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Let Province Pay Costs

The full cry is on again — if Metro has a problem that defies a solution then shift it to the fringe municipalities. Faced with a housing crisis Metro is ready to use the same line of action as it did in meeting its garbage crisis — simply export it to the suburbs. At last year's winter session of the Legislature Premier John Robarts granted Metro the right to begin dumping its mountains of waste in the fringe municipalities and since then Metro officials have been busy selecting dump sites in Vaughan Township. As a start under the provincial legislation, which came into effect January 1, Metro wants 600 acres north of Steeles Avenue and west of the Humber River as its first dump location.

The story is always the same. Faced with a serious shortage in welfare housing, Mayor William Dennison and Housing Chief Controller Margaret Campbell have been urging the province to grant the City of Toronto permission to use the former jail farm property at Langstaff for a huge welfare complex. Mayor Dennison echoed the real feelings that every Metro politician has of the fringe areas. While praising the Langstaff site, he said its use would mean moving the city's welfare problem right out of Metro.

The most discouraging part of this whole situation is the apparent reluctance of Premier Robarts to protect the fringe areas. Metro can only move north of Steeles Avenue with the connivance and permission of Queen's Park. So far that approval has been forthcoming in the matter of garbage disposal.

Now we are told that officials of the Ontario Water Resources Commission and the Metro Works Committee are to meet February 7 to hold exploratory talks that may lead to a massive extension of Metro water and sewage facilities. The only reason for such an extension is to make more and more land available for residential development. But as usual at no point in the discussions has the province or Metro given any indication who is going to meet the demand for extra schools associated with new housing.

Metro is anxious to open up Markham, Vaughan and Pickering Townships for residential growth. Mark-

ham's latest experience with subdivision development was the North Thornhill scheme which requires a high school, three public schools and a separate school. In speech after speech Premier Robarts has made it abundantly clear that he does not intend to pay any more towards the cost of education. More housing means more schools and a further burden on the already hard-pressed real estate taxpayer. With close to 70 cents of every local tax dollar collected going towards the support of our school systems the point of no return has been reached for the taxpayer.

Toronto's morning newspaper has suggested the housing crisis can be solved right within the borders of Metro without spilling out into the fringe municipalities. We quote from an editorial that appeared in the January 27 issue of that daily,

"No one would dispute that we have a housing problem — a whole series of housing problems — and that pushing down the cost of houses is a worthy objective. But why are we being asked to believe that we have run out of space for new houses and that this is really at the root of the problem? How can anyone who has recently visited Scarborough, North York, or Etobicoke seriously accept the argument that we are standing shoulder-to-shoulder in 240 square miles of tightly packed territory?"

"The grass always does look greener on the other side of Steeles Avenue, perhaps, but our efforts to solve the housing problem should be directed first to finding out why we seem to be incapable of developing the vacant land we still have.

"There is plenty of room in Metro Toronto for many more houses; room, too, for a measure of self-examination among our elected representatives as to why our resources are not being fully used."

In the present situation, Mr. Robarts and his provincial government should do one of two things. Either they should limit Metro's housing expansion to land within its own boundaries, or provide some substantial assistance to the taxpayers in the suburbs should they be called upon to bear the financial burden of heavy new residential development.

Let's Give It A Chance

The outspoken and tremendously enthusiastic general manager of the Ontario Humane Society outlined his plans for a GOOD canine control program for York County, Monday night.

His next job will be to approach the 14 municipalities involved for their support, not for capital funds but just contracts to do the job.

The furore through the district over the past few years makes the need for this type of service self-evident. We feel that every municipal council would be relieved to know that Mr. Hughes with his determination and know-how was running an efficient, cheap, sanitary, disease-free service to the communities.

One problem not solved at present is the site for the building. Some-

where on Yonge Street would be ideal but a good through road would certainly be looked on with favor.

There must be a community-minded citizen in this area who has about 200 feet of frontage he would part with, reasonably, for such a worthwhile cause.

This man Hughes sounds convincing. Can he produce a comprehensive plan in the way he says he can? We hope the councils will listen to his presentation and decide that here, finally, is the proper way to handle the dog, cat and mistreated animal problem.

If the society receives the contracts then let us all give it and Mr. Hughes the support needed to complete this Centennial project of the York Humane Society. — Aurora Banner.

Bob Nixon Promises New Deal For Ontario Municipalities

"Municipal Organization in Canada's Second Century" is the title of this speech delivered by Robert Nixon, the newly elected leader of the Liberal Party in Ontario. Mr. Nixon was addressing a meeting of the Halton-Wentworth Liberal Association held January 17 at Burlington-Editor.

Year after year — for more years than they like to remember — Ontario's municipalities have set before the provincial government a number of pressing and legitimate problems. In essence, they have argued that they just do not have the funds for the job the province expects them to do. Their arguments have a good deal of validity. Yet, the Tory Government has taken almost no action in this critical area. For the most part our municipalities still operate under the general conditions of the Baldwin Act — an act passed more than a century ago.

deal with the real problem of our municipalities.

In the opinion of many people in municipal government across this province it is a flaw which could prove fatal in the general election this year.

The government's shelves are bulging with countless studies, reports and submissions on municipal government — so many, in fact, that some persons have become a little confused. They know their municipal taxes have been mounting steadily; they know something must be done — but they are not quite sure what.

Tonight I would like to outline — as simply and briefly as I can — the basic reforms we advocate to meet the desperate needs of our municipalities.

I want to deal with the subject in two sections. First, the services that our municipalities should be expected to provide.

And, secondly, some thoughts on how they should be organized.

Obviously, in the field of services, a municipality must be responsible for the basic

jobs that are of direct benefit to the community. I am thinking of such services as police protection and law enforcement, fire protection, internal planning and zoning, parks and recreation, industrial and commercial development, the collection and disposal of sanitary sewage and the collection and disposal of garbage.

The responsibility for these services — which mainly affect property — is clearly the municipal taxpayer and, for the most part, they should pay one hundred per cent of the cost.

But there are services which have benefits and implications wider than the community itself. In this connection, I think of such things as public housing, urban renewal, regional government, conservation and certain roads.

In dealing with these services the province must recognize that their benefits are not restricted to a particular community and must share part of the burden.

Finally, there are those services carried on by a

municipality which benefit people in many parts of the community of Ontario. These services to people include such things as welfare, education, hospitals, the administration of justice and major road connections. I know most municipalities want — and, in fact, are eager — to co-operate in any way they can in providing these services. But they recognize, and rightly so, that the extent and priorities in these areas are largely determined by higher levels of government, either at Queen's Park or Ottawa. They argue — and I agree — that the major cost of these services to people must be the responsibility of senior levels of government.

These governments, after all, have far greater tax sources — sources which reflect the general health of the economy.

The ownership of real estate does not in many cases reflect the ability, the responsibility, nor the flexibility to pay for services to people.

In too many situations the job that must be done in ed-

ucation and other fields — the job that responsible municipal officials know must be done — has been hampered because we rely too heavily on the narrow real estate tax.

This must be changed if we are to provide the services people will need in Canada's second century.

It is time we reformed Ontario's municipal act — an act designed for our first century — and made the province primarily responsible for services which benefit our society as a whole.

Now, I want to talk for a minute about the organization of our municipalities in the century that we are just beginning.

I am thinking really of regional government — a concept about which there is a lot of controversy and confusion.

Much of the confusion results from the fact that the Tory Government has never made it clear what it means when it talks about regional government. It has said, in effect, to many of our municipalities: You must form

regional associations — and if you don't we will move in and push you around. This leaves our municipalities in a highly awkward position. They don't know what kind of regional association the province has in mind. They don't know what form of government neighboring municipalities may plan in the future. They don't know precisely what grants will be available for regional government. And when they don't take action — because they can't — the Tory government gives them abuse.

Clearly what the province must do is:

- Lay out, with the help of the municipalities, an overall provincial plan for modern municipal government so our people will know where they fit in and how they should proceed;
- And make it clear what part of the costs of forming a regional government the province will pay.

Only in this way will we get efficient and effective municipal government — the kind of government we must have in our second century.



Not Much Help When You Are Swamped



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

Young Men Get On Board — With The Jaycees

Glen Phillip, Ken Wallace, Doug Sutherland, Howard Hall and Garnet Leat, the executive stalwarts of Richmond Hill Jaycees are sending out an SOS for young men between the ages of 18 and 35 to come and swell their ranks. Those with an eye to the future could do worse than link themselves to a positive development program such as is offered by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Phillip will be happy to discuss applications for membership. Call him in the evening at 884-4269.

THEY'VE GOT CENTENNIAL FEVER TOO

Good for them! They are going to need their enthusiasm when the Centennial Caravan comes to Richmond Hill. The local Jaycees have committed themselves to provide the loaves and fishes for the multitude of visitors that will swell the population of the Hill, May 1, 2 and 3. The Jaycees expect about 10,000 people a day and that will mean at least a wagon load of hot dogs and other goodies, have to be found somehow and that is no small undertaking. Torontonians just have to come to Richmond Hill if they want to see the Caravan. That is the nearest stop to the city. Lieutenant-Governor Earl Rowe, Premier John Robarts and Mayor William Dennison are expected to attend.

One concrete evidence of the Jaycee Centennial interest will be the erection of a score board in the town park.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY BETTERMENT IS THEIR AIM

Many fine tributes have been paid to the Jaycees as a result of their many activities in the field of self-development and community betterment. The organization is ideally suited to the ambitious young man, preparing him for increased responsibilities in business and the community.

The Jaycee creed emphasizes a responsible attitude to God and man by declaring that faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life and that the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations. Jaycees believe also that economic jus-

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Guides Adopt Oxfam Centennial Project

The November campaign of Richmond Hill Girl Guides in aid of Oxfam of Canada has so far netted \$79.50. The girls left envelopes at all Richmond Hill homes asking that they be returned to Oxfam in Toronto with a financial contribution.

Oxfam of Canada is a branch of the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, an organization started in Oxford, England to aid impoverished peoples. Aid is given to provide tools, seed, fertilizers and training in order to help people to help themselves.

Thornhill Guides conducted a similar campaign which to date has resulted in contributions totalling \$66 while Concord Guides raised \$6. Envelopes continue to come in, however.

Richmond Hill Guides have adopted aid for Oxfam as their Centennial project and will continue to aid the organization after Centennial year is over. A Quebec Guide group is planning to hold a "hunger" meal for their annual mother and daughter banquet. Instead of the usual dinner, soup and bread, or tea or rice will be served and money sent to Oxfam instead of being spent on food.

The Oxfam office in Toronto, at 97 Eglinton Ave. East, also reports that the Centennial Committees of Preston, Hespeler and Galt will declare an Oxfam month during Centennial Year. All service organizations in the areas will be asked to hold a hunger luncheon instead of their regular dinner or luncheon meeting. Those attending will pay the usual fee which will go to Oxfam.

1867 Centennial In Canada 1967

By CATHY SHIPP

Ten-year-old Cathy Shipp of Port Credit made her contribution to Canada's Centennial by writing this poem as part of a class project. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Shipp and is in grade 6 of Lorne Park Public School. This was her first attempt at writing poetry but she expects to continue writing in the future. She has well-rounded interests including riding, skating and piano playing.

The hundredth year of Confederation Is coming to this vast Nation But when the people will celebrate It's not done with ice-cream and cake.

The rich soil where our fathers fought Was known as Canada when it was sought Man has improved a lot since then But not yet do we have Big Ben.

It has valleys dark and grasses green There is so much we haven't seen The Prairies are very rich with wheat And so many people we have to meet.

If you want to visit a show Travel to the world that's called Expo It is a big and colourful fair Which all Canadians ought to share.

So Happy Birthday to this land From shore to shore across the sand Where'er you celebrate under this name Canada's people all mean the same.

George Mayes On —

The Flip Side

The case of the Nova Scotia councilman, who was barred from taking office because of an old conviction for a youthful car caper in Toronto, carries the moral that smart politicians make their mistakes after they are elected!

A California attorney is asking the state supreme court to rule against the existence of heaven and hell. He hasn't a snowball's chance — all Californians believe that California IS heaven! . . . And at this time of year we're inclined to agree with them.

American "Hawks" are urging President Johnson to escalate the war against North Vietnam. "Give them the H-bomb!" they say. . . . And if that doesn't work, cut off their Coca-Cola!

From here, it seems that every time China's Red Guards can't think of any other mischief to get into, they put up another bunch of wall posters. If this proliferation of posters continues they may finally find a use for that Great Wall of China.

One of our currently popular songs is "What The World Needs Now Is Love, Sweet Love . . . except, that is, around St. Jerome, Quebec, where the Apostles of Infinite Love are being chased by the provincial police.

Ontario Liberal leader Bob Nixon wants the government to pay ALL expenses for university students. . . . This is too much! At least they could pay for their own marijuana and LSD and their coffee-house crawls.

Ontario Hydro researchers say air pollution can cause radio and TV interference. . . . But then, on (Continued on Page 12)

Unit Off To A Good Beginning For '67

By MONA ROBERTSON

Talk about dedication, and terrific job," Treasurer A. T. zeal, and love of duty, the main Crosier told the board of directors of a "Volunteer's" tors, "we have never had any makeup: One of the directors one do so much, for so many, of the Richmond Hill & District and this is what we are here Unit of the Canadian Cancer for, to help cancer patients in Society (who shall remain name- every way we possibly can." less, by request), had to fly (More about Mrs. Follows' di- down to Ottawa on urgent versional therapy, and volunteer business for the firm he works services in a later issue.)

Chairman W. R. Kedwell an- Thursday was also the date for nounced that, Lawson Mumber- the January meeting of the can- son, former deputy-reeve of cer unit; so our volunteer Markham Township, and Gor- worker blitzed through his Ol- don-Niblett Motors; have both up there with neat dispatch; accepted their appointments as hopped a plane in Ottawa that vice presidents of the Richmond Hill & District Unit.

Munroe Ashkanase, campaign chairman, is in the process of organizing an industrial committee and has already contacted over one hundred men in local Mrs. J. D. Follows, chairman industries asking for their sup- port of women's service, "is doing a port.

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