

The Liberal

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Library Week

Although library services have been expanding rapidly in Canada, there are still sections of the country which are either inadequately served or not served at all.

Canadian Library Week will be devoted to stressing the importance of reading, and of all kinds of libraries, in Canadian life. A substantial increase in activity over last year will come from individual cities, towns and villages which help to strengthen the campaign through the formation of local groups.

The chief purpose of Canadian Library Week will be to further the already marked increases in the number of libraries and books available to Canadians.

The Canadian Institute of Public Opinion surveys indicate that only 26 per cent of Canadians asked were reading a book recently, compared to 31 per cent in 1953 and 40 per cent in 1945. Women are slightly ahead of men in this respect; 27 per cent of the women asked were reading a book, and 25 per cent of the men.

The experience of public libraries, however, shows an unprecedented increase in numbers of books circulated and borrowers. The most recent figures available show a more than 50 per cent increase since 1945 in the circulation of Ontario public libraries and association libraries. The number of borrowers has risen by some 60 per cent in the same period.

The answer probably lies in the fact that where library or book store facilities are available, Canadians are reading more. There is still a major job to be done in making these facilities available to all Canadians.

Hospital Financing

People in this part of York County where there is a very apparent need for hospital accommodation will be interested in the announcement this week that in the neighbouring County of Peel, the County Council has undertaken the financing of all future hospital construction in the County.

The plan has been referred to as most practical and progressive legislation, and it is one which should have the careful and serious consideration of York and other counties of Ontario.

The plan was recommended by the Finance Committee after a long study of the hospital problems of the county. The money required for county hospital construction will be contained in the county's general budget, and levied against all the municipalities.

Under the plan the county will pay a grant of \$8,000, per bed where the per bed construction cost is not less than \$12,000. If construction cost is less than \$12,000 per bed, the grant will be

proportionately less. If construction costs are higher than \$12,000 per bed, the county will consider an additional grant if it is satisfied all other means of obtaining funds have been exhausted.

To be eligible for the county grant, hospital construction must qualify for the \$4,000 per bed provincial and federal grants and have the need, plans and specifications for the construction approved by the Ontario Hospital Services Commission.

A year after the first grant is made under the new plan, the county will take over the existing debenture debt of its 11 municipalities on the two existing hospitals.

Port Credit Reeve Cyril Saddington, chairman of council's finance committee, said it was no longer possible to finance hospital construction by public subscription. He said the plan was the only sound means of assuring adequate hospital accommodation for Peel's residents.

Our high school teachers were granted a day off by the York Central High School Board on March 18th to attend either the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 12 at Streetsville, or to go to a professional development conference at Buffalo at which I am told curriculums of Canadian and United States high schools were compared.

Mr. N. R. Clifton has kindly given me a resume of the conference at Streetsville. I'm sure you'll find it interesting.

"The interdependence of the Humanities, the Sciences and Mathematics, and the Skill Subjects" was the topic of the Streetsville conference and it gives a glimpse into the philosophy underlying the teaching of these subjects.

Problems of the education cannot be solved by the invention of a new jargon, warned Dr. Sanborn, Professor of English at the University of Western Ontario. He deplored each generation's new terminology such as today's "skill subjects."

Dr. Sanborn added that a subject could be studied both ways at once. For technical education is a man, and we must all acquire a pre-fabricated body of methods in order to earn a living in a material world. But there is another world to which education should introduce us, this is the world of intellectual excellence where humility is learnt in the presence of great minds.

Education in the highest sense can only lead to maladjustment in the ordinary world, for all the late talk about the function of education being to adjust the student to life in society, the speaker pointed out. The liberal takes society as he finds it, and the values of society, and questions them. The liberal is an aristocrat; he does not seek a life the same as every one else; he seeks the best life. He infuses the most mental classroom talk with intellectual excitement.

Dr. Sanborn warned that for this reason the division of English into reading, a "skill subject," and literature, a "subject matter area" was a darkening of counsel by the intrusion of jargon.

The first lesson in kindergarten, Dr. Sanborn advocated, should be taught in the name of literature and should begin the introduction of the child to his spiritual and moral heritage.

The function of the humanities was being undermined, he believed, by the implication of the jargon that literature, not being a

Community Flashback -

"For Home And Country" - - - And A New Library

The observance of Library Week, April 3rd to 9th, is an appropriate occasion to recall the following important event in the history and development of Richmond Hill's Public Library. It reveals that the Women's Institute played an important role in the progress of Library service in this community.

Mrs. O. L. Wright gave the following address on the occasion of Unveiling the Women's Institute Plaque in the Library of 1952. "Since the inauguration of our branch of the Women's Institute in Richmond Hill in 1913 we have tried to live up to our motto, 'For Home and Country.'" In keeping with this, in October 1926, Mrs. A. L. Phipps who has been a member since 1915 moved that we hold a carnival for the benefit of our library. Perhaps many of you do not know that our library then was in the room later the kitchen in the Masonic Hall. It was small, dark and dingy and entirely inadequate. Our Librarians did their best, but they were working under serious handicaps.

Plans were soon made by the Institute to hold a supper and dance; then the Dickens Fellowship gave us an evening. By April 1927 we had \$170 in our Library Fund. We then held a Public Meeting under the joint auspices of the Institute and the Home and School Club, with a stirring address on the benefit of a Library in a community. This inspired us to settle down in earnest to raise funds to build a Library.

We had Tag Days, Card Parties, Suppers and more Suppers. We compiled Recipe books, and took trips to places of interest where we were paid so much for each person attending. We catered at Bowling Club tournaments, at Picnics in the Park, Teacher's conventions, Farmer's banquets and held Bake sales, unnumberable.

We had many talks on books and for a time carried on a Children's Story Hour. In 1929, Mr. Carson, then Inspector of Librarians addressed us, and a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of building a Library. Then depression struck the country and it was felt that it was impossible to ask money for a Library when so many needed food; however

we did apply to Council for a Building Site. A joint meeting of the Library Board and the Women's Institute was held and we decided to carry on with our objective.

In 1932 the Library moved to a more suitable room on the second floor of the Municipal Building and the W. I. bought tables and chairs for this new room. About this time we invested some of our Library monies in a \$500 bond. Later as funds grew, more bonds were bought.

Then the second World War came and our work for the Library was suspended in favor of Red Cross and War Work. However, largely due to Mrs. Phipps influence, we still held our aim before us. A suitable Library for the village. In May 1948, Mrs. R. D. Little, then Chairman of the Library Board explained to us the proposed move to make a permanent Library on the ground floor of the Municipal Building. I had the honour of being officer between the two organizations, and had much pleasure in this service.

In October 1948, exactly 22 years after our project began, a motion was passed to turn over our funds to the Library Board to be used at their discretion.

In January 1949 our bonds were sold and our total Library Fund amounted to \$1,752.54."

In the Women's Institute history there is a picture of Mrs. H. H. MacKay unveiling the plaque in the Library, which commemorates the contribution of the Women's Institute to the Library, and Miss Izzard representing the Library Board.

The part that the Women's Institute played through this contribution, in extending the Library facilities, was recalled by Mrs. P. C. Hill at the opening of the present Library in her address "One Hundred and six Years of Library Service in Richmond Hill."

- Speaking Personally -

STREETSVILLE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

(By Jane Fort Manning)

I don't believe there is any group in our community today who work with greater zeal than our teachers to gain further insight and knowledge. Witness the in-service training courses which take place after school hours, the summer courses, and the conferences with their workshops and lectures.

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"Dear Mr. Editor"

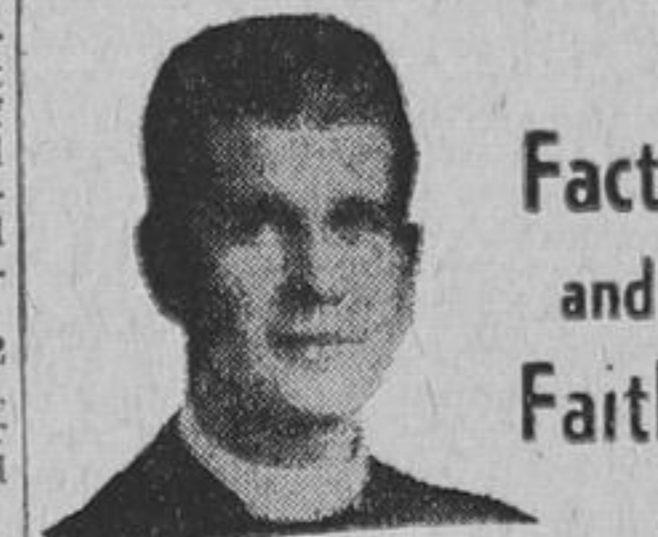
Wants To Know Cost
Vaughan Liquor Vote
P. O. Box 66
Pine Grove, Ont.

Dear Mr. Editor:-
This correspondent would now ask the Vaughan Township Council to publish in this paper a reasonably detailed statement of the cost of the recent abortive liquor plebiscite. As the residents of the Township will be paying the item, I am sure they will wish to know the cost.

It can reasonably be assumed that had Vaughan Township Council insisted that those requesting the plebiscite obtain a petition signed by 25% of eligible voters, as required under Section 69 of the Liquor License Act and had such a petition been obtainable, the result would have been substantially different. My concern is an endeavour to point out to our elected representatives that it is people that count and that in this instance they should have been considered.

It should be pointed out, in passing, that had an affirmative vote been registered, the betting is fifty to one that no new liquor store or brewery warehouse would have been established in the Township as a result because of the close proximity of existing outlets.

Yours truly,
F. M. Windatt



A Weekly Comment On
Christian Life and Action
By Calvin H. Chambers

God's Plan For The World

One of the classical arguments for the existence of God is the principle of order and design which seems to govern the whole universe. The whole creation, from the lowest form of inanimate life to the highest form in man, points to an Intelligent Mind who has brought all things into existence. The argument "from design" may not convince an unbeliever that there is a God, but at least it is a fact which must be considered. As far as the Christian is concerned, he believes that God has a plan and purpose for the entire universe, and as the Master Architect, He is at work bringing that plan to fulfillment.

This is the theme of Paul's letter to the Ephesian Christians. He is concerned to show, that God not only wants to redeem men from their sin, but He longs to see in every believer a sense of maturity, and an appreciation of the meaning of life in terms of yielding to His plan. The key statement in this letter of six chapters is found in 4:13, "The gifts of God were made to Christians, that they might be properly equipped for their service, that the whole body might be built up until the time comes when in unity of command faith and common knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at real maturity - that measure of development which is meant by 'fullness of Christ.'" (J. B. Phillips)

What a majestic understanding of life is given to us, whenever we enter into living faith in the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are given a marvellous insight into the purpose of our creation and redemption in Christ. This letter shows us that at the very center of all reality stands Jesus Christ. Everything that God purposes with regard to His universe is in reference to Him. Just as the secret language of the Great Pyramid in Egypt was unlocked by the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, by which all the ancient symbols of Egyptian writing was deciphered; so Christ is the secret by which we can come to an understanding of the purpose which God has for all things.

There are some scholars and Christians who think of God's plan as something which will be completed at the end of human history. But Paul emphasizes that God's plan for humanity already exists, even though imperfectly, within the life and fellowship of the Christian Church. God has created the Church to be the point of integration between men and women who by origin and background are separated from each other. Already within the life of the Church, we see this principle at work. The Church with its universal fellowship of believers from every part of the world, is a glorious witness to the fact that men may find unity in Christ.

At the Tower of Babel the nations of the world were separated from each other, because of their man centered attempt to create world unity. They said, "Go to now, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top shall reach to heaven, and let us make us a name, lest we perish from the earth." This man centered plan ended in confusion and chaos. History witnesses to the fact that all man centered plans for human brotherhood have failed. The Church, in spite of its chequered career, its unfaithfulness and sin, has still held close enough to Christ to reveal that true unity can be found in Him.

In the Ephesian letter, Paul points us to this great plan which God has for humanity. Right now we may find purpose and fulfillment in our own lives, as we yield to Christ who is the center of all things. Our lives can only find meaning as they are committed in faith to Him. Each day we may have the joy of knowing that we are part of God's plan for the unification of mankind, as we surrender heart and will to Christ.

AURORA - Aurora will consider eliminating its present fire alarm box system. Two recent false alarms cost the town up to \$134.

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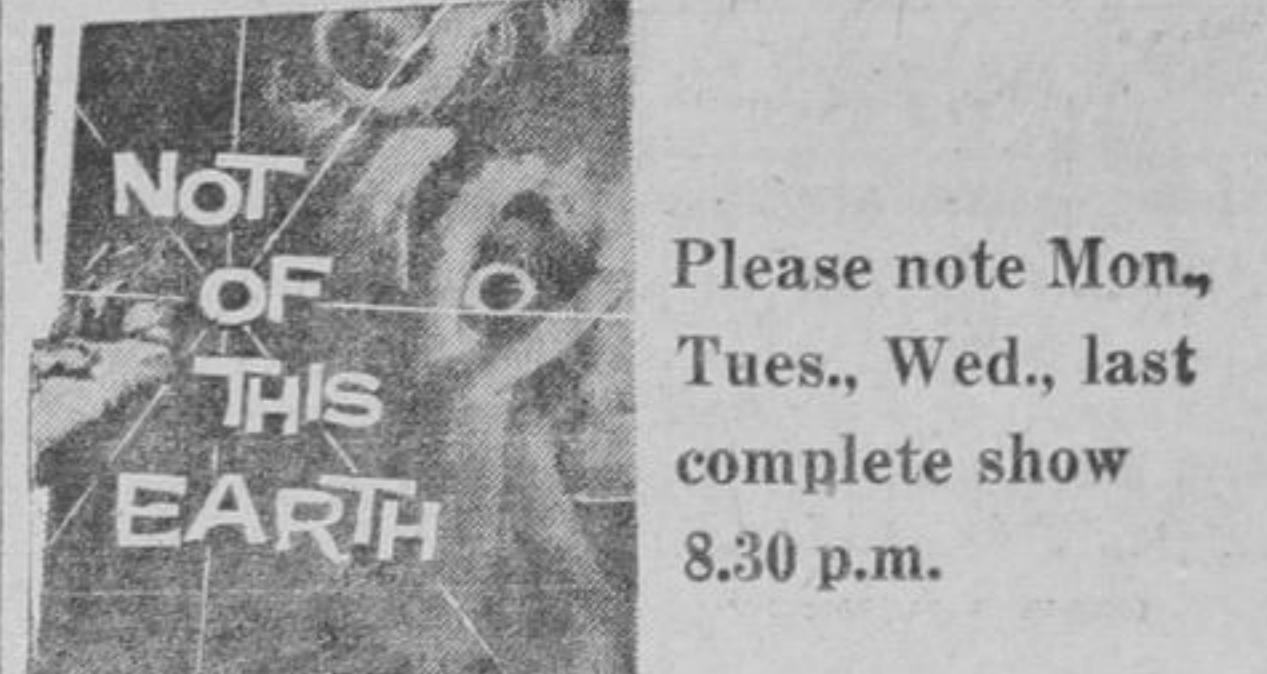
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