

The Liberal

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Eight Years And Still No Settlement

In 1954 the present County of York came into existence through splitting of the old county, with twelve larger suburban municipalities entering Metro and the fourteen remaining municipalities to the north of Steeles Avenue becoming the "continuing" county. The enabling provincial legislation — then and now familiarly known as "Bill 80" — provided for the losses sustained through readjustment. Those losses were officially entitled the "undue burden" in recognition of the fact that the cut-down county was faced with readjustment problems, because of the loss of the larger and wealthier ones which helped to share the load of county administration.

It was recognized that it would take some time before it would be possible to evaluate correctly what that "undue burden" would be. But surely it was not expected that it would take the province eight years or more to reach a decision. We say "or more" because the decision has not yet been reached and there is no indication that it will be in the immediate future.

Of late there have been signs of impatience with the state of things as they are. The county council itself has pointed out, unavailingly, that it is the essence of inequality to force the present York County to share the cost of a county courthouse in Toronto — a courthouse for which it would have to help pay but in which it would have no property rights in return for its money. And, on top of that, a courthouse so located that the lawyers and other citizens of the present York County would be faced with a maximum of inconvenience

and cost in making use of it.

Reeve Joseph Dales of North Gwillimbury objected strenuously at the last meeting of county council to the delay in settling the eight-year-old question of the "undue burden". Certain of the municipalities in the southern part of York County are under the dominance of the Metro Planning Board — a board on which they have no representation, in complete defiance of the ancient and hard-won right of representation of the governed. Those municipalities, fearing a Metro "grab", are today deeply exercised over their future.

And these points, each and every one of them, reflect adversely on the ultimate "man with the money" — the taxpayer of York County.

This county is no piling babe. It contains well over a hundred and ten thousand Ontario citizens. Those citizens have been — and are being — placed in the position of second-raters.

This newspaper asserts bluntly that the residents of York County have been given, to use the vernacular, "the short end of the stick". They are being penalized financially and in other ways. At the provincial government level no recognition of this situation seems to be given. The county's pleas with regard to the courthouse have gone unheard — the promised assistance in connection with the "undue burden" has not been given. Is it the hope at Queen's Park that, if left alone, these problems like old soldiers, will "fade away".

Or will a Moses arise to lead York County out of the wilderness into a promised land of justice and a long-delayed square deal?

"What's In A Name?"

"What's in a name . . ." asks our old friend Mr. Shakespeare, in "Romeo and Juliet."

Apparently quite a lot. A federal government mapping official has recently declared that the naming of some of Canada's topographical features is a source of headaches. People, he says, pull all sorts of queer names out of the hat or any place else which gives them ideas, sometimes the quirkier the better as far as they are concerned. Odd names, duplicated names, several names for one place, give map-makers more than their fair share of trouble.

One sometimes wonders where these names come from and how they get tacked on. Who decides when they are officially adopted? And when? And what is the correct spelling?

Even this area has a few "problem children". Take Lake Wilcox, or Wilcox Lake, for instance. Which comes first, the lake or the Wilcox? And should Wilcox be spelled that way or, as the official road signs on No. 11 Highway show — "Willcocks"? Who was Mr. Wilcox or Willcocks, anyway?

Then take roads such as the Elgin Mills Side Road. Should it be

Side Road or sideroad? Is the use of side road, in either form, becoming obsolete? Shouldn't it be simply the Elgin Mills Road, east or west as the case may be? Who decides when it becomes official? This newspaper is now using the style "Elgin Mills Road" believing it to be more euphonious and concise. Does that decide the pattern for the future?

The county road which runs across the southern end of Richmond Hill is another example. Once on a time it was the Vaughan side road to the west and the Markham side road to the east. Now the two thoroughfares appear to have become simply Vaughan Road and Markham Road. Then there were people who insisted that the road to the west was properly called the Maple Side Road. And there are people on both roads who even today persist in the use of the name "Richmond Hill Road."

We repeat — who decides? We haven't been able to find an authority. Will the Ontario Department of Highways, in a lonely but powerful minority, finally force all the rest of us to spell Wilcox Willcocks? And who is going to convince the map-makers that the Maple side road or the Vaughan side road has become, simply and officially, Vaughan Road?

To Help Work Miracles

A recent meeting of a men's society in the eastern part of Richmond Hill saw some sixty persons present. The speaker of the evening, asked to tell something of the history of the community these men and their families have made their home, called for a show of hands from those who had lived in the Hill for ten years or more. Out of sixty — two men raised their hands.

A somewhat similar situation was experienced when the steering committee of the new Chamber of Commerce, now being organized, held its first meeting. Out of the eight men chosen from different parts of the community, only one man knew four or more of the others. Two men knew only one other man of the entire group.

Remarkably, the lack of long-time knowledge of Richmond Hill and the apparent lack of former communication between businessmen had done nothing to lessen interest in Richmond Hill itself or, in the case of the businessmen, to weaken their desire to co-operate with each other to their own benefit and that of the community as a whole. Instead, in both cases, there was a strong feeling of pride in the community these men had chosen to call home and a remarkable desire to do something to

help it in its development, both residentially and industrially.

The backing of these men, their wives and families, is needed to make this town the desirable community which it can so easily be. Last week's "Liberal" pointed out that, in the curing of certain adverse conditions, the help of all residents was vitally necessary. With town council and residents pulling together, who can stop the cure from being effected?

An outstanding opportunity is being offered to the business section of the community to take its share of the load and play its part in building Richmond Hill. Next Wednesday, the new Chamber of Commerce will hold its organizational meeting in Richmond Hill High School on Wright Street. It is open to all business (including industrial) and professional men and women. It will give them a real chance to knock down the barriers of sectionalism and any other "isms". It will give them an opportunity to improve their own business conditions and to help their neighbour, old resident or new resident, to improve his.

A Chamber of Commerce cannot work miracles. But given good-will and co-operation, it can go a long way in helping to get them worked. And Richmond Hill, right now, can stand a miracle or two.

They Sing For Fun

Musical Group Seeking Voices Choraliers Require Extra Men

One of the district's most popular musical organizations is looking for additional volunteers at his Centre Street home — Avenue 5-2237 or may go to St. Mary's Church basement on Monday evenings at 8:15.

Watch It, Mr. Chairman! Ladies Present

Richmond Hill Public School Board Trustees may not have enjoyed their "morning smile" last Thursday, but thanks to a "quickie" by alert Trustee Ruth Castle, made up for it in the evening.

Landscaping of the planned extension to the Crosby Heights School was being discussed as part of a nearly four-hour session, — probably accounting for a certain tiredness on the part of Chairman Harold Sanderson — who, discussing shrubs, said "They planted pupils....."

Before he had time to pause, Trustee Castle shot back "what came up?"

MARKHAM VILLAGE: Plans for new street lighting have been approved by village council. They will be carried out in connection with the rebuilding of No. 48 highway, which forms the main street.

Rambling Around

By Elizabeth Kelson

WHO KNOWS ENOUGH ABOUT THE OTHER FELLOW?

What is the greatest problem in human relations? There would likely be a great variety of answers. What is yours? This is my opinion. It is prejudice that is the great stumbling-block to the ideal of world brotherhood. It is prejudice that is caused by a variety of reasons that closes our minds to truth and knowledge which would enable us to work together for friendship, vote with intelligence and avoid international disputes. We need to take time to know the facts. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "Nature never rhymes her children, nor makes two men alike." I too believe that it is the destiny of man to see the world differently and to develop different meanings and value of life. It is easy enough for us to see that people do differ from each other in mentality, training, heredity, environment and objective. If that seems true to us, we could keep right on with profit, hearing what can be said about a subject by persons of every variety of opinion, and by studying the ways in which it can be looked at by every character of mind. I believe that congenial people exist on both sides of every antagonistic boundary. Heart calls to heart and mind to mind the world over. But not unless we know one another.

LET'S REMEMBER — THOMAS ALVA EDISON

Thomas Alva Edison, the great American inventor was one of the most worthy men that the world has ever known. He was born February 11, 1847, in Milan, Ohio. He was a quiet thoughtful boy, very inquisitive and always wanting to know how things were done. He was not strong and was actually considered a dullard by his teachers. Finally, his mother took him under her wing and taught him herself. Under her understanding guidance he made rapid progress and he learned to think for himself. He first became interested in chemistry by reading about it in his encyclopedia. His parents, anxious to encourage him, allowed him to keep a little laboratory in the cellar of his home. When he was twelve years old, he became a newsboy on a train that ran from Port Huron to Detroit. He kept his little laboratory and chemical books in the corner of the baggage car. Even as he made his experiments, he found time hanging heavy on his hands. He bought a small printing press and type and published on the train, a weekly newspaper filled with railway happenings. He continued on in this way until he was sixteen. One day a bottle of phosphorus fell from his shelf and set the baggage car on fire. As a result, Edison was put off the train by the conductor, his ears soundly boxed as well. This was unfortunate for Edison gradually lost his hearing as a result of the boxing. Because he saved a child from being run over by an engine, the grateful father offered to teach him telegraphy. He worked at telegraphy for some years. The money from this job enabled him to carry on with his inventions. He made improvements in the telegraph and the telephone. He invented the phonograph and the dictaphone. He invented the incandescent lamp, improved dynamo machines, and invented a whole system of distributing electricity, so that it might be used for heat, light and power. The inventions on which moving pictures are based belong to him. These inventions are only a small part of the work done by this wonderful man. He invented a new storage battery, giant rollers to crush rock, a kiln for use in making of Portland cement, and others. During the first World War, he gave his service to the United States government, experimented and reported on many problems. There is hardly a thing about us in our civilized world that doesn't bear the imprint of Edison's genius. He patented 1300 inventions. Few people have been able to do such work as Thomas Alva Edison. He was a very humble man. When people asked him for answers he would say: "I haven't any conclusions to give. I'm just learning about things myself." He was never satisfied with himself or what he had done, and he had a compulsion to go on doing better than his best. If he had been content to remain a telegraph operator, the whole world would have been the loser.

PLENTY OF SNOW IN THE NORTH WOODS
The people who own summer cottages are perhaps thinking about the amount of snow on the roof. I hear the northern woods have had more than their share of snowstorms this winter. I can just see the picture. The snow is resting on the evergreens like the frosting on a wedding cake. The snow has banked itself against the back door of the cottage, and the roof is groaning under its unaccustomed weight. Add to this the chilly silence of the winter woods and a lake that sleeps in a sort of frozen grandeur. The cottage road is impassable. Still and all you just can't help worrying about the snow on the roof, so you'll probably try to find time to do something about it. Or else you'll do like I did. Phone the nearest farmer and get him to do the job.

Second Thoughts . . .

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

We were willing to ignore the "boating accident" of Jayne Mansfield, her husband — and a publicity agent — until the husband, Mickey Hargitay, said: "Anyone who thinks this was a publicity stunt is stupid." . . . Ooble . . . Ooble . . . Ooble . . .

Prime Minister Diefenbaker, in opening a campaign to make Canadians better athletes, expressed "considerable concern" over the physical fitness of his colleagues in Parliament. . . . Particularly their "running" ability! . . .

A caption in the Star — under a photo of a shapely bowler in a grass skirt and flowers — says trips to the Caribbean and Hawaii are prizes in a bowling festival designed for the average bowler such as . . . well, it gave her name, but not the league where this sort of doll with a ball is considered average. . . .

In India, last week, enraged Hindu mobs were attacking the astrologers and soothsayers who had erroneously predicted the end of the world. . . . Giving them a down-to-earth opportunity to say their sooth.

A branch of the g.a. club — or, gamblers anonymous — is being formed in Niagara Falls, N.Y. The best explanation we've heard of the club's activities is that when a member feels a compulsive urge to gamble, he calls upon his fellow members who come around and take him out and get him drunk. . . .

A Liberal-proposed medical insurance program has been labelled a Pay-Doctors-If-You-Can plan. . . . And innumerable GPs will calmly ask: "So what else is new?" . . .

The senior citizens apartment building in Scarborough has been objected to by a junior-type citizen because he doesn't like old men walking around the area. . . . Nor will the old men. Offer them a lift. . . .

Women of The Consumer's Association of Canada are complaining about what they call "strip tease" packages of bacon. . . . Meaning, we suppose, that the packages, like girdles, conceal the fat. . . .

There could be an ominous significance of some sort in a little news item from Ajax about the mayor taking a group of students to Ottawa to meet John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson. The mayor is also their teacher — of history! . . .

Canada's sailors are drinking more rum, according to the 1960-61 public accounts appraisal. . . . Going down to the sea, apparently, in bigger sips. . . .

A woman in Leicester, England, was in court trouble for smashing all the plates and eggs in a Chinese restaurant because her order was delayed. And she was just showing them how the English "get crackin'". . . .

Last week's "Liberal" had a front-page picture story of a house-in-the-ditch on North Bathurst St., awaiting permission to be moved on Vaughan Rd. We'll be mildly surprised if our R. D. Little isn't inspired to a "Guest" poem on:

Just give me a house by the side of the road, Until they give me a permit to have it towed.

Nature Notes

By Richmond Hill Naturalists

Gwen and John Lunn again planned a very successful field trip to the lakefront on January 21st. The visibility was clear and that more than compensated for the cold, raw wind which swept off the lake. As usual the Lunnas had a well-scheduled route with each stop high lighting the appearance of birds not usually seen in winter within our own area. At Sunnyside we had a grandstand view of many species of ducks as well as fairly tame Canada geese. It was especially interesting to be able to view their many different markings as a memory refresher for snap identifications in the spring when they are constantly on the move. The king eider duck was swimming and diving in his special area almost as if he had leashed it for the winter months. The winter plumage made her look so much like a common eider we couldn't help taking more and more time comparing the similarities and differences. The list included nine species of ducks, a great black-backed gull as well as the usual herring and ring-billed. At one stop we missed seeing a snowy owl by only five minutes.

We ate our lunch in the cars, parked strategically in front of a Lorne Park home where there were several well-filled feeders among a grove of white pines. The trees were alive with birds — mostly chickadees, nuthatches and juncos. The tufted titmouse (the first winter record) appeared on schedule. A brown creeper ignored man's food supply and quietly and unobtrusively kept circling the tree trunk in search for its own special brand of grub, hibernating under the bark. Further on, the mockingbird flew out of a hedge-row simultaneously to our arrival as if it also wished to appear for our special benefit. We did not see the catbird or the Harris sparrow but how could we expect to see everything belonging to such a "population"? A short-eared owl, with colorful markings, sat on a fence post watching for his next meal of mouse and that made a splendid observation to end our day of activity.

On February 4th Mr. and Mrs. Ott Devitt enjoyed watching a huge flock (conservative estimate 2,000) of redpolls rushing headlong over the fields, feeding on weed seeds. They criss-crossed the road several times entirely oblivious to their parked car. These flocks have the habit of staying in an area for some time so may still be seen somewhere near Wildfield. Mrs. G. Langley was pleased to see a red-breasted nuthatch, instead of the more common white-breasted, on Lucas St. Helen Sanderson reports that one of our wintering flickers is still with us. The R. Harris family on Kerry-

brook Drive have the privilege of seeing the pileated woodpecker from time to time. It is hoped he will continue to stay in Redeneer's woods and give more people the pleasure of seeing this colorful bird. Bob Campbell is still feeding grain to a flock of 20 mourning doves. The Lunnas have banded 87 evening grosbeaks this winter, two of this number having been previously banded elsewhere. Of this number they have not re-caught a grosbeak which they banded themselves. This shows that flocks travel widely in winter. They have noted that each flock has contained approximately two dozen birds. The horned larks will be migrating to this area any day now. Watch for this first spring bird and, even though it might be a very wintry day, we know that spring is not too far distant. Most encouraging for the people who do not appreciate the pleasure of being outdoors in winter!

On February 16th, in the Gordon MacLaren Room at the public library, Dr. J. Bruce Falls, assistant professor of Zoology at the University of Toronto, will speak on the study of birds. He will outline many new experiments, illustrating his talk with color slides and recorded bird sounds.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

THE HOTEL QUESTION

Dear Mr. Editor: I would like to congratulate you on your fine editorial on "The Hotel Question," which appeared in your issue of February 1st.

Wishing you continued success with your excellent home town paper.

Yours truly,
Gertrude Bates
20 Harding Blvd.

SUPPORTS HOTEL

Dear Mr. Editor: We wish to offer congratulations to our council for their decision to hold a liquor plebiscite to enable a new hotel to locate in this area.

As a local industrialist, because of the lack of proper dining facilities where the customary glass of wine or cocktail is available, it has been necessary for me to entertain customers or guests, often for lunch, in downtown Toronto.

It was a disappointment to me as well as a financial loss to the community when we were forced to hold our official opening and press party for guests from across Canada and the United States in a Toronto hotel.

I am certain that the addition of this proposed hotel, with the necessary social conveniences, will encourage and facilitate further industrial development in Richmond Hill, and will meet with the approval of the forward thinking residents of the community.

Yours sincerely,
David Fauquier,
General Manager
Evyann Perfumes (Canada) Limited

QUESTIONS LACK OF PUBLIC HEARING

Dear Mr. Editor: The recent collision between a pupil laden school bus and a private car at the Vaughan Road-Bathurst Street intersection diminishes the belief that we take pride in the administration of justice — and that kangaroos and their activities are confined to Australia.

What all concerned in the collision have no doubt given thanks for the fact that no one was seriously injured. It is doubtful if all feel thankful to Chief Constable James Davidson of Vaughan Township for deciding (in camera) that no public hearing is required.

By usurping the function of the judiciary Chief Davidson has committed a grave breach of the trust inherent in one in his position. A court trial should be the means of determining whether both drivers were to blame (the decision taken by Mr. Davidson) and also whether a school-bus driver is exempt from the requirements of section 41 of the Highway Traffic Act.

The facts of the collision should be clearly stated and discussed in the court-room not in stores and backrooms (where all too often the original nationality of Canadians is intolerantly permitted to distort judgement).

Chief Davidson might well keep in mind the words of the English jurist: "Justice must not only be done — it must also appear to be done."

Royston J. Packard
277 Emerald Isle Ct.

Walter Scott Pupils Visit Board Meeting

"Young Canada" started learning the processes by which education is provided last week, when five pupils from grade 8 in Walter Scott School, in charge of principal John M. Peace, attended the Richmond Hill Public School Board regular meeting. They sat through a considerable part of a long session which saw the curfew hour changed several times. They were welcomed by Board Chairman Harold Sanderson, who pointed out, as school expenditures were discussed, that "free" education might be free insofar as pupils were concerned, but that it cost taxpayers substantial sums.

Commenting on the visit by the pupils later, Chairman Sanderson expressed pleasure that they had come. "It's a fine thing to see them taking an interest in this early," he said, "hoping that the interest in civic government would continue through their lives, and that later on it would be reflected by them taking an active part in educational and other civic direction."

County C.W.L. Groups To Sponsor Parish Public Speaking Contests

On January 29th, the regular parish council of the Sacred Heart into the Region. Mrs. Henderson announced that each parish will be assessed \$15.00 instead of holding a regional project.

In his address Father Cerrone suggested that each parish take a more active part in promoting the dialogue Mass. He also suggested that fifteen minutes be spent at each CWL meeting to practice the pronunciation of the Latin. The Archdiocesan President, Mrs. Cobham congratulated the members on their excellent attendance and for the work in the league particularly the fine response to the report forms. Members were asked to take part in Brotherhood Week. Father L. J. Wall asked that all members continue the devout practice of their faith.

Mrs. R. Boyle, Our Lady Queen of the World, then introduced guest speaker, Mr. Neil Meehan who spoke on the advantages of each member taking the St. John Ambulance First Aid Course. The second guest speaker, Major W.F.A. Prestor, co-ordinator of public survival in York County gave a most interesting and informative talk on survival in case of a nuclear war. The meeting concluded with a delicious lunch was served by the ladies of St. Mary's, Richmond Hill.

THE REBELLION OF 1837

Dear Mr. Editor: In your issue of February 1st you referred to the old Moodie House on Yonge St. N. May I inform your readers that Samuel Lount and his men died fighting for our freedom from British Colonialism long ago. Lount and Matthews were hanged by the Loyalists.

When Canada gets a distinctive Canadian flag, these patriots of 1837 will live long in our memory and a monument should be built to these martyrs of the rebellion.

Yours sincerely,
Edward Butt
226 Zelda Crescent,

MARCH OF DIMES

Dear Mr. Editor: We wish to thank you very much for all the publicity you gave us in "The Liberal" during our recent campaign for the March of Dimes.

In my capacity as general chairman of the March of Dimes in Richmond Hill, I thank you on behalf of the Foundation for all the help that you have given us.

Yours sincerely,
Helen L. Todd, (Mrs. N. Todd),
General Chairman
Richmond Hill March of Dimes Committee.

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