

# The Liberal



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## Propane Plants Should Be Isolated

The Maple holocaust spells out in no uncertain terms the need for better safety measures for the propane gas industry both at the local level as well as the provincial level. Although the property damage was great it was only a miracle that there wasn't a greater loss of human life. The path of the blasts, the lack of strong winds, and the absence of a number of residents away on the Civic holiday weekend all helped to reduce the chance of human loss. Several houses were completely demolished while others were left unfit for habitation, to say nothing of the very large number of minor damages such as broken windows.

The immediate need is for Vaughan Township and the province to ensure that families whose homes have been lost receive some assistance until damage settlements are made.

One thing is certain; no propane plant should be allowed to settle in a residential area. Zoning regulations should compel them to carry on their

operations in a rural area away from homes and people. The liquid gas industry is the fastest growing branch of the fuel industry in Ontario today. Some 40 million gallons were used in the province in 1960, and it is estimated the market will grow to 70 million gallons by 1980.

The investigation of the Maple disaster should be the prelude to a careful review by the province of its gas safety regulations. The regulations should be up-dated and made more stringent so that future Maples won't happen somewhere else in the province. A review of safety measures at a propane plant in Scarborough has resulted in township officials recommending eight additional safety measures. Every effort should be made to ensure that hazards are reduced to a minimum.

As important as an adequate system of safety checks is the only sure measure of safety lies in requiring all such plants to be situated in an isolated location away from residential areas.

## Senator Malcolm Wallace McCutcheon

A York County resident, Malcolm Wallace McCutcheon, has been appointed to the Canadian Senate and Minister Without Portfolio in the Diefenbaker Government. Senator McCutcheon owns a 300 acre farm on the second concession of Whitchurch Township and divides his time between his farm and his home on Heath Street in Toronto. He has owned property in the township since shortly after the close of World War 2. A leading figure in Canadian financial circles Mr. McCutcheon is vice-president of the giant Argus Corporation owned by Industrialist E. P. Taylor. His new appointment is Mr. McCutcheon's first entry into public life, although he has never held an elective office. Always interested in community affairs he has played a prominent role in welfare and research projects in Toronto and Metro.

Mr. McCutcheon is the first senatorial appointment for York County since the days of the late Sir Allan Aylsworth.

A supporter of the Progressive Conservative party Senator McCutcheon was a county delegate to the leadership convention of the Ontario Conservative Party held last year in Toronto that selected Premier John Robarts as leader. It is expected his great business acumen will be put at the disposal of Prime Minister Diefenbaker and his government. No one knows better than Mr. Diefenbaker that running the affairs of this nation in the troubled world of today is an extremely complex job. Some political observers feel that Senator McCutcheon will be the real Canadian Minister of Finance. The new Minister, the Hon. George Nowlan, will be 64 years of age shortly and suffered two serious heart attacks last year while serving as Minister of National Revenue.

Whatever role Senator McCutcheon may play in the Diefenbaker government it is to be hoped he can inject some badly needed drive and direction into the ailing Canadian economy.

## There Is A Need

Like the insidious tentacles of a giant octopus, urban sprawl is steadily surrounding and consuming Ontario farm land. Every year 100 square miles of rural area is gobbled up by land developers. Natural contours of the land are ignored and ruined in the race for urbanization. Trees, gracing the landscape, are ruthlessly sacrificed, and the land, bared.

Inadequate and faulty planning of urban developments has become a matter of concern for the provincial government. During the June conference of the Ontario Association of Mayors and Reeves, Municipal Affairs Minister Frederick Cass said the ultimate goal of the government is a regional planning board with the province divided into regions. A government official assigned to each region will advise local bodies upon planning problems and the province will be kept informed of residential and commercial-industrial development.

The effects of poor planning in many urban areas may not be felt for some time. But inevitably the adverse results of such planning will appear and will place a very real burden on the shoulders of the taxpayer.

If an aerial photograph was taken of developments surrounding

many of our large centres, the hodge-podge of urban sprawl would be obvious — a landscape dotted with subdivisions located at random without continuity, rhyme or reason.

A drive through many of our urban residential sections will show incongruous scenes — a farm, generations old, nestled amongst a modern subdivision — cattle, peacefully grazing within a stone's throw of a new bustling community.

At present throughout the province there are 350 planning boards. Of these, 70 are actually non-existent and another 80 are practically inactive. While discussing the problem of urban sprawl at the conference, Mr. Cass stressed the need for an over-all type of planning based upon geographic units rather than municipal units.

He expressed disappointment with the planning efforts of some municipalities and questioned whether they were meeting their responsibilities. Sometimes the community's long-term best interests have been deliberately ignored for the short-term advantage of a private interest.

Mr. Cass told the conference: "Integration of planning over large areas must be instituted. Sound planning involves co-operation between neighboring municipalities."

We heartily agree with Mr. Cass.

## Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

### WILL THERE BE MANY SCHOOL DROP-OUTS?

The school term will be resuming in a few weeks. Many of our young people will be deciding whether to go back to school or seek permanent employment. Before they make this decision, there are certain things that they should consider. With their present amount of education, what chance have they of being a successful farmer, or a successful worker in business and industry.

The impact of technological developments in farming have made this a complex and difficult business. The amount of finances involved and the important managerial decisions to be made, both concerning the farm and its associations with other sectors of agriculture, make it imperative for today's farm operators to have a good education. Junior matriculation, supplemented by vocational training in an agricultural school should be a minimum objective to enter farming in the 1962's.

Other young men may have to find their life work in industry and business. Here again, owing to the advanced technology and automation, basic education is required to understand the theories and laws involved in the production and maintenance of all the machines and products which we marvel at, and enjoy in this complex age. Today to learn a trade or a skill, most young people need a junior matriculation or better.

The Minister of Labor, the Hon. Michael Starr once pointed out in one of his addresses that about 70 per cent of the jobs in this country are of professional, semi-professional, technical or skilled nature, and only about 30 per cent of employment consists of semi-skilled or unskilled occupations. Mr. Starr indicated that most of those with less than a junior matriculation will find themselves competing in the last category of employment. The number of unskilled and semi-skilled jobs in the economy decreases with each passing year. This is a sobering thought. Young people and their parents need to think carefully about the labor situation. Just as our country has advanced in the past few decades, so our need for more education has increased. A full realization of this fact should go a long way towards solving the school-drop-out problem and improving the nature of the working force. In addition those individuals who attain the higher levels of education will have a better opportunity to make a success of their lives.

### FROM THE RED CROSS NEWSLETTER

In the June-July issue of the Red Cross News, it was reported that the Richmond Hill Branch formed in March helped in a disaster five days later. "The new" branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society at Richmond Hill was formed on March 21st. Less than a week later it swung into action as a disaster unit for a family requiring emergency assistance. The family's home was totally destroyed by fire while they were absent and they lost everything. President Edward Butlin, hearing of the loss, took immediate steps to help the family... father, mother and three children. The branch had no funds of its own, so Mr. Butlin contacted the Ontario Division of the society. Officials immediately authorized help. Members of the family were taken to a local store and immediate necessities were purchased by the Red Cross. The present chairman of the Disaster Services of the Richmond Hill Branch of the Red Cross is Mr. Lawson Mumberson, Victoria Square.

### THE WOODS ALSO BELONG TO THE BEARS

Ever since I was a child, I've had qualms about meeting bears in the woods or around the tangled berry patches in deserted fields. I recall times when I was completely alone in a berry patch, busily picking away, but more completely alert than I was at any other time. Every crackle in the bushes would send the goose-flesh crawling in my arms, and I'd hear the mad tom-tom that my heart was beating out to me, as I waited for the dreaded bear to materialize. It was all for nothing for I have never seen a wild bear even to this day.

However this time of year is feast time for the black bears of northern Ontario. Raspberries, chokecherries and blueberries are in abundance. Thanks to advice from people who have encountered bears, I'm not so afraid. They say that bears will rarely bother you. A bear may stand up to look at you but he'll rarely come toward you and nine times out of ten he'll take off immediately he sees you.

It is possible to meet a bear with a surly disposition who won't give way because he naturally resents your intrusion. The only thing you can do then is to back off very slowly or walk around him in a circle, backing off all the while. In either case I've been told that the bear will appreciate your good manners and not bother to molest you.

It is a mistake for vacationers to feed bears as they pass them by in their cars. Giving hand-outs to the bears may teach them to be aggressive and bold when approaching human beings. Bears like this may eventually have to be shot.

Now after all this good advice you'd think that I would be able to go out to the berry patch completely free from non-existent bears. The other day I went picking berries by myself. I was still the same child... a grown up one, I'll grant you. Every rustle... every crackle was suspect. Every nerve was alert. I filled my berry pail as fast as I could as if I were darning that bear to come before I got through. I do not know how my fear started but some one might have said long ago, "Watch out or the bears will get you?" It must have been something like that. On the other hand it might be just a natural caution that is implanted in almost everyone. Primitive man must have been something like that, alert in every fibre of his being, so that he might run from the possible danger.

However I think the advice helped me just the same. I knew what I'd do if that bear came around. I'd just back away as gracefully as I could. Naturally!

### WHICH WILL IT BE? . . . CASTLES? . . . CRATERS? . . . CAVES?

The sand-beach in front of the cottage always makes me think of another beach. A magical beach, it was to the mind of a child. On this beach, castles rose and fell as regularly as the incoming waves. Such castles, they were too... castles with towers and turrets and narrow forbidding windows. There was a moat and a drawbridge as real as any out of Ivanhoe. I remember that children really loved to play on the beaches in those days. It was very creative play. They would spend hours building castles and fill them with memories of bold men like Robin Hood and His Merry Men.

As I look at the beach, I wonder what some modern child might fashion from the rude elements of sand and water. Will he be building feudal castles... craters of distant planets or something even more primitive like a subterranean cave. I wonder?

### LAKE WILCOX IS NOT SLUM AREA

Dear Mr. Editor:

As a resident of the Lake Wilcox area, I wish to take strong exception to the recent report of Dr. S. E. Jensen of the York County Mental Health Association, which was submitted to the county planning boards, on the subject of "Slum Areas", portions of which were published in "The Liberal" of August 2nd.

In my opinion, this is not a matter that can be generalized, and to say that Lake Wilcox is a potential slum area, could not be further from the truth. If it were, I feel I must point out, many cultured and respected people are among its inhabitants. To name them all would fill this whole page, but for example's sake to point out just a few: there are, living in homes that any of the high priced communities would be proud to include, such people as Mr. and Mrs. W. Hanson. Mr. Hanson is a very prominent businessman and their daughter is a member of the equestrian team, representing Canada in many countries in Europe, noted as being centres of "culture".

Just a few doors away live Dr. and Mrs. D. A. McBurney, a practising physician and surgeon, whose knowledge of mental health and culture, I presume, is equal to that of Dr. Jensen.

Another neighbour is Mr. G. Day and his family, who, as a pharmacist and co-owner of the Davis & Day Drug Store in Oak Ridges, daily dispenses prescriptions, most of which are vital to the well being of the people.

Yet another Lake Wilcox resident, Mrs. Joan Seager, is seen frequently on television, either in an interview or as a panelist. Many of her humorous articles, published in leading Canadian magazines, have been enjoyed by countless numbers of readers.

And there are many more. I will concur that there are some places that are becoming dangerously "run-down", but the whole area should not be judged by these. The majority of Lake Wilcox landowners try to maintain their property in a decent, respectable fashion. No community can be called "all white or all black". Every district harbours a few "skeletons" which they try desperately to keep hidden in their closets.

While I do not presume to understand mental health as Dr. Jensen does, I know for a fact, having nursed in several mental hospitals in the past, that an equal number of patients come from those areas considered to be "better class" and "well-to-do" and among the patients I cared for were sons and daughters of ministers, lawyers and other well educated people.

In reference to teen-age gangs, may I point out that they exist everywhere, in all kinds of districts. In this area, just one half an hour's drive from the city, many members of the so-called gangs come from out of town. While most of our homes are not Hollywood mansions, may I also point out, in closing, the late Marilyn Munro's was, and her recent demise was certainly the product of a disturbed mind.

## "Dear Mr. Editor"

Respectfully yours,  
Mrs. Eleanor Charuk  
Bayview Ave. North,  
Lake Wilcox

### FAVOURS PUBLIC HEARING ON EDGELEY WATER AREA

Dear Mr. Editor:

I am disturbed to see that the Concord Ratepayers Association has withdrawn its objection to the proposed Edgeley water system.

Apparently the objection was withdrawn when they were told by the Township of Vaughan Water Committee that the Ontario Water Resources Commission had "INSISTED" that the system be put in. This isn't the case, for on August 7 at a meeting which I attended the same council admitted that there was in fact no correspondence where the O.W.R.C. demanded this system.

Also at the same meeting council informed me that the G. W. Crothers Ltd. plant was NOT "DEDICATED" upon the enlargement of the Edgeley water system.

On this basis I believe there should be a public hearing before the Ontario Municipal Board. The Concord area, according to the township engineer has a potential well of a million gallons a day sufficient to serve the whole area plus the C.N.R. Marshalling Yard. I believe a study should be made so that, if at all possible, the people in dire need of water should be the first to be supplied.

The proposed water area will be far from self sufficient for some time to come. Therefore the township should take a careful look before charging all of the ratepayers in the township with a cost for the next twenty years that will only supply a small hoped-for future area.

Very truly yours,  
Ronald M. Fenn,  
Thornhill

### COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT WASN'T FORMED UNTIL 1960

Dear Mr. Editor:  
That was very good coverage of the Maple disaster in this week's Liberal. Congratulations! In the story on the matter of storage tanks in Richmond Hill, the statement was made that establishment of the plant on Markham Rd. was made possible through a decision of the committee of adjustment. To clarify matters may I point out that the present committee was

not formed until early 1960, when it was appointed by town council under the Planning Act. Since its establishment no such plan or application for same has come before the committee of adjustment, which is composed of men appointed by council and who are not on any elected body.  
It would appear to me that the establishment of this gas storage plant occurred before any committee of adjustment, as presently constituted, existed and that any decision permitting the plant must have been made by some other body, perhaps by members of town council who themselves formed a committee of adjustment.  
Sincerely,  
Harry W. R. Sayers,  
Chairman of the Committee of Adjustment,  
Richmond Hill

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