

# The Liberal

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## The Province And Metro

In his recent address, Richmond Hill Planner Harold Deeks stressed the need for adequate planning if the municipality is to retain its identity and remain outside of Metro. In addition to good planning, sound business management of our local affairs is an important must. Slipshod business methods will only invite interference into our town affairs by some senior level of government.

However, this whole question of Richmond Hill's future status located as it is on the fringe of Metro also has very important political connotations. The provincial government has the final say as to whether or not the borders of Metro will be allowed to extend north of Steeles Avenue. It was this same government that created the Metro form of government in 1953 and they are the ones that must now decide its future status. The three southern municipalities of Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan should band together and present a united front against any suggestion by certain Metro leaders that the province push Metro's boundaries northward. The whole

Metro setup is in a state of flux and indecision. A new chairman must be found to replace Fred Gardiner and a decision made as to the future status of the 13 municipalities that constitute Metro at present. Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan with one voice should tell the province that they are strongly opposed to any suggestion that Metro be allowed to annex any area north of Steeles Ave.

If we are to maintain our own system of local government then we must be prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to halt the introduction of the Metro form of government. Right now we have some measure of control over our local affairs, such wouldn't be the case under some form of "super" government such as Metro. Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan would stand to lose their historic identity and individuality. Our local democratic institutions are part of our precious heritage and we should do all we can to preserve them. It should be made certain that the provincial government fully understands and appreciates our feelings on this important subject.

## Is United Appeal The Answer

Some time ago this newspaper pointed out the unsatisfactory, and sometimes embarrassing, situations which developed in connection with local charitable appeals. Many of the town's residents, working in Toronto, were expected to contribute to United Appeal coffers at their place of employment. They were also expected to support worth-while calls for funds in their home town. In many cases, it was pointed out, they could not benefit either directly or indirectly by contributions to metropolitan activities.

Mayor James Haggart has recently drawn attention to the same situation. In general, he has stressed the identical points made by this paper.

Who said what first doesn't matter. What does count is that an airing is being given to a somewhat difficult problem. The mayor has declared that he is willing to call meetings of those interested, or take whatever steps may be necessary, to rectify the situation, if at all possible. He has suggested what is, in effect, a local United Appeal.

That may be a bit of an oversimplification of a difficult problem. It might help considerably in pre-

venting over-lapping of local appeals, but it might not quite answer the puzzled wage-earner's problem of where and what he should give. Nevertheless, the getting together of those concerned with appeals to the public might, through discussion, bring out some worth-while suggestions. It would be worth trying, anyway.

A "united appeal" is not just as simple as it looks. Those who have had anything to do with such efforts know that the problems are many and varied. But if some plan could be devised by which harried householders could regularize their help to fellow human beings in distress, knowing what they should give, where they should give, and that what they give is doing what they intend it to do, a constructive step would have been taken.

Richmond Hill has one very good example of the benefits of co-ordination in connection with welfare work - the services rendered so efficiently and yet humanely by the co-ordinating committee which handles welfare work for the town's service clubs. Perhaps another equally satisfactory solution can be found for the broader field of kindly help to others.

## Is Half A Bird Worth It!

Threats that hunting may be prohibited in Vaughan and Markham Townships will undoubtedly bring objections from sportsmen - or those posing thereof. Figures recently released by the Department of Lands and Forests raise a question as to what, if anything, will be sacrificed if a ban is imposed, in the interests of safety of people at large. A survey conducted by conservation officers reveals that the average kill per hunter was 52 birds - approximately half a bird a man. It would be exceedingly interesting to find out how many shells per bird - or should we say half-bird - were used by each hunter. Our guess is that the figure would be high.

As this newspaper has already pointed out, it is only a question of time before one of the shots which reverberate through local municipalities finds a billet in a human being - especially with the standard of marksmanship being as low as it appears to be from the mortality among the pheasants. Then there will be an uproar, with some innocent having paid the price of safety. And a ban will be imposed immediately.

## "Dear Mr. Editor"

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MENTALLY ILL

Dear Mr. Editor:  
May I beg space in your columns to thank you and your staff and the many warm-hearted people in York County for the wonderful effort and response to our Christmas gifts campaign for the mentally ill. During the week before Christmas in every County newspaper busy people found time to publish appeals for our cause. Little groups of people chose gifts, wrapped them with loving care and sent them on their way to comfort the sick, lonely and confused. Our own White Cross Volunteers in York County planned and attended fourteen parties, including one held at the Aurora Boys Home, and sent Christmas parcels to six other boarding homes in the county. No one can really know how lonely the mentally ill are or how they appreciate such gifts at Christmas. Again to all who helped us at Christmas, many thanks from

your mental health association. Mrs. W. John Large Vaughan Twp.

(THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY REV. ALBERT E. MYERS OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH TO MAYOR JAMES HAGGART REGARDING THE FORMER LANGSTAFF JAIL FARM PROPERTY.)  
Mr. W. James Haggart Office of the Mayor Dear Mr. Mayor:  
The pending sale of the Langstaff Industrial Farm, now being offered by the City of Toronto, to every resident of the Town of Richmond Hill, I am writing to ask you if there is any group or organization in the town that is making any move to assure that this large, well-located tract of land is subjected to the type of development which will be of maximum economic benefit to the residents of the town.  
I realize that this tract is located beyond the immediate

jurisdiction of the town. However, the potential economic importance of its development can be overlooked only with grave risk. I do hope that all is being done that it is possible to do to assure a beneficial development from this tract.  
This tract is, of course, well located (astride rail and highway communication) as a potential industrial "park." While such use of the tract would not directly improve the tax base in our town, the greatly increased employment opportunities for town residents would indirectly benefit even the tax base. On the other hand, utilization of this tract for residential building would tend to further deplete the residential real estate market in our town.  
Whether you share or disapprove my ideas, I should be grateful to have your reaction to my comments.  
Cordially yours,  
Albert E. Myers, Pastor St. Paul's Lutheran Church Richmond Hill

## Richmond Hill High School Trophy



Staff member Mr. J. Munro-Cape (left) presents the new Armstrong's Jewellers Trophy to Principal F. W. Morrow of the Richmond Hill High School. This beautiful trophy will be presented annually to the house with the highest academic achievement. The students of the school are divided into four groups or houses.

Each student receives one point for his house for every percentage point that he receives above 50 per cent on his three term reports. The house with the highest number of points at the end of the school year will be awarded the trophy.

## Nature Notes

By Richmond Hill Naturalists

Each season brings its pleasures, even winter with its endless stretches of snow and ice. When the wind is screaming and howling like this past week-end too many people huddle closely in their warm houses instead of dressing adequately and braving the elements. You are more apt to see on stormy days the birds in larger flocks in the more sheltered areas. They also tend to hover near the various feeding stations and make many of us wonder when they will ever stop eating. According to an item in "Outdoor Life" if a human family had bird-like appetites the daily grocery list would include something like 50 loaves of bread, 25 lbs. hamburger, 30 doughnuts, 10 lbs. spinach, six heads of lettuce and a gallon of ice cream! The Northern Shrike was seen just finishing his dinner of a house sparrow; a Sharp-shinned Hawk glided over the pond area, probably looking for a stray mouse which might have ventured above the crusty, icy snow; a Sparrow Hawk was hard-pressed for food and pounced on another house sparrow instead of his usual mouse; the Pileated Woodpecker wasn't quite as badly inconvenienced by the storm as one place where he could possibly be seen was in Redelmeier's bush on Vaughan Side-road. All of which brings up the controversial question as to the pronunciation of pileated. The dictionary (and most people) agree that it takes the long "i" since the word comes from the latin "pile-us" meaning a cap. Therefore it should NOT be pronounced pill-eated.  
The weather on the winter bird census, December 30th, was perfect - wind about 10 miles, in temperature varying from 10 degrees to 25 degrees, snow un-

derfoot, four inches, visibility clear and continuous sunshine. On such fine days the birds are more scattered which often makes the total count a little lower. There were 11 parties with a total of 23 observers; six feeding stations reporting. The total amount of miles covered in the 15 mile radius, with Yonge St. and Gormley Side-road as the centre, was 434, of which 388 miles were by car and 46 miles by walking. 44 species were seen, making a total of 3,601 birds. House sparrow brought the largest total - 801, second, black-capped chickadee, 643 and third, evening grosbeak, 441. For the first time our records included goshawk, sharp-shinned hawk, barred owl and rufous towhee. There was a count of one for marsh hawk, kingfisher, flicker, robin, sparrow & pileated woodpecker. On December 24th the Toronto census took place in this area with a smaller radius and only three observers. A total of 30 species were seen. It was outstanding because, for the first time on a southern Ontario count, the yellow-bellied sapsucker (seen in Dr. Helen Hogg's garden) and a hoary redpoll, were recorded.  
A snowy owl had been seen on December 23rd but wasn't observed on either census day. A red-breasted nuthatch and winter wren appeared on the 24th list but not on the 30th.  
The observers all met at the home of Dr. Lillian Langstaff, enjoyed a delicious cup of coffee and the list was completed under the able direction of John Lunn. It will be forwarded to the National Audubon Society and will be published in a special report for all North America.

## Rambling Around

By Elizabeth Kelson

MAN NEEDS WORK TO BE HAPPY

Tolstoi said: "It is pleasant to dream of eternity, but for an honest man it is enough to have lived his life doing his work." The purpose of work is the production of things in use and services to enjoy. But to discharge its responsibilities, work must have certain qualities. It must be honest, useful and cheerful. Work is helpful to our minds. It is the best outlook for our anger, and the truest escape from self-pity and self-centredness. There is a very special kind of joy in rest after work. A word of warning should be issued here. There is such a sin as that of being over-busy. Working is only a part of life, and one should not be so eager in the pursuit of his job, that he sacrifices everything else to it. We need to cultivate an inner harmony between the work which is necessary to our survival and the other things of life such as the enjoyment of our family and the development of our intelligence.

## W. R. DEAN - REEVE OF MARKHAM

Wilfred Dean is one of the best known personalities of our area. There are many reasons for this. In the first place, he belongs to an old well-established Thornhill family and he, himself, is a member of the fourth generation of Deans. He grew up in the Village of Thornhill, went to school, and took part in community activities from his earliest days. He is a Thornhill business man who has operated as a feed merchant for the district for 28 years, and as the district grew and expanded he became a handler of suburban supplies as well.

In his younger days Wilfred Dean followed the Scouting movement keenly, became a Queen Scout, and finally assistant Scoutmaster to a Thornhill Troop. His youthful interest in Scouting paved the way for his deep interest in the Oddfellows Lodge where he has been an honored member for 38 years. He served this lodge in all its offices right up to the final culmination of his appointment as Grand Master of Oddfellows for the Province of Ontario. He was the proud originator of the C.P.T. Campaign which is dedicated to stamp out by means of money and research, the dreaded scourges of cancer, polio and tuberculosis. He carried on this same devotion for the welfare of others in the Masonic Lodge where he was a member for 18 years. Mr. Dean has this to say about lodges in general: "Their function is for service and to help raise the standard of character for men and women. They promulgate services that subdues prejudices and shows men and women at their best."

Serving the public came natural to the Dean men of past generations. The late W. A. Dean, father of Wilfred Dean, was a former trustee of Thornhill Village, and his son inherited his liking for public service. W. R.'s first long stretch of public life came when he was appointed secretary of the Field Day Association of Thornhill. He held this post for five years. He was trustee of the Village of Thornhill from 1951 to 1955, and served as chairman. He served on the York Central District High School Board for eight years, and the last year, 1956, as chairman of the board. One of his proudest possessions is the certificate of merit that was presented to him when he resigned from the board. It was public and lasting recognition for his years of faithful and conscientious service to the cause of education in his own area. He was elected Deputy-Reeve of Markham Township in 1957 and served three years in this capacity. He was elected Reeve of Markham in 1961, and by popular acclamation he is to serve another term for 1962.

If Mr. Dean has a pet wish, it is that he would like to see any future development of the areas of Markham and Vaughan Townships go on in an orderly manner without undue taxation which he feels would be an intolerable burden to the people. Mr. Dean's personal philosophy is a simple one in theory but very difficult to put into practice. He believes in the golden rule: "Do unto others that which you would have them do unto you."

## Second Thoughts...

by George Mayes

● Proving that yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

The Scarboro planning has approved the building of a beer-parlor next to the site of a proposed high school... It seems more likely to be a pub-like school.

As a result of the dog-meat disclosures, food experts advise that the only real safeguard against tainted meat is to cook it until it is nearly crisp... And we wonder in how many homes this will be pointed to as proof of feminine intuition.

A Toronto sporting goods firm advertises a skirental service with "insurance optional"... On the skis, or the skiers?

"Carrier pigeons are unfeasible for inter-university communication," says a McMaster delegate to the Canadian University Press Conference, "but a lot of pigeons hang around McMaster doing nothing"... So they need more statues on the campus?

A Paris report says: An angry cyclone of words is swirling over the relative merits of a bridge or a tunnel to England. The tunnel is favored but obviously despite the French reputation, it won't be a tunnel of love.

The next Russian space-step is to send a dog around the moon after first landing an "automatic device" on it... Like, an automatic tree-planter?

A Montreal man, arrested in Toronto for a drinking violation, told the constable he wished to make a statement: He had two wives!... His "statement" could be construed as either an explanation of his condition - or the first chance he's had to talk.

Hamilton's aldermen have OK'd a mass hot-foot for the thousands of starlings who roost in their Gore Park... And in January, the starlings might appreciate it.

An Ottawa minister has criticized Governor-General Vanier for serving hot rum punch at his New Year's levee... Well, all he had to do was blow on it a little.

Controller Summerville's report that lights were left on all night for sheep at the Royal Winter Fair sounds a little fantastic unless he was counting on another controller to ask the straight-line: "And how did the sheep sleep?" Whereupon Don could have slapped his leg country-style and chuckled: "They pulled their wool over their eyes!"

### Thank You

My recent illness wasn't a pleasant experience, but it was lightened by the flood of messages, cards and gifts which came my way. My sincere thanks to many friends for the kindnesses shown to me during a trying period.  
F. J. PICKING,  
News Editor,  
The Richmond Hill Liberal.

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