The Liberal

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From Black To Red

It's not so many years since Scarboro Township was being held up as a model of progress. Industry, under a dynamic reeve, was being attracted in considerable volume. Everything, apparently, was rosy.

But within the last few days its council has set up a technical committee, of which township senior administrative officers are members, to prepare a brief which will be presented to Ontario's Premier Robarts, describing the municipality's difficult financial situation. Solicitation of aid from the province is, of course, the obvious result.

Why the change from black to red?

One council member stated it. "We are in the poorest position of any municipality because of our high student percentage and low assessment," he declared. Another councillor revealed that 42.5 per cent of Scarboro's population is in the school age bracket.

Two facts stand out.

In spite of the fact that Scarboro obtained massive industrial assessment it also obtained residential assessment on such a scale that the balance necessary to good administration was lost. Like Richmond Hill, it has no by-law which demands certain conditions from subdividers before they proceed to make their profits, later moving on to leave the municipality holding the bag of future costs created by their subdivisions. Scarboro wasn't even as fortunate as Richmond Hill, which found some among its subdividers, at least, realizing their responsibility and providing industrial and commercial assessment.

So much for low assessment. What about costs of education? This paper has long maintained that the eventual solution is to remove the load of taxation for education from the shoulders of property owners, placing it on a provincial level where all who benefit by education will help to share in its costs. Scarboro and Richmond Hill are both shining examples of the necessity of such a system. There are those who complain that it would result in the loss of local autonomy. We fail to see it. Administration could be maintained along present lines, but the financial load would be spread where it belongs — evenly among all residents of the province.

If Scarboro assumes the debt of the T.T.C., the township's debt structure will be 27 per cent of its assessment, one councillor said, adding that three new high schools would be required every two years. The Ontario Municipal Board considers the situation dangerous when a municipality's debt nears the 25 per cent mark.

Unbalanced assessment, the cost of education, have caught up with Scarboro, once the envy of neighbouring municipalities. Fortunately Richmond Hill now trying to cure the mistakes of years ago, has realized the problems. It will aid in preventing recurrence of those mistakes if council adopts, without delay, a subdivision control by-law.

"Your Statement, Sir!"

Amendments to the Municipal Act now before the Ontario Legislature will require all Ontario municipalities to publish an audited annual statement in a local newspaper or to mail a copy to all taxpayers. The move is an eminently sound one. The old pattern, still followed in some municipalities, of issuing a statement of receipts and expenditures for the year to date at nomination meetings is meaningless and useless. Without the complete year's figures, without related facts and figures, it means nothing.

The value of the new system will depend entirely on taxpayers. If the statement remains unread money has been poured down the drain. But if even a moderate number of taxpayers study it and thereby take a keener interest in municipal affairs, the value can be great. There's nothing like an informed electorate, with the facts before it, to keep councils on the path of financial common-sense.

Municipal financing, in a community of any size at all, has become a complex affair. Taypayers may find that they have to go to the mayor, a member of council, or to municipal offices, for explanations of figures on the balance sheet. While our sympathy goes out to them we cannot weep too bitter tears. We believe, anyway, that they too will welcome the interest and the desire for knowledge of taxpayers who, when they know how their money is being spent, will have a deeper appreciation of the problems which members of council face.

If nothing else, the statements should serve to drive home to taxpayers the fact that councils spend progressively less of the taxpayer's dollar. When they see the proportion which goes for county and for cost of education — a portion over which council has no control whatsoever — they may take a different view of the processes of municipal government.

Flim-Flam Time Is Here

It's easy to be "flim-flammed" but it's almost as easy to avoid having that happen.

Spring, bringing its April showers and its first crop of flowers, unfortunately brings a far less desirable crop — the gentlemen of the road who live on the gullibility of honest citizens. Year after year you see them — the men who can tell you what is wrong with a chimney you thought perfect — and which they will "fix" for a mere $500 — the men who can give you "bargains" in this, that and t'other line.

If you get stung, it's your own fault. Whatever the service or goods which you have been offered, it's a good ten to one that you could have secured it from a local place of business. You would have helped another district man or business to help pay the taxes which maintain local services. And you would have had somebody to go back to — somebody you could find — if what you paid for turned out to be unsatisfactory.

That's one way of looking at it. Here's another! Suppose you felt satisfied that what you had in mind to buy from a man you probably had never seen before — mark that — was something you couldn't buy locally. That man at the door had sold you on the idea that he and he alone could provide it. But there was still a niggling doubt in your mind! What could you do about it? Simple!

Call the police department. You should have its number handy. Call your banker. Call your lawyer. Call your newspaper — its number is TU. 4-1105. Call the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce. It can be reached through TU. 4-7841 or TU. 4-1105. You'll find any one of those groups ready to investigate or advise. If that man at the door is genuine then he'll be content to come back. If he isn't — you may have saved some money.

Old but still packing a sound punch is that warning — "Before you invest — investigate."

The Richmond THEATRE

THURSDAY NIGHT

CFGM's Uncle Charlie Babcock
presents
ON STAGE AND IN PERSON
TOP WESTERN AND OLD TYME
COUNTRY MUSIC FAVOURITES
and on our screen
"RING OF FIRE"
in
Cinemascope and Color

Richmond Hill Public School Board

Tenders will be received by the Architects, Hanks, Irwin & Pearson until 3 p.m., Thursday, April 26, 1962, for an addition to Crosby Heights Public School.

Plans and Specifications are available from the Architects, Hanks, Irwin & Pearson, 2848 Bloor Street, West, Toronto, on payment of a $25.00 deposit, returnable on receipt of a bona fide tender and return of plans and specifications.

Closing time for Bid Depository, 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 25, 1962.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Mrs. D. J. Street
Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Harold D. Sanderson
Chairman

"Dear Mr. Editor"

ENJOYS "THE LIBERAL"

Dear Mr. Editor:

I once read a little poem which went something like this:

More than fame and more than money,
Is the comment, kind and sunny,
And the hearty, warm approval of a friend.
If with pleasure, you are viewing
Any work a man is doing,
If you like it, if you love him, tell him now.
Don't withhold your approbation,
'Til the Parson makes oration
And he lies, with snowy lilies on his brow.

It was the reading of this poem that prompted a Mr. Schofield to write a letter to Stephen Leacock, thanking him for having made so many people laugh. It would be interesting if one could say for certain that the letter inspired Mr. Leacock to write "Nonsense Novels" or "Sunshine Sketches", but that fact we do not know.

However, these words also remind me that a long overdue word of thanks is due "The Liberal" from me for being such a dependable, reliable chronicler of Richmond Hill and the surrounding district. Each week, year in, year out, for 15 years I have received my copy, read it, put it carefully away to keep me informed as to dates, places, time, of all the community doings for the following week. I have read with interest the reports of various councils, clubs and societies, the news from the smaller areas, which the various correspondents gather faithfully each week, some have been doing it for years. I have enjoyed the editorials, poems and articles by Elizabeth Kelson, Toby Shore, Ron Craine, R. D. Little, and many, many others.

This is a day and age when we take much for granted, but I think it would do us all good to stop and think of the tremendous amount of work involved in the production of our weekly newspaper. Through the medium of the weekly newspaper Richmond Hill and the surrounding district are bound more closely together.

To all whose concern it is, I say a grateful thanks.

Sincerely yours,
Josephine Agg,
Hillsview Drive.

* * * *

OPPOSES TOWN HOTEL

Dear Mr. Editor:

I would like to express a few thoughts on the proposed hotel.

As a tax-paying citizen of Richmond Hill, I am gratified that our acclaimed representatives have managed to obtain a million-dollar industry which, in theory at least, will help broaden our tax base. The fact that our town is not zoned for such an industry would not matter in the least under our present fluid zoning by-laws, except for a slight oversight on the part of our citizens in the past in not voting for the establishment of licenced premises in our town.

This oversight will no doubt be remedied on April 28, and I will be well on my way to saving 50 cents each year on my property taxes if town council doesn't go wild and blow it on another brick for the town hall.

Seriously, though, someone is offering me some tax relief and I would have to be independently wealthy to ignore it. However, from the manner in which this proposal has been presented, I would also have to be an idiot to swallow it completely. Since I am considerably less wealthy and something more than an idiot, I am forced to examine this issue closely before I make a decision on it.

As a homeowner I receive services roughly equivalent to the value of my taxes. If I were a hotelman I would expect the same. Therefore, it seems unrealistic to expect that a businessman is going to pay for more than he gets; but, being human, he may expect to get more than he pays for.

Since our town council is hopelessly committed in favour of this proposal, it is unlikely that they have prepared any realistic estimates of the yearly cost of providing services for this hotel. It seems reasonable, however, to assume that they will be roughly equivalent to the property tax revenue, since anonymous groups with large amounts of money to spend do not usually spend it to provide towns with assessable property, however badly needed.

While it doesn't seem likely that this hotel will save me much, it probably won't cost me much either, and it would be nice to have a grand establishment of 50 rooms where Aunt Minnie can stay when she comes in from Schomberg. If this hotel is built, I'll do all I can to swing the 1967 Whitchurch Township Volunteer Firefighters Convention away from Ballantrae, because I know it is going to take a lot of business to make a decent return on a million dollar investment.

On the face of it, the establishment of a 50-room hotel and the required change in "zoning" seem like a reasonable deal. Unfortunately, this presentation bears no resemblance to the question which will be decided on April 28th. While it is true we cannot have this hotel without an affirmative vote, it is equally true than an affirmative vote is not enough to guarantee the erection of this proposed superlative establishment.

To paraphase an old joke, it is a lot easier to find ten people with $100,000 each than it is to find one person with $1 million. There is no way we can use our vote to let in the millionaire, and to exclude the "10 small timers".

In view of the possibilities inherent in an affirmative vote, my self-respect forces me to vote NO on April 28.

I would feel like the world's biggest fool if I voted in favour of a million dollar hotel and all I got was 10 little places which met the requirements of the Liquor Licence Board but which wouldn't even accommodate the "Whitchurch Firemen".

Stanley E. MacBeth,
60 Bridgeport St.

* * * *

CONGRATULATIONS CURTAIN CLUB

Dear Mr. Editor:

I wish to extend, through "The Liberal" to all members of the Richmond Hill Curtain Club, my heartiest congratulations on their winning the high honour at the drama festival last weekend. They have brought great honour to their community and this accomplishment should be most gratifying to them for the hard work they have put into this endeavour for a great many years.

C. A. Cathers, M.P.,
York North.

* * * *

SUPPORTS TOWN HOTEL

Dear Mr. Editor:

Normally, I would not bother to write on what I consider to be a private — as opposed to public—matter. I refer to the forthcoming plebiscite on whether or not a hotel may be built in Richmond Hill which will be permitted to dispense alcoholic beverages with meals.

It seems to me that we can never have a referendum of this sort without having the issues clouded by a lot of dire, gloomy prejudice, thinly-veiled with various religious and moral connotations. I recall, just prior to the last plebiscite over beer and liquor outlets, all kinds of gloomy rubbish being spread around by the negatives, most of which said that Richmond Hill would become a sort of sin town if the sale of package liquor were permitted. That all of this was arrant, alarmist nonsense has since been demonstrated by the passage of time. I am not aware that Richmond Hill is now the property of Satan, that our teen-agers have gone to the dogs, and that our young ones are in dire danger.

I don't want to urge anyone to vote "Yes" any more than I would urge anyone to vote "No"; I say that because it's none of my business—no more than it is the business of any clergyman or a person hiding behind the bizarre pseudonym of "Pro Bono Publico" (letter published in "The Liberal"). As far as I am concerned, we live in a (supposedly) free society — one in which we may live our own lives and do as we may, on the proviso that our doings do not trespass in any way upon the privacy of others. In a free society, therefore, a man should be able to buy alcohol if he so desires; in the same way, he should be permitted to order same with a meal when dining out. After all, alcohol is here to stay, whether you like it or not. Ignoring it will not make it go away. Make it hard to get, and these people will want it all the more. Personally, I would appreciate an eatery in town where I could enjoy a meal out with my family, and where I could enhance my meal with a judiciously-chosen bottle of wine or a cocktail. But someone has the presumptuous gall to tell me that I must not be permitted this luxury because it's irreligious and constitutes a moral danger to my child. Well, as far as the religious aspect is concerned, I refuse to comment; religion is far too private to be bandied around with prohibitionists. As far as the moral danger to my child is concerned, I myself will be the judge of that. For any outsider to tell me that I may not drink while eating out because of the moral danger to my child is guilty, in my view, of crass, flagrant trespass, in that they are saying indirectly that I am incapable of bringing up my child in a manner which will enable her to resist the lure of Old Devil Booze. How dare you—all of you!! I thank my lucky stars that I grew up in a society where social drinking is a part of everyday living, and is not vilified as being something unspeakable. My surgeon/physician father enjoyed both a private and a social drink, and was wise enough to educate me in the uses—and abuses—of alcohol. The result is that I rarely touch it now—but I do like to be able to get it when and where I want it without a lot of trumped-up claptrap being spouted at me.

As a matter of fact, some of the worst exhibitions of degraded, gluttonous drinking I have ever witnessed in my life were perpetrated by young Canadians stationed in Germany when I was there with the RAF. They just did not know how to handle the stuff, and made themselves a thorough-going laughing stock. A wise education in the home would have prevented this sort of thing. The entire matter is up to parents, and not to diverse do-gooders and Pecksniffs outside of the family who happen to have a bee in their bonnets about alcohol and feel that they must force their views down the throats of others. I, for one thoroughly resent this. If a person disapproves of drinking, and does not indulge, more power to him; but that does not give him the right to try and stop others from doing it. As I said before, it's supposed to be a free country!!

Yours sincerely,
D. Thomas,
3 Church Street South.

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RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY FOR REARING CHILDREN

Dear Mr. Editor:

We recognize that in a free society those who wish to drink alcoholic beverages have a right to do so. But they should realize that those who wish to rear their children away from the dangerous influence of alcohol have their rights. This attitude of parents may not be as foolish as most drinkers would assume, when it is realized that of all Canadian social drinkers one in thirty eventually becomes an alcoholic. A man would be judged insane who handled flammable solvents in his house in a way that guaranteed one chance in thirty that it would burn to the ground within his life time. No one would deliberatly run one chance in thirty of contracting cancer—yet the horrors of cancer are not one whit greater than those of alcoholism, and medical science has not yet discovered cures for either of these diseases. A residential community is a place for rearing children, not a place for cocktail lounges—plenty of these may be found in the city for those who wish to patronize them. If the distance seems too great an inconvenience, let those who wish move closer to their pleasures. Neither their convenience nor the doubtful economic advantages which might accrue to a few in the community is adequate justification for endangering the future welfare of the community's children.

Very truly yours,
Arthur C. Mohun,
20 Harding Blvd.

Rambling Around

By Elisabeth Kelson

THE CANADIAN PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE - - - WHAT IS IT?

Sometime during the next month, a canvasser for the Canadian Peace Research Institute may call on you to discuss the purposes and aims of its campaign. The Canadian Peace Research Institute is a non-profit institute incorporated under Federal charter in 1961. Its main purpose is to conduct research into the causes and prevention of war.

The scientists employed by the institute will study a variety of problems in great detail. They will try to come up with answers to questions like these: What are the most likely causes of accidental war, and how can it be prevented? What would be the economic consequences of total and universal disarmament? How can this blow be softened? How strong must the United Nations be to make any weapons control system effective?

The Canadian Peace Research Institute can and will help us to find the answers to these and other vital problems. In 1962, the Canadian Peace Research Institute will locate on the campus of a Canadian university. It will employ 25 outstanding scholars and scientists. Independent of government and nonpartisan, the Canadian Peace Research Institute will report its findings to the Canadian government, to the Canadian people and to the United Nations. The institute's directors will be looking to the Canadian public and the Canadian government to implement these findings.

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DONCASTER COMMUNITY LADIES' CLUB - - - THEY SERVE OTHERS

On March 12, the Doncaster Community Ladies' Club marked the anniversary of fifteen years of dedicated public service to their community. The original club, which was also one of the earliest clubs in this area was started by a group of neighbors about fifteen years ago. Their first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Pratt on Clarke Avenue. Mrs. H. Mizen and Mrs. John Adkins alone remain of this former group. It became a chartered club in 1955, and the following directors were appointed. They are Mrs. A. Morrison, Mrs. J. Edgar, Mrs. C. Russell, Mrs. A. Winter and Mrs. C. Clifford.

According to Mrs. Heather Morrison, the president of the Doncaster Community Ladies' Club, the organization was started with the original purpose of raising money to build a community hall for the area. The club at that time owned a lot on the corner of Henderson and Clarke Avenue. However, it turned out that the expense of erecting the building plus the upkeep that would follow would be too much for them to manage. So the club diverted their efforts to achieving other goals. First, they decided to help their community in any way they could. Secondly, they planned on giving their financial aid to other organizations and finally to set up some personal goals and projects of their own. Since the sale of their property netted them a tidy sum of money, they set up a fund for the highest scholastic standing for students from Doncaster that attend Thornhill High School, and this includes grades 9 to 13, and covers the general, commercial and special courses. The prizes range from $25 to $100. Besides this, they give a prize of $10 to the pupil with the highest scholastic record in grade 8 from Woodland and Henderson Public Schools and St. Luke's Separate School. These prizes were given in 1961 and will go on indefinitely. Several years ago they donated a movie projector to the Henderson Avenue Public School.

The club lends its support to the Doncaster Mission Church and the local hockey club. They provide Christmas cheer for the senior citizens and sponsor a community picnic in June. They assist financially the Guides and Brownies and the Scouts and Cubs, whenever needed. One of their pet projects is to help out at the Retarded Children's bazaar in the fall by serving tea for the visitors. In February, they held a card party at the Villa Hospital for the patients' enjoyment, and they have taken on one additional project and that is to supply pin money and comfort for two girl patients at the Villa.

As if this weren't enough already, the club supplies layettes whenever the public health nurse indicates the need, and they also help to supply certain items of clothing for the Children's Aid Society. In order to raise the money for all these projects, the ladies put on three marathon euchres a year.

The ladies in this club go strongly for self-improvement. Last year, they held a beauty contest. This year they have been studying French Conversation. In the past, they have attended handicraft classes, and often have refresher courses on water safety or St. John Ambulance. There have been many other deeds of kindness performed by this outgoing and forward-looking club, and you can rest assured that the members are even now planning new ways to serve others and themselves in the future.

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"CHEERILY . . . CHEER-UP!" CHIRPS THE ROBIN

The robins are back with us again, thank goodness! In my opinion, few birds are more friendly to man than the robin. They seem to feel that no one could possibly hurt them. It's too bad that their confidence is so often misplaced. Thousands of robins are shot or trapped while migrating but as they raise more than one brood every year, they are still comparatively plentiful. The robin that we know is called the American Robin and it is a member of the Thrush family, and his loud cheery carol in springtime is one of the most welcome and cheeriest sounds I know.

Second Thoughts . . .

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

Thousands of British couples flocked to the altar before March 31 so an exemption could be claimed for their fiscal year. Apparently, in Britain, in spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love—and taxes.

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Maybe there was a bit of finger-crossing going on when the CNR promised Markham Township there would be no level crossings over the approaches to its marshalling yards. And maybe the township should call what the CNR is building, double crossings.

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The United States Air Force has asked Canada for ideas for returning astronauts from their manned satellites. . . . How about some UNmanned satellites bearing "Yankee Go Home!" signs?

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Commencing in 1964, Ontario drivers will have three-year permits issued automatically on their birthday. Now, if they could just arrange to make them a birthday present. . . .

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The latest catalogue of a supermarket chain will list a variety of travel possibilities in exchange for their trading stamps—including a globe-circling tour. . . . Sort of around the world on ate-y days?

* * * * *

Provincial Health Minister Dymond, in announcing curbs on the sale of high-potency vitamins, says over-dosages of them could lead to harmful side effects. . . . Particularly around the hips?

* * * * *

A Canadian motion picture, being produced at the Kleinburg studios, will be a satire on the U.S. television business. That's the way we should start — with the easy ones!

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Prisoners in Canada's penitentiaries are having their working day extended from their accustomed four hours to a six and eight-hour day . . . And with still no take-home pay!

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Toronto's Better Business Bureau is warning householders of itinerant shrub and sod salesmen who cannot be found later in the season when their wares wither and die . . . Like, lawn time no see?

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Ninety women from nine nations are reported to have marched silently on the Geneva conference in a protest against further A-tests . . . An impressive demonstration! Keeping ninety women silent was really A test!

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Federal geologists say that any meteorite found by a Canadian would be worth at least $100. On the other hand, any Canadian found by a meteorite probably wouldn't be found.

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We see where "Tiny" Cathers made the UP Wire Service as the Conservative back-bencher who appealed to the CBC to telecast the entire games of the Stanley Cup playoffs. Any PC who would do that can't be ALL bad.

The Richmond THEATRE

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