

The Liberal



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J. E. SMITH, Editor and Publisher
W. S. COOK, Managing Editor

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Parking And Redevelopment

The town planning board has instructed Planning Director Harold Deeks to prepare a report on removing on-site parking restrictions from part of the downtown area. The report is expected in three weeks' time and may recommend commercial parking in the downtown area on an interim basis. The present restrictions require a businessman to have a certain number of parking spaces for his business.

Plans to build a municipal parking lot downtown have apparently bogged down. Mr. Deeks has estimated that such a project might cost about \$250,000 and be subject to Municipal Board approval.

These two latest developments are all part of a long and frustrating delay in solving the whole matter of parking and redevelopment in the important Yonge Street area. For too long now we have heard conflicting reports, suggestions and recommendations about the Yonge Street area. It is time council and the planning board told the taxpayers in clear and concise terms just what can or cannot be done and then act accordingly. The whole downtown area has been the subject of numerous stop and start policy decisions by different administrations but still lacks an overall master plan.

In October 1960 council appointed a three member parking authority. The basic funds for the authority were to come from the use of the meters. The authority was disbanded by council in 1962. Earlier that same year council had secured permission to use land at the rear of the post office building for off-street parking. The lot was surface treated and lighting installed in October 1961.

In February 1961 council appointed a redevelopment committee. In meetings with provincial officials the committee was told the provision of adequate downtown parking should be the first step in redevelopment. In May of that same year council suggested the planning board readjust parking requirements to a considerable degree. The new schedule required one parking space for every 300 feet of retail space in stores. Other parking requirements were to be based on the character of the business involved. Council also extended the parking meters on Yonge Street as far north as Crosby Avenue.

Remember the Potvin Report? In July 1961 at a cost of \$2,000 to the town Professor Georges Potvin of the University of Toronto and a private consultant began a comprehensive redevelopment survey of the downtown area. The report was completed in October and made public one month later. What ever happened to this report the details of which are reviewed elsewhere on this page? Apparently it proved both impractical and too costly to implement so it was simply pigeon-holed.

In November of that year Mr. Deeks was appointed the town's first full-time planning director. Mr. Deeks had previously been associated with the provincial Department of Planning and Development.

In April and May of 1962 Mr. Deeks, the planning board and redevelopment committee met with Yonge Street businessmen and the adjacent property owners situated between Wright-Dufferin Streets and Markham and Vaughan Roads. In setting out the meetings Mr. Deeks stated, "the purpose of the meetings will be to gain a clear picture of the problems which have led to the deterioration of Yonge Street, their causes, and what the possible solutions are from various points of view. These frank opinions are vital to the quick preparation of a plan of attack and putting it in operation."

In May of this year in an interview with a Toronto daily, Mr. Deeks suggested that the Yonge Street problem could be solved with the building of a tunnel under the street extending from Vaughan Road to Wright Street. During the same month Councillor Walter Scudds presented council with what he hoped would be a final solution to the parking problem. At that time Mr. Scudds suggested that an area be created bounded by Wright and Dufferin Streets on the north, Church Street on the east, Elizabeth on the west and a section to be determined south of Arnold and Lorne, which would be free of parking restrictions. Within such an area Mr. Scudds proposed the town assume responsibility for creating public parking lots by using land now controlled by the town and where necessary leasing land and expropriating rights of way. Under such a plan short term parking would be provided free of charge and long term parking offered to transient commuters and residents on a monthly fee basis. Mr. Scudds' recommendation was referred to Mr. Deeks and the planning board for study.

In June, council by a slim majority refused to remove the parking meters from Yonge Street until such time as they have been paid for. A petition signed by 32 Yonge Street merchants had asked for their immediate removal.

The downtown area has been the subject of a crazy patchwork of some action, inaction, studies, reports and recommendations. No council or planning board to date has been able to come up with any practical and workable overall solution to the major problems of parking and redevelopment in this area. Instead of resorting to confusing on-again, off-again policies, council and its planning board should set their sights on one final solution and work towards it consistently and systematically.

Is Society To Blame?

There is one strange thing about juvenile delinquency. Society is always to blame.

At least this is the impression one gets from reading reports which say that 10 per cent of juveniles who get into trouble with the law left school too early, or they come from communities which fail to do enough for teenagers, or something else which somebody ought to have done for them.

What happened to parents? and homes? And churches?

It is a good thing to encourage young people to get all the education they can. But education is not a cure-all for unemployment or delinquency. Community amenities are a good thing, and we ought to press for them.

But there are only factors in the general problem of delinquency. The whole matter admits of no pat solution. But surely parental authority and control, and other home factors, are the primary matters.

— (The Trentonian)

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SEALED TENDERS, on a stipulated sum basis, plainly marked "Tenders for Langstaff Secondary School" will be received until 3:00 p.m. Daylight Saving Time, Wednesday, August 21, 1963, at the office of D. Ross King, Architect, 20 Sheppard Ave. East, Willowdale.

Plans and specifications may be obtained from the Architect on deposit of a certified cheque for \$50.00, payable to the Architect. This deposit will be refunded upon return of plans and specifications in good condition.

Tenders of mechanical and electrical subcontractors will be deposited in the Bid Depository, Toronto Builders' Exchange, before 3:00 p.m., Daylight Saving Time, Tuesday, August 20, 1963.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

YORK CENTRAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

R. P. Ross, Chairman.

D. J. Ashworth, Business Administrator.



Rambling Around

BY ELIZABETH KELSON

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HANG THE MIND WITH MASTERPIECES OF YOUR OWN

Most of us take our eyes for granted. We neglect and abuse them in many ways. It helps to realize that our eyes are one of our connections with the great natural world. They are the most miraculous color-television set ever made. What the eyes see is photographed on the mind but does it stay there? It can. Your mind can be as rich in originals as all the finest art galleries in the world.

It's fun to take mental pictures. To paint mental pictures, you need no expensive equipment, no messy darkrooms, no bottle or trays of hypo, no enlarging machine, no file for negatives and no album for prints. All will be in your head, to enjoy when and as you will.

Let me show you how I do it. I select a subject. I focus on it. I consider it from the point of view of composition, of highlights, of shadows, of perspective . . . the converging of imaginary lines of sight. Let the background fade away. All cannot be in a great picture. Take four or five minutes making sure that everything you want is contained within the frame of your attention. Go over it, detail by detail. Go over it as a whole.

Now shut your eyes. Now look again and if things appear which you had not remembered, then your exposure has not been long enough. Don't try to get every point or aspect of your picture. Concentrate on those features of your subject as necessary to convey to you the whole. Now ready. Shut your eyes again, having made sure, everything is as you want it. All ready? Good! Open your eyes and make your time exposure. It will take a minute or so. Now you have your picture. It will not fade with time, become worn out or get lost. It is yours forever.

STORY-TELLING IS ONE OF THE OLDEST FORMS OF COMMUNICATION . . . Callie Israel

Kathleen (Callie) Israel is certainly a lucky woman to be able to work right along with her husband Fred in such congenial surroundings as the Richmond Hill Public Library. Mr. Israel is the chief librarian and Mrs. Israel is the boys and girls librarian.

Callie Israel graduated from Queen's University with a B.A. in English and Psychology. She also earned a Bachelor of Library Science degree at the University of Toronto. For seven years she was assistant children's librarian at the Kitchener Public Library and upon moving to Richmond Hill, she first joined the library staff on a part-time basis in the boys and girls department. The last two years she has worked full time at being the boys and girls librarian.

Callie says that the demands of her work leave her little time for hobbies but she and Fred are antique collectors and enjoy browsing in antique shops. They also have a cottage at Georgian Bay to which they retreat at every opportunity.

"Story-telling is part of the training received by prospective children's librarians at the University, as the library story hour has become almost standard part of library programmes," said Mrs. Israel.

Story telling is a folk art and the current revival in folk music is indicative of the fact that people realize the distinct communication that exists between the folk artist and his audience. Story-telling is one of the oldest forms of communication and since the days of the professional story-teller who was responsible for informing and entertaining the illiterate people of Bible days, this folk art has never completely died out. In telling a story to a group of children, the teller can establish a visual and aural communication that cannot be done by T.V., radio or even the printed word.

Mrs. Israel also points out that in these days when so much of a child's education and entertainment are provided by means of pictures which he sees, the story which is well-told can present pictures to him which he can see only in his mind. He must form these pictures or he cannot grasp the story. This, then helps to develop the imagination as no other media can.

"Most children have no difficulty deciding between what is real and what is not," she said. "In the old folk tales, which I love to tell, life is not as the child lives it today. Most of the stories are about peasants, princesses, etc., with whom the child is not familiar, therefore he never doubts that the exciting adventuresome and often ridiculous things which happened might have happened to these people. He seldom relates them to himself. Talking animals, witches, dragons and others will quickly establish the story as not being "true" in the pure sense of the word, but if the story is vividly told, its "truths" will be apparent to the child . . . the triumph of good over bad . . . the ugly duckling principle, etc.

Mrs. Israel has never had a child who didn't like fairy tales but she can see how this can happen. Children are growing up faster all the time. The usual age for fascination with fairy tales was eight or nine. Now, most children outgrow them at seven. They know so much more at an earlier age, that they may become hardened realists. Sometimes they will return to fantasy at the age of ten or eleven and although they will probably never return to the folk or the fairy tale, they love to read books of fantasy, such as the novels of E. Nesbit or Edward Eager. The secret is to start telling children folk tales and fairy tales early . . . at about four or five and knowing when the child is no longer interested in them.

"I usually do not memorize stories word for word," she said. "However, I do have favorite versions . . . such as Wanda Gag's Tales from Grimm. I start by reading the story out loud to myself. I then jot down the characters and an outline of the plot. If there are any particular phrases which are repeated or are used to describe the character I memorize these. I also like to memorize the beginning sentence and the ending one. This is to ensure that I do not begin every tale with "Once upon a time" or end it with "And they lived happily ever after." What I particularly like to do is to capture the quality of each story that is unique. This is hard to describe but depends on the originator of the story. For instance, the tales of Grimm have an earthiness that does not appear in the sentimental allegorical works of Hans Christian Anderson; one cannot use the same words for both kind of stories. Once I have told the story two or three times, a version forms which becomes my version and I usually tell it the same way after that. Stories once learned are never forgotten if the teller tells them often enough. I am still telling the first story I learned eleven years ago. (More about this fascinating art of story-telling next week).

The Potvin Report

In July 1961 Georges Potvin, assistant professor in human and economic geography at the University of Toronto as well as head of his own planning consultant firm, undertook to make a study of the section of the downtown district at the request of the town appointed redevelopment committee. The study, for which, Mr. Potvin received the sum of \$2,000, was completed that October and a detailed report presented in November. He was assisted by A. Tayeb, a geographer, and by Miss Lesley Yule of Thornhill.

Professor Potvin forecast a population of from 46,000 to 56,000 by 1981 for Richmond Hill. A lengthy report covering the modernization of the older part of the town, was presented to members of town council, planning board and the redevelopment committee.

The planner recommended redevelopment of the downtown area on a block pattern, with areas devoted to specific uses instead of the present "hodge-podge" uses.

There should be no conflicting uses within individual blocks, he declared. The intensity of each use should be increased through efficient management of space. Adequate open spaces should be provided within each block. Greater parking facilities should be provided so as to eliminate all on-street parking. Yonge Street should be widened with minimum disruption and at minimum cost.

The redevelopment plan

suggested that the Wright-Potvin block should include institutional buildings which would be required inevitably with the growth of the town. The Bedford-Crosby block was suggested as retail commercial. The Dufferin-Bedford block would take care of church and school building expansion. The Centre-Dufferin might be developed as office space. The Lorne-Centre area was designated as potential hotel and entertainment area, with the Markham - Lorne district being utilized for apartments.

On the west side of Yonge Street, in part of the blocks Hunt-Levendale and Benson-Hunt, central service industries such as printing, automotive services, etc., were recommended. On the east side, part of the Crosby-Industrial block was suggested for apartment use. Part of the block Roseview-Church-Centre was suggested as public open space and lower density residential.

The consultant also proposed that Richmond Hill should expand by annexation, carried out in a "lump sum" rather than by bits and pieces, based on a long-term view of needs.

Great emphasis was placed by Professor Potvin on higher density of population, which should be up to 150 people per acre. There was a great need for apartments, he contended. He also recommended subdivision of the present centre-town park, claiming it was uneconomical to retain this park on high value land.

Birthdays

When we were seven or thereabout Birthdays were something to brag about, And we told the world, in our youthful way, When the calendar showed our natal day, We liked the presents, the cake and fun, And were sorry to see our birthday done.

Those were the days of frolic and song When a year of time was ever so long, And we often wished for a magic touch To hurry the years in a manner such As would make us grown to manhood's state Without our having to wait and wait.

But time is a trickster on life's stage; Too soon, alas, we're in middle age, And ever it seems we vainly try To prevent the years from flying by; No sooner a birthday's over the hill When another is here its place to fill. Today we become a frank confessor, We like our birthdays "less and lesser".

Robert D. Little

Second Thoughts . . .

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

Next season's CTV hockey games are being sponsored jointly by Imperial Oil and Molson's Brewery. . . . Who said you can't mix gasoline and alcohol?

Younger New Democrats, meeting in Regina this week, are reported to be looking for a new name for their party. Strictly from a superior Liberal standpoint, we'd suggest they call themselves "New Dumbocrats"!

Jackie Gleason is trying to sell his fabulous Round House at Peekskill, N.Y., for a mere \$650,000. Everything in the house is round — but Jackie's favorite booze now comes in a pinch bottle.

If you recall the old theory of a deep hole from here winding up there, you can understand Red China's objections to the Soviet-U.S. nuclear-test treaty which allows them to continue testing their H-bombs underground.

It turns out that the leader of Toronto's Black Diamond motorcyclists actually had a reason for calling himself "Johnny Sombbrero" — or at least for wearing one. He says he has \$500 on his head.

When informed that a Hamilton hotel was selling ale in yard and half-yard glasses an L.C.B.O. official was quoted as saying: "I don't know anything about it. But we'll be discussing it at the next board meeting." That sounds like s.o.p. for the L.C.B.

We hope we never meet on the waterways that landlubber CFTO newsmen who reported that Metro is repaving sunken curb-lanes on north Yonge Street, because bus passengers are tilted to port or starboard, depending on which way the bus is going.

Sol C. Brodsky, famous, in a sense, as the originator of Green Stamps, was found slain recently near Oak Park, Mich. He had been shot "once in the back of the head, seven times in the back and once in the right thigh" . . . and seems to have come, not unfittingly, to a rather sticky end.

Road Deaths: 1 in 4 Drank — Star heading, Drinking-types would be inclined to holler "Tilt!" over this slanting of the news and claim a much better case could be made from the fact that THREE out of four DIDN'T drink.

That proposed \$18,000 salary for M.P.'s won't be their take-home pay. But members who vote for the raise might find it to be stay-home pay in the next election.

Question of the Week —

Are we really having a heat wave, or is it all those air-conditioners pushing the heat from our homes OUTSIDE?

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