

# The Liberal



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## Information Please

Year after year we urge ratepayers to attend the nomination meeting held annually to nominate candidates for public office. Many times we have said that citizens as shareholders in the community should attend this annual meeting to get an accounting of their public business.

We are not surprised however that many who attended Monday night's meeting in Richmond Hill were disappointed in the meagre amount of real information they received about the conduct of their own business.

We know that custom accepted through many years dies hard, but we do feel that something should be done now to make this annual town meeting, this annual meeting of shareholders, taxpayers or by whatever title we wish to call them, more really informative and useful.

A brief and scanty financial report and a three minute talk by council members really gives little real information to the interested taxpayer. In the sandwich between thanks to nominators and season's greetings for all there is little meat of real detail or information.

Contrary to a mistaken belief held by many who sometimes get elected to public office the average taxpayer really is interested and would like to know, not in wide generalities, but in some detail, just how his money is spent.

It isn't good enough to pass over this criticism with the stock answer that any taxpayer is welcome at any time to go to the town office and demand any information about public business. As someone rightly said Monday night not many taxpayers have the time or inclination to be private detectives. They shouldn't have to be to find out the essential facts about their own business. It

is a duty of management, in this case, the municipal council to provide the shareholders, the taxpayers, with this information.

The only practical solution appears to be the holding of two nomination meetings, one for municipal council and another for school trustees. In this way there could be ample time for an intelligent discussion of both municipal and school affairs.

It is ridiculous to expect any kind of a useful accounting from a mayor or school board chairman in anything less than half an hour. This kind of time should be available to all elected officials and if possible to all council members and trustees. There should be time too for questions from the taxpayers.

The financial statement issued by the municipality should be more informative and give at least some detail of receipts and expenditures. "Expenses" is altogether too broad a heading. If taxpayers' money is used for expenses the taxpayers have every right to know the details of what is considered to be expenses.

At future nomination meetings the mayor and members of town council should have time sufficient to give a complete and detailed accounting of their stewardship. The same should apply to school trustees.

Taxpayers should insist on financial accounting in the form of financial statements or auditors' reports which give detailed information and a complete picture of the year's administration.

Too long it has been said the people don't care. We maintain the great majority of the people do care, and we suggest the others better get interested soon or we will be in serious trouble with a still greater tax burden on our homes.

## Consult Your Tax Bill

Richmond Hill will have a full scale municipal election and now for the first time in some years taxpayers have the opportunity of making a selection for most of the public offices. Last year acclamations were the order of the day and ratepayers not satisfied with the administration of the day were denied the opportunity of expressing their wishes at the polls.

The great majority of citizens will welcome the election and the opportunity it offers for an expression of public opinion. Elections are evidence of a healthy democracy and serve a most useful purpose in our system of government.

Councils too long in office tend to be indifferent to the rights of the people at large and too often transact and treat public business as if it were their own private property. Elections are a needed reminder that the public business belongs to the people and council members or trustees are servants of the people.

Every citizen should take an interest in the present election and make sure of casting a vote on election day. The candidates elected will for the coming year spend your money and decide how much will be levied on your property in the way of taxation.

At election time it's a good practice to take a good look at the tax bill you received early last summer.

Reach into the files also and get out the bills for 1961 and 1960, and for previous years. A great many of our people have expressed genuine alarm at the pattern of continually increasing taxation and probably will want to vote for a change. To some these increases may not seem out of the way and they will want to continue the same representatives in public office.

Many people share the generally accepted widespread opinion that in any event an election is a good thing. That councils too long in office become complacent and careless with the expenditure of people's money.

Whatever the result the outcome depends on the people. All year the elected council is boss and tells you what to do. One day in the year, election day, the people are boss, and have authority in their own hands. That authority is expressed by the ballot which is the right and privilege of every qualified ratepayer.

We only urge you to make sure and vote. If you are satisfied with the old council vote to give them another term of office. If you are not satisfied then vote for the new candidates and give them a trial.

All elections are important, and in every election the vote of the individual is what determines the result. This is the responsibility of every voter and the issue rests with you.

## Know Your Ward

Richmond Hill citizens will vote in a ward system for the first time on December 8th. If the number of spoiled ballots and therefore lost votes is to be kept to a minimum then every citizen should know the boundaries of his ward and the offices he is voting for.

The town is now divided into four wards. Ward 1 takes in residents living north of Crosby Avenue, east of Yonge Street. They will vote at the municipal hall, Beverly Acres and Crosby Heights Public Schools.

Ward 2 comprises the area between Markham Road and Crosby Avenue, east of Yonge Street. Residents of this ward will vote at McConeghy, Crosby Heights and Walter Scott Public Schools.

Residents living south of Markham Road and east of Yonge Street are in ward 3 and will cast their votes at McConeghy and Walter Scott Public Schools.

All residents living west of Yonge Street are in ward 4 and will cast

their ballots at the municipal hall, MacKillop, Pleasantville and McConeghy Public Schools.

An advance poll will be held December 3 in the municipal hall between 2 and 10 p.m.

Electorals who file a declaration at the time of voting stating they expect to be absent from town on election day, election officials unable to attend the poll at which they are entitled to vote and those who expect to be in hospital or for religious reasons are prevented from voting on election day, are eligible to vote in the advance poll.

Residents will be voting for mayor, reeve and deputy-reeve and one councillor in each ward. It should be remembered that everyone has a vote for those three top positions of mayor, reeve and deputy-reeve. Candidates for these senior offices must campaign across the whole town. The ward system in the case of town council applies only to the election of councillors.

## THE MUSIC BOX

Ray Stephens

It's amazing just how much there is to talk and write about in this business of music, and also equally amazing just how little most folks are inclined to give themselves or their group a boost, or even the decent 'plug' they deserve. If not for themselves, then at least for the group they lead or represent. Why not appoint some one from your band, choir etc. to be in a little news now and then. This column is waiting and able. Take this point for instance. Out of a quarter page school item we managed to glean by a process of sifting and eliminating the following report about the band. - 'the school band played several selections during the evening'. - Splendid. All the work and preparation just for that. What do you suppose the members of the band feel like when they scan the report of the activities? There's nothing really wrong with this kind of thing but we want to know beforehand of what you might be doing and then we can tell the world through the medium of this column. Again we read 'the choir sang a number' or 'someone played the piano'. Of course this might be exaggerating a wee bit but you get the idea. Now just picture say the

local sports column. 'a team played hockey against another team' - 'someone batted in a home run'. The kids would be pretty disillusioned for sure. Hear we are. Please use us.

**On Being Active**  
See where Dick Edmunds and his York Chorales are keeping right busy, by all accounts and hardly a week goes by where they all aren't out somewhere giving a bit of good choral enjoyment to some church or group.

Phil Barnes, who looked after the musical side of the fine Pantomime we had last year says that another one is in the offing. That's what we could do with is an annual jolly Pantomime. Phil also mentions that a young lad of 12 years has come up with a dandy song and it is hoped that it can be included in the production. We'll hear more about this later on.

I have one request for an old clarinet (not too old but not too expensive). One of our readers has the urge to pick up and renew old acquaintances in the matter of playing a bit of clarinet just for fun.

Very nice to see David Sale receive such outstanding honours from the high school. David says that he proposes to enter university to major in music.

Received a most interesting booklet called music and paper from the Provincial Paper Co. dealing with the association from the very beginning of printed music and the paper business. There are some really old plates of songs of yesterday and then some going back into the last century. Looking closely at the reproductions we could see such names as Harry H. Sparks (1899 Music Publisher, The Mendelssohn Piano Company of Toronto and several other names now long extinct in the music printing field. Strangely enough after reading the name above Harr, H. Sparks, I had a feeling that it was known to me so over the weekend my boys and I drove around the King area looking for an old church with an even older grave stone. My hunch was wrong but we did locate the stone, now overgrown with high grass and almost tipping over, of one Henry Smart died 1851 age 35. This man was a musician of some note during his day but in the teaching capacity and his manuscripts now can be seen in the music room of the Ontario College of Education. He lies unknown in the little church yard of the Presbyterian Church north on Dundas street right opposite the new Eversly Public School. The church built in 1848 is now under the care of the Lady Eaton estate.

**Nostalgia**  
Reading where Mr. William Morden Basic, known as the Count, was in Toronto last week and he is now 58. The last chapter of a great jazz era. One O'Clock Jump, Basic Boogie, Lester Leaps, with such great names as Illinois Jacquet, Don Byas, Al Killam, J. J. Johnson (or am I talking to myself). By today's standards these types seem to be of the Metropolitan Opera category Ritztime, Cake-walk, Charleston, Boogie, Bunnyhug, Bebop, Rock and Roll, the Twist and now we are entering the new era of Bossa Nova.

## Rambling Around

(By Elizabeth Kelson)

### WHY THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

More and more people are coming to realize what a community newspaper means in their lives. I believe this, because a good cross-section of people have admitted to me that the daily paper cannot take the place of the community newspaper. Of course, people do not always give the same reasons for liking a paper. One says that he likes the paper because it enables him to know more about his neighborhood. Another reader says: "Even if you don't know the people, you can get to know the streets, and you can just about figure out where people live anyway." And again: "The community paper gives the names of the people we know. It has always something interesting going on in local politics or crusades of one kind and another, and that's something you can't get from the daily paper." "It gives local news about stores and people, churches and welfare organizations and many other activities too numerous to mention."

And that's not all! People say that the community paper by means of its editorials, columns and articles gives inspiration and credit to local people and helps plant the seeds for community betterment. And the readers should know for it is they who help to make a good community newspaper.

### PEGGY'S BAZAAR IS NOT AN ORDINARY GIFT SHOPPE

(It's A Heaven for the Local Artists)

One of these days when you're down Thornhill way, you should drop in on "Peggy's Bazaar" on Yonge Street. This shop has a unique flavor only because a large-hearted woman named Peggy Penny-legion is a staunch supporter of the works of local artists. Let us step inside this store for a moment if only to share some of her enthusiasm. First to the Christmas card section. There you will find the attractively designed cards of Floyd Baillargeon, 21 Highland Park Blvd. Mr. Baillargeon is a commercial artist, formerly associated with Art and Design Studios in Toronto. He is also known as an illustrator of children's books. The Christmas cards of Ronald Mitchell Duncan of Studio Twelve, Thornhill, and Loi Hathaway of Aurora show originality and are well worth looking at. While you are looking at these Christmas card designs, you may come across one that includes a recipe for MULLED CLARET. The artist who designed the card is not local but the recipe comes from one of our distinguished citizens, Mrs. R. H. Neil of John Street, Thornhill, and is used by her every time Christmas time rolls around. Here is the recipe: Take one quart of claret, add juice of a lemon and one-third lemon slice. Add one cup of sugar, 1 piece stick cinnamon and 8 cloves. There you have the recipe, but you should see the cards.

Now . . . let us look around some more. Our ceramic artist, Gwen Sands from 19 Uplands Avenue has an interesting display. Her little figurines are charming and one of the most popular of models are those of cats and they are all shapes and sizes. Hanging on the walls of the shop are the lovely wood-carvings of Richard Tompkins of Bolton. Mrs. Kay Stothers, Centre St. and Mrs. Williamson, Yonge St., Thornhill, offer their landscape paintings for your delight. For quilt lovers, Mrs. J. Henry of 139 John St. has much to offer in this line. Theo Dawson of Richmond Hill has some very attractive gift suggestions in her lovely floral arrangements and her handsome ornamental bottles which are tastefully arranged on the shelves of Peggy's Bazaar. Theo collects bottles, spray-paints them and then hand-paints the beautiful designs.

As you can see . . . Peggy's Bazaar is not an ordinary shoppe . . . it is a medium of expression for your local artists in and around your own district.

### THE BUS DRIVERS ARE INTERESTING PEOPLE

And this complimentary statement comes from a reader in the Richmond Hill area. And she offers two little stories to prove it. "Bus drivers are very interesting people," she said. "I like to listen to their stories. They meet their share of difficult people. This story was told me by a Scotsman and this will give you some idea of how he handled a difficult fare.

The fare said to the bus driver, sneeringly, "There's nothing on the books that says I can't give you this." He reached into his wallet and handed the driver a five dollar bill. "No," said the driver with the Scottish burr in his voice, "and there's nothing on the books that says I can't give you this." The bus driver reached into his box and handed the passenger a roll of ten cent pieces. "What will I do with all these dimes," wailed the man. "You just put two in the box and we'll call it square," said the driver. "How do I know I have the right amount?" asked the passenger. "Well," the driver replied, "they've all been counted by the machine and I have never known them to be short yet, but if you want to be sure, just sit right down there and count them."

Another fare came on the bus one day, and he was really in a fighting mood. He said, "All I have is this ten dollar bill and you are going to take it." The driver thought for a moment, then he took the offered bill and tucked it into the fare box. He turned to the man and said: "Now I will give you a receipt for nine-eighths and you can go down to the office tomorrow and get your money." The man snapped angrily, "I need that money, I'm going out for the evening." "I need my money too," said the driver. "Sit down please!"

Dear Mr. Editor

### SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

It was with great interest that I read in last week's issue of "The Liberal" that at least four candidates will seek to fill three vacancies on the Richmond Hill Separate School Board. Perhaps at long last the apathy towards the school board and the members on it has come to an end. It seems strange in a democratic system such as ours, that such a responsible position as members of a school board is taken for granted by so many of the voters.

What are the names of the present school board? How often do they meet and when? What is their past record? How much do you feel they will accomplish if they are elected? Make up your mind, then have enough fortitude to go out and express your opinions by voting for the candidate of your choice.

These school boards have a great responsibility, because through their decisions schools are built, teachers hired, and policy set.

The new parish of Our Lady Queen of World has four members seeking election to the school board. While at this writing the two incumbent members, Mr. N. Meenan and Mr. F. Shorter from St. Mary's Parish have not indicated they will seek re-election.

Perhaps with this new interest being shown, parents will at long last show a little more interest in what their school board is doing.

In a world where higher education is becoming more and more essential, where we urge our children to get the best possible education they can, let us remember our first duty as parents and taxpayers is to get out and vote for the candidate of our choice.

The decisions in 1963 will have a great influence on just how good an education our children will receive.

Clare H. Harrington,  
161 Lucas St.,  
Richmond Hill.

### PIANO CLASSES IN TOWN SCHOOLS

Dear Mr. Editor:  
It seems to me it would be a wise thing to tell your readers why we have had to discontinue the piano classes in the Richmond Hill public schools.

The public school board in its good judgment has laid down the rule that extra curricular activities may not be carried on until 5 p.m.; in other words piano classes cannot be carried on until 5 p.m. and not from 4 p.m. as formerly.

When I appeared before the board to protest the rule as it referred to piano classes it was indicated that if permission were granted it would also have to refer to other organizations.

This one point overlooked in this argument is that piano classes are a national activity, approved by every Department of Education in Canada, and two provinces make financial grants to ensure the work is carried on. One of these is Ontario. It is true the department leaves it to the local board to approve or disapprove, but it is our experience that where trained teachers are available, (and we have two excellent teachers in Richmond Hill) all boards have granted permission to teach between the hours of 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., some to 6 p.m. (Continued On Page 9)

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## Second Thoughts . . .

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

Mayor Phillips and Controller Summerville have both promised to tell the REAL story of how Toronto lost the 1967 World's Fair . . . And which version will be the fair-y tale? \*\*\*\*\*

Reports on the almost-successful robbery of a downtown Toronto bank proved once again that there is some good in the worst of people. The robbers showed they had a basic sense of decency when they blindfolded the bank janitor before leaving him tied in the women's washroom. \*\*\*\*\*

We wish Deputy-reeve Tom Broadhurst would explain again his plan to make payments on land for off-street parking with the revenue from parking meters on the off-parked street. \*\*\*\*\*

This is Grey Cup week-end in Toronto. (Usually pronounced DRIN-CUP by football-fans-for-a-day.) \*\*\*\*\*

An RCMP warning on "very good" counterfeit \$20 bills says that "the only way to determine if they are genuine is to compare them with a genuine \$20 bill" . . . and if they don't compare, ONE of them is a counterfeit. \*\*\*\*\*

Is Canada considering a distinctively Canadian flavor in its postage stamp mucilage? The question was asked in Commons by an NDP member. He suggests Maple or Blueberry . . . And Rye should be popular. \*\*\*\*\*

An Alberta Senator wants to send Ottawa's Mayor Whitton out west to deal with the defiant Doukhobor leaders on a woman-to-woman basis. But Ottawa's city council would never let her go. If the dealing ended in peeling, a Charlotte in the raw would be the last straw. \*\*\*\*\*

Premier Roberts has appointed a five-man committee to give Ontario's tax system a "stem-to-stern" examination . . . Well, with a \$100 million jump expected in next year's budget, the "stern" obviously couldn't mean "the end" of provincial taxes; the best we can hope for is some stemming. \*\*\*\*\*

**Progress Note:**  
One of Toronto's newer supermarkets advertises that it has the last-word feature in modern shopping: A MEAT COUNTER WITH A FRIENDLY MAN BEHIND IT!