



The Liberal



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Planning Bd. And Annexation

It would now appear that the town planning board is going to be made the key to any future plan for annexation in Richmond Hill. The board is very quickly being put in the position where it is going to recommend either for or against such a move. Recent statements by both Mayor Thomas Broadhurst and Reeve James Haggart have emphasized the need for the town to consider expanding its present boundaries. Mayor Broadhurst has suggested that planning board try and recommend either for or not, and if so in what direction, while Reeve Haggart has called for a "crash program" based on annexation. Mayor Broadhurst and Reeve Haggart, together with former councillor John MacDiarmid, are the new members serving on the planning board for the coming year.

Although the planning board is going to be made a focal point of any future annexation scheme, the final decision will have to be made by members of council who are the people's elected representatives. A planning board can recommend a certain course of action but the full responsibility for either adopting or rejecting that policy lies with council. Richmond Hill was the centre of a wide-open annexation policy in the 1950's which at one time made us the fastest growing town in Canada. However this so called "progress" and "growth" also brought with it higher taxes, the need for more schools and a soaring debenture debt. The effect of this expansion can still be seen in the building of the new Langstaff Secondary School and the addition to the Bayview Secondary School.

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Free Textbooks In High Schools

Recent announcement by the Ontario Government that free textbooks would be issued to grade 9 and 10 students in 1964, and to higher grades by 1966, was greeted with approval by parents who find the cost of textbooks for their children a decided burden.

During the Christmas vacation period delegates at the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation expressed concern that the plan may limit the use of texts in schools and that school boards might select them on the basis of price rather than quality. The federation contends the new textbook grant could tend to restrict the number of texts since once a book was approved for a course it would have a virtual monopoly and other publishers would not try to compete with it.

Spokesmen for the federation said "We're in favour of relief to the parent as long as it is not at the expense of the quality of the teaching the student gets."

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Toronto Trustee William Ross is trying to rally Ontario school boards to fight any move by the teachers to curb the government's free textbook plan. He claims that in Toronto teachers have had virtually a free hand in selecting texts and as many as eight different editions of some works in English courses have been specified in recent years. This has meant that it has been economically impossible for retailers to stock these texts and delays have occurred in students securing the prescribed edition of certain literary works included in their courses.

This paper has repeatedly advocated that textbooks be provided for students and feels although the teachers' objections have merit proper safeguards in grant regulations can obviate any of the dangers they have mentioned.

It's Expensive

Some months ago Police Chief R. P. Robbins estimated that loss from shoplifting in Richmond Hill could amount to \$30,000 a year. This is rather shocking information to the average shopper in the town, who has to pay for the unprincipled behaviour of a few people. Merchants cannot absorb such a loss and stay in business and so in the end all customers have to pay for the dishonest few because the losses are absorbed in the cost of the goods we all buy.

Nor is shoplifting confined to the young or the poor, offenders are of all ages and come from all levels of society. Many do it for "kicks" getting a vicarious thrill out of putting something over on somebody.

An American magazine pointed out recently that producers of bottled foods and detergents have been forced to use different-sized tops on large and small bottles. When the tops were the same size, people switched the price-marked caps to get the larger size at a lower price. Many items — such as ball-point pens — must often be sold from displays with locking devices. When they aren't many are stolen.

Supermarkets also suffer loss from

cars that people simply push off and never return, or have to pay extra help to scour the neighbourhood to retrieve from driveways, roadsides and ditches.

Theatres, hotels and other public places pay out thousands of dollars a year to repair damages caused by careless people who casually tramp out cigarettes on carpets, leave them burning on formica countertops in washrooms, and throw waste material into toilet bowls, causing them to overflow.

The magazine also reported that people steal premiums from cans, boxes and packages on grocery shelves, leaving behind a torn wrapper and an item that can't be sold. Lipsticks and other small items have to be fastened to oversized cards to make it harder to slip them into a pocket or handbag without paying for them.

This information will no doubt be very familiar to a few people in this area, but will be amazing to the great majority who shop in Richmond Hill. If only a few offenders realize that they, as well as the rest of us, must make up for store losses, perhaps local losses may be cut to a minimum and all local shoppers will benefit.

Should Provide School Sites

A recent proposal by Toronto Township Council that developers should be required to donate school sites or make a cash payment in lieu of them has much merit and will bear close study by all concerned.

Alarmed by the rising cost of school sites, municipal legislators in that township have decided to seek provincial legislation making such contributions mandatory after the township's board of education reported to council it is faced with the prospect of buying school sites at \$20,000 an acre. The legislation will be similar to that which now requires developers to donate five per cent of land for parks or the equivalent in cash.

Such legislation couldn't be enacted before next year. In the meantime Township Reeve Robert Speck suggests holding up developers' plans as a stop-gap measure until a fixed price for school sites is reached. School boards are often bitterly

criticized for spending large sums for sites for school buildings — but they are forced to provide accommodation for the children who live in the homes built on the land which has been developed by subdividers. Such buildings must be erected in a reasonably central location where they are accessible to the children in the subdivision — and if the only land available has a market price of \$20,000 they must pay it.

Since the subdivider's development creates the need for schools then it is only reasonable that he should contribute substantially to the cost of providing accommodation for school children. As council are loath to part with any portion of lot severance fees to help with provision of educational facilities, the only way in which the burden on the taxpayers for school construction can be lessened is for an assessment to be made against the developer who creates the need.

Dear Mr. Editor

A "FAMILY COMPACT"?

Dear Mr. Editor:

Mayor Broadhurst thinks that the planning board is the place to start for a guide as to where the town is going. The board should recommend to us whether the town should do this or that, should expand or not, and if so in what direction.

There were three nominations for two open places on the planning board this year. Mr. Sayers did a fine job last year and was returned. Of the other two, one was an architectural draftsman, highly commended by the planning department of North York, and familiar to

some extent with the Metropolitan plan — he was rejected; the other had one year's experience on planning board, and on council at the same time as the current mayor and reeve — he was appointed. One may be excused for wondering whether a "Family Compact" is arising, or perhaps it was merely a choice of the devil they knew over the devil they didn't. I trust that the services and knowledge of the loser will not be neglected in the planning of this community.

Yours very truly,
D. F. C. FAYTE,
17 Elizabeth St. N.,
Richmond Hill.



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

Let's Keep Thinking About Our Communities

Well... the writer of this column has kept her promise to you. She has concentrated on things pertaining to the community in the hope that some of the great offices in the community will be better appreciated. In 1963, this column had an article from your mayor, Mr. William Neal on municipal government; town planning by Planning Director Ron Forrest of Markham Township. Mr. Harold Sanderson gave you insight into the workings of the Richmond Hill Public School Board and you have been informed about the varied duties of your community recreational director, Mrs. Jean Thomson. Last November and December there was a series of articles on your various volunteer organizations. The surface of this vast field of municipal activities has hardly been scratched and I hope to be able to give you some more interesting stories obtained from your community's public servants. Public spirited people are worthy of this recognition and the community should be kept aware of the great things that are being done for them. At the same time, the public should be aware of what the community should expect from the holders of these offices.

Bowling Is A Happy Business At A.B.C. With Frank And Pauline Price

Many people are familiar with the A.B.C. Bowling Alley in Richmond Hill and many probably have the pleasure of knowing lovable Pauline Price and her husband Frank. Although the A.B.C. Bowling Alley has been operating since 1953, the Prices moved to Richmond Hill in 1956.

Pauline says that she works in the bowling alley right along with her husband seven days a week. "We do everything together," she said. The Prices have three sons, all married. Frank and Robert live in Willowdale and Ronald lives in Richmond Hill. They also have an adopted daughter, Kathy, who is married and lives in Richmond Hill. Pauline Price is enthusiastic about bowling business and declares that it is a game to make people happy and it makes her happy too.

"It makes me happy to see someone else happy and enjoying themselves. Frank and I love the families that come here. It is just like a real community."

Mrs. Price enjoys her life so much that she can hardly bear to miss a day away from the Bowling Alley and she thinks that Richmond Hill is the finest town in Ontario.

The Prices have always been interested in helping polio victims. It wrings their hearts to see children anywhere crippled by this dreadful disease. When they lived in Toronto, they saw many children afflicted in this manner. They appreciate the fact that their own children are well and happy and feel it their privilege to help those who are less fortunate than themselves.

At first, all bowling alleys in Ontario used to set aside a day a year and give the proceeds of the bowling to the March of Dimes, but now A.B.C. is the only alley that has continued to do so. The Prices have kept this date with the March of Dimes for the last ten years and faithfully gave the proceeds to it from one day of bowling. Pauline Price also bakes cakes and raffles them off and the money collected is added to the fund.

The first Sunday in March will be set aside once more for this humanitarian cause. This is a fine chance for family fun and help the March of Dimes too.

Keeping a journal of a trip is fun and so I will share some of my fun with you from time to time. This item is from it.

"This morning Hal dedicated to us. We motored up magnificent Cedar Canyon. It seemed to me that in every direction the valleys and mountains beckoned us on, just a little further, just a few more miles. This is really quite an experience for an easterner. Every so often the car stopped and we would spend some time looking out over the shining mountains and endless valleys. They stretched for miles and miles before your very eyes. The brick red of some of the mountains stand out in startling contrast to the greyness of the others. This beautiful canyon road leads to Cedar Breaks National Monument located on Cedar Mountain at 10,000 feet. Cedar Breaks is an enormous painted cliff hardly equalled for variety of color.

The following verse I dedicate to my dear little granddaughter, Jana Lee Gardner, born December 29, 1963.

TO JANA LEE

Dear little child when I saw you there
Lying in your crystal crib... I thought
This day a holy miracle was wrought
In the form of you. I watched your hair
Curling darkly on your brow... your eyes
Were limpid pools... your skin like down.
Your tiny face expressed a mild surprise
At first... and then you made a little frown.
Was it a memory you left so far behind
A lingering dream of some enchanted place?
Dear... never mind! This world too is kind,
So wear a smile upon your darling face!

Second Thoughts...

BY GEORGE MAYES

Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead

Well, it looks like Metro's police department has decided to make-do with the men it has... and increase its revenue by doubling the cost of the paltry 826,000 parking tickets they are able to issue.

And Metro Chairman William Allen is reported to have opened the first 1964 Metro Council session with a "blistering attack" on those who favour scrapping the Metro system of government... and the chairman's \$28,000 job.

The United States is urging Canada to join the Federation of American States. Canada's presence in the organization, they say, would have helped in the Panama crisis... Well, there certainly would not have been any trouble over the raising of OUR flag!

A "Smokers Anonymous" club in Hamilton reports the case of one man who managed to break the habit by sitting in churches for hours on end because he knew he couldn't smoke inside... Just like riding into Toronto on the T.T.C. — except for the diesel fumes.

In the women's news: Plunging necklines are back and — as a result of the cigarette report — it is now fashionably acceptable to smoke a pipe in public. The combination, as any pipe smoker knows, should be good for a lot of action when their pipes start popping hot sparks.

The O.P.P. have finally taken out a warrant for the operator of the great Piggyland swindle — two years after it collapsed. Piggyland, the news story recalls for us, was started as a project for armchair farmers... and apparently finished as a project for armchair police.

News heading on the prime minister's visit to our "second motherland": Pearson tells De Gaulle Canada wants stronger French ties... Yes, especially IN Canada!

The "New Canadian Army Show" being produced by Jack Arthur should fall into the amusing, "but-confusin'" category. It is designed to stimulate military recruiting — at a time the Department of National Defence is planning extensive cutbacks in military strength. It will be seen locally at the Royal Alexandra and, the story says, the show will be free... Unless you're a taxpayer.

Toronto has reached its golden age, according to a York University professor. Fifty years from now, he told a recent Board of Trade meeting, when the new subway and city hall are finished, Toronto will be past its best... Well, we don't like to question the professor, but is he talking about the SAME subway and city hall?

They're making these computers more and more human every day! The Department of National Revenue has been testing a new electronic brain which would be able to check our tax returns — except that it finds our present tax forms entirely too complicated.

Current Question —

Why did the Ontario Government risk unpopularity by raising the liquor taxes when it could have — at the present time — been hailed as an indirect benefactor by raising tobacco taxes?

Flashback

In Years Gone By

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

"A real old-fashioned Canadian winter" hit this area at the beginning of February 1908, playing havoc with transportation and services. The storm struck on Tuesday.

"Liberal" rural correspondents recorded that roads had been rendered impassable and sleighs and cutters had been forced to take to the fields in many cases.

Church services had been cancelled and schools were poorly attended. Owing to the storm the annual high school concert was postponed. Rural areas were without mail service for five days and sleighs came to Richmond Hill to pick up mail to Aurora and Newmarket on Saturday. After four days the mail bags for these places were shipped to Richmond Hill, but the Metropolitan cars were not able to go any farther north. After another four days the tracks were cleared as far as Newmarket.

The Metropolitan Railway used a rotary snow plow to clear its tracks, but residents along Yonge Street were not very happy about the "new-fangled" snow clearer. They had good reason to complain, for it is recorded that windows were broken by the blown snow in four properties, owned by Messrs. Glover, Hill, Hopper and Hume.

Even the horse-drawn vehicles of those days found the roads impassable. Percy and Lloyd Hill, of David Hill Company, in making their Victoria Square trip on the fourth day after the storm got snow-bound near Headford and had to walk home the following day. The bakery wagon had a similar experience at Patterson Tuesday night.

Several items deal with the

experiences of a group of young people from Victoria Square who became storm-bound at a party. The reports leave the reader with the impression that the writer was being facetious about the whole thing — and that there must be another story behind what is recorded.

Calling the group the "Victoria Square Annual Colonization Party," the correspondent noted it included cooks, butchers, glovers, millers, milliners, farmers, two teachers and enough children for a graded school.

Stouffville's inns were crowded, but the group had enough "Nichols" to secure accommodation. Saturday morning they struggled home, the girls seated comfortably in the sleigh warmed by heated bricks, the boys tramping through the heavy snow.

The next week's issue recorded the illness of Herb Boynton from "too much colonization exposure" and in a list of suggested officers for the party his name is found as medical health officer. Other names mentioned are R. Perkins, W. Bruce, A. Nichols, L. Perkins and C. Brumwell.

Skating Programme

The programme of Richmond Hill skating rink called for senior hockey on Monday and Wednesday, with the ladies participating for an hour, and juniors for two hours. Junior hockey occupied the rink for an hour on Thursday and skaters Thursday and Saturday evenings. Curlers had the use of the ice Tuesday afternoon and evening and at any time when it was not otherwise engaged.

Keeping Up With The You Know What!

The car that he owns he thought was a honey; The service returned him was tops for his money; The mileage is small and the paint is still shiny; The tires aren't worn and the motor's not whiny; But alas, his old faithful has changed over night; The friend of his travels is under a blight; It's dated, decrepit, scarce able to toddle; A neighbour drove up in a sixty-four model!

Robert D. Little

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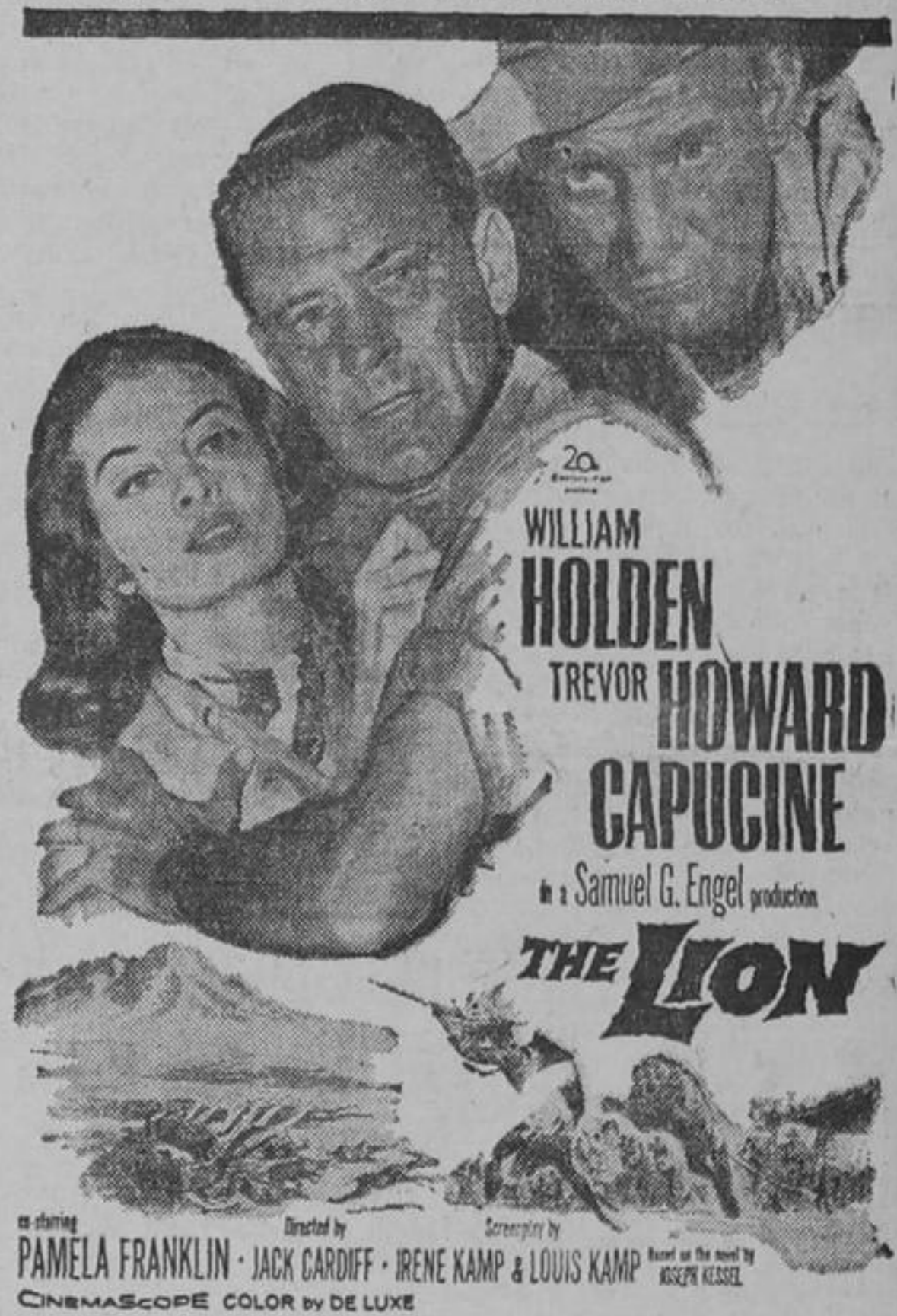
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