

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"

Financing A Hospital

The introduction of Hospital Insurance and many other factors have combined to greatly increase the demand for Hospital care. In the not-so-many years ago comparatively few people used the Hospitals and only went there in cases of very serious illness or for operations. Now this is all changed and Hospital care is in demand on many occasions by every family. Most babies are born in Hospitals to-day, which wasn't the general practice a few years ago.

This change has resulted in crowded conditions in existing Hospitals and an urgent demand for new buildings. In the past most Hospitals were built by Hospital Associations after a drive for public subscriptions and probably some help from government and municipal grants.

Under existing conditions and the increased demand for Hospital accommodation there is need for a new look at the whole matter of Hospital building. Hospitalization is now a number one necessity in our daily living, and the day of building costly Hospitals by public charity is past.

We agree that there is a great need for more leadership in this field by our Provincial Government and we are hopeful that such leadership with a practical policy more in keeping with present day demands and conditions may be forthcoming. However much we may press for a new and more generous policy in this regard by the Federal and Provincial governments, those of us who need Hospitalization to-day must face conditions as they are not as we would like them to be.

Here in Ontario the Federal and Provincial Governments provide grants amounting to about one-third of the cost of a Hospital.

It has been the general practice to obtain the remaining two-thirds from local Municipal grants, from the County, from bequests, and from charitable donations as the result of a campaign drive to raise funds by cash and pledges.

A campaign for funds is uncertain, time-consuming, expensive, and can cause embarrassment to collector and prospect. Donations are unevenly distributed and the amount in dollars usually comes seventy-five per cent from business and industry, and twenty-five per cent from individuals who chance to

subscribe. In actual practice many in whole-hearted public spiritedness and generosity give more than they can afford, many others give less than they can afford and some give nothing.

A Hospital is not a luxury—it is a necessity. It is an institution which will afford service to everyone and it is a fair assumption that at some time or other every family will have occasion to use its healing administration and share in its comforting care.

We think the capital required to build, equip and furnish a Hospital to adequately serve the community is the business of everyone. The nearest approach to a fair way of assessing the expenditure and certainly the only method open to municipalities is to levy the cost on property the same as we do for other necessities. The amount of money needed to give York County citizens the Hospital accommodation they require can be met by the County by borrowing money by debenture and paid by a special hospital tax added to the tax bill in all municipalities.

Hospitals are the obligation and concern of all the people of the area. Payment for Hospital construction by debenture over a period of twenty years would provide an equitable method of distributing the costs.

Meeting the entire cost of building and equipping of hospitals by Federal Provincial grants and by County debentures will not preclude charitable donations and bequests by those wishing to subscribe to the added comfort and well-being of patients within the Hospital.

The plan of paying for needed Hospitalization in York County by County debentures has been recommended to County Council by the Joint Committee representing the two existing Hospital Boards. We think the plan is fair, and the only practical method of solving our critical Hospital bed-shortage in the foreseeable future. The amount of money involved is considerable and County Council members are wise in giving the whole problem careful thought and consideration. We hope in due time they will agree the debenture plan is the fair and practical way to provide the Hospital beds needed for the care of our people. If they know of a better way to raise the money, we'd be glad to hear the suggestion.

Pay For Public Planning

In the growth and development of this district Planning Boards have played an important role and citizens who have served as members of the Boards have rendered outstanding public service.

Membership on a Planning Board in a municipality such as Richmond Hill, Markham, Vaughan, King or Whitchurch is a demanding assignment and calls for the expenditure of a great deal of time and energy. There will be general regret, therefore, at the announcement in last week's issue that the Provincial legislation makes no provision for remuneration for the members.

We know that no member of a Planning Board ever accepts the appointment in anticipation of the monetary return. This doesn't alter the fact that members devote much time in public service and deserve some remuneration.

Richmond Hill Planning Board, for example, has been in existence since 1912 and since that time has held more than three hundred and fifty meetings. Chairman Scrimger, past chairman Norman A. Todd and secretary J. M. Brown have been members since the formation of the Board. In addition to attending meetings, members of necessity must spend a great deal of time in carrying out the duties of their office.

Planning Boards are a necessary part of municipal administration. Their

work in communities such as exist in this area of rapid growth and development is of the utmost importance and their decisions have far-reaching effect on the life of the municipality. Planning Board membership is a responsible and demanding public office, and we just can't agree with the thinking of the provincial government which says "planning boards are principally advisory agencies which act in an advisory capacity to municipal councils and it is felt it is not appropriate to authorize an annual salary or other forms of compensation."

This is the law at the present time but it should be changed. We hope the government at the next session of the Legislature may take steps to correct what we think is an injustice to an important branch of the public service. When they are at it we hope they might see fit to bring in legislation to allow remuneration for school trustees.

Members of Town Council are allowed a remuneration and the fact members get some financial return for the time spent in serving the community has no harmful effect on the quality of candidates offering themselves in municipal elections. Public service is demanding in many ways, and the least we can do for those who offer to serve is to see that they have some financial compensation for time spent on public business. We think the great majority of taxpayers share this view.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

WANTS MORE MAIL BOXES

Dear Mr. Editor,
I wonder if our Postal authorities would give some consideration to letting us have in Richmond Hill more drop-letter boxes. With the postage we pay we shouldn't have to walk so far to mail our letters. Some sections of the town have been overlooked.
Reader.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR PEDESTRIANS

Dear Mr. Editor,
Through your much appreciated and valued newspaper I would like to ask the Town authorities or the Dept. of Highways or whoever is responsible for the traffic light on Yonge and Markham Road about the light timing.

It's no exaggeration to say that you have to be a jack-rabbit to make it across Yonge Street from east to west on the green light now. This is most unfair and dangerous to elderly people who just can't run a hundred yard dash without ill-effects. Crossing Yonge Street anywhere between lights is a hazardous and time-consuming experience. When one makes a special effort and goes to the traffic light there should be a reasonable time to get safely across the street.

The racing motorists who tear up and down Yonge Street may be important people, but some thought should be given to our own tax-paying pedestrians. Often-Nearlyhit

ON THE BEACH

Dear Mr. Editor:
If you want to see a cross-section of Canadian life, just visit a bathing beach on a week-end. I did last Sunday. The atmosphere is nothing if not informal. There are the dedicated sun worshippers who come equipped with air mattresses, lotions, goggles, nose protectors and time themselves in different positions. Then there are the casual ones who just fall asleep in the sun. There are the reserved type who would hesitate to cry help without a formal introduction, and the talkative ones who want to tell you their life stories. The mothers with squalling youngsters and that ready-to-throw-in look, and of course the parading

beauties. You can travel far without getting a better cross-section of humanity than on our beaches. When you're tired of looking in to space next time, take a look at the people.

BOMBHELL FOR THE FUTURE

Dear Mr. Editor:
In your last issue someone at council was reported as saying the secret clause was a bombshell at the Beverly Acres hearing. I don't care whether you call it an ace in the hole or a straight flush, the real bombshell will be next year's tax-bill.
Taxpayer.

BEVERLY ACRES DRAINAGE

Dear Mr. Editor:
I was very interested to read in last week's issue that a clause in the original Beverly Acres agreement provided that any additional work would be charged as a local improvement against the area.

If this is the original agreement, why not stick to it? What justification is there for a 1960 rate levied half the cost on the rest of the town?

I assure you more than Councillor Broadhurst should be disappointed with the hearing, but for a different reason. The council of four or five years ago was far-seeing in making the agreement that the drainage costs should be paid by the area benefiting. The 1960 council should have stuck with it.

Civis

The Richmond THEATRE

Phone Turner 4-1212
FREE PARKING REAR OF THEATRE
Continuous Daily from 7 p.m. (6 p.m. on Saturdays)
Saturday, Children's Matinee 2 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE
During July and August
Matinees every Wed., Sat. and
Holidays at 2 p.m.

THURS., FRI., SAT., SEPT. 1-2-3

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Please Note: Thursday, Friday
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"The 7th Voyage of Sinbad"
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12:05 A.M.
Only

HERE IS A PICTURE ABOUT DOPE TRAFFIC!

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MON., TUES., WED., SEPT. 5-6-7

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The Princess digs the new sounds—and the boy who belts out with a beat!

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BRIAN DONLEVY and GEORGE JESSEL
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JOHNNY OTIS - THE TRENIERS

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Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 8:30 p.m.

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