

The Liberal



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Richmond Hill Fair Day

Richmond Hill's annual fair day this year will be held on Saturday, May 18th. This is only a few weeks away and it is not too early for everyone to plan some activity in support of this historic annual event which has been a part of local community life for the past one hundred and fourteen years.

Richmond Hill spring fair has been held annually on or near the 24th of May continuously for more than a century. It is one of the oldest fairs in Canada and while the passing years and new conditions have meant many changes, it is still Richmond Hill Fair and all citizens of the district have reason to take pride in its record of long service.

An organization which can announce the holding of its 114th annual exhibition must have something worthwhile. This is the achievement of the Richmond Hill Agricultural Society, one of the community's oldest and most honored organizations. To the credit of the officers and members of the society through the years an effort has been made to keep pace with the changing times and this is one reason the fair has prospered in times when many similar institutions in other communities passed out of existence.

The program this year will be featured by a horse show which will attract some of the best horses in the province and there will be many other attractions. The fair has something worthwhile to contribute to our community life and we hope citizens of the town and district will support the fair board by boosting it in every possible way and above all by attending the event on May 18th.

Leafing back through the files of "The Liberal" which has been

the home paper of Richmond Hill and district since 1878 we are reminded that the passing years have brought much in change and fair day 1963 will be vastly different from the big day in the life of Richmond Hill a century ago. In the old days great throngs of people assembled in the village early in the morning and stayed for dinner, supper and late into the night. In those days it wasn't parking space for cars that was at a premium, it was stable room for horses.

Our old files are filled with interesting stories of fair day happenings, races won, contests in every line of endeavour, circus attractions and even fights and some accidents. Fair day in olden times was the biggest day of the year in Richmond Hill for the hotels and one hotel reported receipts from meals and liquid refreshment for the day at \$2,000. This in a day when all course meals were served for a quarter and a shot of whiskey was five cents.

Yes, it's a far cry from the Richmond Hill Fair of a century ago to the modern event which will be staged at the fair grounds on May 18th, but it's still Richmond Hill spring fair and will be the show-place for the finest in horse flesh, choice jerseys and other livestock, a gala midway and many entertaining attractions. Perhaps most important of all it will be the meeting place for old friends and a day for renewing many old and treasured friendships.

Saturday, May 18th, will be fair day in Richmond Hill. Let us give every possible support to make this year's fair the best in the long history of the Richmond Hill Agricultural Society. One of the most practical ways to help is to attend the fair.

TAXES

Taxes on the living,
Taxes on the dead,
Taxes when you're working,
Taxes when in bed,
Taxes on your labour,
Taxes on your play,
Taxes on your income,
And on what you pay,
Taxes on your trousers,
Shirts and shoes and socks,
Taxes on your lady's
Lipstick, step-ins, frocks,
Taxes on your savings,
Taxes on your notes,
Taxes on your business,
Taxes on your votes,
Taxes when you marry,
Taxes when you die,
Taxes when you're sober,
Taxes when you're high,
Taxes when you get here
Taxes when you go,
Taxes on your assets,
Taxes on what you owe,
Taxes on your doggies,
Horses cows and goats,
Taxes on your houses,
Lots and cars and boats,
Taxes on your future,
Taxes on your past,
Taxes on your eating,
Taxes when you fast,
Taxes on your drinking,
Taxes when you smoke,
Taxes till you're broke,
Tell me Mr. Taxer
Will we have to stand
Taxes on our harps and wings
In the promised land?

In Years Gone By

Items gleaned from files of "The Liberal", the home paper of this district since 1878.

Twenty Five Years Ago

J. A. Greene was reeve of Richmond Hill, and members of council were P. C. Hill, Alex Little, Harold J. Mills and Christian Nelson. James Renie was reeve of Markham Township and Robert W. Scott headed Vaughan Township Council.

"The Liberal" of January 6th, 1938 reported that citizens of Maple voted 96 "no" and 92 "yes" on the question of daylight saving.

"Caltha" writing in the same issue drew attention to the fact that just south of Richmond Hill stood a house with historical significance. She wrote "just in the valley where Richmond Hill looks down Yonge Street towards Toronto stands a large concrete house with two stately walnut trees. This house a few hundred yards from Yonge Street was many years ago owned by a Dutch farmer named Vanderburgh and is historical because General Isaac Brock and his officers were billeted here in military manoeuvres prior to the decisive battle of Queenston Heights in 1812."

At the annual meeting of Richmond Hill United Church Rev. C. W. Follett presided and the following were elected to the board of stewards: W. W. Trench, Russell Lynett, Len. Clement, J. A. Bales, Peter Savage, R. S. Cooper, I. D. Ramer, Alex Little, Albert Hill, George Plewman, W. L. Glass and James D. McLean. Elected as elders for three years: Walter Scott, Dr. J. P. Wilson, Fred Coulter and C. P. Wiley.

Rev. W. F. Wrixon presided at the annual meeting of St. Mary's Anglican. Harry Stanford and W. J. Scrivener were returned as Church wardens and sidesmen elected were: R. Christopher, Dr. Walter Mason, Percy C. Hill, Ralph W. Paris, W. Hall, Fred Carter, D. Mc-

Gibbon, E. C. Mansbridge, W. Charles, R. D. Little, W. C. Savage and J. Martin.

Harry Charles was elected president of Richmond Hill Fair. Directors for the year included Alex Little, Major Bashier, Scott McNair, T. H. Trench, J. A. Greene, Stanley Tyndall, Len. Clement, Evan Morris, Morgan Boyle, R. L. Stiver, Wesley Middleton, William Neal, J. W. Palmer, James Ellis, Frank Graham, A. McTaggart and J. E. Smith.

"The Liberal" issue of February 10th reported there were 99 families on relief in Vaughan Township. Relief for the month of January totalled \$2,226.

Two parsons were having lunch at a farm. The farmer's wife cooked a couple of chickens saying that the family could dine on the remains after the visitors had gone, but the hungry ministers ate all the chicken. Later the farmer was conducting his visitors about the place when a rooster began to crow. One of the ministers remarked "that old rooster seems mighty proud of himself". The farmer growling answered "No wonder, he has two sons in the ministry."

The tax rate for Richmond Hill for the year 1938 was struck at 45 mills. "The Liberal" in its issue of February 24th commented on the diminishing tax rate. The editorial said local citizens almost have come to the point where they take tax reductions very much for granted. Ten years previous the tax rate was ten mills higher. Commenting further "The Liberal" editorially said "ten mill reduction in tax rate in a ten year period does not happen by chance. Rather it is the result of careful, business-like administration which it has been Richmond Hill's good fortune to enjoy."

Second Thoughts...

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

We can't help feeling that there was some significance in the fact that Police Chief R. Robbins instituted his one-man book-censorship crusade during mental health week.

The Kiwanis International is sponsoring April 28 - May 4 as "Canada-U.S. Goodwill Week" ... NOW they do it!

The Legion's permit for alterations to their new premises in the discount plaza is being held up because "use of the plaza as a licensed liquor outlet is contrary to existing zoning-by-laws" ... And where in town isn't?

No wonder the British were so excited over Queen Elizabeth doing the twist at her party for Princess Alexandra; this is the first time royalty has done the twist since Henry 8th squeezed into his throne.

And, in all the pomp and pageantry of Princess Alexandra's wedding, one fairly important detail seems to have been overlooked if we can believe the report from London: "The elaborate ceremony went off without a hitch."

In explaining the TTC's misunderstanding of proposed changes in the Metro act, Municipal Affairs Minister Spooner says: "It was just a play on words." — a real 100% Spoonerism.

Markham Township's Canine Control Officer has been refused his request for a \$2,000 salary increase. But, as he can keep the fines for all dogs picked up, a temporary ease-up on the pick-ups would make the money almost automatically available ... Sort of a DON'T-do-it-yourself plan. (Continued on Page 20)

The Music Box... By W. Ray Stephens

A Bit About Ballet

We have quite a number of ballet schools here in Richmond Hill and I think that one of the latest to open up is the classical school of Audrey Parker.

Attention was brought to Audrey and her dancers recently in the Peel Festival at Port Credit, where out of eleven entries there were three thirds and one second. This is a good showing for a ballet school functioning only since mid-January of this year. Audrey Parker is Mrs. W. Parker of Palmer Ave. and hubby Bill is the hard working man behind the Richmond Hill Toppers Trumpet band. Before marriage she worked at the business of ballet under the name of Audrey Powell. Experience in classical dancing was gained through the Toronto Ballet School and also

Boris Volkoff Studios, where Audrey spent a few busy years in and around Ontario with the tours of the above mentioned ballet schools. Adjudicator Gladys Forrest of the Peel Festival, highly commended the youngsters of Mrs. Parker, as well as teacher herself, for the wonderful effort being made in the classical field of ballet.

Mrs. Parker feels that with the numerous schools dealing in the general entertainment style of dancing that she can restrict her own ballet school to the one classical field alone. A demonstration is planned for May but it will not be open to public at this time.

And A Bit About A Critic
From Gwilym Bevan, organist of Trinity United Church in Kitchener comes

a note of concern over the efforts of this columnist. Mr. Bevan has kindly pointed out in reference to the Music Box's review concerning the Richmond Hill Choral Society - to quote - "and if this is the best our newspapers can do it's no wonder choral societies are crumbling all over the place. With your stories of old ladies and dollar bills and Dr. Drummond Wolf, the whole thing appears like a big joke - as for the 30 minutes of vocal exercises (by the choral society) that won't last long either, believe me. Incidentally, I knew Dr. Drummond Wolf, too and he was never organist of

Westminster Abbey but St. Martin's in the Field in Trafalgar Square." end of quote! Well! I am sorry to be responsible for the destruction of choral societies but Mr. Bevan also points out that even 30 minutes of vocal exercises won't last long either so it would appear that I am joined in this destructive business by choral leader Frank Smart. Thank you Gwilym Bevan of Kitchener.

A Penny for Your Thoughts
I really shouldn't give a nickel for this article but a few weeks ago there was a wee note in "The Liberal" (Continued on Page 20)

Have You Read These?

● BY RICHMOND HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY BD. ●

LONDON PERCEIVED, by Victor S. Pritchett. (Harcourt-Brace). Although the dozens of photographs give this book the appearance of a casual picture tour they actually are subordinate to the well-written text which they illustrate. Pritchett, a native Londoner, deplores the dirt that burdens the city, but affectionately praises the greenery, the parks, and the sense of privacy possible in spite of the millions of inhabitants and visitors. The author sprinkles his analysis of the character of the city and its peoples with historical and literary allusions. This is a beautiful book, and will be nostalgic for many.

RENOIR, MY FATHER, by Jean Renoir. (Little). A beautiful memoir, filled with affection, warmth, and perception. Jean Renoir sees his father as parent, husband, and artist, but above all as a remarkable individual who treasured life and expressed its fullness in his paintings. The artist's wife, fellow painters, and others who were a part of his life are an important part of a revealing portrait that carries through the final tragic period when Renoir was infirm but still creative.

CELLIST IN EXILE, a portrait of Pablo Casals, by Bernard Taper (McGraw-Hill). Though working here in miniature, Taper paints a picture of colour, warmth, and contrasts, revealing the eighty-five year old Catalonian's integrity, strength, musicianship, charity, unorthodox Christianity, adamant opposition to Franco, and zest for people and life.

THE HIDDEN HEART OF BAJA, by Eric Stanley Gardner (Morrow). Continuing their exploration of Baja (Lower California) this popular mystery-story writer and his party explore a series of little-known Indian caves decorated with wall paintings of probable archaeological importance. Added are descriptions of the rough Baja terrain over which the party travelled and the natives who inhabit it. Numerous photographs, including a section in colour of the cave paintings, key into the adventure story to show aspects of the trip.

EVERYONE BUT THEE AND ME, by Ogden Nash (Little). A fresh collection, culled from various magazines, of slightly mad verses displaying a typically astronomical range of subjects treated in Nash verse forms. The line drawings are appropriate.

THE REALM OF THE GREEN BUDDHA, by Ludwig Koch-Ipsen (Viking). His interest in a white-handed gibbon named Koko led the writer, a German botanist and animal collector, to visit Thailand. He recounts here his en-route experiences in Ceylon and Burma, and his adventures with such creatures as a black panther, king cobras, and a spotted leopard. Written with a raconteur's gift, the narrative conveys his naturalist's delight in observing strange plants and animals and his enchantment with the Thai people and their way of life.

The Richmond

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The KETTLES IN THE OZARKS

PLUS CARTOONS AND COMEDIES

(Continued on Page 7)

Taxes And "Taj Mahals"

Mayor Donald Summerville of Toronto recently made some poignant remarks regarding the democratic process and today's high cost of government. His comments are applicable not only to his own city but also to most Ontario municipalities.

Speaking during the debate on the allocation of office space in the new city hall Mayor Summerville said when he was first elected to city council he had reason to visit the offices of several department heads. He came away wondering who was running the city, the people's elected representatives or the civil servants. Mayor Summerville criticized the lavish way in which these offices had been furnished at public expense. He compared these offices with the modest facilities available to many businessmen in the city.

In the new city hall Mr. Summerville said each department head will be allotted sufficient space to carry out its duties but that no one was going to be allowed to build a Taj

Mahal. Too many municipal councils today are quite willing to spend public money on extravagant furnishings and high salaries, while year after year taxes go up with sickening regularity and the homeowner, small businessman and farmer must all struggle to keep their heads above water.

A large number of our local politicians are quite willing to preach economy and holding the tax line every December but once elected they very quickly forget their promises to the electorate. There are too few men and women of courage and strong leadership in public life who are willing to fight for the lowly taxpayer.

The salary schedule, fringe benefits and office facilities a municipal government or school board intends to pay and provide for its staff should be in direct relation to the taxpayers' ability to carry the load without creating an undue burden.

Multiple-Choice Tests Handicap Students

Prominent educators who decry the increased trend toward multiple-choice tests rather than essay-type examinations have received backing from a prominent American professor, Dr. Banesh Hoffman, physicist and mathematician at New York's Queen's College. His new criticisms in a book, "The Tyranny of Testing", receive backing from Jacques Barzun, dean of the graduate faculties at Columbia.

Professor Hoffman's indictments against multiple-choice tests are: that they stifle thought and originality; that they penalize the bright and independent student and favor the glib, fast-working and test-broken candidate; that stress on recognition and even guesswork tends to corrupt the learning process itself, with the pencilled checkmark increasingly replacing the mind-reflecting essay; and, finally, that too many questions, even in reputable tests, are ambiguous, in fact in some cases the preferred answers have been wrong.

However, the wrong or ambiguous question is only a side issue. The real objection is stated by Dean Barzun: "The argument that essay examinations cannot be graded uniformly, even by the same reader, only shows again the character of mind itself; it is not an object to be

weighed or sampled by volume like a peck of potatoes. Hence an objective test of mind is a contradiction in terms, though a fair test, a searching examination, a just estimate, are not. A pupil does not really know what he has learned till he has organized and explained it to someone else."

Dr. Hoffman says that the classroom teacher who gives up essay tests entirely for multiple-choice tests simply perverts the process of learning. Similarly the test-maker who labels a multiple-choice examination an "English Composition Test" adds to the confusion.

Dr. Hoffman claims that multiple-choice college entrance tests are keeping many able students out of college in the U.S.A. He points out that many able youngsters just cannot work under time pressure or "simply go to pieces when they face a test".

The most compelling appeal for the multiple-choice tests is probably the economy and efficiency of machine-grading, and so such tests may well have a place in the educational picture. The question is how prominent that place should be. The clear distinction between education and testing, and between remote-control sorting and personal appraisal must be recognized and kept in mind constantly.