

Let's Not Make Education Costs Look So Hideous

BY JEAN LEAF
S. R. Patterson, chairman of the Public School Trustees Ass'n of Markham Township, drew a clear picture of school board problems when he spoke recently to Victoria Square and district Lions and their guests—trustees, teachers and ratepayers of T.S.A. No. 3. Mr. Patterson is a chartered accountant, and also chairman

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per room was 32, and today the department recommends 30 pupils per room for best results. Add to this the fact of a rapid population increase, and the need for new rooms is evident.

The cost of buildings, teachers salaries and services are rising, said the speaker, and the dollar is now worth approximately seventy-eight cents. In TSA No. 3 the 1963 mill rate will be between 18 and 20 mills, because of population increase. In 1961 there were 280 pupils in the area; by September 1963 it is expected there will be 350 — an increase of 70 in two years. "Furthermore," said Mr. Patterson, Markham Township Planning Board estimates that by 1980 the school population will be 1,100, which means that in the next 17 years the present number of classrooms in the area will be tripled. This cannot be done without cost. There is no magic about providing schools."

New Government Grants In '64.
Mr. Patterson told his audience that representatives of the trustees association met recently with the minister of education, and it is possible that new alleviating legislation will be forthcoming. They found him most sympathetic to their cause. In the meantime, larger provincial grants will be available in 1964, and already a new tax assistance grant permits tax relief on farmers land.

Mr. Patterson also hopes to see amending legislation to encourage school boards to budget for a surplus. "We should build up a surplus so that when extra school facilities are needed we can produce them," he said. "Too little, too late."

Mr. Patterson himself gained his early education in a one-roomed school. In 1920, he said, the average number of pupils in a classroom was 41, and the ages varied greatly. In 1960, the average number of pupils

3 it costs the ratepayer 50c. If several children are absent for days at a time the taxpayer suffers a substantial loss, because grants are paid only on the per pupil attendance." The pupil who is absent also faces possible failure, and repeaters cost approximately \$286 a year each in this area.

Failures Expensive Luxury
In secondary schools the cost of grade failures is a luxury Canadians cannot afford, said the speaker.

In 1960 the per pupil cost of vocational training in secondary schools was \$734, and the general course \$594, making an average of \$622, if 20 pupils in grade 9 fail, and repeat, it costs the taxpayer approximately \$14,000. Bringing the picture closer home, Mr. Patterson said that if of the 1200 students at Thornhill Secondary School there should be a 10 percent failure, the cost to the taxpayer would be approximately \$75,000.

Need Standardized Tests
Another general problem in Canada which adds to school costs is the lack of

standardized tests. All provinces have different school systems and the resulting multiplicity of texts is a tremendous cost. Much could be done to standardize texts to grade 13, the speaker believes, and supplementary books could be kept in school libraries.

Gap Between Schools
Of the gap which sometimes exists between elementary and secondary school education, Mr. Patterson commented: "In a secondary school, a teacher cannot teach a pupil who has not had a proper elementary school education."

But he noticed that during and since war years the supply of secondary school teachers has lagged far behind the need, and teachers with low standards have sometimes been employed.

Presently many secondary schools are enlisting teachers from industry, and some of these are psychologically unsuited to teaching. He urged that teachers must be dedicated leaders in their field. They must also be disciplinarians.

On parents he placed the onus of "learning how to prepare our children for an education, so that they assimilate knowledge."

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RICHVALE NEWS

Correspondent
Mrs. Anne Hewitt 78, 16th Ave.
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On April 4, students of 16th Ave. School held a spring concert in the school auditorium. Miss Susanne Fitchett, a student of Mr. Myers' room, was mistress of ceremonies. The pupils of Mr. Vandermay's room, grades 5 and 6, sang many songs, in which the audience sang with them. The "Diamonds", who consist of Gary Cliff, Michael Barchuk, John Pocklington, Jim Boy and Jim Kremin, played. One of their tunes was called 16th Ave. Boogie Woogie, and was enjoyed by all. Six girls of Mr. Myers' room sang with this group. Pupils of grade 7 and 8 sang songs in English and in French. Miss McCowan had a choir with pupils from grades 1 to 4. While the choir sang songs for every month of the year, some of the pupils did sketches for these months. Everyone enjoyed the concert and it also gave us a grand feeling seeing how all of the children performed. Many thanks go out to the teachers for their hard work.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Norris, Birch Ave., have arrived home after spending a couple of days in Quebec City.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Longstaff and family spent four days in Connecticut. While there they enjoyed lovely weather.

Birthday greetings go out to

John McLennan, 16th Ave., who celebrated his 13th birthday on April 5.

11 Dams For Metro Area

Work will commence next month on construction of the first of 11 dams and reservoirs that will ring Metro Toronto and region to prevent a recurrence of the flood disaster which followed in the wake of Hurricane Hazel, October, 1954. The Metropolitan Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority announced today that federal government approval has been given to the engineering and design of the Clairville flood control dam to be built on the branch of the Humber River about five miles west of Woodbridge. Cost of the dam and property will be about two and a half million dollars.

In announcing the federal government's approval, MTRCA chairman Dr. G. Ross Lord said that in addition to the flood control benefit to be derived from the dam, a permanent 120-acre lake will also be created which will provide a major recreational area for the public.

Approval has already been received by the authority from Ottawa for a diversion road essential to the project and for the control gates of the dam.

The overall flood control and water conservation program will be carried out during the next 10 years by the authority under provisions of the Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act.

The federal government entered into agreement with the Province of Ontario June 14, 1961, for construction of dams, reservoirs, and channel improvements, and acquisition of more than 7,000 acres of land in Metro Toronto and surrounding region.

Federal and Ontario governments will each pay 37 1/2 percent of the cost, while the authority will contribute 25 percent.



Best Supporting Player

Shown playing her part of the French parlor maid in the play, The Bald Soprano, Miss Patsi Higgs, a Grade XI student at Bayview High School, was awarded the honor of best supporting player in the drama festival held here recently.

Dr. R. King Visits Fair

Dr. R. M. King, MOH of the York County Health Unit expressed the influence of the unit's health education program when he attended the York County Science Fair April 6th. He also selected exhibits for review by the Ontario Public Health Association. The latter is making a province-wide study of the progress of students in biology, other related science subjects, and awareness of modern public health measures in their communities. The science fair was the first held in York County.

Outdoor Fire Needs Permit

This is the time of year when property owners and cottagers, in summer resort areas, get the urge to burn debris, dead weeds and generally clean up their property. Snow has disappeared rapidly in the last week or two and with the advent of dry, warm, sunny days, spring fire hazard conditions will probably develop quickly.

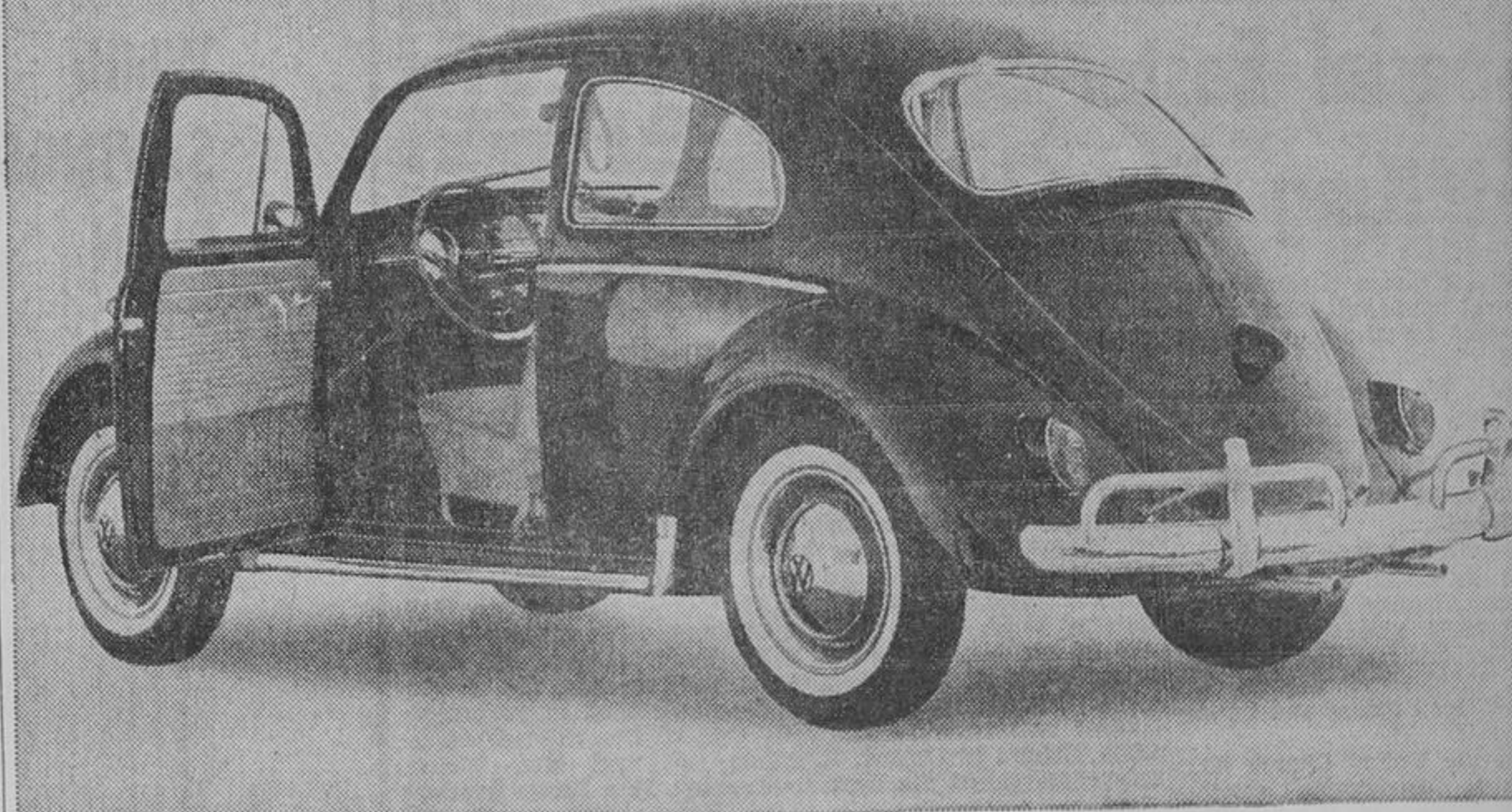
Many times in the past rubbish fires or small grass fires, left unattended or carelessly watched, have got out of control and spread rapidly in windy weather, causing considerable damage to woodlands and buildings.

Property owners are reminded that all proper precautions should be taken in carrying out any burning operations. In the fire district portion of the Lake Simcoe district burning permits are required under the Forest Fires Prevention Act commencing April 1st. Be sure to obtain such authority from your Department of Lands and Forests headquarters or local fire warden. Burn rubbish only when safe to do so and make sure to keep the fire under control.

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