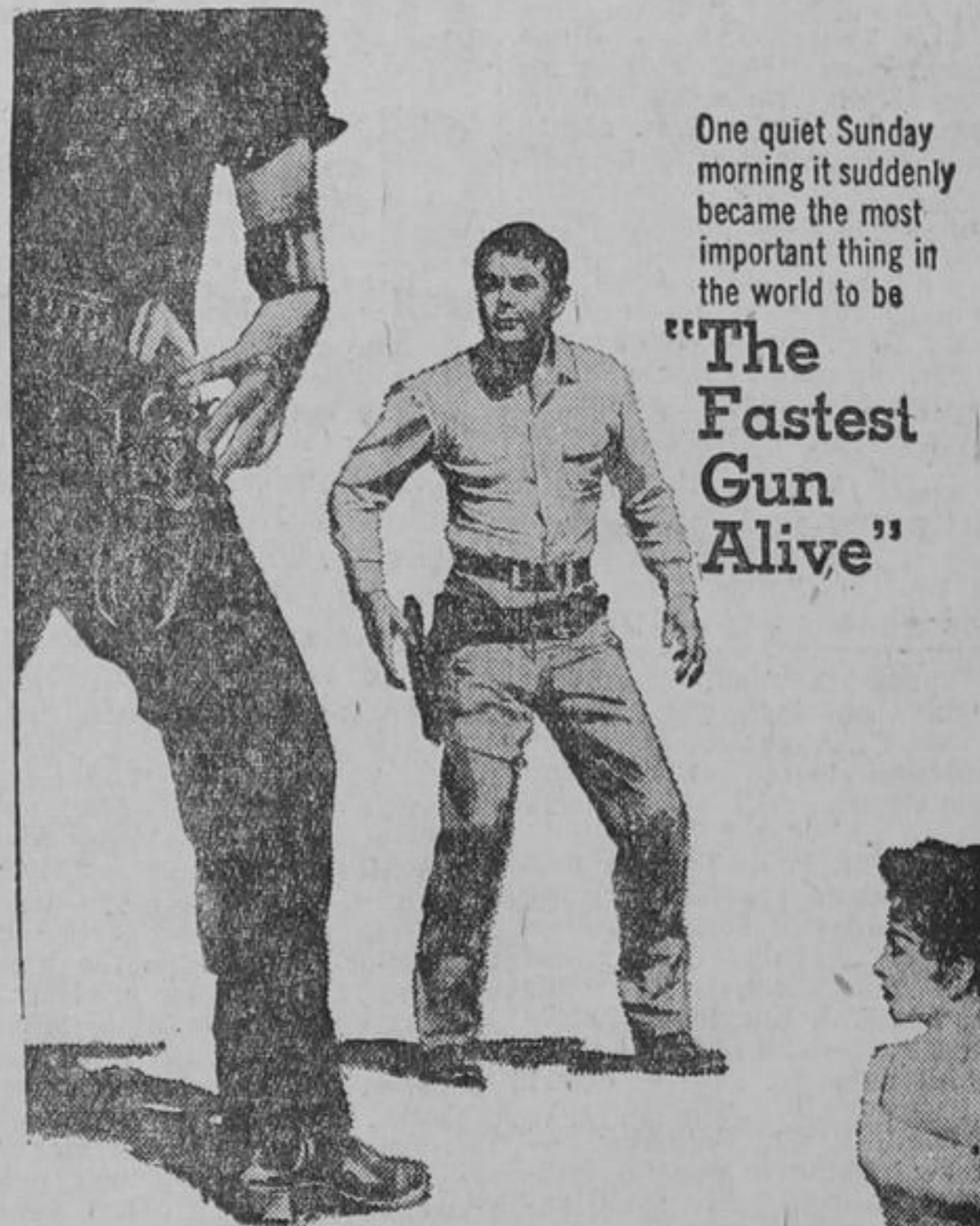
A motion by Councillor Haggart provided that the town write the sub-divider and ask him to raise the driveway of T. W. Barnett on Neal Drive so he can have access to his property. "I've had on knee rubber boots and got wet getting to the road," said Mr. Barnett.

Councillor Tinker moved that council close Neal Drive between Taylor Mills and Crosby Ave. and that "no thoroughfare" signs be posted. He later supported a motion by Reeve W. J. Taylor which carried that council visit the area in a body and decide on what action to take to best meet the needs of the present situation.

# The Richmond Theatre

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## Local Curtain Club To produce Ontario Cancer Society Play

It's a circus in the basement of Mrs. Cicely Thomson as the Snake Charmer, the Oriental Mystic and the Gypsy Fortune Teller go through their acts. These performers, not yet in costume at rehearsal, are still recognizable as Kay Wallace, Joseph Rabinowitch and Jean Thomson. The play for which they are rehearsing is one that was written especially for the Ontario branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, and the Curtain Club of Richmond Hill was invited to produce. Later this month the performers will be taking the play, which has a cancer education theme, to various Ontario centres where it will be performed in conjunction with large cancer conferences.

The romantic leads in the play are taken by Wanda Trott, as Rosemary Tonessin the aerialist, and Ken Davenport as Jim Hurn, the circus manager. Mrs. Trott, who has appeared in several previous Curtain Club productions, played the sensitive Irish girl in "The Gaol Gate" and one of the nurses in "High Ground".

As set designer, Mrs. Anne Featherstonbaugh has used her artistic talent to design a delightful set for the play.

Mrs. Cicely Thomson is directing the play with resourcefulness and imagination as she captures

the circus atmosphere, and several children of Curtain Club members will be getting their first experience on stage in the circus audience.

Margaret Bergin, one of the club's most talented actresses plays the role of Jane Hurn, sister of the circus manager, and Bob Little, who has maintained a long enthusiasm for the theatre, plays the role of Pop Tonessin, the aerialist's father.

The role of Doctor Brown is played by club president, Gordon Lewis, and Denny Featherstonbaugh will be able to display some fine scenic work as Sinbad, the tattooed man. Ken Davenport has the role of the circus barker, Marjot Crack, who gave such a fine performance as Sarat Carn in "High Ground", will play Arla, and Beth and Len Jones will be the Man In Shirtsleeves and his wife. The popcorn boy will be played by John Thomson.

It is certain that when this play is performed in other Ontario centres, Richmond Hill will have every reason to be proud of its local theatrical group.

STOUFFVILLE: Attendance at the local public school is at an all time high with 454 pupils. There are 14 teachers on the staff.

## Rev. J. S. Seibert To Judge Fall Show

For the first time in the history of the Richmond Hill Horticultural Society, the Reverend J. W. Seibert of Elmira will visit the Autumn Show in the capacity of judge.

A man of clear cut words spiced with subtle wit, Mr. Seibert is well known to most horticulturalists, especially those attending the annual conventions, where his speech is always interesting, right to the point and exceedingly well delivered.

He is not altogether a stranger to Richmond Hill, for he has been a frequent visitor over the past years to the famous Iris gardens of Mr. R. D. Little and the late Ed Little.

A great flower lover and expert gardener, Mr. Seibert has judged many fall flower shows throughout the country, and this past year he was appointed to the committee responsible for the new book on horticultural judging standards, which all societies have adopted.

It is with great anticipation that the local horticultural society awaits his visit, urging all members to enter as many exhibits as possible to make his trip worthwhile.

HEISE HILL: Farmers in this district complain of damage to crops by raccoons. Reg. McMullen lost nearly his entire sweet corn crop. Coons tear the cobs right off the stalks.

## Cartoon Contest

A large number of interesting entries were received in the Cartoon Capers Contest, a weekly feature of The Liberal. The winner of the \$10. prize this week is Mrs. W. Clephane, 393 Fernleigh Circle South.

The contest is interesting and lots of fun. The rules are simple. Each week there will be an extra word inserted in a few of the ads appearing on the special page. Read the ads, find the extra words, put them together and when properly arranged they will give the title of the cartoon.

Write these words on a piece of paper and list the firms in whose ads you found each word, then see if you can write a better title. Send in your entry to Cartoon Capers, c/o The Liberal, Richmond Hill, not later than Monday noon. The best one selected each week will be awarded \$10.00 in merchandise certificates good at any of the stores participating. If you wish to compete for the feature prize of a \$100.00 certificate to be awarded at the end of the contest you must enclose a sales slip with your entry or something to prove you have done business with any of the firms participating, as the best title sent in during the contest, that has proof of purchase attached, will win the \$100.00. Winner will be published each week.

## "Circle 8" Swings Out To Start Another Season

For the past few years, the Richmond Hill Lions Club has been sponsoring a very successful square dance club for the Bobby-sox set.

The growing popularity of this event every second and fourth Wednesday night at the Lions Hall has resulted in such a large attendance that the membership must be limited to students of grades 7 and 8.

The group will follow the lead of Teen-Town in encouraging a party atmosphere — no jeans. The attendance fee is 25c with a membership card and refreshments are free.

If you can't dance, this is your chance to learn. Come on out and join the rest of the group. It's fun!

SCHOMBERG: A proposal to widen the Main Street here has been rejected by village trustees. The proposal to move back phone and hydro poles would give an additional four feet width on the street, but the cost was considered prohibitive.

PICKERING: A court case involving the Township of Pickering and Mr. John Burrows of Green River, cost the municipality a total of \$1,291. Mr. Burrows, operator of a piggery, appealed a \$62 business tax in the Ontario Supreme Court, at Osgoode Hall. In the ruling handed down, Mr. Burrows was classed as a farmer and therefore was entitled to business tax exemption.

## Vacant House Destroyed by Fire

Maple Fire Brigade and Richmond Hill Fire Brigade were called out last Saturday evening to fight a fire which totally destroyed a vacant house on Bathurst Street just above Elgin Mills Sideroad. Known as the old Angus place the house has not been occupied for several years. Origin of the fire is unknown.

Chief J. Davidson, of the Vaughan Police and Fire Department reported that numerous cars had to be tagged as motorists converged on the scene and parked their cars in a manner that could have impeded the approach of other fire fighting, or rescue equipment, had they been needed.

## Organize Girl Guide & Brownie Activities For This Coming Year

Girl Guide and Brownie leaders of Richmond Hill District met Monday night at the home of District Commissioner Mrs. Ernest Reimeler to lay plans for the 1957-58 season. As well as assigning places and personnel for companies and packs, captains and lieutenants discussed plans for a Day Camp for Guides, to be held on a Saturday in October at Don Head Farms, while Brownies and Tawnees arranged for Golden Hand Test Days in November, March and May. Training for new and experienced Guides will begin as soon as dates and trainers are set.

The district desperately needs new workers in both Brownie and Guide sections. Several packs have only one Guide or Owl apiece, and two Guide companies will be unable to begin activities this fall until leaders are found to work with them. Richmond Hill district appeals to all former Brownies, Guides, Guiders, or "just interested" women to train as Guides to assist in the many packs and companies in town. Training and assistance toward the purchase of uniforms are provided by the Guide movement, the local association, and the active group committees formed by the Guide and Brownie mothers.

Companies and packs are formed from girls attending school together and in most cases meet in their own school immediately after classes close in the afternoon.

Beverly Acres pack and company will open next Wednesday, September 18, the second pack will open September 19th. All other companies and packs will

begin activities on the week of September 23. All former and would-be Brownies and Guides should register at this time. Guides will collect the 60c registration fee for company and pack members in October this year.

Following is a list of packs and companies, with times and meeting places.

1st Pack—Tues. 4.00, McConaghy.

2nd Pack—Thur. 4.00, Wrixon Hall.

3rd Pack—Thur. 4.00 McKillop with another Pack to be formed here meeting on Tuesdays.

4th Pack—Tues. 4.00, Scott Acres.

5th Pack—Wed. 3.45, Beverley Acres.

6th Pack—Thur. 4.00, Scott Acres.

7th Pack—To be formed at Our Lady of Fatima Separate School, for Roman Catholic Brownies. Day to be announced.

1st Co.—Tues. 7.15, McConaghy

2nd and 3rd companies will not open this year unless an unit leaders are found to take over the program.

4th Co.—Wed. 6.30, Beverley Acres.

The Guide movement in Richmond Hill is very grateful to the Richmond Hill Public School Board for making space available for meetings.

If readers of "The Liberal" feel that they can help in this very worthwhile game of guiding, will they please call Mrs. Fedelmeier at TU. 4-3224.

SUTTON: The District High School cafeteria opened and the students may buy a hot meal of meat, potatoes, a vegetable, bread and butter for 25 cents.

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