

25 Years Of Service

York County Children's Aid Provides Security For All

It's Aim—To Keep Home Together, Child Secure

By Mona Robertson

The York Children's Aid Society. What does this name mean to you — your neighbour — and the children of this county, who may find haven and succour under its protective wing?

What does the York Children's Aid Society, which has held its charter in the County of York for twenty-five years, do for you — your neighbour — and the child who needs protective care?

Most important of all, the name spells Security. And since you, as a taxpayer in York County help in a great measure to provide this security, you should know just what your contribution does.

Perhaps there is a family, in your own neighbourhood, undergoing stress — mentally, financially, or through illness or death of the mother or father (or any one of a dozen reasons), and the health and welfare of that family's children is in question — it is then the York Children's Aid Society steps in and quietly determines the nature of the problems which concern the children and the parents.

The Society begins to re-establish Security by:

(1) Providing direction (we understand it will even help you balance your budget, if this is where 'stress' lies).

(2) Giving family council (discussion with a trained counsellor from outside the family circle has proved most beneficial in straightening out many a family crisis — and is free for the asking.)

(3) Working with 2-300 children of York County in their own homes. (This does not include financial assistance, but the Children's Aid can direct those in need of financial assistance through the proper channels in their own community.)

(4) Giving advice on certain types of problem behaviour of children.

(5) Helping with direction, where housing problems and personality problems have become the source of mental illness among parents.

(6) Failing all else, takes the child "in care."

While "in care," is the Society's final resource in providing protective care and ensuring "no

child shall be neglected, deprived of a suitable home, or medical attention," the precepts of the Society are to provide "child care" basically in the family home, up to the age of 16 years — longer if the child is retarded. However, if it is not possible to arrange proper "care" in the child's own home, he or she then becomes a ward of the Children's Aid Society, and, if officially taken "in care," the child is provided with a temporary or permanent home — through foster care or adoption.

A child taken "in care" becomes a permanent ward of the Society after two years.

To prevent the break-up of the parent-child association, the York Children's Aid Society provides aid to parents, married or unmarried, which it offers free of charge. The Society also has assistance from the Division Court, to help parents, plagued by lack of money and nagging bills from credit accounts, to find a solution. The Society will get answers to all questions necessary to keep a home together, if parents will co-operate. For its whole aim — in providing family security — is to make sure the interests of all children are protected.

Too frequently, about 300 children a year need the services of the Children's Aid Society in York County for one reason or another, many homes cannot be saved — help has been called for too late — the child is then placed in a foster home. The foster home is always a

way from his own district; since "in care" service is to provide release from an "unhappy home" situation and a complete orientation of the child and a new outlook on life for him, is indicated.

The foster parent — whose home has previously been licensed by the local health unit — signs an agreement when the child comes to him, and a social worker from the Society makes regular visits to the child, to see that he is properly looked after while "in care."

Children's Aid Executive
Miss Betty Graham is Executive Director for the York County Children's Aid Society, with a staff of eleven under her direction, one of whom is a trained nurse who advises on health matters. A Board of Directors oversees the working of the Society as a whole.

Miss Graham has fourteen years experience in this work. She began her career in Perth County in 1946, transferring to York County in 1947.

A graduate of the University of Toronto, where she received her Bachelor of Arts, she later served in the R.C.A.F. then took a two-year post graduate course, graduating from the School of Social Work, University of Toronto; a Year at the University of Southern California followed, where she obtained the degree, Master of Social Work. She then began her children's aid career.

How Society Works
In administering "in care" the York Children's Aid Society arranges for: (1) A physical examination for the child. (2) Provides clothing. (3) Ascertains food habits, allergies etc. (4) And last, but not least, makes sure the child is in possession of a familiar toy which he or she carries from the old life into the new.

A foster home being provided, the foster mother is instructed to make a list of clothing needed, purchase it and send the bill to the Society. Doctor's bills are also treated in the same way. The foster mother has instructions to call the social worker regarding any problems which may arise, for the youngster "in care."

Parents of children being cared for may visit in the foster home, after arranging with the social worker in charge.

Cost of Child Care
Cost per diem for "in care" service is \$2.23 and includes board, clothes, medical care, transportation and supervision. The foster mother is reimbursed

for care of the child. But the offices of the York County Children's Aid Society at Newmarket, in the County Building are provided to the Society without cost, through grants from the province and the county.

There are also volunteer groups of women throughout the County who, provided with wool and flannel by the Society, help in making baby clothes.

You do your part in helping the York County Children's Aid Society continue its good work, by contributing through volunteer donations and through your payment of the tax set by County Council.

But an appeal to the women of York County is called for — for they can go even further in providing security, by working towards Homemakers' care, on a volunteer basis, in their own area. Voluntary Homemakers are needed, urgently, to take hold in a family crisis, where charitable efforts, keep a family together, until the mother has recovered her health.

Miss Graham told us, "we found that in the year prior to July 1, 1960, we have admitted some thirty children to care at a cost of over \$5,000, who, if a suitable Homemaker had been available, need never have been admitted."

Public interest can give further help, by advocating more "preparation for marriage" services are needed in our communities.

Young people, helped by pre-marriage counselling, would then be ready to face marriage problems before they arise, thus creating the ultimate in Security and happiness for themselves, the family they hope some day to have — and their community as a whole.



Oakah L. Jones, President and General Manager of The Consumers' Gas Company, announces the appointment of Miss Mabel Geary as Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. Miss Geary, born in England, joined Consumers' Gas as a clerk in 1927. She became secretary to the general manager in 1939, was appointed Assistant Secretary in 1954 and became a Director of the company in 1955.

Missionary Mrs. Allan Doner Reports Nigeria No Congo

With the tense International situation focussed on the former Belgian Congo these days "The Liberal" is pleased to publish the following letter received by our Gornley Correspondent Mr. Charles Milsted from her sister Mrs. Allan Doner. Mrs. Doner has been a missionary in Nigeria since October 1953. She is also a sister of Mr. Eldon Gooding Principal of the Crosby Avenue Public School in Richmond Hill.

A number of people have asked us about conditions in Nigeria, Africa so we wrote and asked Mrs. Doner about it. Here is her reply, written on August 1.

"As far as the situation in the Congo, we certainly don't anticipate any such trouble. There was no trouble when Ghana got its independence in 1958.

There was such strained feeling between the Belgians and Congolese that the Belgians just had to get out. Apparently they treated the Congolese like under dogs and they were resentful. Here in Nigeria, there is no anti-white feeling that we sense at all. In fact a Mr. and Mrs. Anderson from U.S.A., who were touring from the south of Africa right up through last year, stayed here a night with us. They said it was like a breath of fresh air to get into Nigeria that there was such a good attitude towards whites. Another thing in the Congo, only 16 in the whole country (and it is bigger than Nigeria) are University graduates. There is no one trained in the administration of a country and no good leader. Here the situation is so different. Missions and government have co-operated and there are scores of educated people especially in the south. (Thousands and thousands are still pagans too.) Right now they say there are 5,000 alone in England on courses besides those who have gone to U.S.A. and other countries. So it is entirely different. People are looking forward to independence, they are having eleven days of celebrations in Lagos, a huge exhibition of crafts, handwork from all parts of Nigeria, etc. I think schools are to have four days holiday."

There are still several wrinkles to iron out between Vaughan Township and principals of the proposed Kleinburg Subdivision before an agreement between the two parties can be entered into. This was made apparent at Monday's meeting of council when it was revealed that the Ontario Water Resources Commission has yet to approve a pumphouse. The Ontario Municipal Board will not give final approval until this matter has been cleared up.

A water supply for the proposed 187 housing units appears to be too expensive a proposition for the township or the developers to undertake singly. The answer is a joint undertaking. Water mains for the village have been approved. The township doesn't want to enter into an agreement as matters stand because then it would in effect be responsible for the servicing end of the deal and this could run into more money than township coffers warrant.

The developers would like to get started on the first phase, which means constructing 50 units. As the situation now stands, a joint effort between the developers and the township will see a water development project for the subdivision and the village. Council tabled the matter for further study.

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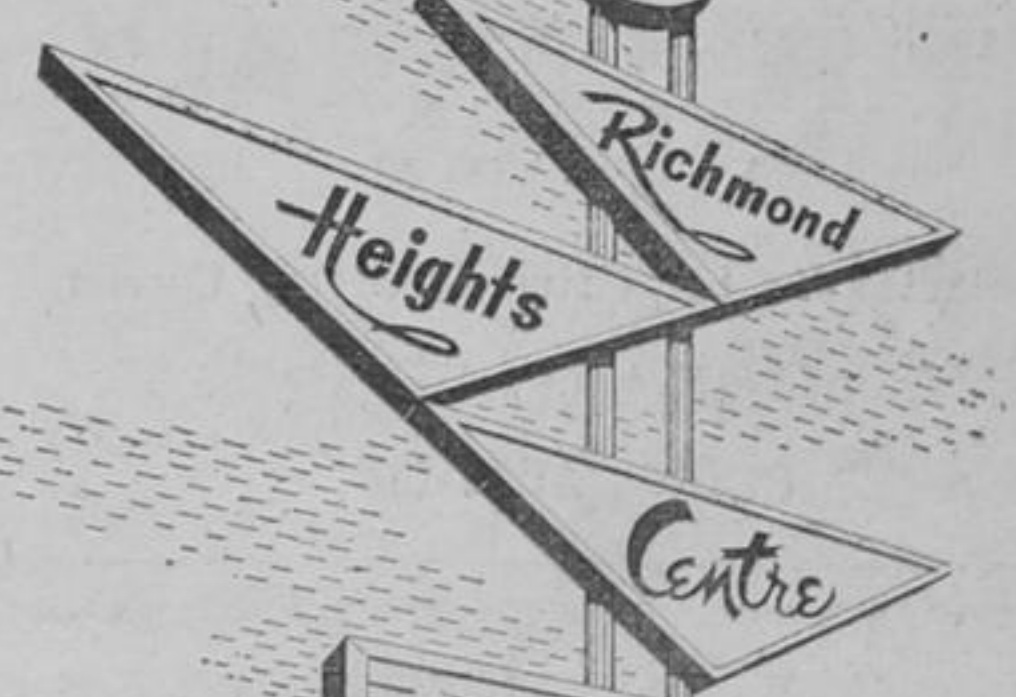
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