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Changes Coming

Some hint of future changes to be made in municipal government in Ontario were contained in a recent speech by Alf Cowling, the Conservative member of the Legislature for Toronto High Park.

Speaking to a meeting of his riding's Young Progressive Conservative Association Mr. Cowling, who is the former government whip, said the Legislature's Select Committee on Municipal Affairs would soon recommend a new type of regional government in Ontario possibly patterned after Toronto's Metro system. This select committee, which has been gathering information for several years now, is made up of representatives of the three parties in the Legislature and is chaired by a government member. Mr. Cowling said the larger urban areas such as Ottawa, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Kitchener-Waterloo might now be ready to accept a metro form of government. He felt most of Ontario's nearly 1000 separate municipalities could do a better job if they joined forces with their neighbours.

Mr. Cowling said provincial changes in the field of education where the small rural boards have been abolished in favour of larger centralized

operations, will be followed by other reforms designed to streamline local government.

Certainly the province should take a long hard look at the present system of county government in Ontario. County government may still operate fairly well in the purely rural areas of the province away from the large concentration of urban population. But it isn't doing the job that is required in the areas bordering our large metropolitan centres. York, Peel and Ontario Counties all need major changes in the present system of county government. It has proven itself too slow and unable to keep pace with the rapid changes taking place in the mushrooming suburban areas.

The present counties need to be split up and regrouped into regions that have something in common. The problems of the suburban areas populated by commuters are altogether different to those of the rural agricultural areas. The counties are still following geographical boundaries that in most cases were laid out many years ago during a different era. Ontario needs new regional groupings and a new system of regional government.

He Knows What He Is Talking About

John L. Brown, executive director of Warrendale Centre for emotionally disturbed children, recently told the Ontario Select Committee on Youth there are between 60,000 and 200,000 severely emotionally disturbed children in the province. Ninety-nine per cent of these will pass on their misery to the next generation unless the provincial government shoulders its responsibility to treat them, he warned.

Mr. Brown had presented a brief prepared by Warrendale's staff in the hope that the provincial Department of Health will undertake programs to treat the emotionally disturbed. "They have only one program and it tends to get bogged down in bureaucracy," he charged.

The leading recommendation in the brief was that all emotionally disturbed persons under 21, whose illness is not physically based, be taken from the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and placed under the Education and Welfare Departments. The brief also suggests that all children designated as emotionally disturbed should become wards of the province during their treatment and rehabilitation.

It asked that parents of emotionally disturbed children be required to take part in a treatment and rehabilitation program at the same time as the children, to prepare them for their role as parents when their offspring are returned. "We don't mean strong-arming," explained Mr. Brown, "but we want to say to the

parents, "You want to be good parents but you have needs of your own which get in the way."

The brief also suggested disturbed and mentally ill children in reform institutions be taken out immediately and placed in hospitals. It asked that all costs of teaching disturbed children be borne by the province with the federal government being asked to share the cost.

He charged the government has given children's aid societies the job of taking care of the children of inadequate parents but has failed to provide enough money to do the job. "The persons who work in the societies suffer the same pangs of failure when they are unable to do their jobs as the biological parents."

He said 25 to 50 per cent of the children in the care of the societies are seriously disturbed. The brief called for grants for specialized care for them. It asked that children's aid societies be given greatly increased funds to help prevent family breakdown.

Mr. Brown is well-known in this district where he has worked with the mental health unit and is respected as a man who knows his work and is deeply concerned with the problems of all emotionally disturbed children, not only those treated in Warrendale. It is to be hoped the brief presented by him and other staff members of that institution will help to bring about enlightened action by provincial authorities.

Are You A Good Driver?

Most average Canadians honestly and conscientiously believe they are careful, considerate, law-abiding drivers. They are indignant when a law-enforcement officer gives them a ticket for a minor infraction. "Instead of bothering us good drivers, why don't they get after the hot-rodgers and joy riders who really are a menace?" is an invariable reaction.

We have never heard one say, "I know I'm a bad driver and a menace to my fellows behind the wheel," and we don't think any of our readers have either.

It's always the other motorist who is at fault. He's the numbskull who caused the accident or near-accident. All motorists are prone to forget the other fellow is thinking exactly the same thing about him.

It is this penchant to place the blame on the other person that is causing the inexorable rise in traffic accidents. Because we, all of us, refuse to accept a share of responsibility our driving habits show no sign of improvement and may deteriorate.

Here's a little quiz to show where you stand. These questions embody common faults of so-called "safe

drivers". Answer the questions honestly and you'll know to which category you really belong.

- How long since you—
- went through an intersection on an amber light?
- made a rolling stop only at a red "stop" sign?
- "jumped the gun" on a green light?
- failed to reduce speed at a blind intersection?
- "tailed" at highway speed behind another car?
- double-parked?
- tried to make time by weaving in and out of traffic lanes?
- got out of your car on the traffic stream side?
- day-dreamed, if only momentarily, while behind the wheel of a moving vehicle?
- left your engine running when you left the car?
- have you driven your vehicle with two or more drinks under your belt?
- Does your score allow you to look down your nose at those other poor motoring sinners... or are you one of the "other fellows" too?



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

Open House at Doublerink For Parents Of Hockey Boys From Thornhill And Maple Areas

They say there is nothing new under the sun. I have a surprise for you. There will be something new going on at the Doublerink all day on January 16.

It is new because never before has such a special invitation been extended to the parents of the boys who have been playing hockey all season. It will be an open house which will include all the OMHA teams of Thornhill and Maple plus the Thornhill Church League teams and the Maple House League teams. And the newest thing of all is the fact that it won't cost parents a cent of admission on this particular day. So parents come out and watch your boy play. Knowing you are there will result in a chain reaction of good feeling from parent to boy to coach and manager. And believe me these coaches and managers are people that our hockey teams cannot do without so these are the men who will be standing close beside their teams on Saturday the 16th. Come! Meet these coaches and managers! The first name belongs to the coach, followed by the name of the manager or managers. In OMHA, coach and manager of the Atoms are Bruce Payne and Herb McIntosh; of the Peewees, Vince De Marco and Norm Davidson; of the Bantams, Ed Windsor and Ron Bagg; of the Bantam B's, Ed. Read, Alex Henderson and George Shilton; of the Midgets, Don MacDonald, John Bierma and Ted Lougheed.

Maple has two OMHA teams. The peewees are coached by Bob Brown and managed by Jack Sykes. The Bantams are coached by Norm Ruttle and managed by Bob McIntyre.

I introduce you also to the coaches and managers of the Thornhill Church League and the name of their church. There are five tike teams. St. Edwards Eagles, Rick Sindrey and John Fox; for St. Edwards Cubs, John Edwards and T. Insley; for Holy Trinity, Jim Kearns and for Thornhill Presbyterian Jack MacKay and Frank Symons.

The coaches and managers of the five minor atom teams are as follows: St. Edwards, Art Johnson and Bill Bayliss; for St. Luke's, Walter Reber and Ed. Fritz; Thornhill United, Paul Hunter and Bill Heron; Holy Trinity, Roy McQuillan, Lloyd Elvidge and Don Jackson; Thornhill Presbyterian, Gord Patterson and Jim Boyd.

Seven peewee teams in this league: St. Edwards Lions, Gord Buckley and John Brown; St. Edwards Tigers, Bill Snow and Joe Murphy; St. Luke's, John McNally and Wm. Lynch; Thornhill United, Warren Scott and John Sedgwick; Holy Trinity Terrors, George Ackehurst, Reg. Allen and Art Crawford; Holy Trinity Rockets, Bob Cameron and Dr. Keith Neely; Thornhill Presbyterian, Dave Hopper and Clayton Atkinson.

Last but not least are the coaches and managers of the Bantams: St. Edwards, Al Collins and C. W. Ashton; Thornhill United, Greg Ast and E. D. Ast; Holy Trinity, Harold Silk and Les Moore and for Thornhill Presbyterian, Bill Paterson and Dave Matheson.

These are the men who are working hard for hockey in the Thornhill and Maple areas in or out of the district on visits to neighboring towns. Besides the two OMHA teams from Maple there are 16 teams in the Maple League. Although the names of the coaches and managers of the house league are absent, they are saluted just the same whoever they are. Just don't miss this hockey feast, will you parents!

Vaughan's New Skating Club and Annette Gardiner

The new Vaughan Figure Skating Club at the Doublerink is under the nurture and care of Mrs. F. A. Gardiner of Richmond Hill and the new club has been in operation for almost a month.

"I asked around," said Annette, "and people in Vaughan seemed anxious to have a figure skating club and the Vaughan Recreation Commission has given its blessing and official sanction."

Annette Gardiner is the mother of Kevin 10, Jimmy 7 and Diane 3. She has had considerable experience in the teaching of the art of figure skating.

For several years she had an outdoor skating club at Varsity until the university decided to disperse with it. From there she went to the Granite Club and taught figure skating there for 10 years. She has in the past years been a member of a Canadian Ice Revue and performed in several tank shows at sportsman's shows and Christmas spectacles.

Mrs. Gardiner has about 60 children registered for classes, one for beginners who are learning to skate and the other for those who are more advanced. The price of these lessons is reasonable. Sixteen lessons for ten dollars. The price is low because Annette Gardiner wants to reach children who have ability and may not be able to afford high priced lessons.

As the classes gain more experience there will likely be a ribbon test early in January. The classes have Wednesday from 4.30 to 5.30 at the Doublerink. It is hoped that more icetime will be available later. Anyone who would be interested in learning more about the Vaughan Figure Skating Club phone Annette Gardiner at 884-1603.

Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club Plans Carnival For March

The Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club attracts more members every year. The club now boasts 160 members reports President Mrs. Marian Spence, and there is a waiting list. Elinor Kells and Phillip McCordic professional instructors at the club are busy teaching and testing the young skaters. CFSA tests are coming up on January 9 and already preparation is being made for the carnival to be held March 20. Mrs. Kells and Phillip McCordic were the Canadian Junior Pairs Champions in 1961, fourth in the Canadian Senior Pairs in 1962 and members of the winning fours team the same year. Mr. McCordic was runner-up in the men's junior competition in 1963.

Dear Mr. Editor

Flashback

NEW PROPANE TANKS ON MARKHAM ROAD

Dear Mr. Editor: With the memory of the Maple disaster still fresh in my mind, it was with great shock and horror that I learned of the recent installation of the 30,000 gallon propane storage and railway siding at Altane Ltd. on Markham Road.

On getting in contact with a member of town council, I was informed that all safety precautions were being taken, as indeed I am quite sure that they were taken in Maple, but this did not prevent a tragedy there.

I was also informed that this matter was approved last August by the local committee of adjustment with the knowledge of council and that there were no objections except by our fire chief who was overruled.

I ask how could anyone object when they were never informed? This is not just another annoyance, this is without a doubt

a hazard and a potential danger to the resident, visitors and people passing through Richmond Hill, and I hold town council directly responsible for not informing the taxpayers beforehand, especially those in the immediate vicinity.

I feel that as citizens and taxpayers it is our duty to do our utmost to remove this terrible menace from our town, and to try and see that responsible persons are elected to our council, and appointed to our committees and Planning Board in the future.

One cannot help but wonder, if when they have such little regard for the lives and safety of the people, how then could they be expected to spend the taxpayers' money, or consider our best interests in a wise and conscientious manner.

Something concrete must be done about this serious matter before it is too late.

KATHLEEN PAXTON,
159 Lennox Ave.

Second Thoughts

BY GEORGE MAYES

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead

The New Year's eve drive-home service provided by the Hill's two hot-rod clubs, the Knights and the Aristocrats, gives rise to the second thought that, with the driving habits of some less responsible hot-rodgers, you might not HAVE to be drunk to ride with them... but it would certainly help!

Medical researchers announced last week that "instant bones" for body repairs will soon be available. The news of this remarkable advance didn't get the attention it should have, coming, as it did, at Christmas time when instant bones are fairly commonplace—in the case of a large family with a small turkey.

France has had to cancel plans to inaugurate an income tax system in Tahiti after the populace, as a whole, went on strike. It was the old problem of taxation without representation while, on the other hand, OUR French seem to be trying for something along the lines of representation WITHOUT the taxation.

I'm Mall Right, Jack!

The Municipal Board is hearing protests that a new Etobicoke shopping centre will mean the ruin of many small businesses. The protests are coming mainly from the manager and part-owner of the nearby Cloverdale Mall... who should know.

A year-end commentary on the status of our political parties says the resurgence of the N.D.P. can be attributed to the organizing skill of Stephen Lewis... Whereas the operations of the older parties have seemed more like something organized by that other Lewis, Jerry.

Conservation authorities were puzzling last week over what had caused the death of the countless thousands of fish which were drifting down the Niagara River and littering the south shore of Lake Ontario. We don't like to point up the coincidence too much but the fish were of a type known as Alewives and, at the time, there was a temperance federation meeting going on upstream at Niagara Falls, Ont.

The mayor of Toronto's Boxing Day blood clinic was held again this year at the Royal York Hotel. This has grown into an annual event to accommodate the increasing number of taxpayers who are asking: "Whadda ya want, blood?"

Halifax naval personnel were reported to be teary-eyed upon receiving the official order to strike the Red Ensign and hoist the new Maple Leaf flag on all R.C.N. vessels... Well, while the new flag doesn't have any significance as yet, it may seem different after we've won a few wars and lost a couple of million men with it. We should look at it, like, from the bright side.

The Bladder of Success—

Former Torontonian Stan. Williams, who became Britain's top soccer star, is now Sir Stanley Williams—having been elevated to the Knighthood in the Queen's New Year's Honors List for his prowess with a football... And the Herald's College is going crazy in a refined British way trying to decide whether this new-type Knight should more properly have a coat-of-arms or a coat-of-feet.

And a British engineer, who seems to have been overlooked in the Queen's Honors List, has designed a car which, he claims, will run on chicken manure or even pig manure... Or, with the right agency, it might even run on its own advertising.



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In Years Gone By

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

In January 1933 "The Liberal" editorialized on "The Metropolitan Area".

The problem, it reported, was receiving increased attention throughout the County of York. It was discussed by county council at sessions in 1932.

The editor recalled that in the election of 1929 Hon. G. S. Henry said that a Metropolitan Area would be formed "within a few years" (Ed. note: A quarter of a century was to pass before this happened). He promised "a metropolitan school bill and larger grants to the schools of the Township of Scarborough".

Mr. Henry was premier of the province in 1933 and this news, the paper was reminding him of his promise.

Mr. Henry indicated that there are areas adjacent to all large cities in which the proportion of children requiring schooling is high, but the assessment available for school purposes usually low, because there is not a large business area to assess. In order to meet this problem in the Toronto zone, he suggested a joint board to administer the suburban schools and added he could "justify some contribution in a financial way from the city itself." Toronto, he claimed drew about half its school taxes from industrial assessments and should be contributing to the burden in the adjacent area.

Mr. Henry contemplated empowering county council to designate a suburban area for school administration with trustees elected from the area and an equal number appointed by the Department of Education. The chairman could be appointed by the Department of Education, it was suggested. He also suggested this board receive from the city an amount up to not more than 20 per cent of the annual expenditure on education. He reported he had also been pressing the education department to give special assistance toward education in these areas.

Two Viewpoints

Fred Wadsworth, a farmer who served as village clerk in suburban Maple Grove near St. Paul, Minnesota for 12 years, lost out in a recent election.

He ran the following ad in the Osseo Press:

"I wish to thank all residents... who voted for me in the recent election. Your confidence in me is greatly appreciated."

Below that was another ad inserted by the wife of the former village clerk, who'd helped with the book work in the time-consuming part-time clerk's post. It read:

"We wish to thank all of the residents of the village of Maple Grove who did not vote for Fred Wadsworth for clerk of the village."

"Mrs. Fred Wadsworth and family."

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