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Lack Of Interest In School Boards?

Richmond Hill School Board Trustee Walter Hutchinson hit the nail on the head at the town's nomination meeting November 25 when he said he was discouraged about the scarcity of people interested in running for trustee.

His point was even further strengthened when former trustee Margaret Southwell, in an attempt to make sure all four trustee seats were filled, offered to stand in Ward 4 if there were no other nominees.

Such a move should not be necessary in a community of 18,900 where approximately 7,200 of the population are children either pre-school and soon to be attending school or already enrolled in public, separate or high schools.

Mr. Hutchinson's concern was even more heightened when he said the public school budget alone was \$1,045,000 with separate and high schools adding more mills to the tax rate.

In nomination and ratepayers' meetings, several of the candidates for election December 7 blamed rising school costs as the reason for higher taxes. They said council has no control over education costs.

This may have resulted from a lack of rapport between town council and school board.

It may be assumed that when the school budget is presented to councillors, there is a dearth of discussion over its pros and cons mainly because

councillors do not feel they are prepared to comment on trustees' recommendations.

Trustees, too, are elected representatives of the people. They are not infallible in their decisions or recommendations for the spending of the tax dollar.

Their problems often appear more urgent when a newly built subdivision or apartment building suddenly thrusts on them the decision of where and how to cope with the inevitable number of additional students.

Long-range projections of anticipated school populations have helped somewhat to make their conjecturing a more tangible thing but the schools still have to be built in the wisest and most economically sensible way.

It has been only recently town council's planning board has asked the school trustees for their opinions on projects which will surely increase the school population.

The case in point is a planned Trayborn Drive 56 suite apartment building which school trustees feel will add a full classroom to Mac-Killop School where there just isn't any more room at present.

If the taxpayers are truly concerned with their education dollars, they should take a more vital interest in school boards both by attending trustees meetings and taking more active part in the formation of the board to begin with.

Sad Comment On Democracy

Thinking Canadians should cringe when they read how Caracas voters faced bullets with their ballots during that recent Venezuelan city's election. Yet 95 per cent of those eligible turned out to the polls despite the real threat of sudden and violent death.

Not so in Canada where democracy is a heritage and the people have always decided who they want to run their affairs, either nationally or in the tiny hamlets. Some of the people, anyway.

Recent poor showings of eligible voters at area community polls are a sad commentary on a general lack of interest in things both political and close to home because they involve so much the daily life and the state of health in the community.

In Markham Township 30.56 per cent of those eligible cast their ballots, in Stouffville, 39.13 per cent; in Newmarket, 41.7 per cent; in

King, 29.6 per cent, and in Richmond Hill 43.08 per cent.

Ironically it seems election results are generally determined by those who didn't vote.

Those who do stay away from the polls can usually find some excuse like weather or pressure of other business. For this reason many civic officials have held elections on Saturdays, particularly in a commuter community like Richmond Hill.

Election results and even those who did not bother are now charged with the responsibility of keeping an eye on their representatives to get the best possible results for their community. Public participation in weekly council meetings has always been encouraged and will continue to be so.

At next December's election, we would hope more people will vote on the basis of being informed about their community through an active interest in their respective councils.

Beautiful Christmas Lighting

"And the glory of the Lord shone round about them," and "we have seen his star in the east" — these phrases from the story of the first Christmas are an indication that, from the very beginning, light has played an important part in the celebration of Christmas.

Before the advent of electricity wax candles provided the illumination for countless evergreen Christmas trees to be followed by strings of coloured electric bulbs which commemorated the "glory" and the "star in the east".

Richmond Hill's citizens have this year perfected the art of Christmas lighting outdoors. Coloured bulbs in all colors of the rainbow give a really festive air to the residential areas,

highlighted with cutouts of choir boys, Santa and his reindeer angels, the manger scene, to make many attractive pictures on the Christmas theme.

Outdoor lighting is rapidly becoming a Christmas tradition and certainly it adds much to the appearance of a community and bolsters the spirits of all who see this seasonal display.

A tour of the residential areas of Richmond Hill is recommended as a very pleasant way to spend a winter evening — you will return home with a greater pride in our community and a greater appreciation of the contribution of so many of our citizens to this season of goodwill.

Christmas Shopping

Only five shopping days left before that wonderful day, Christmas 1963.

"Never again" sighed a tired Christmas shopper as she alighted from a North Yonge Street bus, the other day — after contending with a day of shopping in the city, and the more than usual crowded bus conditions because of the TTC slowdown.

The lesson she learned that day, which we should all learn, is that her hometown merchants have well stocked shelves and counters from which she could do her Christmas shopping without the expense and

fatigue of a trip to the big city.

The local merchants have a variety of goods not only at Christmas but throughout the year which in quality and price compare favorably with those of the city. The home merchant is an important part of life of your community. He supports your schools, your churches, charity and community enterprises and on his record of good citizenship as well as with dependable personal service in merchandizing deserves generous patronage and support.

For your shopping needs at Christmas or any other time of the year, don't forget your home community merchant.



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

Who Puts Christ In Christmas?

By Dr. MINTON C. JOHNSTON

There has been considerable talk during the past years about "putting Christ in Christmas". It is a catchy phrase but also a little confusing. Who is supposed to do it?

God first of all, I presume. After all He started it, and he started it with Christ. The whole meaning of Christmas is simply that it is the celebration of the day when "the only begotten Son of God" was born in a manger, when God came down to take His place with us and for us. If that is true then we have Christmas with Christ at the centre of it. If it isn't we have not only to take Christ out of Christmas, we have to take Christmas out altogether. By all means let those who prefer it that way have a holiday with turkey, trees, presents and all the rest of it, but don't call it Christmas.

Then you and I are the ones who have put Christ in Christmas, or rather to recognize that He is there. It is easy enough to call on other people to do it, storekeepers, manufacturers and everyone else whom we accuse of "commercializing Christmas" but what they do or do not does not need to affect us. We don't have to buy their offerings or follow their suggestions. The responsibility is ours and ours alone.

Well... what do we plan to put in Christmas? The answer is quite simple. It is what we put in the rest of the days. If Christ is in them, He will be in our Christmas too.

"Twenty-four Hours To Live"

MINTON C. JOHNSTON

It is an honour to bring you a Christmas message from Dr. Minton C. Johnston, author of "Twenty-four Hours To Live". Dr. Johnston and his family have lived in Thornhill almost four years and during that time, Dr. and Mrs. Johnston have conducted a very active ministry at the Thornhill Baptist Church. Mrs. Johnston is an accomplished pianist and directs the church plays that her husband writes. The Johnstons have a family of four grown-up children. For twelve years Dr. Johnston has served on the religious advisory council for C.B.C. For the past three years he has conducted an inspiring radio ministry. The program "Lift Up Your Heart" will be heard at a new time, 4.20 p.m. on Mondays. Listeners of this program will be glad to know that "Twenty-four Hours To Live" contains in permanent form many of these popular and inspiring messages.

This is not Dr. Johnston's first published book. In 1941 he wrote "The Romance of Teaching Juniors" in conjunction with the Baptist Religious Education Board and he is the author of two volumes of poetry. Dr. Johnston has written many successful church plays.

Dr. Johnston says in the book: "To me, there are three things which make a life as opposed to existence... a leader worth following, a task worth doing and a meaning and a purpose to life itself."

The little addresses in this book have pointed the listener and now the reader to Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life. Dr. Johnston verbally draws a blueprint to show us how we may be able to make the most of God's gift of life.

I have read the book. I can truthfully say that it contained many personal messages for me. Dr. Johnston goes right to the heart of things and his style is easy and conversational.

It is not a big book... not too big to slip in a lady's handbag. She could read it while she sits under the dryer at her favorite salon or at anytime during the day when she needs a pause for "refreshment". And it's not too big to slip inside a man's coat pocket, to be taken out and read while waiting for the bus or during the long subway ride home.

It is a practical book that deals with the practical problems of every day life. I recommend it!

"Resolve to edge in a little reading every day, if it is but a single sentence... If you gain fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt at the end of the year." H. Mann.

"Twenty-four Hours To Live" is available from the Baptist Book Room, 190 St. George St., Toronto, and at both the United and Presbyterian book stores. Its distribution in Thornhill is undertaken by the ladies of the W.A. at Thornhill Baptist Church. Call Mrs. Jardine, president of the W.A. at TU, 4-3818.

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Merry Christmas To Everyone

"Dear Mr. Editor"

MERRY XMAS

Dear Mr. Editor: — Driving north on Yonge St. towards Richmond Hill, a big lighted greeting caught my eye — Merry Xmas.

Perhaps we have all put an x where Christ should be. It certainly looks awful in lights.

As a resident of Richmond Hill I can't say I'm very proud of that particular decoration. Yours truly Mrs. B. T. McNaughton 308 Darnley Crescent Richmond Hill

HIGH ASSESSMENTS

Dear Mr. Editor: — Recently I have tried to sell my house, having paid \$16,000 for it and am assessed for that amount.

I am informed by the real estate firm that my house is worth only \$14,000 and their commission is 7 percent.

Have the real estate men brought the price of houses down, because they are doing no business? If not, then we are overassessed, and it's time the owners got together to have their assessments reduced.

It does not take much to have your assessment increased, now it's time to have it reduced. Let's have your opinion, homeowners. T. S. Ollive, 202 Norfolk Avenue.

AURORA: Aurora and District Swimming Pool had 23,649 admissions this year. A profit of \$448.20 was realized before depreciation. 387 children took lessons, 222 won swimming awards and 36 competed in meets.

Flashback

In Years Gone By

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

At Christmas time in 1948 "The Liberal" reprinted the following notice from the Stouffville Tribune:

NOTICE

Please Do Not Steal Will the people who usually steal their Christmas trees in the Township of Whitechurch, please buy them this year, or steal them somewhere else.

Our editor commented that this was a reasonable request, but as "somewhere else" may conceivably be one of the neighbouring townships, he suggested to anyone wishing to brighten the Yuletide season by a stolen Christmas tree, that the best and biggest ones grow at the North Pole.

It was also recorded that 30,662 Christmas trees had been shipped from Canada's maritime provinces that year to the warmer climes of the Caribbean Islands and Central American countries. The market in these southern countries, it was pointed out, was limited to those people who are former northerners. High ocean freight rates precluded any increase in the demand, it was reported.

"The Liberal's" King City correspondent recorded that transportation of Christmas trees was a common sight in that area. On the Sunday before Christmas many motorists were seen carrying home evergreen trees of every size, shape and variety. The fall of snow, she continued, heightened desire to make ready for Christmas. She also recorded that tree decorations were more accessible that year, and merchants claimed sale of them was excellent.

The Richmond Hill Lions entertained their own children at a turkey dinner. The report of this annual event said, "The

look of joy and excitement on every young face during the Punch and Judy show instilled joy into every heart. The singing of Christmas carols brought to all the joy of Christmas and the glad tidings that this season of the year brings to all the world."

The eighth consecutive Christmas Candlelight Service at Trinity Anglican Church, Thornhill, was announced for the evening of December 21. The advertisement said, "This service is conducted in a manner that is safe, reverent, and beautiful. It is well attended by those who like to hear good Christmas music and to take part in singing favourite carols."

Also advertised were an annual turkey raffle, euchre and draw by St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church; a euchre and annual fowl draw under the auspices of the Richmond Hill Veterans' Association; and the Maple Recreation Association December Dance.

STOUFFVILLE: November report of the Stouffville Police Department showed a total of 547 occurrences and complaints checked out by the officers during the month. There were 28 business places found open at night and reported to owners and proprietors.

NEWMARKET: The annual Christmas party for the children attending the Newmarket Co-operative Nursery School will be held tomorrow (Friday) from 2 to 4 p.m. On hand will be a familiar gentleman, Santa Claus.

Pot Pourri!

TRY IT SOME TIME

When asked my opinion, I am prone to retort, That the best way to bring up Some children is short.

INFLATION?

Money talks, But often it'll Talk a lot, but buy a little!

SOMETIMES

When a man and his wife See eye to eye It's often because Both are six feet high!

Robert D. Little

Second Thoughts...

BY GEORGE MAYES

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead

Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead. ... no matter how it smells — like the "news" just broken by an American sports writer that Jack Dempsey was drugged when he lost his title to Tunney back in September of 1928.

But sometimes — like the news from Premier Roberts that Ontario taxes will rise — yesterday's news is not even necessarily news.

In Chicago, last week, old news was still making the wire services as a municipal court jury was dismissed after failing to agree on the possible obscenity of nude photos of Jayne Mansfield in the June issue of Playboy... In the June issue? We'd say forget it, only, in our copy, Jayne looks like she's still holding her breath.

Now that the Hill's parking meters have been covered for the Christmas season what CAN you get for a nickel?

Mysterious earth movements at Ste. Joachim De Tourelle, Quebec, are sending houses sliding into the St. Lawrence... And as they sail away into the sunrise we hear the parting cries of the natives as they shout "Help!" and "Vive la secession!"

The Star may claim it "incorrectly reported" that bars, night clubs, liquor lounges and beer parlors would close at 6.30 New Year's Eve and remain closed New Year's Day; but any psychologist, familiar with the Star's policy, would recognize the error as a perfect example of a Freudian slip.

GENEVA — (UP) — The World Health Organization says danger of cancer exists in air, food and water as well as cigarette smoking, alcohol and cosmetics... So if you're making any New Year's resolutions, why be half safe?

Frank Sinatra Jr. has recovered from his recent kidnapping and returned to his singing engagements... Like, man, he's safe and sound.

Egan Chambers, national president of the Progressive Conservative party says his party is gathering its best brains to institute a woo-Quebec policy... That "best brains" calls for a thoughtful, "Hmmm", as we read rumors that Dief intends to arouse anti-French sentiment for his support.

Ontario's grade 13 legal course — intended to encourage respect for the law — could be a bit of a boomerang when student-types who refuse to respect it greet police with: "I know my rights!"

Question of the week — Could this biculturalism business be extended to include a bit of instruction from Montreal on how to handle a six-inch snowfall?



By John Addison

The snow-covered spires of the Parliament Buildings are a strikingly beautiful reminder that Christmas is now a short time away. Tinsel trees and gay Santa Clauses smile from windows throughout the Capital, telling us that 1963 is soon to be replaced by the baby of 1964.

Speculation about the future surrounds every new addition, be it a new baby, a new cow, a new machine, or a new year. The questions are always the same — will it produce? what are its prospects?

These are the question for 1964.

Industry has predicted that the diapered baby of time will bring with it a boom in business. Export markets will rise; domestic sales will be higher next year than this for most firms; profit forecasts are optimistic; capital expansion programs will increase spending.

(Continued On Page 12)

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