

# The Liberal

An Independent Weekly: Established 1878

Subscription Rate \$3.50 per year; to United States \$4.50; 10c single copy

Member Audit Bureau of Circulations  
Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association

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"Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"

## A New Hospital

The growth and development of Richmond Hill and surrounding district in recent years has made necessary a continuous extension and expansion of local services. As population increased the municipal authorities took care of the greater demands for services by extensions to water and electric facilities, additions to the police force, works staff and administrative offices.

For a long time there has been a realization that one of our urgent needs is for a hospital to serve Richmond Hill and surrounding area. Last year Mayor Tomlin drew attention to the fact that a hospital for the area is needed and stated that exploratory studies were being made in the hope of getting some co-operative action by all interested parties.

This week the local Medical Association has given unanimous approval to the suggestion of a hospital here, and in the hope of getting a start on the project a public meeting has been called for early next month. The meeting to which all citizens are invited will be held in the McConaghy School, Yonge Street, Thursday evening, February 11, at 8 p.m. It is hoped that at this meeting a provisional organization will be set up to secure the necessary detailed information and present a practical proposal to municipal councils and people of the district.

We concur whole-heartedly with the

Mayor and Medical Association that a hospital is needed in Richmond Hill, to serve the ever-increasing needs of the expanding population of the town and district. The nearest hospitals now are located in North York Township and Newmarket, a distance of about fifteen miles, and many of our people use the facilities of Toronto institutions. This means inconvenience and long trips for patients, friends and doctors.

A modern 100-bed hospital should be a practical project, not beyond the means of local municipalities, and we trust the proposal will have the serious and careful consideration of municipal councils and all citizens interested in seeing that this growing area does not lag in providing our people with necessary services.

From a purely economic standpoint the simple facts are that in this district we spend many thousands of dollars annually for hospital services. We might just as well spend them at home, and have the advantages of close-at-hand accommodation.

We endorse the suggestion of a hospital for this district and trust that citizens will show their interest by attending the public meeting called for February 11. The proposal is a challenge and an opportunity for all to share in laying the foundation for a local institution which for years to come will contribute to the health and welfare of our people.

## Congratulations Warden Clark



Congratulations to Warden W. L. Clark, Reeve of Markham Township; not only because Warden Clark is the 100th Warden to serve the County of York, but also because his long years of faithful service as municipal Councillor, Deputy-reeve and Reeve for his

own township (thirty-one years in all), have been duly crowned with this symbol of respect by his colleagues on County Council.

Thirty-one years is a long time in any man's life, but it is an even longer span of time when one considers it from the municipal-service level. And fifteen years is a tidy sum of years too, when one considers that Warden Clark is the only surviving member of the 1945 County Council still holding a seat in the council chambers at Newmarket.

"The Liberal" wishes at this time to add its congratulations to the many Warden Clark is receiving and to pay tribute to his fine example of public service; his quiet, unassuming bearing and his careful, deliberate manner in performing his duties towards the people whom he serves.

York County can look forward to a great year in 1960 — under the SAFE and SURE direction of its 100th Warden, William L. Clark. There need be no fear for the future of municipal government as long as men of his calibre offer themselves in public service.

## Looking To The Future

The new Official Plan of the Metropolitan Toronto Area released this week is a document of historical and far-reaching importance to the people of this district. It includes future plans for not only the municipalities of Metro but also for the fringe areas which include Richmond Hill, Markham, Vaughan, and a large part of York County. A Blueprint for the Future it is an important document which merits the most serious consideration by municipal leaders and all citizens with a stake in the Metro area.

Metro's twenty-two member Planning Board does not include direct representation of the fringe municipalities, so how much concern has been given towns like Richmond Hill and townships like Vaughan and Markham remains to be seen in a detailed study of the report. Five years in preparation it is a 272-page document which we have not yet seen. All we have so far are press reports so of course we cannot pass judgment on its contents.

The report envisions a Metropolitan City of some three million people by 1980 with 37 miles of subway and 200 miles of Expressway. Looking twenty years into the future Vaughan and Markham are expected to grow to between 50,000 and 60,000. Richmond Hill which for the period 1951 to 1958 showed the largest percentage of growth of any suburban municipality is expected to increase from its present

16,000 to a maximum 18,000 within its present boundaries. The planners say municipalities outside the Metro Planning area will experience remarkable growth in the next twenty years.

Long term planning is most desirable and we today are paying dearly for neglect in this regard in the past. For that reason the report with its vision and plan of the area for the next twenty years is welcomed and we hope it may have careful consideration and study.

While the study by the Metro Planning Board is welcomed as a guide for future development we think it should be made abundantly clear at the outset that fringe municipalities have no desire or intention of being swallowed up by Metro. Any definite action on any of the recommendations must not be taken until there has been the fullest possible opportunity of study by local municipal councils and taxpayers.

Commendable though some of the plans may be they should be undertaken on the authority of the people of the municipality concerned and not by any big stick methods by either Metropolitan Toronto or the Ontario Government.

We welcome the report as a guide to local municipal councils in all future development plans. Any blueprint for the future should be on the authority of local elected representatives, not on the recommendations of a Metro Planning Board on which Richmond Hill and many other fringe municipalities have no direct representation.

## "Dear Mr. Editor"

Expresses Thanks

Dear Mr. Editor:-  
On behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society Richmond Hill Unit, I would like to thank a number of the citizens of this community who either through groups or individual donations helped to bring pleasure to eight cancer patients and their families at Christmas time.

The Richmond Hill Jaycees, The Richmond Hill Rotary Club, The Richmond Hill Lions Club, The Inner Wheel of the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill, St. Mary's Anglican Evening W. A., The Richmond Hill United Church Evening W. A., The 7th Brownie Pack, Mainprize Drug Store, Mrs. M. Ward and a group of her friends from Thornhill and several other anonymous donors all helped to make our Christmas programme possible.

As a result of this generosity we were able to take plants, fruit and small gifts to the patients, and toys to the youngest children. In the case of one family we were able to arrange for some much needed food, clothing and small gifts.

Our most sincere thanks to all and best wishes for this New Year.

Mary Williams  
Gift Cupboard Convener  
Richmond Hill Unit

Chess Club

Dear Mr. Editor:-  
I wish to form a CHESS CLUB at Richmond Hill, and wonder if you would publish the following announcement.

Anyone wishing to assist in forming a chess club in Richmond Hill, please contact Jack Newbold, TU. 4-2369. Evenings or weekends.

Trusting that you can do this for me.

Sincerely  
J. Newbold



By Calvin H. Chambers

On Building Bridges

The popes of Rome have a title which was taken from the Roman Emperors. It is "Pontifex Maximus," which literally means, "The Great Bridge Builder." The great Roman Caesars were known for the splendid roads and bridges they built, linking their empire to its center at Rome. The Church felt heir to the peoples of that Empire, and held them together by spiritual ties.

The words of our Lord, "Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God," refers to this task of bridge building. This is what a peace maker actually is. By his peace loving spirit, he seeks to overcome the barriers and distinctions which separate people one from the other.

Peace is one of the most desperate needs of our world today. But peace, as far as the Bible is concerned, is not a human ideal which we strive to achieve but the result of a right relationship with God, the fountain of peace. The title "Pontifex Maximus," belongs in a very exclusive way to Jesus Christ, for He has been the greatest bridge builder of all time. The Gospel is proud to announce that our Lord by His death on the cross, closed the great gulf which exists between God and man. Sin had separated man from God. Christ by His sacrificial death, atoned for sin and makes it possible for humble and repentant people to be reconciled to God. His cross was the connecting link between heaven and earth, between the heart of God and the heart of man.

This is why Paul speaks of Jesus as "our Peace." The bridge of the cross unites believing men to a Peace Loving God. Once we cross the Bridge in faith, trusting in this God of Peace, we are given a deep longing for peace on the highest level. We become conscious of the great barriers of race, colour, social and intellectual background, which separate men from each other.

How does a peace maker bring about peaceful relationships? He does this by seeking to promote harmonious attitudes and the spirit of understanding among men. He recognizes realistically that there are many natural divisions which tend to separate us, such as language, sex, upbringing. But there are so many things others can teach us, that we must be willing to seek for meeting grounds where we can discuss and learn.

This meant that on the international level, a Christian will be concerned with world peace, and support it with his prayers and interest. In the life of our own nation, we will minimize unessential differences, and seek to set forth the spirit of Christ in co-operative ventures for common good. In our homes we will consciously work for peace by controlling tempers, abstaining from harmful criticism, by developing the grace of patience and understanding.

Peace is not something which is easily attained. The cross of our Lord Jesus speaks of the fierce struggle of physical and spiritual pain paid for Peace. But, if our hearts are open to the power of His love, and if we will humble ourselves to receive that love, we will find the miracle of inner transformation taking place. The Spirit of the Living Christ in us, will make for peace, as we co-operate with Him in the yielding of our lives to Him.

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Curtain Club

Dear Mister Editor:-  
Recently the Curtain Club put on several performances of their most amusing Pantomime, "Cinderella" for the entertainment of audiences composed of Brownies, Cubs and Scouts and latterly the Sunday School of St. Mary's Anglican Church.

These performances are provided absolutely free by the Curtain Club, a public spirited gesture, for which those of us connected with any of the above organizations were most grateful.

We will be most anxious to support their next venture and we hope the parents of the children whose Christmas holiday was gladdened by their first experience of pantomime will also welcome the opportunity to attend the performance of the Curtain Clubs 1960 Drama Festival entry, "The Chalk Garden" by Enid Bagnold.

They deserve all the support which the public can give them in their forthcoming endeavour.

Sincerely  
K. C. Ruffman

HIGH SCHOOL BOARD AND CONVENTIONS

Dear Mr. Editor:-  
In the January 21st issue of The Liberal, your letter to the Editor section carried a squib signed "Civis." Aside from the fact that I have never thought anonymous views worthy of serious consideration, I wish to point out that "Civis" makes a number of invidious assumptions and draws a consequent number of devious, unsubstantiated conclusions.

Let's take a look at a few of the facts of this situation. First, the operation of York Central District High School Board has become a rather big business - almost a million dollars worth a year! Apart from a token stipend for attending regular monthly board meetings, members of the board receive no remuneration for the many hours of work they devote to board business. In short, these men are not involved with this work because of any financial emoluments connected with it.

Second, because most of the board members are active businessmen, they are fully aware that no one business has a stranglehold on the ideas best suited to run an individual enterprise most efficiently. Successful business operations spend both time and money to have their decision-

makers meet their counterparts from other organizations to share and mutually profit from each other's experience and practice. Additionally, business considers it worthwhile to underwrite after-hours study courses, and will even send management and potential management personnel for special training to organizations such as the American Management Association at a company cost of \$600 to \$900 per course. No company does this sort of thing from a desire to amuse its personnel but rather to help such personnel to contribute more effectively to the company's activities.

Third, let it be recognized that very few, if any, of the board members can take off at a moment's "caprice" for any convention of their choosing. The difficulty is to find members who can get away to meetings that are important because of the guidance that can be gained in the handling of the increasingly complex activities that constitute board business today.

Fourth, board members work hard enough to make the taxpayer's dollar buy as much educational value as possible that they are hardly likely to wish to complicate their problems by solving fast and free with the people's money on the kind of Roman holiday luxury junket a la Hollywood implied by "Civis."

Finally, let "Civis" be this man, woman, child or what-have-you, come to the board meetings and get to know some of the dedicated people who give generously, unstintingly and uncompromisingly of their time to provide as good an educational system as possible for other people's children as well as their own. I venture to say that "Civis" would find little to be apprehensive about in the matter of usefully and fruitfully spending public monies. Nor do I think that he would find any one of us whom he might confidently cast in the role of the easy conventionner, recklessly spending public money on "wine, women and song!" On second thought, is it just possible that as board members we ought to have a little more flair and imagination in various areas of public service? Perhaps "Civis" would be good enough to attend our next meeting and catechize us more specifically on our duties!

Yours very truly,  
John C. Wilson

## - Speaking Personally -

THEY PLANNED WELL FOR US  
(By Jane Fort Manning)

The release by Metropolitan Planning Board of the long-awaited master plan for development of the Metro area over the next twenty years will keep alive and probably increase our expectancy of "big things ahead" for our municipalities.

Have you wondered what it was like around here a hundred years ago? Did the people of that time have the same feelings of growth and prosperity ahead that we have?

The Railroad  
Last spring, remember the excitement and mixed emotions, with which we greeted the news of the Canadian National Railway by pass and marshalling yard?

Around a hundred years ago, 1850 to be more exact, the people living in Vaughan township first heard there was a possibility a rail line was to come through Collingwood.

Think of the excitement and gossip that announcement must have stirred up. Not to have to walk, or to drive a wagon over "corduroy" roads, to get to any village, including Toronto, a long the rail line.

An old time resident of Langstaff, Mr. Henry Horne, says in some memories of the time that the first he heard of the railway was when he and some neighbors got together to draw saw-logs at the farm of Daniel Reeman, Sr.

In June 1851 when some farmers were doing their roadwork between lots 10 and 11 in the Third Concession (taxes were often collected by having people keep up the road that ran by their property) an engineer and his company of men arrived in the district to construct the line. By October cars loaded with rails were crossing Sherwood sideline. In 1853 the line was through to Collingwood. It ran under the name Ontario Simcoe and Huron Railway.

Standing Room Only  
A ride on the train to Toronto was very different from that to today. No special seats were provided, it was standing room only. Or perhaps if there was space a stool could be carried aboard by the passenger. When water was needed the train stopped and the ditch alongside the rail line.

History records the name of the first conductor as John Harvie. John Meek was probably the first brakeman. His brother, William, kept a tavern at Victoria Square. Mr. Honnie in that slower moving, more neighbourly time, remembered over the years the trainmen who manned the wonderful new machine that made life pleasanter and easier: Conductor Pim, Patrick Hendrick, Benjamin Waterhouse, Edward Hargrave, W. Williams, R. Scott and James Dunton.

And recalling the Victorian Period and its courtesy the traveller for 43 years ago, he can say that in all this time I did not receive one unkind word from any of the above named.

Our Roads  
Let's hope we can plan our future as well as some of the older generations did. The concessions Augustus Jones laid for Yonge, Bayview, Dufferin, Keele, Jane, etc. are still our main arteries to Ontario's mecca, Toronto. A quarter of a mile from

our place too the old logs of the corduroy road of pioneer times are exposed when a heavy spell of rain hits us and the "modern" top is washed away.

Around the time the rail went through larger school houses were constructed at Concord and at Carrville to replace smaller log structures.

There were mills, postoffices, harness and blacksmith shops, and stores in the villages. Nails and iron shovels had come into use, and matches, two inches long and tied in a packet of a hundred each, were in use.

It must have been a stirring time, a hundred years ago. And in this neck of the woods many descendants of those who participated in last century's development are now eager to see and be a part of, what's ahead for the next two decades.

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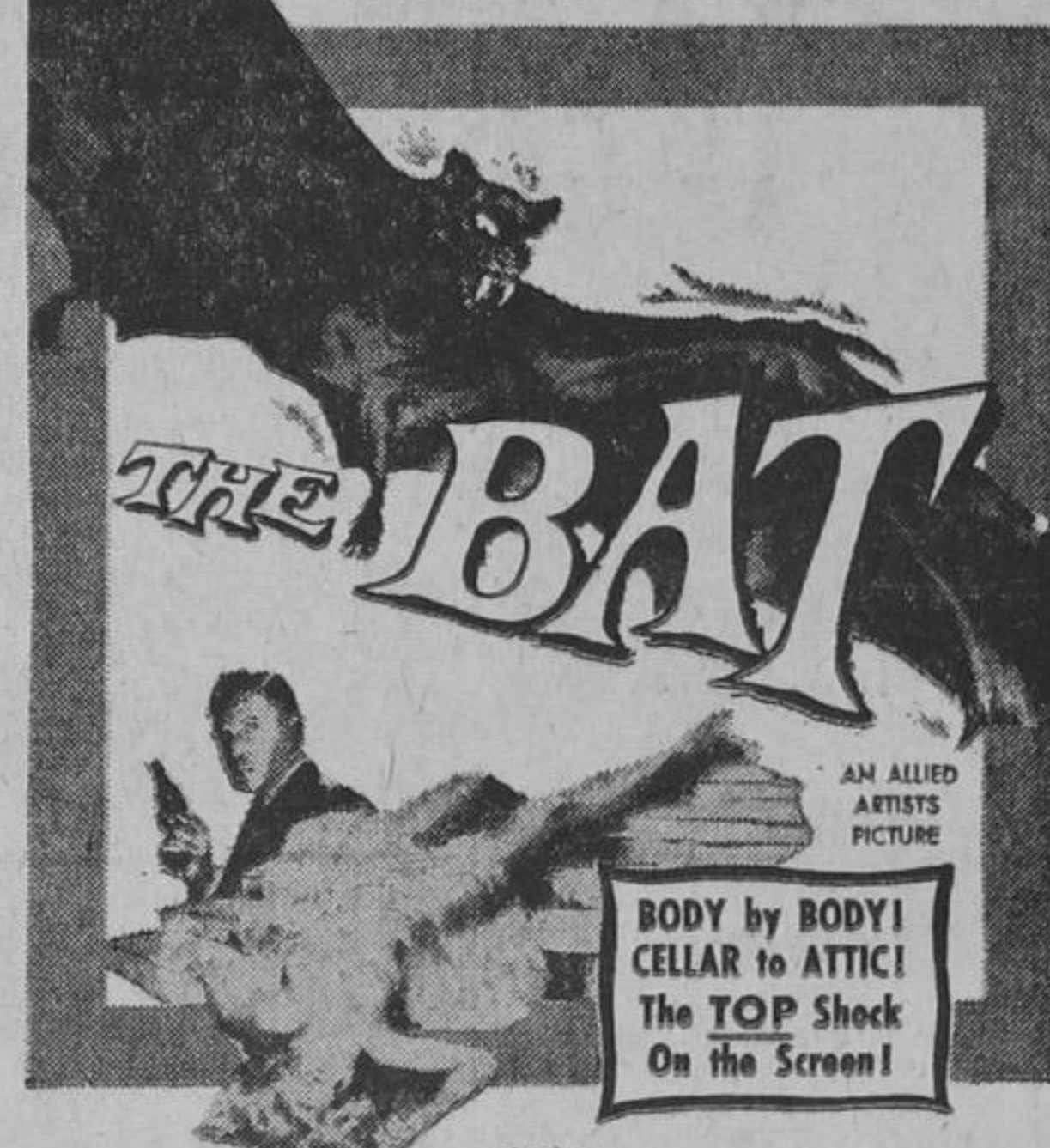
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