

The Liberal



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Community Hospital Campaign

It is quite a long time since February 1960 when the initial public meeting was held to discuss the local need for hospital beds and the appointment of provisional trustees to go to work and do something about it. As we have said before there's been a lot of "blood, sweat and tears" go into the effort by a dedicated group of public spirited citizens to launch the project and see it progress on the road to conclusion to the point where the new building is now an imposing feature of our western skyline.

Months of study, research and planning have been needed to organize the County of York and make a reasonable plan to adequately take care of the hospital needs of our people. These untiring efforts have been successful and the well planned hospital now under construction just west of town and the substantial addition to York County Hospital at Newmarket are the gratifying result.

The hospital trustees, the County of York, the county hospital commission, the co-operating federal and provincial governments, the Ontario Hospital Services Commission, all have measured up in the face of a crisis and brought the project to its present position in preparation for opening next year.

The ball now has been passed to the people at large. Financial arrangements have been completed but have left a gap of some one million dollars which must be raised by public subscription.

This community campaign to make sure our new hospital opens with the necessary equipment to give our people the best in hospital attention and treatment is an opportunity for all our people to share in the project which is destined to be a real blessing in the years to come. Volunteer canvassers will seek your donation and we trust they will have a kind and generous reception. They are public spirited men and women doing their best to provide a hospital we all need.

The community drive in support of the County of York United Hospitals is not just another appeal for funds to be dismissed lightly or with a token donation. It is not the wish or intention of the committee to use high pressure methods and certainly not their intention to tell anyone how much to give. The simple fact is that the great need exists and the only way to fill the gap in the necessary financing is for the people to subscribe something over one million dollars. The hospital trustees have done their best in planning an adequate hospital program and in securing the maximum financial help. The issue now rests with the people of the County of York.

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Nomination Meeting

Richmond Hill's annual nomination meeting will be held next Monday evening November 26th. It will be at the Richmond Hill High School Auditorium and every ratepayer is welcome to attend.

The business of the meeting will include nomination of candidates for municipal council and public and separate school boards. Council members and trustees who held office this year will have the opportunity of giving an accounting of their stewardship and new candidates can make their views and aims known to the people.

This is a meeting of real importance to every citizen and especially to property owners with a real stake in the municipality. From candidates nominated will be elected those who next year will spend the taxpayers' money, and who will determine the amount of taxes to be levied on our property.

People complain freely throughout the year about the action and sometimes the inaction of town council members, and certainly this is their privilege in a democracy. In tribute to those who serve in public office we must say they accept this in the best of good taste and in very few cases do they ever object to constructive criticism. However to those who do complain about council members and trustees we point out that now is the time when they can not only give expression to their criticism but can do something about it.

Right now the plain duty of every citizen is to make sure he has the very best possible representation in the conduct of his public business. All too often a much too large number of our citizens treat this responsibility altogether too lightly. Over the years the attendance at nomination meetings and the voting record in local municipalities show a most deplorable lack of interest. At the last municipal election in Richmond

Hill in 1960 only 43 per cent of the electors took the trouble to go to the polls to exercise their franchise. This kind of apathy inevitably leads to a low standard in government and constitutes a very real threat to democracy. This year we hope taxpayers will show a real interest in the nomination meeting and the elections which will follow early in December.

We know that for many home owners in Richmond Hill the continually increasing tax rate presents a most serious situation and one which demands action not some years in the future but right now. Fanciful dreams and grandiose schemes promising pie in the sky for some day in the future should at this time not be accepted as a substitute for business-like and economical administration.

In choosing municipal leaders and school trustees it is good business to demand no less a high standard than we impose for those we choose to look after our private business. If we select someone to transact our private business we insist on qualifications of character and dependability. No one would think of entrusting private business to anyone but someone in whom we have the utmost confidence. We must demand no less in those who transact our public business.

Some ideal men and women are discouraged from seeking public office because public business has been pictured to them as a complicated and demanding undertaking which requires very special training or experience. Nothing could be farther from the truth and while in growing municipalities such as ours the duties have increased in number and complexity, the essential qualification for a good member of a council or school board remains unchanged. Sincerity, honesty and common sense are still the prime requisites for a good council member or trustee.

Vandalism Must Be Stopped

Vandals have damaged nine town schools (six public and three separate) to the extent of \$4,300. The damage was done during this year.

These depressing statistics were tabled at a joint meeting of town council and representatives of the public and separate school boards held last week. A few misguided individuals find their enjoyment in destroying public property. It is difficult for the community as a whole to understand that some individuals would deliberately set out with the avowed purpose of destroying public buildings and equipment that are the joint property of every taxpayer in Richmond Hill.

The boards asked council for tougher police action to help stamp out the problem. The public investment in school properties and equipment is heavy and it is the duty of those charged with the responsibility of law enforcement to see to it that these outbreaks of vandalism are halted.

Richmond Hill is not the only part of the province hit by outbreaks of this kind. Recently the Legislature's Select Committee on municipal law considered strengthening the laws on vandalism. The Association of Ontario Mayors and Reeves has

suggested that parents be liable for restitution of up to \$200, for each case of willful damage to public property by their children. Faced with the same problem the Town of Oakville in September asked other Ontario municipalities to support its resolution calling on the province to pass legislation making the parents of juveniles convicted of vandalism liable for damages. Both Vaughan and Markham Township Councils supported the Oakville resolution with certain reservations. Richmond Hill Council took no direct action on the resolution but instead referred it to its police committee for study.

Tougher laws combined with stricter police control will likely help to ease the problem. This is the immediate solution. But society must continue to investigate and ultimately find a solution to the anti-social behaviour of some members of the community. The question is why do some juveniles and adults feel compelled to destroy public property. This newspaper recognizes there is no easy solution to this very complex problem. Governments at every level should encourage the work of the social service agencies dedicated to finding a solution to these and other problems.

THE MUSIC BOX

Ray Stephens

Showtime '62, Wow! Wow! just about expresses the enthusiastic production of the Richmond Hill High School review on Friday evening, November 16. At first I had planned a series of notes as we went along but since the lights went out at the opening bell throwing the gymnasium-acting-as-auditorium into total darkness plus the fact that the continuity of the show kept good pace, leaving me no time but to watch and listen, I sat back and let it all in.

Now the object of a critic is to discuss in detail and with unsparring frankness the performance of artists who go upon the stage to exhibit themselves to the public, but taking all into consideration I am not in reality a critic therefore can only point out the general picture as it was presented with a word here and there for constructive purposes.

Ralph Cooper excelled as the M.C. and his quick pick up on missed cues — or mixed up presentations of jokes shows a definite ability to be popular in that capacity. His ad lib. efforts were even more humorous than some of the stories but even funnier was his off-the-cuff explanations of some of his jokes. So many humorists can lead you with jokes but few can pick up quickly after one to keep things moving.

The intermediate band under the baton of Mr. Atkinson started the show with a selection named Aztec evidently implying the story of the ancient Indian tribe of South America. It was well done despite a few missing Indians here and there.

The two guitar lads, Steve Sanders and Don Chapman, presented a very well sounding bit of modernism with their electric sound boxes and with a bit more effort plus some mechanical practice they are bound to excel. We had then an accordion solo by Brian Ingles and later on in the program Ken Nicholls played a fine piece. This could mean that one day soon we might very well have a separate accordion recital. Joe Mendelson (with one s) brought forth a fine bit of pop presentations by singing Bluebird, and then joined by Dolly LaRose they got down to a hip modern bit of hip swing- ing singing. From the rock we rolled to the Trio of Margaret Queen, Eve Harwood and Linda Ford, with Janice Nicholls at the piano, who did very well on their combined vocal efforts and their stage actions had also been given some thought for it was refreshing to see this effort of doing a little staging rather than come out and just stand there. The Pedlars, guided by Mr. Roy Clifton, one of the teachers, at the piano, were somewhat at a loss to overcome the piano (grand one at that) since it was placed directly between them and the audience. Nevertheless they enjoyed their work from the sound of it. This group is a splendid idea and one that surely could catch on and provide many a night of good singing. One wonders though that with such a healthy bunch of vocalists if they could only release the real 'voice' of youth inside them that the audible result would be astonishing. For this type of singing at least.

We switch next to the only 'non' musical event of the evening that of Bob Owen, Bob

munroe and Tony Crack on the trampoline. When one of the lads made his entry by leaping from the balcony onto the trampoline I felt sure that this was an act requiring expert ability and they went on to prove me right. I could not help dwelling on the thought that had one of the musical entries attained this standard we would have had a real artist in our midst.

Unable to get near the refreshment counter at intermission time I wandered around the hall absorbing the effect of youth in all its happiness. Now the question arose. Was this for the students only or could parents come? Until you see the hundreds of milling all-important youngsters eager to be socially understood and accepted for what they are then you cannot under any circumstances say anything but the best about them. If you fail to attend these 'great events' then you also fail to qualify as 'experts' on teen-agers.

So into the second part of the show we go with the senior band playing well known popular tunes, very well played generally speaking.

When I saw the next attraction as Wagner and Mendelson (with the same one 's') I fully expected the third member of the group to be Beethoven, but it turned out to be Wendy Thatcher as the vocalist. They did produce a nice effort and I'm sure that Wendy with some of her dad's Dennis refreshing memories of the singing game could go on to be a nice vocalist. All kids like the up-to-date approach and it was with great interest that I listened to the dance band. Fairly well balanced but with noticeable gaps in certain passages, they tackled Woodchopper's Ball, etc. with enthusiasm and gusto. Since this medium is the one most likely to succeed despite all protests, the boys could work at maintaining the most important factor—that of rhythm. A muffled bass drum would also help this situation and a string bass player would be in demand. As a smaller Dixie group with the Saints they fared much better. The Dancers did remarkably well and were well accepted.

Joy Wilson in her roll of the comedy act showed good timing in general and we do not see many of our feminine types getting into the funny field, yet today some of the girls lead the business. Carol Burnett, Lucille Ball, to mention only two, prove that Joy is in a specialized field. John Seddon at the piano was perhaps the very best musical effort of the evening for here we had a real first class performance and by a young man who is sure to excel.

Brian Thurston surprised me when he poured forth with such a rich, strong baritone voice. Quite unusual to say the least and his choice of ballads from the American stage shows was in keeping with his voice. Brian should decide though on the type of voice he desires to use for now is that time and adaptation is easier. To sing mezza voice or with the half voice has its advantages but to slip into this habit at the early stages might tend to place limitations for future use. Brian's natural voice is much too good to allow this "way out".

So it was the end and I quietly took my leave with the strains of the finale to Camelot being

Second Thoughts...

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

The Telegram's real estate editor says our million dollar hotel will likely be called the Richmond Inn ... Passing up a million dollars worth of publicity in not linking itself to the chain as the Richmond Hillton.

If Ottawa's Hittin' Mayor Whitton and her opponent actually do their "running" for the mayoralty in a two-mile foot race, would you say they were "OFF and running"?

Real Caouette can't understand why the Royal Canadian Legion prevented his Remembrance Day speech in Sturgeon Falls. He says he was behind the boys all the time they were fighting overseas ... Yeah, behind!

Insurance firms say that car insurance rates have to go up because accident repair costs are increasing. The rates could probably go down if car manufacturers would just move the bumpers out!

Provincial Health Minister Dr. Dymond is reported to be undecided over accepting the offer of a Hamilton belly-dancer to demonstrate her art as an aid to mental therapy ... Well, as the old saying goes: You can't look a gift horse in the mouth.

None of the Toronto papers happened to connect the story of Gordon Sinclair being caught cursing into an open microphone with the ad for CFRB: "Where you meet the nicest people."

British archeologists have discovered another building under No. 10 Downing Street ... Buried in Churchill's cigar ashes?

Toronto's Controller Summerville promises the voters that he will be a "kissing mayor." But, like the recipe for rabbit stew: first he must catch the X's.

The CBC says its objective in rejecting the Grey Cup game was to teach the rival CTV a lesson ... What a time to start educational TV!

New York had its Trilon and Perisphere; and Seattle had its Space Needle. And, now that Montreal has been designated as the site for the 1967 World's Fair, Canada can outdo them both with a fantastic pile-on of millions of tons of surplus butter,

played by the senior band, "If Ever I Should Leave You".

In conclusion one would like to remark that to all appearances with the exception of the two teachers mentioned it appeared that the Showtime '62 was for the students, by the students and with the students' and such being the case they deserve a big hand. With some proper 'old hand' guidance (just so long as the 'old hands' don't get in the way and the act—this could be an event to look forward to again.

Dear Mr. Editor

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSIONER Dear Mr. Editor: It was with a good deal of interest that I read in "The Liberal" that at long last our industrial commissioner has agreed to make weekly reports to the chairman of the industrial commission. This step is long overdue, and the commissioner should have a sigh of relief that some of the responsibility now rests on the shoulders of the other members of the commission.

I trust too in the near future the ratepayers of Richmond Hill will be told exactly how

much of our industrial development has been due to the efforts of the commissioner and the industrial commission.

Mr. John Graham stated that under this new system, the industrial commissioner will be more fully assisted by the experience and contacts of various commissioners. Mr. W. Angus, a member of the commission, predicts this will bring about more group thinking on the problems of attracting industry to the town.

These remarks are very interesting, and every ratepayer in Richmond Hill will be anxiously waiting to see concrete results from this optimistic approach to our biggest problem.

However, I believe that further steps should be taken to acquaint all the residents of Richmond Hill with the facts as to what we really have to offer prospective industrialists. If the residents were familiar with all the advantages which can be offered to industrial development in our town, every ratepayer would become a "booster" for his home town. If one resident - as reported in the press - is on a first name contact with the heads of 80 firms, I am sure there are many others who have similar contacts and would enthusiastically boost their town's potential in places which would produce results.

When I agreed to be nominated as a candidate for councillor, ward 2, I did so because I have a good deal of faith in Richmond Hill, and believe it to be my duty to do everything in my power to help Richmond Hill prosper. The burden of local taxation is becoming a great problem with many families in our town, and if I can in any

way, help to reduce it by encouraging industry to open plants in Richmond Hill, I want to do it. However, we must know all the problems, and advantages, before we can approach the situation sensibly.

Yours sincerely,
Pat Smith,
433 Centre St. East,
Richmond Hill.

TOWN ELECTIONS

Dear Mr. Editor: How gratifying indeed to witness the growing interest in our town's affairs just prior to elections. In one instance we have an element proudly proclaiming the promise of another hotel and in another we have others looking for proof positive. On the east side of town we hear the pros and cons of disposing of park lands; the resentment of the public school board's decision to transfer kindergarten tots from one school to another and on top of this a few irate homeowners cleaning up their basements which flooded during a recent rainstorm.

No doubt we will hear much of these issues after Monday night's nominations. I would, however, remind ratepayers not to permit issues such as these to cloud their minds but rather to listen to the candidates with open minds. Surely the least they can expect of the incumbent town council is that they stand on their record. After all the reasoning behind our democratic process is predicated on the theory that our elected representatives should give an account of their past actions from time to time depending on the tenure of office in the municipality. It is not sufficient

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Rambling Around

(By Elizabeth Kelson)

WHY . . . SO MUCH PUBLIC APATHY?

Last winter, Trustee Terry Goodwin, of the Vaughan Township Public School Board commented on the apathy of the voting public at election time toward educational matters, in this column. Recently in a Liberal news report, the Thornhill Village Trustees complained of the lack of interest in public affairs.

Is the apathy shown during election time somehow linked to the apathy in educational and municipal affairs. It seems ironical enough to me that when the time comes to vote on the ever-present liquor question, the public apathy seems to disappear. Those who want more liquor outlets vote and those who oppose also vote. Does it make sense that the public should make such an issue more vital to their interests than good schools, hospitals, good public works and good recreational facilities?

Why doesn't the general voting public become more familiar with the names of the candidates running for offices? Why shouldn't they know something about the candidates' background to determine whether they should be elected or not? Many people in this district who go to the polls might as well be wearing blindfolds and saying "eeny meeny miny mo. If I miss, I'll X this one." There are exceptions of course.

Why is it that many people who pay taxes in the district hardly know the name of the reeve of their own township? Why are they not familiar with the names of their councillors and township engineers? You can go all along down the line. Many do not know their own village trustees. What causes this problem of public apathy? Is it a lack of proper communications? Is it an educational problem? Should our children be taught the importance of good government and good district and municipal relations in their tender years? Should they perhaps be taught all along the way that they have a responsibility to take part in elections when they achieve maturity.

Perhaps it may not be important that our school children should know at least by name, the trustees of the village or town, the councillors and Reeves of their townships, the trustees on the area school board, but I think it does matter. Someday they are likely to serve in such a capacity. Apathy toward these matters discourages the governing bodies, and apathy seeps out into the district, into the province, into the federal and from there to the international scene. Wouldn't it be a good idea to create awareness of local government and to try and understand it and how important it is to us? I really don't know the answers. I'm just wondering out loud. Anyone got an idea?

ESPERANTO

News comes from Dorothy Henderson of King City about the Esperanto classes. She informs me that Mr. A. Balugin, 422 Davis St., Newmarket, holds Esperanto classes every Tuesday night. The first class was started Oct. 30. The complete course consists of 20 lessons, lasting one and one-half hours beginning at eight o'clock. Mrs. Henderson says that the language course is attracting a good cross-section of people . . . policemen, school teachers, high-school students and housewives as well as retired people. These classes are attended by men and women of all ages and from all vocations. The interest in the various communities is growing steadily. Glad to hear from King City, Mrs. Henderson!

THE WATER SHORTAGE

An interesting little story comes from Mrs. Josephine Agg of Hillside Drive, just south of the Hill. She says: "Here on Hillside Drive there has been a shortage of water for a very long time. While letters to 'The Liberal' from our neighbors in Richmond Hill lament the lack of a community swimming pool, we would settle for a little something coming out of our taps (we get a little weary of the dry cough we so often get.) However we do have our Mr. McGill and his water truck who is willing to come at any hour of the night or day to fill our wells and we are grateful to him. A while ago, a well known meteorologist from Thornhill was speaking to a group and he stated that water had become one of the most pressing problems facing the Ontario government, owing to a lowering of the water table. So it behooves all who have plenty of water to use it sparingly while this shortage exists. Our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Kydd, have felt the water shortage longer than most of us but they can still find humor in the situation. They put a very attractive sign in front of their home (on which to place the new street number plates which have been issued to us.) The sign reads: "Kydd's Dry Gulch."

THE WELCOME MAT IS OUT TO

Dr. E. M. HONEY

Dr. Honey left Thornhill in the spring of 1961 to establish a dental clinic in Central India at a United Church missionary hospital under Dr. Bob McClure. Before he left India to return to Canada, a trained Indian dentist was left in charge of the clinic. While there, he conducted dental clinics at all the United Church mission stations. He returned to Thornhill, the summer of 1962. He brought back with him many interesting pictures and stories about the people of India. Dr. E. M. Honey lives at 45 John Street in Thornhill.

ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE!

Lucky I read the Telegram of November 10th, or I would have missed the story and pictures of Christlil Hanson, winsome daughter of Lindon and Willy Blok Hanson of Oak Ridges. We'll be hearing more about this wonderfully talented equestrienne and her famous horse Bonheur.

Lucky I read the Telegram Weekend Magazine for the story and pictures of Sandra Celsie (Selsie). I was glad to see the picture of her family. Her father Fred Celsie gave me a story on Sandra for this column last winter. Hurrah for you, Sandra!

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