

# The Liberal



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## Every Vote Counts

Last Saturday's voting in the liquor referendum established a close-finish record for local elections. There have through the years been many keenly fought contests and wins by narrow margins, but nothing to quite equal Saturday's results. Local option votes in the past have been keenly contested and the results indicated then, as now, close contests when the question was submitted to the people. In 1927 Jacob Lunau, grandfather of Reeve Floyd R. Perkins, was elected reeve, defeating J. A. Greene by two votes. The first local option by-law in 1906 had a majority of 21.

Close election contests are not a modern innovation here, but Saturday's result certainly was the closest. The vote was so close the final outcome may be determined in the courts rather than the polling booth when, should a recount be held, the validity of some 215 spoiled ballots will have a ruling from a Judge.

Whatever the final outcome, the results give emphasis to the fact that every vote counts, and points out the need for more care in marking ballots. Throughout our lifetime in newspaper work we have been untiring in urging everyone to vote. So often we have received the answer, "my vote won't make any difference, anyway."

Saturday's vote demonstrated that one vote does count, and can change the results of an election. Not often results are this close, but it takes just such a hair-breadth down to the wire finish to drive home the important lesson of the importance of every vote.

It was disappointing that the turnout of voters was only about sixty per cent. In every election there are cases of sickness or unexpected emergency which prevent even the best-intentioned from going to the polls to cast a vote. However, their number is comparatively few and the sad truth is that nearly forty per cent of the eligible voters Saturday, by staying away from the polling booths said they just didn't care.

Disappointing as this may be, it is not surprising when we review the records of voting for municipal councils not only here in Richmond Hill but throughout the country. In Richmond Hill's last municipal election only 43 per cent voted. If people won't bother to vote in an election to decide who will transact their public business and levy their taxes, it isn't likely they are much concerned about such things as liquor licences or anything else which concerns the welfare of the town in which they live.

This appalling apathy to the important duty of voting is not by any means peculiar to Richmond Hill. The record of municipalities throughout Ontario tells the same story. The plain truth is that we talk a lot about democracy, but far too many people

## Community Betterment

The residents of Beechy Drive are to be complimented on their efforts in community betterment. The residents of this street in Beverley Acres recently organized a civic improvement committee which has resulted in an enthusiastic tree-planting project this spring. Under the chairmanship of Mr. W. J. Ankenman the members, armed with a booklet of directions, approached every home on the street and received a warm response. Of thirty-eight homes on Beechy, several had already planted trees and others were planning to do so. Some eighteen homes joined the project. The committee acknowledged the valuable assistance it received from both the town parks board and the horticultural society. The average cost for tree, loam and stake was \$7.50.

It is indeed refreshing in the complex society of today to see indi-

viduals working together in a true spirit of neighbourliness and co-operation. So much of life's effort to-day is handled by large impersonal government bodies and business corporations that the average citizen often finds his individuality totally submerged and lost. It is uplifting to the human spirit to play an important part in some worthwhile community project. In the work-a-day world the individual often finds that he is a small cog in some huge enterprise and never really sees the end results of his efforts, and experiences only limited satisfaction in his work.

It is encouraging to see individual property owners in a community banding together in a project of this nature instead of asking some government body to handle the matter. The strength and growth of any community is dependent upon the vigour and energy of its individual citizens.

## Second Thoughts...

by George Mayes

• Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

The U.S. has suggested a direct-line telephone between Mr. Kennedy in the White House and Mr. Khrushchev in the Kremlin. It would be used only if atomic missiles were launched accidentally and the conversation would naturally be brief: "Hello?" ... "Goodbye!"

The Liberal candidate in Toronto Danforth, in promising an anti-tobacco program, says: "It's evil and irresponsible to aim cigarette advertising at teenagers." The Liberal candidate in Toronto Danforth is an advertising executive ... Oh, well — we can't win 'em all.

The TTC says that their new token strips are particularly popular with women, fitting easily into their handbags ... And what doesn't?

A lawyer for Pete Karpuk charges that the former footballer was given a three month theft sentence in Toronto "without the magistrate knowing a thing about him". The magistrate, if he were an Argo fan, might have been glad to learn that the prisoner before him was the Ottawa Roughrider who made the infamous off-the-bench tackle on a touchdown-bound Argo player in that Grey Cup game in the 50's.

Two CCF M.P.'s managed to talk-out Canada's 26th Parliament in a prolonged protest against the passage of 327 divorce petitions. The CCF is now a part of the NDP, which may become known as the No Divorce Party.

An article on the financial pages says many Toronto investment dealers are raising sheep on farms scattered throughout southern Ontario ... Are they getting that scarce on Bay Street?

Immigration Minister Ellen Fairclough was asked to cut a string of wieners, instead of the usual ribbon, when she opened a new meat packing plant in Burlington. ... With the weather getting warmer, they couldn't risk the spoilage while they waited for her to cut anything resembling red tape.

Skim milk is being used as a "setting lotion" by some of New York's smart hairdressing salons. An originator of the technique says: "What's good for babies is good for hair." ... With this, we can agree. Some current coiffures look as if they need to be burped.

Rental agents in Toronto say it is particularly difficult to find suitable accommodation for tenants who wish to pay over \$500 a month for an apartment. Not many apartments, it seems, are being built with padded walls.

"The Liberal" has pointed out that changes in the provincial liquor laws will make the Richmond Hill Curling Club eligible for a bar licence ... And members could Scotch their "rocks" and get stoned without going near the ice.

## International Author, Lecturer Is Recent Richmond Hill Speaker

Dugald Semple, internationally known lecturer and author, was guest speaker at a Toronto Vegetarian Society meeting held recently in Richmond Hill Masonic Hall. Mr. Semple, a strict vegetarian for 60 of his 79 years, spends a great deal of his time lecturing on and promoting vegetarian living. He has recently completed a lecture tour of the United States and Mexico and is presently planning a lecture in New York, when he will speak at the Thoreau Society Centenary. He first came before the public eye in his early 20's when he gave up his life as an engineer and draftsman, bought an old omnibus, and began

Doctor". Mr. Semple is also a great lover of wild life and is a well-known wild life photographer. He showed a number of slides, which he himself had taken, at Thursday's meeting. A lover of the outdoors, he tries to walk a mile or two every day. Mr. Semple, who has travelled in practically every country of the world, includes among his personal friends such world figures as George Bernard Shaw and Mahatma Gandhi, the great Indian leader, assassinated for his beliefs and influence on his countrymen, both of whom believe in strict vegetarian living.

Mr. Semple's breakfast diet consists of fruit, and his lunch, which he believes should be the heaviest meal of the day, is made up of protein food such as nuts or green salad and possibly a baked potato. He does not believe in eating fruits and vegetables at the same meal. He feels some cereal food such as whole grain food should be eaten, especially in a cold climate. Mr. Semple feels that man evolved from the ape, hence the reason for a complete vegetarian diet. He believes man is not biologically able to eat flesh. This on top of the inhumanity of killing and eating flesh foods is the primary reason for vegetarian living he thinks. Mr. Semple, a great nature lover who does not believe in keeping pets, has made friends of numerous birds and animals and has actually had these wild creatures eat from his hands. Another strong belief of Mr. Semple's is that one should take short fasts which should be followed by fruit diets. He firmly believes that some types of disease can be prevented by these fasts. Mr. Semple, at 79 years of age still takes a run by the seashore every morning before breakfast when he is able.

## Hill's 1000 Weekend Visitors Greeted With Chamber's Roses

The newly-formed Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce performed its first civic improvement last Friday in distributing 20,000 roses throughout the Hill. The roses were distributed through a joint arrangement between H. J. Mills and Co., local rose-growers, and the chamber of commerce. The flowers were distributed by chamber members to the municipal offices, the police department and all the stores in the Hill, and all town councillor's wives received flowers. Roses were placed in the Ontario Hydro building as well as the Richmond Hill Hydro offices. Most churches in the Hill also received flowers. About 400 roses were placed in Allentown Lanes for the world-bantam bowling championships held there over the weekend. The reason for the extra special display was to say welcome to the 1,000 visitors in the Hill over the weekend. The visitors were delegates to the A.Y.P.A. Conference which was held on April 27, 28, 29, and also competitors in the bowling championship. All of the special arrangements seen in some of the windows along Yonge Street, were made by two employees of the H. J. Mills Co., Tom Mills and Douglas Lowery. They are said to have spent about five hours working on the arrangements.

## Dear Mr. Editor

YORK CHAPTER  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
Dear Mr. Editor:  
We are drawing to a close the first year of the formation of our chapter and we have been pleased and grateful for the coverage you have given our activities in "The Liberal".  
We hope that you will continue to expand to us your favour throughout the forthcoming chapter year.  
Yours truly,  
F. McPherson, P. Eng.  
Public Relations Director,  
421 Paliser Crescent

## LIQUOR REFERENDUM

Dear Mr. Editor:  
Recently, I wrote you a letter concerning the liquor plebiscite. You published the letter, and it drew a pleasant, misleading comment and misinterpretations from a Mr. G. MacKenzie. Although the vote will be over by the time this letter could be published, I would nevertheless like its contents made known. I ask this because Mr. MacKenzie's comments are of such an unfortunate nature that I feel bound to repudiate them.  
Firstly, I most certainly did NOT attribute displays of bad drinking to SOLELY to Canadians as Mr. MacKenzie asserts. I said that SOME of the worst displays that I myself had seen were put on by young Canadians. The inference here, of course, is that they were no more temperate for having been reared in a society where drinking is surrounded by taboos. Nowhere in my letter did I claim that they were the sole offenders — in fact, I agree wholeheartedly with Mr. MacKenzie's claim that factions from the U.K. and elsewhere were just as bad. My point was that making alcohol hard or impossible to get, and surrounding the consumption thereof with taboos, does not seem to work.  
Secondly, The young Canadians to whom I refer were not war veterans; they were of the post-war generation, and were from the Canadian Infantry Brigade at Soest. The period was the early 1950's.  
Thirdly, Mr. MacKenzie makes reference to what the findings of an "impartial observer" would be, the inference here being that I am not impartial. I resent this strongly. My wife and I have always admired Canada—that is why we came here. We have lived here for almost ten years, and thought sufficiently highly of it to become Canadian citizens; also, our daughter was born here. Does the fact that I am not a native of this country mean that I cannot stand up once in a while and voice some honest opinions without having them twisted and misconstrued? I am sure that Mr. MacKenzie's near-sighted reactions are not typical of the bulk of other readers.  
Fourthly, Mr. MacKenzie claims that, in supporting the hotel, I am "advocating opportunities for Canadians to show how we can handle it better." What utter, childish rubbish! As I said in my letter, I support it because I would appreciate a hostelry where I could dine out once in a while with my family and be able to enhance my meal with a bottle of wine or a cocktail. At no point did I say that I wanted a place where Canadians could show what poor drinkers they are, and where others of non-Canadian origin could demonstrate their abominous prowess; nor did I claim any superiority in this field of endeavour for myself. My letter was simply a protest over the way the basic issues are clouded and the way mountains are made out of molehills. Mr. MacKenzie's reaction was, to my mind, an excellent example of just this sort of added, narrow and (worst of all) prejudiced thinking — the very things my letter protested in the first place.

Finally, Mr. MacKenzie asks me to "show your readers that there is no paradox in recommending opportunities to drink to a group he deprecates as gluttons." To this extraordinary statement, I can only say this: at no point in my letter did I say, or even hint, that I deprecate Canadians as gluttons. I would never have the incredible effrontery to make such a foolish, rude and sweeping statement in a public letter when I thought it in private (which I most certainly do NOT). I feel quite sure that there must be others in this area who would also appreciate the hotel's facilities. Undoubtedly, some users would make pigs of themselves (Canadians AND non-Canadians alike. Mr. MacKenzie!) Is it not preferable to have them do it in their own home town, rather than go elsewhere and then run the risk of killing themselves and/or others on the way back to The Hill? Those who wish to go out and drink will do so, hotel or no hotel. I like to think that there are enough sensible people in this area to exert a restraining and moderating influence on those who abuse the facilities. Anyway, the issue will have been decided by the time this letter is published; I shall be perfectly happy to abide by the will of the majority, with no hard feelings.

Yours sincerely,  
David M. Thomas  
3 Church Street South

## Rambling Around

By Elisabeth Kelson

### SHARE-A-LOAF

By this time, many of us may have heard the expression "Share-A-Loaf". But what does it mean? So someone may be asking you, "What is it all about?"

The Women's International League For Peace and Freedom has devised the "Share-A-Loaf" plan as a practical yet painless way for members and their friends to play an active part as individuals in the Freedom from Hunger Campaign launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The idea can be explained in this way. Most of us would gladly buy one extra loaf for a hungry person when doing the weekly shopping. But since one cannot literally share a loaf with a hungry Asian or African family many miles away, it is proposed that you instead obtain a Share-A-Loaf card and place the price of a loaf ... 25c ... each week in it, and when full send to the Freedom from Hunger Committee. New Share-A-Loaf cards are always available. Extra cards may be obtained from friends and neighbors from the following address: Mrs. R. W. Brown, 324 Keewatin Avenue, Toronto 12, H.U. 9-1750.

Contributions to the Share-A-Loaf plan are channelled through the International Freedom from Hunger headquarters to support specific projects designed to help the "have not" peoples of the world improve food production in their own communities. If you have ever said to yourself, "But what can I do?", here is your individual chance to help.

### THE 4-H CLUB SPELLS — HEAD - HEART - HANDS AND HEALTH

Elisabeth Barker, attractive, talented daughter of George Barker, R. R. 2, Gormley, has been a member of the 4-H club from 1952-1962. On May 17, Elisabeth will fly to Europe along with winners from other 4-H clubs. She was nominated by the leaders of her own 4-H club and chosen by the Department of Agriculture as a fit candidate to receive this signal honor. She was chosen on the basis of her contribution to her church, community, junior institute and 4-H club.

For those who are not too well acquainted with 4-H club work, Elisabeth leaves you with the 4-H motto. This motto, she says, has helped her a great deal in achieving her objectives as a member of 4-H. The name 4-H is derived from the first letter of the four words: Head, Heart, Hands and Health, the significance of which is expressed in the 4-H pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking.  
My Heart to greater loyalty.  
My Hands to larger service.  
My Health to better living, for my club, my community and my country.

The 4-H club is designed specifically for rural young people. The program takes a personal responsibility upon each boy and girl taking part, since each is required to complete at least one project during the year. 4-H agricultural clubs are sponsored by local organizations such as agricultural societies, service clubs, junior farmers and other groups interested in the development of agriculture and its rural youth.

The 12th of May is achievement day. The 4-H Junior Homemaking Club of York County are holding their achievement day at Aurora High School. The unit is entitled "Separates For Summer" and in the forenoon the girls will be judging and placing garments. In the afternoon visitors will be welcome to see the accomplishments of the girls and to listen to skits and demonstrations pertaining to summer cottons.

The junior institute, at present, is raising money for the new hospital and helps to look after an orphan in Austria. At the Markham Fair in the fall the junior institute have displays of cakes, pies and sewing and the junior farmers have a booth. At the Richmond Hill Fair coming our way on May 19, the junior farmers will have a booth. I believe that the field day for junior farmers will be on May 26.

This, then, is the club that has helped to produce and inspire such a fine young woman as Elisabeth Barker, and she can be justifiably proud of the record of her achievements as a member of the 4-H, and it is an impressive one.

May she enjoy to the full the wonderful reward that has been given to her for her perseverance and hard work. Bon voyage to Elisabeth Barker!

### DIRECTOR OF THE MAPLE LEAF LADIES' SOFTBALL LEAGUE — MARIAN HOLMES

Marian Holmes, sports-minded wife and mother, who lives at 35 Maple Avenue in Maple has been the director of the ladies' softball league since the 1961 season opened. Mrs. Holmes has been a sports enthusiast all her life, and likes all kinds of sports though softball was a natural interest for her when she moved from the city to Maple eight years ago. Part of her interest was inspired by the fact that her young sister played in the senior league and Marian Holmes watched her progress with enthusiasm. She, herself, has been active in softball for four years, and she is a former manager of the junior team. Mrs. Holmes says that the girls in Maple have been softball enthusiasts for some time now. There has been a senior team for 10 years and a junior team for five or six. Last summer they had six exhibition games at Richmond Hill. Judy Hopkins of Patterson is their star pitcher. Mrs. Holmes is enthusiastic about the good effects of this sport. "It's good for the girls, especially the younger ones. Gives the girls something to do all summer. It encourages sociability. At the end of the season, they always have a banquet, and they look forward to it very much," she said.

The K.V.W. League of which Maple is a part, consists of ladies' softball teams from the Townships of King, Vaughan and Whitchurch. "Talent Night" will represent the league's efforts to raise money. It will be held in the King Composite School on May 11. It will be strictly amateur and it is hoped that there will be sufficient talent from each district. Auditions have been underway since the first of May. If you're interested in seeing some of this hidden talent from our own districts, it might be a good idea to come and see what "Talent Night" has to offer.

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