



The Liberal



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Richmond Hill Fair Day

Next Saturday, May 24, is Fair Day in Richmond Hill. If the weatherman smiles on the event, and he usually does, many thousands of visitors will be here to enjoy the varied and interesting program to be presented by the Richmond Hill Agricultural Society.

One of the oldest Fairs in Ontario, Richmond Hill's spring show has been an annual event for more than one hundred years. The first Fair was held on a park located on the south side of Arnold Street back of the public school and what was then the Palmer Hotel. There was a race track and the day's program included all kinds of horse races as well as the usual classes for light and heavy horses.

In those early days more than a century ago patrons of the Fair came by horseback, on stage coaches and wagons over corduroy roads. To get to the Fair most of them passed through toll gates on Yonge Street. Attendance at the Fair was an all day event, people arriving in town at an early hour after making an early morning start on the slow journey into town for the Fair. Practically all the exhibits and exhibitors as well as many visitors arrived the night before. Here at that time to cater to their needs were six hotels, two blacksmith shops and two carriage shops.

In 1872 the Fair moved to the present Town Park and through the years has continued as a popular annual event. Many prominent citizens of Town and District have been associated with

the Agricultural Society and have given freely of their time and talent in promoting the interests and welfare of this time-honored organization. It wasn't always easy sailing, but through all the periods of good times and bad the Fair has carried on and this year will hold its 109th exhibition.

This year's Fair promises to be bigger and better than ever. The feature attraction will be the Horse Show and some of the finest horses in Canada will be seen in the show ring. There will be of course many other attractions and a full day's program which is sure to prove enjoyable to young and old.

Not least of the attractions of Fair Day is the opportunity of meeting and renewing acquaintances with old friends. It is something of an Old Home Week celebration and many Richmond Hill and district old boys and girls now living in other parts of the country make this annual pilgrimage home to enjoy the Fair.

Richmond Hill Fair is a local institution worthy of support. Everyone should make a special effort to visit the grounds during the day or evening. Invite your friends to come to Richmond Hill on the twenty-fourth for Fair Day. Business people and householders can help make this a gala day by decorating their premises. Let's show the world that we're proud of Richmond Hill Fair and that the welcome mat is out for all visitors.

The best of good luck to the Richmond Hill 109th annual Spring Fair; may it be the best and biggest in the long history of the Agricultural Society.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

People Dirty Up Yonge Street
Dear Mr. Editor:
I wonder how the people who dirty up the main thoroughfare of Richmond Hill would feel if they were caught by the "eye" of a candid camera in the act of littering doorways, sidewalks, as well as the main road, with everything from cigarette butts to bits of paper and old shoes.

We have such a nicely laid out town; it is situated so beautifully "high on the hill" and the view one sees far off — with stately church towers shining in the sunlight and waving branches of old, old leafy trees — is marred so badly by the approach to littered pavement and roads.

Perhaps if those of us who could be guilty of misuse of our streets and roads would, "see ourselves as others see us" this sorry state of things would soon be "cleared" up.
(Mrs.) Anna Bel

Supports Sale of Beer and Liquor

Dear Mr. Editor:
Your correspondent, J. J. Brown, made great play with "proven facts", "the intelligent person", "voting intelligently and wisely", and "quietly deciding the salient points of the question" (apparently before any but his own had been presented). Quite obviously all who consider themselves intelligent and wise will vote and think as he does — by Mr. Brown's book anyway. He talked earnestly of "proven facts", but made not the slightest effort to prove them, or for that matter even to indicate their source, so one can only conclude that they are from his own fertile imagination.

It is however a fact that a retail beer and liquor outlet in this town is being supported by many, including reputable and long established traders, ratepayers' associations, etc., who whilst they may not lay claim to the wisdom and intelligence of Mr. Brown, are still far from idiots. They are mainly people who have contributed to the growth of this town for a long period and who have been active in promoting many measures which they feel to be in its better interests. They are

not people surfacing out of obscurity to generate heat on one isolated question. So far, alcoholics, drunken drivers and wife beaters have shown no inclination to support us.

It is also a fact that this town will benefit directly from increased commercial assessment and that trade presently being siphoned off to Willowdale will be kept where it belongs — in Richmond Hill. We can also reasonably expect that new trade will be brought into the town from its environs. We could of course prohibit candy shops on the theory that too much candy ruins teeth, tobacco shops, because excessive smoking may cause cancer and drug stores because one can buy over the counter enough aspirin to commit suicide. And to eliminate the possibility of a drunk driver why just prohibit liquor stores? Why not ban the sale of cars in the town?

The reason we don't is simple enough. It is unjust and impracticable to penalize the overwhelming majority of responsible and temperate citizens for the small minority who might be incapable of adequate self-restraint and who would seek out their nearest source of supply even if it were fifty miles away. The catastrophic failure of prohibition in the U.S.A. demonstrated that dramatically.

The present issue is purely whether retail beer and liquor outlets should be allowed in town and whatever the result of the vote might be it will have no bearing on the question of cocktail bars and lounges which are not even being considered. In the unlikely event that they ever were, a completely new and separate vote would be required.

Mr. Brown's unworthy inuendo that "the idea first germinated in the brewers' offices and not in Beverley Acres", cannot be passed over and is symptomatic of his ruthless endeavours to make a case for himself at all or any cost. I voted for the motion that took this request to council and had certainly never been approached by anyone even remotely connected with the liquor trade. Nor had the respectable housewife who proposed the motion,

nor the gentleman who seconded it, both of whom no doubt resent this baseless slur on their integrity as much as I do.

Mr. Brown would no doubt feel justly indignant were an attempt to be made to infer that his own ideas first germinated in the home of some local bootlegger, or other person with a vested interest in seeing that there were no local supplies easily available.

We who support the establishment of these outlets are capable of holding and supporting our views, without motivation from sinister outside forces, but have no wish to attempt hanging the convictions of those who oppose us. We do however ask that we be not misrepresented and will challenge the distortion or invention of so-called facts for the purpose of misleading the public, from whatever source they may come.

Yours truly,
Tom Broadhurst,
343 Taylor Mills Drive North

Yonge At Elgin Mills A Danger Spot

Dear Mr. Editor:
Another serious accident at Elgin Mills and Yonge Street is one more reminder that this section of highway should be widened to four lanes as quickly as possible.

In the last three years there have been 20 accidents, 2 fatal and the more recent one last year involving the grey coach when two more people were killed and many more injured.

Until the road is widened warning lights should be installed. After the accident Sunday, one wonders what kind of training is given to police recruits. The two young officers were doing a good job of keeping the traffic moving whilst the poor woman who had been thrown through the windshield stood, on the verge of collapse, unattended and bleeding profusely from severe facial lacerations. It was not until a bystander pointed out the urgent need of rushing her to the Doctor in the cruiser that anything was done.

HOPEFUL

NOTE
Last week we published a letter from Mr. James J. Brown opposing the establishing of liquor outlets in Richmond Hill. This week we publish one presenting the other viewpoint. No further letters on this subject will be published in this column. (Ed.)

Over Hill, Over Dale

by Cicely Thomson

Our town — when we first came to live in Richmond Hill we were both surprised to hear that some people we were to look up were regarded as newcomers, and yet we knew that they had been here for fifteen years and that their children, now grown up, had gone to school in the village.

So I guess we're not old-timers yet, although we have been here nearly twelve years. But in those twelve years I'm sure we have seen more changes than were seen in the previous twenty. Living on Yonge street, as we did in those days, we could run our household by the old "trolley time". In snow or traffic they were never late and never absent — but the ride was rough, and the driver left the car every minute or so to "telephone" from a siding. My six year old could be hurried back from school at noon by the game of beating the trolley.

We rang the trolleys out and rang the buses in, and eventually saw Yonge street change from a two-lane to an equally busy four-lane highway.

We started our children to school in Grade I instead of kindergarten. Dial telephones were still in our future.

Our taxes in the first year were \$105 (a 60% increase over the year before).

We had two winters when at all social gatherings conversation veered to the problem of septic tanks versus sewers!

The fine new store on Yonge street was Lauder Glass's — and we saw a picture of the old building where the family had run the same business for three generations.

There was no movie, and the only restaurant was in a house converted for the purpose. It's been pulled down for another fine new building. The high school put on plays everyone went to in the basement of the old part of the municipal hall as I remember. And of course, as even the newest newcomer remembers, we all met on the post office steps to get our mail.

One night there was a town meeting in the Masonic Hall (which has just now succumbed to the wreckers). We crowded in there to hear the discussion on the proposed annexation of land to the east and to the north-west. For the first time the summer before we had had water restrictions and were very wary as to how the water supply would hold out. We were told that on that score there would be no worry. The engineers had assured the councillor who spoke on "water" that there was water for ten times the population and they would only have to open up a new well. Anyhow, every year since then the loudspeaker truck has gone around and we water on very rationed hours. (One wet summer we were away and I think perhaps there were no restrictions that year, so maybe the engineers had the rainfall figures wrong, or the rainfall changed, or something.)

Of course, the town's needs have changed very much since those far-off days of the late forties. Then there was plenty of vacant land for the kids to have a baseball team in every block. Now everyone has to take turns at the schools or in the park. But we had no teen-town then or junior square dancing, and no day camp for the long summer days.

The Thornhill Swimming Pool was built and gave everyone a place to swim for a while, until the line-ups to get in became so long that it was more refreshing just to have a bath at home! A hard working committee brought us artificial ice for the Arena, but it looks as if we'll outgrow that one pad too very soon.

The library moved into its fine new painted room with a picture window, and gave everyone wonderful new books and brought out old ones that had been stored away because of lack of space.

Now again, it lacks books, and the books will need space. There should be 2½ books per capita and in our town of over 10,000 that makes it nearly 25,000 books. Council has already deeded land to the far-sighted Library Board, land on which a grant paid by the provincial Government, together with the large "percentage" grant that a Library Building will be entitled to, will go a long way to giving the town a fine public building which with careful financing won't cost the taxpayers very much at all.

I like to fancy that Richmond Hill has been like a twelve year old who begins to outgrow his clothes before they've even been once to the laundry. After the lad reaches his full height, he will continue to grow in breadth and strength and wisdom. One day, as a grown-up town, our adolescent problems behind, we'll have well designed buildings in the commercial area, pleasant industrial buildings, parks where trees and landscaping are a joy to the eye, recreational facilities that are no longer in the make-shift stages. And just as in the gangling youth we can see many signs of the mature man, so in the buildings and in the parkland we have, we can see where long term planning is taking us.

But don't let anyone cut down trees again the way the saws screamed through those on the wonderful green (could it have been the town green in 1975?) kitty-corner from the municipal hall. That piece of lawn and fir trees was a landmark in the town far and wide. Everyone who knew Yonge street knew Richmond Hill for those trees. One elderly woman said "I felt as though those saws were going through my body". How many of us grieved as we saw the beauty destroyed. Our elected councillors must preserve the unreplaceable for their children and ours, our town tomorrow is what we made it yesterday and today.

DORIS J. POLLOK

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