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Include School Board In Walkway Talks

The Richmond Hill Public School Board has asked to be included in any discussions regarding the future disposition of the town's walkways. The matter has been referred to the works committee of town council for study and a report.

People residing close to the walkways have been plagued by the rowdy behavior of some students on their way to and from school. The authorities are now faced with the problem of calling a halt to this improper behavior and giving the people affected some measure of relief.

Reeve Donald Plaxton recently suggested council close the walkways. He contended this is the only solution in the face of what he maintains is the failure of the school board and

police to bring an end to an intolerable situation.

Most certainly the school board should be included in the search for an answer to the problem. They are vitally concerned with any final decision and should be a party to any discussions leading up to it. For after all it is the board's students who are using the walkways and creating the problem in the first place. The police commission should also be invited to take part in the deliberations. The rowdy behavior and destruction of public and private property constitutes a police problem.

The walkways were built at public expense to enable our children to get to and from school quickly and easily. It is unfortunate that some irresponsible elements are causing such difficulty in maintaining them.

"Instant" Schoolrooms

Every year comes the same old problem of rising school addition costs and battles between municipal councils, school boards and protests by ratepayers to the Department of Education.

Under the present system, each time new school buildings are required, architects have to make drawings, sketch plans etc. and on top of all this, earn a healthy six per cent of the total cost of construction, plus certain consultant fees.

Perhaps Toronto has found the answer in a new idea from the United States. It follows the pattern of proposals over the past few years that school buildings should follow a standard design and again save the architects' fee.

Toronto's Metro School authorities are studying factory made classrooms which can be bolted together to make a school. These are called modular components and each is equipped with its own heating, air

conditioning and lighting system.

With these modular components, any number may be hooked together as local conditions require and still not lose the advantage of mass production.

School trustees in Metro feel that approximately \$5 million could be saved in school building costs alone if the project could be brought into operation.

The Metro team doing the studying have not yet brought in a report following a trip to California to see the system in use in that state. It is thought they may decide to put up a demonstration unit using this modular idea.

Climatic or other conditions might prevent the project in Canada but school boards would do well to keep the idea in their files and watch the Metro experiment. A sigh of relief would rise if education costs would fall.

—Newmarket Era

Flashback

In Years Gone By

John Brown served as reeve of the Village of Richmond Hill in 1883 and 1884. In 1883 the councillors were William Pugsley, J. S. Sanderson, Isaac Crosby and H. F. Hopper, butcher.

The 1884 councillors were Alexander Moodie, merchant; Robert Law, druggist; Isaac Crosby and H. Hopper.

William Pugsley was reeve from 1885 to 1896 inclusive, and from 1907 to 1918 inclusive.

Councillors for 1885-86-87 were B. Redditt, William Powell, F. McConaghy, shoemaker and P. Savage.

Councillors for 1888-89-90-91 were W. Sanderson, druggist and veterinary surgeon, William Atkinson, W. Wilson and P. Savage.

John Palmer, J. Mortson, John Brydon and P. Savage were the 1892 councillors and William Atkinson replaced Brydon for 1893-94-95, bringing his total to five years as councillor. W. Sanderson replaced W. Atkinson on the 1896 council.

P. Savage was first elected reeve in 1897 and served in that capacity until 1905. The 1897 council was composed of J. Palmer, William Innis, William Wright and W. Sanderson.

David Hill, William Innis, William Wright and H. F. Hopper were elected councillors in 1898, and Innis returned in 1899 along with John Palmer and Thomas Trench. In 1900 Reuben Glass replaced John Palmer.

H. F. HOPPER
Robert Hopper and his wife came from Yorkshire, England, in 1854 after a sea voyage of eight weeks. In 1856 they came to Richmond Hill where Mr. Hopper engaged in the butchering business until his death in 1892. His son, Henry F. Hopper took over the business in 1871 and he, in turn, turned it over to his son Herbert (Bert) in 1901.

WILLIAM INNIS
Leslie Innis, born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1828, came to Canada as a young man and engaged in the building trade. In 1857 he married Mary Ritchie of Thornhill and lived in that village until 1885 when he moved to Richmond Hill. He then formed the firm of L. Innis & Son (William) and purchased Dr. Langstaff's lumber mill on the creek at the west end of Richmond Street. The old mill burned down soon after this transfer of ownership and the Innises erected a new combination saw and planing mill which continued in operation until 1927. Failing timber supplies and water power at that time forced the mill to close, the last of the many mills which had been built since pioneer days on the west branch of the Don River. The products of this mill will still be found in most homes in this area built before 1927.

THOMAS TRENCH
Son of William Trench, Thomas succeeded his father as head of the Trench Wagon Works. He served 14 years on council and seven as reeve. He was councillor from 1899 to 1910 and again in 1917 and 1918. He served as reeve from 1919 to 1925 and again from 1940 to 1942.



WHICH GIRL DID YOU SEE FIRST???

Actually, it's the same girl in both pictures but she's much easier to see in a white sweater which stands out against the darkness than she is in a black coat. Pedestrians who wear something light-colored at night are safer because they can be seen more easily by drivers. In the bottom photo the girl is taking additional risks by walking on the roadway when there is a wide shoulder available.

(Ontario Department of Transport photo)

George Mayes On — The Flip Side

The town of Kimberley, B.C. has a number of typhoid cases but its residents refuse to allow chlorine to be put in their water. . . . Sounds like a pretty stupid town — but at least THEY have water.

Last week was farm safety week . . . and the farmers co-operated by taking their tractors into the city.

The OPP may not have been leaning backwards in avoiding trouble with the tractor drivers on the highway but motorists who were given improper-passing tickets for using the shoulder to pass three-abreast tractors on the MacDonald-Cartier suspect them of at least leaning sideways.

The Vietnam crisis is taking second place to a local crisis in the U.S. this week: The TV networks are all making a big thing of covering Luci-Bird Johnson's wedding in full colour — and the bride insists on wearing white!

American space scientists are reported to be engaged with research on a giant satellite to make the sun shine at night . . . Why? Are they figuring on blowing-up the moon when they get to it?

(Continued on Page 12)



Rambling Around

Smiling Al Harris has the reputation of being the most travelled guitarist in Canada. Especially he does enjoy going to the Gaza Strip with the concert party organized by the CBC and the United Emergency Forces. Further inducement might be his honorary membership in the Gaza Golf Course.

There is no doubt that part of his pleasure derives from his affectionate association with fellow members of the group but the real reason is to do what he can to provide music and cheer to men in uniform who are doing a lonely monotonous but necessary job.

The CBC personnel included Supervising Producer Ken Dalziel of Willowdale, Director John Cantelon and Sound Technician Bruce Ritchie.

On this trip, popular sports personality, Jean Belliveau of the Montreal Canadiens and Diane

(Continued on Page 12)

Richmond Hill has been experiencing a water shortage nearly every summer for more than a decade. The news story reproduced here was published in the July 14, 1955 issue of "The Liberal".

The town was then getting its third well and needed restrictions. Today we have five wells, are just locating a sixth and we still have the same summer restrictions.

To Insure Plentiful Water Supply Third Well Developed SUMMER RESTRICTIONS NOW ENFORCED TO EASE LOAD

To prepare for the need of increased services caused by growth in the village, Richmond Hill council Monday night signed an agreement with Canadian National Railways for lease of a parcel of land east of the tracks where a water supply was recently discovered by the village.

Officials agreed to pay the CNR \$15 a year for the first year of lease and \$10 for each succeeding year. No charge will be made for the water, but in the event the Canadian National's water supply runs dry, the village is obligated to supply the local station with water.

All of council was in favour of the move with the exception of Councillor Floyd Perkins who was not in favour of the village tying itself down to a long-term agreement.

The remainder of council was of the opinion that since a minimum of expenditure was involved there was no cause to worry about the length of the contract.

Water was discovered in the area some time ago by International Water Supply working for the village. Proceedings have been delayed in waiting for the agreement to be drawn up and signed by both parties concerned.

The development of this water supply will mark the use of the third well for Richmond Hill.

To ease the load on the summer water supply, restrictions were enforced last week to limit residents watering lawns and gardens to 8 to 10 p.m. in the evenings. As a result of the great amount of building in the area and constant lawn watering during hot spells it was necessary to clamp down on the free use of water.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BOOKS

At Your Richmond Hill Public Library

THE EMPEROR OF ICE-CREAM
By Brian Moore

A novel with a memorable and appealing hero — Gavin Burke. At the novel's beginning, Gavin is 17 and the Second World War has just begun. As the war progresses he is introduced to new unconventional worlds — both public and private.

THOMAS
By Shelly Mydans

Several hundred years have not dimmed the brilliant and fascinating figure of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. After seven years of research and writing, the author presents Thomas Becket as he really was.

She details the true nature of his conflict with Henry II and the politician's game he played, in this thoroughly researched historical novel.

GRAVE DANGER
By Kelly Roos

When she took a shortcut through the Cartwright's yard that night and fell into a hole, Jenny didn't think much about it. But when Stuart Cartwright found her key and saw her footprints after he buried his wife in that hole, he thought quite a lot about it.

This suspenseful novel follows his efforts to find the woman who will figure out what really happened to his wife, as he stalks his prey through a small Connecticut town.

THE MANDELBAUM GATE
By Muriel Spark

A suspense-filled story of high adventure in which the lives of Arab and Jew, Roman Catholic pilgrim and British diplomat become entangled. When an English lady tourist, a half-Jewish Catholic convert, insists upon crossing over from Israel into Jordan, she sets off a series of bizarre situations. Out of the complexities of this scene, on both sides of the Mandelbaum Gate, Mrs. Spark has created a many-faceted novel.

THE TIN CAN TREE
By Anne Tyler

In this novel, that is full of heartbreak and wonder, the author shows how a young boy comes to terms with his little sister's accidental death and how he brings his mother out of the stupor of her grief.

Although dealing with death, Miss Tyler manages to create a story rich with the everyday things of life, as not only ten-year-old Simon Pike but all the people around the Pike family conspire to restore normalcy.

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Lex Mackenzie Likes It Right Where He Is

By LANA WELLS
Toronto Daily Star

The rest of the world can keep moving around. Alexander A. (Lex) Mackenzie intends to stay right where he is.

Mr. Mackenzie, the oldest member of the Ontario Legislature, still lives in the log cabin where he was born 80 years ago.

"I'll never sell this place, they'll have to carry me out," he said. "I would hate to live downtown in a high-rise apartment."

His home, which sits at the end of a leafy Woodbridge lane, would delight a child and yet fascinate an historian.

The original log house and its surrounding acres have been in the Mackenzie family for more than a century. The original four-room cabin now serves as the core for an extra half dozen rooms tacked on through the years. Lex was born in one of the two tiny attic bedrooms.

At 80 he knows all the secrets of the house but these days he has to raise his voice above the roar of progress on

Highway 7 and Islington Avenue to tell you about them.

"My great-grandfather built the log house and settled here with his young wife in 1830," he said in an interview. "By building over the ravine, my great-grandfather had a ready-made cellar for his tools."

BOUGHT FOR SHILLING
The first 600 acres of land were bought for a shilling (14c) an acre. Now highways and land developments have reduced the acreage to 30—valued at more than \$5,000 each. Most of these are pastureland, but Lex has saved a large piece of land for his trees and prize dahlias.

Lex, a bachelor, lives alone in the old house. He says he sometimes gets lonely but is usually too busy to think about it. Politics—he's been an MLA since 1945—keep him active and he does some of his own housework and cleaning.

"The log house was good enough for my great-grandfather, but not for my great-uncle. He added a few rooms."

"Then my father added a couple more rooms and I built the rest."

Among them is a huge kitchen equipped with an iron-topped fuel stove and an electric stove. The walls are lined with cupboards, most of them with double doors.

An ancient grandfather clock, its face painted with fading figures sits alongside an old oak table and a sideboard stacked with books in the dining room.

A tapestry covered sofa, once stuffed with horsehair, has been in the log house's front parlor for decades. Above it hangs a picture of Lex's father, who farmed the land as his forbears had.

At the top of a narrow staircase are the attic bedrooms with their flowered paper, deep casement windows and muslin curtains.

The room where Lex was born looks across the garden to the dilapidated barn and the pastures where black and white cows graze. It's furnished with an old iron bedstead, a small table and a rose printed jug and basin.

Oak furniture crowds the other room and a big brown Bible sits on the bedside table. It has been in the family since 1844.

A member of the Progressive Conservative Party, Mr. Mackenzie has represented York North in the provincial Legislature continuously since 1945. He was recently feted at a public reception held in his home town of Woodbridge to mark his 21 years of service in the Legislature.

Provincial redistribution will divide the present riding of York North three ways. Mr. Mackenzie will reside in the new riding of York Centre.

ROCKING CHAIRS
Rocking chairs abound in Lex's favorite room, which is furnished with books, photographs and pictures—many from World War I days. Lex, who reached the rank of major, fought in the battle of Vimy Ridge.

Beneath the house is a complex of cellars for "storage."

"In the early years they were mud and clay, but I had to cement them in. Cats and groundhogs and skunks used to find their way in and I couldn't get them out," said Lex.

"Now the big cellar under the log house is a cool, safe place to keep canned foods and preserves."

"You can still see the original log beams down there."

You can also see a butter churn, an ox yoke, a flat iron, and a strange, trident spear.

"Spearing Atlantic salmon in the Humber river was a popular pastime in my great-grandfather's day," said Lex.

"Someone made the spear for fishing. Great-grandmother used to salt the fish and during the winter it was given to the sawmill workers."

Pine logs, mud and mortar were used to build the log house, which in the old days was bordered by the river, a stream and an Algonquin Indian trail.



Robert S. Mc Kercher, Dublin President



Charles W. Huffman, Harrow First Vice-President



Donald R. Bell, Windsor Second Vice-President



Fenton G. Cryderman, Thamesville President of United Co-operatives of Ontario.

TWENTY YEARS A-GROWIN'

Organized in 1946 as a "brave new world" project, Co-operators Insurance Association has become a substantial writer of home and automobile insurance in Ontario. A companion company, Co-operators Life Insurance Association, was organized in 1959.

The Association has devoted a large share of its attention to fire and accident prevention. Voluntary policyholder committees study "young driver" problems and are promoting high school driver training.

CIA has 230,000 policies in force . . . 33 offices across the province . . . paid-in capital (two companies) \$2,000,000 . . . earned surplus \$1,400,000.

These nine elected men, nominated by Ontario Credit Union League, Ontario Federation of Agriculture and United Co-operatives of Ontario, are the directors and leaders of CIA in this, its twentieth anniversary year.



J. E. O'Dell, Corunna Mr. O'Dell is immediate Past-President of CIA and a Director of the Ontario Credit Union League.



Kenneth W. Weatherley, Ottawa Mr. Weatherley is Vice-President of the Ontario Credit Union League.



Charles G. Munro, Embro Mr. Munro is second Vice-President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.



T. Ray Loughheed, Barrie Mr. Loughheed is a Director and former President of United Co-operatives of Ontario.



Aubrey S. Dalgleish, Hamilton Mr. Dalgleish is a Director and former President of the Ontario Credit Union League.

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