

# Perspective . . .

A column of news and comments from the point of view of today's youth by Ian McAlister  
STEPHEN TRUSCOTT CASE

Although we should have heard the last of it eight years ago, the Stephen Truscott case is still very much in the news. While many people feel that it is important that our courts be 101% sure, I think it is even more important that we respect the decision which was handed down.

First of all, let me say that after reading the facts as presented in the newspapers, I believe that Stephen Truscott is guilty of the rape-slaying of the Harper girl. Now before you all condemn me for this belief, let me remind you that two courts including the Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, have reached the same verdict. However, I don't think that Truscott is the most dangerous criminal in this case and I think the finger should be, instead, pointed at Isabel LeBourdais.

In every society, the people must have some legal code by which they live. Of course, there must be someone to enforce this code and we place this power in the hands of responsible men within our country. It is only natural to assume that the members of the Supreme Court of Canada are to be the pick of the most fair and responsibly-minded citizens of Canada. We all admit that no human being is infallible and so it is with these men, but we must also admit that these people are probably the best we have.

Consequently, if we attack their decision as Miss LeBourdais has, we are attacking one of the largest blocks in the foundations of our society. If we will not listen to the Supreme Court of Canada's decision, who do we listen to? It may not be perfect but it is the best we've got and in order to obtain some semblance of order we must adhere to its rulings. I sometimes wonder how Isabel LeBourdais would feel if we asked her to pay for the investigation she instigated and which left a bill for many thousands of dollars in the hands of the Canadian taxpayers.

The thing that disturbed me the most was a reaction of many of our Members of Parliament. They too jumped on the emotionalists' bandwagon and began demanding that the government take some action. Although I usually disagree with Prime Minister Pearson's decisions, I think this time he made a very wise move when he decided to stay out of the matter. I think one of the great advantages our courts have over those of the United States is the fact that, unlike their American counterparts, our judges are not elected politicians. By staying out of the matter Mr. Pearson has left politics out of the courts. As a result the judges' decision can stand on its own merit and is not influenced by any upcoming election. However, as usual, the NDP's have thrown a monkey wrench in the case with Stanley Knowles' private member's bill demanding parole for Truscott.

I don't know when this entire affair will end and I don't have the faintest idea what the circumstances will be. I only hope that the end result does not make a mockery of the courts and entire judicial system upon which our very existence depends.

(Ian McAlister is a secondary school student residing in Richmond Hill)

## Builder Finally Gets Go Ahead For Addition To Markham Offices

Markham Township Council, which has been considering plans for renovations to its present building for the past year, Monday night, gave third and final reading to a bylaw authorizing execution of a contract with Arch Construction Ltd. Toronto, but it had to reconvene to do it.

Council had at first decided to call it quits for the night after only two readings of the bylaw, because Councillors Anthony Roman and Charles Hoover opposed carrying it any further at that time.

However, following adjournment, the matter was discussed again, and Mr. Roman, after establishing that funds would be available to finance the extra \$50,000 not budgeted for originally — it will be covered by lot fees — changed his mind and the meeting was reconvened and the third reading was passed.

Cost of the extension and renovation, not including the architect's \$15,000 fee, is \$277,900.

Council also: Referred to the planning board for study, a request from the Ryan Brothers, Lot 9, Concession 4, to rezone 10 acres of land to allow a wrecking operation on the property.

Referred to a future meeting on Centennial grants, a request from Mrs. George Hooper, for a grant to the York Choralists, who have been invited to sing at Expo '67, July 10-11.

Approved road accounts in the amount of \$24,806.68, and general accounts in the amount of \$63,592.46.

Approved a recommendation of the general committee to hold the official opening of the John Street Pollution Control Plant June 20, in the afternoon, followed by tours and a dinner in the evening. Cost of the opening, which will be borne by Wimpey Homes Ltd., Costain Estates Ltd., Schwenger Construction Ltd., and Proctor and Redfern Engineers, is not to exceed \$1,000.

## No Bogus \$5s On Local Scene Yet

Those phony \$5 bills that have been appearing in Toronto recently, have yet to make their appearance in the Richmond Hill area.

In fact, police have reported a dearth of any kind of counterfeits lately, although a bad \$10 bill did turn up in Vaughan Township last month.

The bogus \$5 first showed up in Montreal at Expo on opening day, the first such bill in Canada in 30 years. They have since been passed in Metro, Hamilton, Cooksville and Oakville.

Police described the bills as being easy to detect, because the blue color was too light on the front and too dark on the back. The Queen's face isn't clear or sharp, and the numbers are taken from \$1 bills.

## Staff Changes In Vaughan Schools

Mrs. Signe Snary, BA, returned to full-time duties with Vaughan Township Public School Board May 8, it was reported at the board's May 11 meeting. Mrs. Snary has just completed her course at the School of Library Science, University of Toronto, for which she had leave of absence.

She will be employed until the end of June in aiding principals with assessing library needs and organization in preparation for her duties as supervisor of libraries, beginning in September. Until the end of this term she will also be available for supply work.

Also returning to the regular staff at school opening in September will be Mrs. K. Heffron, who has spent a year studying in France. Mrs. Heffron will be assigned to regular classroom duties.

Four more experienced teachers, who have taught in England, Alberta, North York and Toronto have signed contracts to begin teaching duties in the township schools in September. Eleven students at present attending teachers' colleges also have been placed on contract. A further six resignations have been received from the present teaching staff, it was reported.

A three-day orientation program for teachers new to the township staff will be held June 5, 6 and 7, so they may become familiar with the schools in which they will work and the children they will teach.

Markham Township Police are seeking the whereabouts of a light, single-engine plane, which took off from a field in Hagerman's Corners Sunday afternoon.

Police said the Department of Transport had reported the plane unlicensed to operate.

Two newspaper vendors' boxes took a beating in the township over the weekend.

Constable Richard Pike brought the battered boxes into the township station Monday morning after finding them lying in a field on Don Mills Road and Concession 7.

The coin holders on both boxes had been smashed in and emptied of their contents.

## Lad Drowns When Canoe Overturns

A 13-year-old boy was drowned when he fell out of a canoe in a private pond in Woodbridge early Sunday morning.

Chief Herb Weatherall, Woodbridge, said that David Brannen of Brampton, had been visiting in Woodbridge, and had gone to a private swimming area with three other boys about 1:25 am.

The boys got into a canoe, but upset it shortly afterwards and the Brannen boy, who was unable to swim, was drowned.

It was believed the boys got alarmed when the owners of the property turned on a floodlight over the pond after being awakened by the noise from canoeists. The pond is owned by Dr. A. Stores, Woodbridge.

## What about next week?

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## Thieves Continue To Plague Area Golf Clubs Second Straight Week

Thieves still continue to plague area golf courses.

In the past two weeks, a total of \$32,000 in goods has been reported taken from golf clubs in the fringe areas.

Hardest hit has been Vaughan Township, with four clubs visited during that time, while Markham Township had two clubs broken into.

This week, it was back to Vaughan Township and Maple Downs Golf and Country Club, Dufferin Street, which lost \$5,700 in the first break-in.

However, nothing was taken. The would-be thieves were frightened off by Police Constables Ken Smith and John Thorsell, who were patrolling in the area at the time.

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(Photo by Studio Nine)

## 1967 Effective Speaking Winners

Winner of the Richmond Hill Jaycees 1967 Effective Speaking Competition was Bill McDonald, a salesman with Norm Black Real Estate. Mr. McDonald is one of the Jaycees actively assisting Richmond Hill's Centennial Committee and has contributed invaluable help to the parades on June 17 and July 1. He will be serving as co-ordinator of floats for the latter.

Finalists were Robert Lountz and Jim Harvey. In the picture above are (left to right) front row, Vice-President Ken Wallace, Champion Bill McDonald with his trophy and President Glen Philip; back row (same order) Bob Lountz and Jim Harvey.

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## Vaughan School Board Had \$23,925 Surplus

Vaughan Township Public School Board ended the year 1966 with a surplus of \$23,925, according to the auditors' report presented at the May 11 board meeting. Eddis and Associates, chartered accountants of Toronto, are the auditors.

Total revenue for the year was \$1,422,539 (at the beginning of the year the budget had forecast \$1,399,925 revenue with a deficit of \$13,915). The province's grant was \$8,218 more than had been estimated, supplementary taxes brought in an additional \$13,655 and accrued interest on sale of debentures added \$1,060.

Instructional salaries were \$780,156, \$1,000 less than estimated and instructional supplies and expenses were \$70,426, \$12,000 more than had been budgeted. Administration expenses (\$36,887) were down about \$1,300 and plant operation and maintenance (\$176,606) was down almost \$6,000 from the estimated amounts. Other services costs also were \$3,000 less than the estimate and tuition fees paid to other school boards (\$4,535) were almost \$1,000 less.

Capital outlays from current funds (\$62,846) was over \$13,000 less than the budget and transportation costs (\$46,700) was \$3,800 down. \$2,262 in taxes was written off by the court of revision and U.S. exchange on debenture payments was \$733 an increase of \$133 from the estimate. Debt charges, principal and interest amounted to \$203,890.

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Township of Vaughan  
**NOTICE To Destroy Weeds**

Notice is hereby given to all property owners and occupants of the Township of Vaughan that in accordance with the Weed Control Act 1960 Ontario, sections 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, unless weeds growing on their lands within the Township of Vaughan are cut by Saturday, June 10, 1967 and throughout the season, the weed inspector of the Township of Vaughan may enter upon said lands and have the weeds cut, charging the cost against the lands as set out in the act.

The co-operation of all concerned is earnestly requested.

B. Bailey, Reeve  
Township of Vaughan.  
Bert Witty,  
Weed Inspector, 889-4008.

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