

The Liberal

"In Essentials Unity; in Non-Essentials Liberty; in all things Charity"

RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1962

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Beechy Drive Residents Tree Planting Project



The residents of Beechy Drive in Beverley Acres combined efforts last week-end to carry out a tree planting project on their street. Grouped around one of the trees are junior helpers Andrew Duncan with the rake and Mike Sale stamping

Saturday was tree planting day on Beechy Drive, in Beverley Acres. In a program under the direction of the civic improvement committee, Mr. W. J. Ankenman, chairman, a small committee of interested residents on Beechy Drive were formed into a committee about the first of April. Armed with a booklet of directions and recommendations; these in turn approached every home on the street, and found a hearty response. Of thirty-eight homes on the street several already had given a lead, and planted trees. The order for stakes and trees was placed locally. The cost according to the species of tree and its size. The average cost for tree, loam, and stake for the eighteen plantings was \$7.50. The post-planting enthusiasm on Beechy Drive would appear to be even greater than that before.

Editorial

The Liquor Referendum

On Saturday, Richmond Hill citizens vote to decide whether or not the sale of liquor by the glass may be licenced in this municipality. This will be an important decision and we trust it will be made after calm and careful consideration.

On so contentious a subject there is sure to be a wide difference of opinion, but we hope it can be decided with a minimum of ill-feeling or bitterness. Certainly it is an issue on which there will be honest differences of opinion, and every citizen is entitled to his own views. Let us never forget the other fellow is entitled to his opinion, and let us not ascribe to him unworthy motives, though his opinion may differ from our own.

We have no wish to tell anyone how to vote, but on so important an issue we feel we have a duty to clarify the questions and state clearly our own position. **WE WILL VOTE "NO" TO BOTH QUESTIONS.**

We do not advocate prohibition and we did not oppose the establishment of a government liquor store and beer retail outlet in the town. We did not oppose that proposal because we felt there was a reasonable demand for such a service, and the establishment of a government store was a needed convenience for many of our people. Frankly, we heard no demand for the sale of liquor by the glass here until an application was made by a group of Toronto financiers who decided that such licences could be highly profitable.

Despite claims to the contrary, we think a definite moral issue is involved. The licencing of bars, dining rooms, restaurants and night clubs introduces the private profit motive into the handling of liquor which we regard as undesirable. The experience of the years and the record of history here and in many lands has convinced us that private profit, man's greed for the almighty dollar, and the liquor business, make a dangerous combination.

We are not at all impressed by the argument that a "yes" vote will bring a solution to our problem of a spiralling tax rate, attract increased business for our merchants, start an industrial boom, or make Richmond Hill the convention centre of Canada.

We have heard much about the "prestige" hotel which is to be built here. We are told it will be run by "prestige" people and will have a large assessment yielding a large amount of taxes. We have talked to many who have been favourably impressed by the "prestige" hotel picture, and if that were the issue might be inclined to vote "yes".

The simple truth, of course, is that there will be no picture of a hotel on the ballots handed to the voters on Saturday. The truth is there is absolutely no guarantee that the "prestige" hotel described in such glowing terms will ever be built here or anywhere else, no matter how the vote goes. If the people vote "yes" it may be built and it may not. If it is built it is quite possible it may be the "prestige" hotel referred to in the campaign literature and it may be operated by "prestige" people of the highest character and reputation. If after it operates for six months and the syndicate can sell at a profit, it may be sold, and it may be sold to people and interests who are not concerned about operating a "prestige" hotel. Several other hotels may be built and they may be operated by people whose main claim to prestige is in the underworld.

The truth is that Saturday the people of Richmond Hill are asked to vote "yes" or "no" to the granting of licences for the sale of liquor by the glass in bars, dining rooms and restaurants. The point to remember is that once the people vote to open the doors to licencing, their authority stops. The licences will be issued by the provincial authorities.

We have found that some have the mistaken idea the local council has power and authority to limit the number of liquor selling licences to be issued. A local town council has no more authority in this matter than the trustees of a police village in Northern Ontario. This is not an opinion, it is a matter of record in many Ontario towns, villages and townships. The record is there for all to see. The record is clear that once a municipality by a vote opens the flood-gates for a wide-open sale of liquor by the glass, the number of licences issued appears to relate only to the amount the traffic will bear.

The record is there for all who care to look at it, and it shows that protests of municipal councils, ratepayers' groups or churches have been of no avail in preventing the granting of licences if the right people wanted them. Despite protests, liquor-selling licences have been issued next door to a place of worship. It could happen here.

There are some who favour the wide-open sale of liquor by the glass and think that a number of liquor-selling establishments and the bright lights of bars and night clubs would improve life in the Hill and enhance the value of property here. These people are entitled to their opinion and undoubtedly should vote "yes" on Saturday. We hope no one will vote "yes" in the belief that there will be only one "prestige" licence to sell liquor by the glass. We hope no one will vote "yes" in the hope of decreasing the local tax rate, improve local business or attract new industry. We respectfully suggest anyone who does is chasing a rainbow at the end of which is no pot of gold, only grief and disappointment.

There is now in progress in Ontario a Crime Probe, and already in evidence there have been startling revelations. The shocking disclosures in the field of crime and corruption and their close relationship to liquor-selling licences and private club charters should give Richmond Hill citizens real cause for concern and a second careful look at the question on the ballots Saturday.

The tightening of administrative practice in Metro likely to follow the probe will mean a lot of undesirable characters will be seeking new licenced locations. Licences in Richmond Hill on the fringe of Metro and on busy Number 11 Highway could be very attractive. This is a very real danger and is a

feature of the problem which causes a great deal of concern. If you vote "No" there will be nothing to attract these displaced mobsters to Richmond Hill.

During the campaign, this newspaper has been accused of suppressing news, and refusing to publish advertising for the "vote yes" committee. Both accusations are false.

The truth is we published advertising for the "vote yes" committee and for the "vote no" committee. Selling advertising is a very necessary part of our business. We are glad to sell advertising space to all political parties, all organizations and individuals, irrespective of race, creed, colour or religion. We have, of course, our responsibility as publishers, and accepted advertising must meet the standards set by all responsible newspapers.

We reject advertising which we know contains misstatement of fact, and we reject advertising which is authorized only by an anonymous person or organization. We reject advertising also when no satisfactory arrangement is made for payment. We do not reject advertising because the views may differ from our own.

The charge that we suppress news is false. This newspaper reports news events honestly and fairly, and we have a record of eighty-four years' continuous service to this community to prove it. We reported public meetings held by both sides; we published letters with a variety of viewpoints, and have tried to be fair to everyone. We do not print propaganda in the guise of news and we are not deceived by propaganda booby traps, no matter how cunningly they may be laid. We have a deep sense of responsibility to our readers, and no one can dictate to us what we shall include in our news and editorial columns.

During the current referendum campaign this newspaper has been subjected to pressures and threats in an endeavour to have us lend support to the proposal for wide-open liquor licences in Richmond Hill. We refuse to be intimidated or pressured and we want to make it very plain that our views are not for sale, nor are our principles on the auction block for either gold or assessment.

We have no axe to grind. We have no special interest to serve other than the general good and welfare of Richmond Hill. We take second place to no one in a sincere desire to contribute to Richmond Hill's progress and welfare. The issue Saturday is not one of wets or dries, nor is it saints and sinners, or the question of whether one takes a drink or does not take a drink. The big question is do you want Richmond Hill to be the kind of town it could be with wide-open liquor licences?

Referendum voting will be Saturday, April 28th. The ballot is secret. There is no need to tell anyone how you intend to vote. There is no need to tell anyone how you voted. The issue is up to you — to you and your conscience. Vote if you like, and vote as you like. If someone attempts to tell you that you must vote, or how you must vote, call an officer of the law.

Local Fire Brigade Answers 21 Calls Easter Week-end

"Twenty-one grass fires over the Easter week-end in Richmond Hill - Markham area" reported Fire Chief Alfred Stong. The staff and two reels of the Richmond Hill Fire Department responded to nine calls on Friday with the first alarm at 10:00 a.m., eight calls on Saturday, one on Sunday, and three on Monday, all grass and rubbish fires, up to 60-70 acres in extent.

To the east of Holy Cross Cemetery, 60 acres were burnt over before the burning was stopped, while at Topper's Farm, just north of Richmond Hill, 60-70 acres were burnt over. At Newkirk Road, near the water tower, one and one-half acres were burnt, which was believed to have been started by two small boys, also it is believed that the fire in the vicinity of the cemetery was caused by children who were seen "playing with fire". Fortunately, the firemen were able to prevent any loss of homes adjacent to the areas burnt over.

Due to this unusually dry season, Chief Stong strongly advises that residents start "no fires of any kind — whether leaves, rubbish, or even in an incinerator" until the rains lessen the danger. Though lectures and publicity have been given on the subject of fire prevention, Chief Stong advises parents to exercise greater control over children playing with matches or bonfires, which have recently resulted in heavy fire losses.

Mail Deliveries For Elgin Mills Beginning May 7

House to house deliveries of mail in the Elgin Mills area will start on Monday, May 7th. Postmaster T. Willis of Richmond Hill said recently. Authorized some time ago, the system has been awaiting the placing of numbers on buildings and the installation of letter-boxes.

The proposed opening of the Richmond Hill Post Office on Wednesday afternoon, replacing the existing weekly half-holiday is still awaiting confirmation from post office authorities at Ottawa, said Mr. Willis. Staff rearrangements are involved.

AURORA: After threatening to sue Consolidated Building Corporation, the company responsible for creating the Regency Acres Subdivision, for \$6,000, town council agreed to accept \$3,327 in full settlement.

Township Plans To Bill Fire-setters

Grass Fire Swept 500 Vaughan Acres At Easter

A five hundred acre grass fire, thought to be the largest in many years, swept over five farm properties in Vaughan Township last Friday.

The blaze, which started in a pile of rubbish near the north town line between the 7th and 8th Concessions of Vaughan Township, is thought to have been started by children.

Blown by a strong wind, the fire raced south east and west over five different properties and although a number of

Mrs. D. Corkin Wins \$400 Bingo

Bingo! And just in time for Easter! Mrs. D. Corkin of the Elgin Mills Sideroad, who for the past four years has been a regular patron of the Richmond Hill Lion's Bingo, was on Monday last, the lucky winner of the \$400 jackpot.

What is she going to do with the money? "Just enjoy it" — and with five children ranging in age from three to eleven years, she will certainly derive a great deal of pleasure from doing just that!

Bathurst - Langstaff School By '63

Discard Thornhill Shift System

At the York Central District High School Board, Tuesday evening, it was announced that plans for operating Thornhill Secondary School on a shift system in September, 1962, have been discarded. Due to the fact that the Department of Education did not look with favour on the shift plan, and the numerous phone calls to the trustees since the plan was announced, the planning committee is exploring an alternative plan.

This will probably consist of the erection of portables and the re-distribution of students among the four high schools.

At the same time the board has decided to proceed immediately with plans for a new 1,000 pupil high school in the Bathurst-Langstaff area originally planned for 1964. Tentative plans now call

for its erection in 1963. To this end a meeting is being arranged between the board and the planning directors of Markham and Vaughan Townships, Richmond Hill and Metro Toronto to assist the board in determining the size and type of school required.

"Vote Yes" Chairman

Ivan Toutloff Is Guest 'Vote No' Public Meeting

A small attendance of interested citizens turned out to the local library on Tuesday evening to hear a discussion of the questions before the electorate on Saturday of this week concerning the establishment of dining lounges, and liquor lounges in Richmond Hill. After a few introductory remarks, Mr. Ralph Kerslake, the chairman for the evening, called on Mr. Ivan Toutloff, chairman of the "Vote Yes" Committee to speak, in keeping with the invitation which had been extended to him to make a statement at the meeting.

Mr. Toutloff thanked the chairman for the privilege, and said he was really more interested in asking a few questions than in making a statement. As the chairman did not feel that such a question and answer period would serve the purpose of the meeting, Mr. Toutloff sat down.

Mr. Walter Scudis, manager for the "Vote No" Committee, then spoke briefly. He stressed the fact that the vote on Saturday was not concerning a hotel, but on whether dining lounge licences or liquor lounge licences would be made available in Richmond Hill under the

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Summit Estates Protest Operation Of Gravel Pit

A large deputation of property owners from Summit Estates, on Gamble Road south of Jefferson, told Vaughan Township Council Monday that a gravel pit which they felt was soon to be established on a farm opposite their properties would turn what was termed by their spokesman as "one of the better residential areas in the township" into one of the worst.

Eric Baker, former deputy-reeve of York Township and spokesman for the group which included about 33 property owners, urged council to pass a by-law to prohibit expansion of a pit said to be already in existence. However, the question arose whether council had the authority to prohibit a pit or whether it could only control and regulate establishment of a gravel pit.

There was some question if the owner of the property, Darryl Goulding, a member of Vaughan Planning Board, intends to establish a pit. However, property owners felt that test drilling, said to have been carried out recently, indicated a pit would probably be established in the very near future. As an alternative to the immediate passing of a prohibitive by-law regarding the establishment of a pit, the group asked council to pass a resolution restricting heavy traffic on the roads in the area. The thought being that gravel trucks and equipment would be responsible for being Albert Rutherford quickly quashed this idea. Council finally decided to have Mr. Baker meet with the township's solicitor at a committee meeting this week to discuss the problem.

Mayor Haggart Issues Statement

The following statement was handed to this newspaper Tuesday morning by Mayor Haggart of Richmond Hill, and is published at his request.

"At its last two public meetings the council of the Town of Richmond Hill repudiated certain misrepresentations of the facts surrounding its decision to authorize the forthcoming liquor vote. The local press carried no report on this aspect of either meeting despite the fact that it is their custom to do so. In recognition of its responsibility to see that the electorate is adequately informed, your council issues the following statement:

Statement of Facts Leading Up To The Liquor Plebiscite
The developers of the proposed hotel are Mr. John Fisher and Mr. Walter Portway of the City of Toronto. Mr. Portway is in the importing business, and operated Y.M.C.A. restaurants for four years until recently. Mr. Fisher is an architect. At no time were these names withheld by council, and were available to any citizen upon direct request. Your council has never withheld information to which the public is entitled.

liquor plebiscite the principals behind the hotel development were thoroughly and adequately investigated, and in our opinion are desirable individuals for this development, should the people of Richmond Hill indicate that this facility is acceptable to them.
In addition, thorough consideration was given to our existing services and police and fire protection. Our staff studied the plans before they were submitted to council, and we were assured that no additional men or equipment would be necessary to operate our fire or police departments should the hotel locate here. Our sewer and water facilities are adequate to serve the site on which the hotel is to be built. A storm sewer to service this portion of Yonge Street has been needed for some years, and the need was aggravated with the installation of a used car lot. The developers have agreed to contribute \$5,000 towards the cost of this storm sewer, which is more than their share would be un-

der local improvement. Cost of the balance of the storm is estimated at \$12,000.
Whilst this council has no bond from the developers, we feel assured that the hotel will be constructed as has been indicated, since the owners of the property, W. A. Stephenson and Sons, hold a firm offer to purchase the property by the developers (not an option) and the municipality has a signed agreement submitting to architectural control by ourselves.
The agreement was drawn up by the Municipal Solicitor, J. D. Lucas, Q.C.
The publication of these facts is not to be construed as a recommendation for a "Yes" or "No" vote, but is for the purpose of advising the voters so that they may be better informed."
NOTE: Our policy in regard to the publication of news and with regard to the coming plebiscite is fully outlined elsewhere in this issue. (Editor)

Shift Education Burden

Promised Ontario Grant To Help Property Owner

The direct load of the cost of \$44,000 from the province in education on tax-paying property owners will be lightened somewhat, according to a recent announcement by Ontario's Premier John Robarts. A few days before the prorogation of the legislature he said that the provincial special grant for pupils would be increased to \$30 for elementary school students, next year, in place of the \$15 per pupil paid this year.

The grant, said Business Administrator Kenneth Turton of the Richmond Hill Public School Board, is based on the average daily attendance of pupils and will draw the amount one hundred per cent would need the perfect attendance of all residential pupils. As it is, he estimates that the board will receive

view, Thornhill and Woodbridge. The increase, in terms of the Richmond Hill tax rate, would be equivalent to a saving of approximately one and a third mills. The total grant increase of, of course, spread across the whole high school system which includes Richmond Hill, Bayview, Thornhill and Woodbridge.

Bayview Avenue Work Continued

Town's Works Department Active With Wide Variety Of Projects

More grading was done on Bayview Avenue and more dustlaver applied prior to the Easter holiday. Works Commissioner Otto Whalen reported. As much work as possible would be done on the road continuously, he said.

Other works department activities include the addition of another floor to the municipal building, plus alterations which will provide for a permanent magistrate's court and offices, for which rental will be paid to the town. The contractor is right up to schedule with his work.

Preliminary work on the installation of additional stop lights on Yonge Street is under way. This includes alterations to the corner of Centre and Yonge Streets, near United Church property. In connection with the installation of stop lights, Works Commissioner Whalen said that this would postpone the painting of new zone lines on the streets. The old lines have practically disappeared during the winter.

Negotiations are also proceeding in connection with the widening of Yonge Street North from Levensdale Road to Elgin Mills Road. This is expected to be widened to four lanes, through an arrangement to be reached with Vaughan Township, in whose territory the west side of Yonge Street in the Elgin Mills area lies.

Daylight Saving Starts On Sunday

Daylight saving starts in Richmond Hill early on the morning of Sunday, April 29th, in keeping with most municipalities in Ontario. Town council passed the necessary resolution at its last meeting.
Watches and clocks should be turned ahead one hour. To avoid the annual confusion as to whether it's forward or back just remember that we are going FORWARD into summer.