

The Liberal



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Fact-Finding First Sound Policy

Richmond Hill's Town Council has spent much longer periods discussing less important subjects than one which came before it at its January 16th meeting — a suggestion from the Yonge Street Business and Professional Association that a special committee should be set up to study the redevelopment of the down-town area. The mere fact that Council agreed readily and unanimously to the suggestion is an indication that its members realized the worth-whileness of the project.

The business men pointed out — and quite soundly — that deterioration and obsolescence in the older business area would have an adverse effect on all taxpayers. The taxation lost by declining properties would inevitably have to be made up in other ways. That means, putting it plainly, that the load on other taxpayers would be increased. There was little in the way of sentiment in the arguments advanced by the Businessmen's Association — no crying over the dear, dead past — but a straightforward suggestion that it

would be very poor business to let any part of the municipality go to seed.

The problem which Richmond Hill faces in redevelopment of its downtown area is not a new one by any means. Many communities, some very large, others very small, have faced it in recent years. Those which have tackled it courageously have gained an increased business, a more attractive community and greater revenues.

So far, the business men have recommended study only. That is, in this newspaper's opinion, a sound preliminary step. Nothing really constructive can be done until the problem is clarified. Neither business men nor council can take steps until they know what the facts and the possible solutions are. And the dollar sign hangs over it all — a fact to be remembered in a day when both business men and other taxpayers are hard pressed to carry the present load. The present attitude of "Let's find out first what the problem is" is a wise and conservative one. Other angles can be considered after that.

A Bill To Open All Meetings

Last year in the British House of Commons a bill was passed to open all public boards and commissions to the public and press. It becomes effective in Britain this July.

In Ontario, Vernon Singer (Liberal, York Centre) has announced he will introduce a private member's bill in the Ontario legislature this week which, if successful, will force public bodies to open their doors to press and public. Under such a law only such items as land negotiation and possibly staff discipline action would be discussed in private committee by public boards.

Mr. Singer said he feels this is an important and necessary step, in view of cases of inefficient management in municipal government, that have recently come to light.

Among those public boards the Singer bill encompasses, are school boards, public utilities commissions, transportation commissions, public lib-

rary boards, boards of health, police commissions, planning boards, or any other boards, commissions or committees exercising any power or authority with respect to public affairs or purposes.

In addition, the proposed bill would open the doors of meetings held by any provincial board, committee or commission, the Liquor Control Board and the Liquor License Board.

Mr. Singer says he is particularly concerned about boards of education. "These boards in many municipalities spend more than half the taxpayers' money and many of their meetings are held in private", he pointed out.

Members of such boards are public servants. If the desire of the public is to know just how their tax money is spent — they should make their voice heard in this matter. Silence can only indicate indifference — or satisfaction with present board procedure.

Good News For Motorists

An item of good news for motorists — which we hope surrounding municipalities will study with interest — comes from the Metro Roads Department.

Starting this week and continuing until spring, a \$30,000 test with an anti-corrosive agent to be added to road salt is being undertaken. If successful the anti-rust additive will be used on Metro roads next winter in an effort to save cars from rusting.

The test — being made on a vacant lot at Jarvis St. and Lake Shore Blvd. — is a joint project of Metro Roads Department and the Lake Ontario Highways Department.

Here is how it works. On this test site engineers have prepared three circular, paved test strips. Each circle is equipped with four fender-covered wheels tethered to a centre post and driven by electric motors. On the underside of each fender are 60 panels of various dimensions and shapes of auto-body steel.

One test circle will be covered with a mixture of rock salt and two per cent (by weight) of a commercially available inhibitor; the second will be covered with untreated salt; the third will not be treated.

The wheels will be operated for an hour during the morning and an hour during the evening rush hour periods — so that the test metals will experience the same exposure and same temperatures as cars travelling on Metro roads. From time to time the metal samples will be removed so that engineers may examine them for weight loss and rust penetration.

And, if the corrosion inhibitor is successful (a report will be in the hands of Hugh Watson, Metro road maintenance engineer by June), Metro will start placing an inhibitor in road salt next winter.

It is predicted that a successful inhibitor of car-rust would save Metro motorists hundreds of thousands of dollars.

We can't help thinking — if local municipalities followed Metro and the Department of Highways lead — the money saved would be a boon to all of us who are faced with rising taxes and the high cost of living. If we can save money from car-body repairs this way — the municipal fathers of our local governments should go along with this anti-rust program.

Sounds like the motorist-cum-breadwinner is getting a break at last.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

TOWN TAXES

Dear Mr. Editor: Mayor Haggart should settle down now he is mayor. The undue publicity regarding education costs was uncalled for.

We have a town by-law restricting dwellings to single family dwellings. Why, therefore, should he come out with such an amateur suggestion?

We are all aware many homeowners are renting out their basements, etc., to meet high costs. This is not wrong in my estimation if the taxes were fairly levied. By this I mean a head tax or poll tax.

Due to increased numbers of hidden tenants, general service costs and educational costs have spiraled skywards.

I don't suggest for a moment the by-law should be enforced. Instead, let the tenants pay "their share" of sewage, water, education, garbage collection, etc., by a fair "head tax".

Maybe town council members have always been wealthy enough to have never needed the help of tenants. If so, think of those who are trying to own a home. If, during hard times, they themselves rented out, "don't forget it".

John R. Newbury,
234 Anzac Road,
Richmond Hill

EXPRESSES THANKS

Box 337,
Thornhill, Ontario
January 16th, 1960

Dear Mr. Editor: Impossible as it is to communicate individually with the hundreds of warm hearted people in the County of York who so generously sent a Christmas Gift to a Mental Patient, may I beg space in your columns to thank everyone who contributed.

The response to the Appeal of the Canadian Mental Health Association's Christmas Campaign was successful in the extreme. No one was overlooked and every patient made one more step on the long road to recovery upon receipt of their gift.

Sincerely
Mrs. Don Strickland,
Chairman
Christmas Gifts Campaign

TOWN AFFAIRS

Dear Mr. Editor: I am a mean man. I am also a simple man, like I mean, I'm a mean simple man. To me, a dollar is by way of being blood, sweat, tears and toil, two and two is always making four and when my elected friend is saying a square is a four sided right-angle triangle — I am sort of believing him, like so . . .

"Fine morning, Mr. Elected One."
"Yes Sir, we'll have weather like this till spring — you put the right man in — Ha — Ha."
"Yes, I am thinking that possibly you will be holding the line this year?"
"But of course, — fish at one end, sucker on the other — eh, — ha — ha, — my dear fellow, I promised you that there would be an end to co-related imbalance of industrial assessment as against obnoxious expansionism of residential population — for its own sake, mind you. My friend, the ramifications were inherent — by following such a policy we were doomed from the beginning we were doomed, doomed — yes sir — we were doomed."

"This is sense you are talking and the doom things hangs heavy round my neck, in five years I am seeing taxes climb to —"
"My friend, you are an intelligent man, you supported me at the election didn't you? you know that we'll spend 25% of your money — it's the school board you really want, you know that, don't you — that's where the money goes — we're all going to jail, no, not you, just a minute, Council is, you know that, don't you."

"But I am thinking —
"Let me put it a little simpler for you, my good man. You know, you know that when a town allows a lot of homes in, people come in with them, and when people come in, you get kids, it's a sort of natural chain reaction thing, no, not like an atom bomb, more like — well anyway all these kids have to have schools and playgrounds and things — and that's why your taxes go up, see?"
"Gee, is that so, more kids, more taxes sort of. Maisie ought to know about this. Now this factory business — this industrial jazz, it's moving in a big way huh? I mean like our commissioner has new offices and this is costing —, How's that, — Well somebody must have known that — no sewers — no facilities, on, but you'll compensate and cut down on the kids, cut-down on population density of kids will keep taxes down — Well don't shout, I might even bring up a passant lion on an upturned bathtub in a field of ermine — I'm thinking that cost money — sure I mean like our commissioner complaining about the town hall and taxes last year — and the Crosby sewer before that and drainage and — who will? What high rise apartments? — south of Markham and east of the tracks — but how's about the population density, and the 'cut the kids campaign' and the school taxes, you know what I pay in taxes? — I got no No. 2 Account, you are joking for sure, who is building big ugly concentrated camps when so many houses are empty, boy, you have me worried for a minute, but as you were saying, this doom thing ain't got no end."

Yours,
Strictly from Squaresville.
R. Ronald Wilson,
233 Norfolk Ave.,
Richmond Hill

FOR ALL KINDS OF
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Liberalities . . .

Dottie Walter

Each generation has its own apt way of making its meaning known, and unless you keep up with the current new-fangled jargon of today which tomorrow may be respectably listed in the latest Meriam-Webster dictionary, you may be missing the whole point of a conversation . . . and go away never knowing what they were talking about.

I don't mean the weird and wonderful world of beatnik talk, here one needs a handbook by Kerouac to decipher its meaning. I'm told that in San Francisco, considered the cradle of the beat, that there is now a second generation. These youngsters are thinking that the worn pad and reefer might have been good enough for dear old Dad, but it isn't good enough for the next generation, and now wish to be referred to as "Neatniks" . . . so carefully are they combing their hair and brushing their Van Dykes. And that is how new words find their way into the descriptive course of our everyday life and settle themselves into the semantic world.

I'm trying to become alert to many of them, so at least I will have an idea of what's going on about me.

In the Great World of the 'Hit Parade', where fame blows hot and cold with the advent of each new week, and names rise and fall in the favor of the Hit Parade Set as fast as a French Premier.

I made the unforgivable mistake of asking one of my girls to put on a record of one of the poor unfortunates who, since last week, has fallen into ill repute.

Her answer, loaded with scorn, was: "But, Mother, he's a Trash Passer," which means: he's no good anymore. His songs are terrible! And that colorful bit of wordage settled some songbird's fate . . . at least for the week.

"De Skiibus non est disputandum"
Is about as understandable to me as the sport itself. But it means, Skiing is here to stay!

Now I can make angels in the new fallen snow faster than you can say 'Sitzmark'. But there ends my world of Winter Sports.

In ski-talk I'm about as much at home as I am in outer space. But when the subject comes up, I have one stock question I fall back on, before I quietly retreat from the conversation. I just say: "Good skiing this week end?" and if there is another skier in the room, no one knows I'm around.

I pulled my old one out of the hat to a young expert just home from the Laurentians. He leaned back in his chair, stretched out his long legs and said:

"The hills weren't too good. But the Snowbunnies were wonderful." Not knowing whether snowbunnies had something to do with the weather, like sundogs, or whether they were wild-life one met on the trail, I did not pursue the subject. But the first chance I got, I asked an older and more mature veteran of the slopes just what a snowbunny was.

His face beamed as he enlightened me, and to my surprise, I found that Snowbunnies have nothing to do with the slopes or the hills being fast or slow . . . but they are real, live bits of feminine pulchritude. The experts say, they can be found anywhere at any ski resort, except on the trails! They sit in the lodges waiting for the return of the tired skier, who has been slaving over the cold slopes all day. Then they lend an enchanted ear to the adventures of the hero home from the hills.

A Snowbunny has the most glamorous ski clothes . . . from the newest stretchy slacks to mink-lined parkas . . . and she stacks her shiny skis carefully in the rack when she arrives at the lodge and there they stay, until she leaves. A sort of winter sister to the gal who hangs her clothes on the hickory limb and doesn't go near the water!

But the old timers say, she has done a lot for skiing and is far more beneficial than a bandage, in the case of a bowed tendon or a capped hock . . . or whatever injuries skiing makes one prone to.

So I'm adding Snowbunny to my slim stock of skiing terms and I think it might sound all right beside that nice clear sound of "Stem Christie," I hear used so often.

Stock Phrases

Even the businessmen who ordinarily are the concise purists when writing of their business matters, are "Gussying Up" (circa: 1950) their columns. Today I came across the following quotation:

"In the Golds, Ansil continued to trade heavily, but it 'Fell Out of Bed' on Thursday and retreated from 34-16". Over the years, I think we have owned some little numbers that are still sleeping as soundly as Rip Van Winkle, but as yet they have never done anything as dramatic as to 'Fall out of bed' . . . so at least in 1961, we may look for some interesting new activity in Golds.

And if you don't read the small print carefully, you may not make it Socially, this year. No more do pleasant smiles and remembering birthdays make you friends and influence people. In 1961, that will 'get you nowhere'. You must have Empathy. And if you are still wondering what it is, "I know just how you feel!"

Courtesy To The Press

Vaughan Township Planning Board struck a solid blow for freedom of the press at its meeting Tuesday evening when the members unanimously agreed that henceforth newsmen regularly covering their deliberations be provided with copies of reports, agendas and related information given out in advance to board members. This decision followed a reporter's query at the end of the meeting whether the press would be tendered a copy of the explanatory report prepared under the supervision of Planning and Building Director Tom Gillings for use at board meetings.

At the opening of the meeting Chairman R. H. Kirk wondered whether the report as well as the agenda should go to press before the board had a chance to familiarize themselves with the contents and reached decisions. Reeve Albert Rutherford and member Dougal McCowan gave an emphatic yes. "Our business is public business," said Mr. McCowan. Member P. Allan Deacon demurred. He

For Parents Only . . .



. . . by Nancy Cleaver

CHILDREN MUST PLAY OUTDOORS

Unless a child is ill and running a temperature, or unless the weather is extremely disagreeable, a period of play outdoors is a must for a pre-school youngster. A child needs brisk exercise when he can run and shout, using his big muscles and filling his lungs with fresh air.

He has a sense of joyous freedom which is almost impossible in a modern house where the living quarters are none too large. Even in late autumn and winter, a child benefits from sunshine. Outdoor play promotes a keen appetite, a regular bowel movement and sound sleep.

Mothers can save themselves a lot of trouble if they put more time and thought (and if necessary spend a little money) on play clothes. They should be comfortable, not difficult to get into, warm enough with out being too hot. Children love bright colors. The gay reds and greens and blues in snow suits delight their eyes. Bright shades also make it easy for mothers to see them when they glance out the window or go to look for their children.

Essential Clothing
Caps or helmets, mitts and galoshes should also be easy to put on. Have one place in the house for all articles needed for the child's outdoor play. If he asks for assistance, give it on the spot. Encourage him to dress and undress himself. Praise him for this really big accomplishment for a little child.

Once a child is past the play pen stage, an enclosed backyard is a great boon to a family with small children. If the home is on a busy street, where a child may be killed by a passing car or truck, it is absolutely essential. Inexpensive "snow fences" are used with posts as a temporary safeguard by some families. These are to be preferred to "tethering" a child with a long rope.

If a pre-school child goes to visit a neighbor's youngster, mother must take time to impress on him the rule "Do not go on the road." Streets are not good places to play because a little youngster may forget his mother's warning. If he runs out from behind a parked car after a ball or a toy, his life may be in danger.

Sleigh And Shovel
Outdoor equipment should be varied enough to keep a child interested in his play. A big ball, a wagon, a tricycle, a slide, large blocks are all good fun. When the snow falls, a sleigh and a small snow shovel provide many happy hours.

Outdoor play makes children healthier and happier. It should come at a definite time in the day, every day, and not be neglected when mother is very busy with other duties. This regular time outdoors saves the house from rack and wear and it prevents mother's nerves from becoming frayed by noise and the constant requests of a small child cooped up inside.

In recent months, Canadians have been warned that their boys and girls should be in better physical condition. Observers claim our youngsters do not have enough strenuous, outdoor exercise — and they do have too long a time sitting watching TV. Outdoor play in winter for a pre-school child helps to build a sound health foundation. Be sure you fit it into your boy's or girl's schedule.

NOBLETON — Dr. Ross Kennv has been appointed King township's third representative on Aurora and District High School Board.

WILLOWDALE — It has been believed that the price of a school site in the Flemington Park area to serve both North York and Leaside might be as high as \$20,000 per acre.

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