

# The Liberal



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## Retain Annual Elections

Richmond Hill and Markham Township voters facing the responsibility of deciding the question of a two year term for municipal councils should examine the proposal carefully with special attention to all the implications, the fine print and hidden clauses.

The right of annual elections and the right to vote are among the landmarks of democracy. Countless thousands in many lands would give anything they have to enjoy the rights we now enjoy. Here we now have the right; let's use it.

The question which will appear on the ballot paper looks simple enough. It will read, "Are you in favor of a by-law to provide for biennial elections of members of municipal council?"

This is generally accepted as a question of your opinion of a two year term. However a close examination of the small print in the proposal reveals that it means much more.

A "yes" vote for biennial elections would mean that under no circumstances would a municipal election be held, except every two years.

A "yes" vote means that not only are council members elected for a two year term, but the elected members have the sole right to fill all vacancies.

Under the present system, which we think has worked well and should be continued, if a council member resigns or moves away there is provision in the Municipal Act that a successor may be elected by the people. UNDER THE TWO YEAR TERM VACANCIES ARE FILLED BY APPOINTMENT. And who makes the appointment? Members of council.

A "yes" vote means ratepayers are asked not only to elect council members for a two year term, but to give to the elected members all power to appoint members in case of resignations.

Under the two year plan this is how it could work. If next year's council were elected for a two year term and in February four members resigned or moved away, the three remaining members could appoint members of their own families to fill all the vacancies. It's not likely they would appoint members of their own family, but the point is there would be nothing to prevent it, and the members thus appointed without any endorsement by the people, could hold office and spend taxpayers' money for twenty-three months.

Under the present system the taxpayer has the right and privilege of having council members present annually a financial statement and an account of their stewardship. They have the right of deciding by an open nomination meeting and election who shall fill any vacancy which may occur.

Richmond Hill and Markham Township electors should give a decisive "no" to the proposal for a two year term. Before falling for the arguments of those who want to save the taxpayers the trouble and expense of an election they should make very sure they read all the fine print in the proposal. The last time the two year proposal was submitted to the electors of Richmond Hill was in 1941, and the result left no doubt about how the people viewed their right of annual elections. The two year proposal was rejected by a thumping majority. At that time Richmond Hill was a small village with 900 eligible voters, ONLY SEVEN voted for a two year term for council.

This is 1959, the village has become a town, the number of eligible voters has materially increased, but the fundamentals remain the same. Richmond Hill taxpayers voted an overwhelming "No" to the two year term proposal in 1941, and we recommend they do the same this year.

## They Elect A Queen



From left to right, this picture presents Mr. Fred Wise, Managing Director Town & Country Marketers; Deputy Reeve Tinker and Mr. Roy Chandler, Manager Bank of Nova Scotia as they judge in the 'Miss Richmond Heights' Beauty Contest last Friday.

## "Dear Mr. Editor"

**Express Thanks**  
Dear Mister Editor:-  
May we publicly express our thanks to the members of the North Toronto Motor Sports Club for the lovely outing they sponsored for the Old Folks and Shut-ins. It was a pity more elderly folk did not avail themselves of this wonderful trip.  
On arrival back at "The Hill" we were entertained at the Richmond Grill with further refreshments, and then safely deposited at our homes.  
We would also like to give our special thanks to our personal guardians Mr. and Mrs. Fieldhouse, who were so very considerate of our comfort and welfare. Again thanks to all who contributed their time and effort to bring a little pleasure to the Old Folks and Shut-ins.

Yours truly,  
(Mrs.) C. Adlam  
Mrs. A. Bennett

### Says Vote "No" On Two Year Term

Dear Mister Editor:-  
I was very interested to read your editorial last week and the letter from Cavis. I agree we should retain the one year term, and I was surprised council so quickly accepted the suggestion to have a vote.

I recall some time ago a petition with some sixty names was rejected because it was not representative. Yet a letter from one ratepayer, who also is a candidate for council, and council agrees right away.

I think the people of Belleville where council has the town well in the red for an escapade with a hockey team are very glad to have an election and pass judgement on the offenders.  
We read a lot in the press about an investigation in York Township land deals and I imagine taxpayers will welcome an opportunity of saying who is going to represent them in council next year.

Pierre Berton recently told an interesting story about development deals in Georgetown. I think the taxpayers in that town will welcome an election at the end of the year to say what they think.

Richmond Hill council raised taxes substantially this year, and raised water rates too. They could raise taxes 10 mills next year, and if we had a two year term raise them 20 mills the next year before the ratepayers could do anything about it.

It's a poor argument to say these things couldn't happen here. They could. The safest way is to retain the right and privilege of annual elections.

Anxious Taxpayer

## FACTS and FAITH

A weekly Comment On

Christian Life And Action

— By Calvin H. Chambers —



**War**  
Almost seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah envisaged a day when "nations would turn their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks."  
The birth of our Lord has always been associated in Christian theology, with the advent of "peace on earth, good will toward men."

But what has become of Isaiah's vision? Where can Jesus, the Prince of Peace, fit into our war conscious generation? Forty-one years ago this month, the nations of the world signed an armistice which was supposed to bring an end to war. The treaty was optimistically hailed as the beginning of the reign of peace. Since then, we have waged another war of dreadful proportions, and humanity sits perched on a precipice which might erupt at any moment.

Is the possibility of world peace a "pipe dream" which all intelligent men should abandon? Can peace reign on earth, as long as nations continue to build their atomic stock piles, and reach out for bases on surrounding moon and planets from which to control their enemies?

Perhaps our generation is more prepared than any other in the history of mankind, to hear the biblical message of peace. We know that the need for world peace is a matter of life and death. Any solution to human ills which does not go to the root of the matter is not worthy of our consideration. The Bible teaches that peace is the fruit of a right relationship with God. Man is at war with his neighbor, be it a hot war, or a cold war, because

he is out of fellowship with God. Modern man is beginning to recognize some facts which have long been announced by biblical Christianity. Bertram Russell, the brilliant agnostic of our time in his book A Study in Futility, writes, "war has always been morally a horror. It is not that war causes death and destruction, but rather that it can no longer achieve the aims of any of the belligerents. . . . What the world has to face, is that a world war with modern weapons is not merely wicked, but futile."  
However, peace of earth cannot be brought about, merely by insights. It is not enough for man to develop a "peace mentality." The causes of war must be removed. Fear and conflict must be challenged by the only thing which can overcome them. And that is indiscourageable Christian love!

"Soft talk," you say. "It is not love, but preparation for war which will keep the enemies of freedom in their place."  
Listen to what an hard headed irreligious thinker of our time says. "Armaments, however necessary meanwhile, will not save mankind. If mankind is to be saved, it must be by love of man kind, and wise thinking inspired by that love."

Christians know where to find that love. It is seen in action in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord. Faith and trust in Him will rightly relate a man to God and to his neighbour, and to his world. The duty of the Church is to point the world to that Love in Christ. This is the road to peace. Not easy! But the only answer!



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