

The Liberal
An Independent Weekly: Established 1878
Subscription Rate \$4.50 per year; to United States \$6.00; 10c single copy
Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association
Published by Richmond Hill Liberal Publishing Co. Ltd.
W. S. COOK, Publisher
"Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"

False Economy

By a majority decision the Metro Conservation Authority at its November meeting approved an increase in the entrance rates at the Black Creek Pioneer Village and the per diem allowance paid members of the board of directors which is the governing body of the authority.

The admission price to Pioneer Village will be increased from the present \$1 for adults and 25 cents for children to \$1.50 and 50 cents respectively. Earlier this year the authority had turned down an identical increase which it has now approved.

With nary an objection, the 55 member authority also agreed to raise its own salary from \$15. to \$20. a meeting and its car allowance from 10 cents a mile to 12 cents a mile. The 55 member general body meets seven times a year while the 11 member executive committee meets every two weeks. In addition various sub-committees and boards meet some three times a year.

The main reason given for the increase in entrance fees to the Pioneer Village was the growing annual deficit in its operations. There has

been a \$20,000 deficit during the past two years which will climb to an estimated \$30,000 this year. Funds for operating the village, which is one of the main attractions of the conservation authority, comes from the 24 participating municipalities. Thus the citizens in the member municipalities are already being taxed towards its operation and in addition are now going to have to pay a higher entrance fee every time they want to make use of the facility.

This newspaper finds it difficult to understand the decision of the authority, in the face of such a sizeable deficit, to raise its own salary. If the public must be taxed more heavily either directly or indirectly in order to meet a mounting deficit, then surely the board of directors should be willing to serve for the time being without additional remuneration.

It was poor timing on the part of the authority to vote itself a raise at the very same meeting where it was talking about a shortage of funds for Pioneer Village and increasing the entrance fee.



Santa Claus Parade

From the number of enquiries received by "The Liberal" about a Santa Claus Parade in Richmond Hill this year, it is quite evident that children and their parents, uncles and aunts, all miss this traditional annual event.

For many years the parade was organized by the Lions but of late years the sponsoring group has been the Richmond Heights Merchants' Association who received little if any help from any other source. Their parades have been most creditable performances and drew vast crowds of onlookers from town and the surrounding area.

Unfortunately the price tag on recent parades has been a large one and last year the sponsoring group decided they could no longer afford

to underwrite a parade for the town.

We find that in other communities the annual parade has been taken over by service clubs. In Aurora the Queen's York Rangers are the sponsors, in Stouffville the Kinsmen. Prizes are awarded for floats and entries and clubs, schools and individuals vie for the awards.

Perhaps in 1968 one or more of the several service clubs in Richmond Hill could be persuaded to sponsor such a parade. Planning should start early in the year, a theme chosen and intensive work put into interesting groups in entering floats. It can be done, because it is being done in other municipalities, and after the first year should gather momentum and become a real feature of the Christmas season.

Donald Anderson New Hydro Office Supervisor

Appointment of Donald Anderson, 42, to the position of area office supervisor for Ontario Hydro's Richmond Hill Area has just been announced by Area Manager L. J. Roy.

Mr. Anderson formerly was area office supervisor for the commission's Woodbridge area. He succeeds Reg Scobie, who has been promoted and transferred to head office in Toronto.

A native of Leroy, Saskatchewan, Donald Anderson joined Ontario Hydro in November 1947 at the Agassabon Generating Station project near a Shriber. He served first with the construction division as commissary manager and also in stores accounting. In 1948, Mr. Anderson was transferred to the La Cava project, now the Otto-Holden Generating Station, at Mattawa. He was transport and work equipment costing clerk and commissary manager.

Three years later, Donald Anderson was transferred by Ontario Hydro to the Sir Adam Beck No. 2 G.S. project, at Niagara Falls. He served there until 1958 in stores accounting and as a time clerk.

In 1958 he moved from the commission's construction division into the northeastern regional division and was appointed chief clerk on the staff at Warren Rural Operating Area. Mr. Anderson served in that



DONALD ANDERSON

At present they live in Rexdale area in the Borough of Etobicoke. They plan to move next year to the Richmond Hill area.

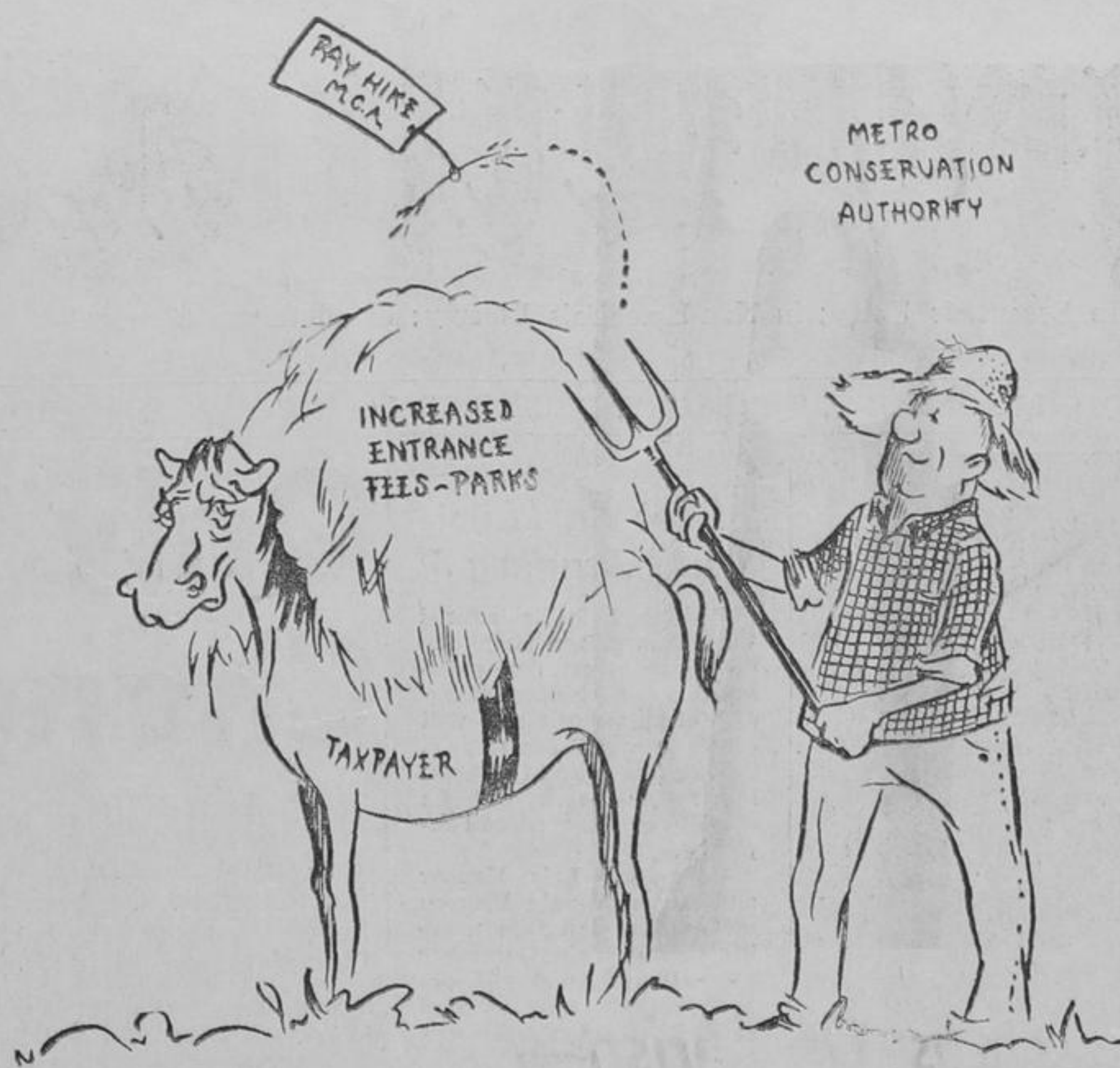
In his spare time Don Anderson repairs radios and television sets as a hobby having taken a course in electronics in 1956 in Hamilton when he was in the Niagara Region. He is presently studying for his Registered Industrial Accountants degree through the McMaster University Extension Department.

Reg Scobie, who has been office supervisor for Ontario Hydro's Richmond Hill area for the past three years, has been promoted to rural service assistant in the consumer service division of the marketing branch at head office in Toronto.

He is being succeeded here by Donald Anderson.

Mr. Scobie came to Richmond Hill from the commission's Ottawa rural operating area where he had been chief clerk. He began his hydro career in August 1949 as a senior clerk in the Cameron Falls Generating Station and in March 1954 transferred to the Mitchell rural operating area, and to Ottawa in 1956.

With his wife, Helen, and three children, Mark, Ian and Brent, he lives at 49 McNicoll Avenue in Willowdale.



The Last Straw



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

The Riding Master Of Bayview Farms

Ben Ewen is a good riding master. This is what people say about him. It's a good word to hear from his students and friends.

Small wonder. Mr. Ewen is an ex-Mountie, a one time instructor of the RCMP's famous musical ride.

Ben Ewen is leaving his present quarters, Bayview Farms, to realize a cherished dream. Soon he will be conducting his riding classes on his newly acquired 18-acre property on the Whitchurch-Markham Townline, four miles east of the Don Mills Road. The name of the riding stables will not change. It will still be known as Bayview Farms.

The riding school is busy all week long. From 60 to 65 children take riding lessons at Bayview Farms throughout the week and on weekends. It is a full time business.

"I don't like to encourage children to ride until they are around eight years old," said Mr. Ewen. "Under that age, the child usually lacks the ability to grasp formal instruction."

Parents sometimes worry about the type of horse their child should be allowed to ride. Mr. Ewen rules out the idea of ponies. According to him, the disadvantage of the pony lies in the fact that the majority of ponies are difficult to train. He prefers to train a child to ride on an older horse that has been well-schooled.

"Ponies are too small for a man or a woman to ride so consequently the animals can't be trained properly. They can't be trained by a child who doesn't know how to ride. A pony without training often gets out of hand and is often bad mannered. A child without some preliminary training is neither strong or wise enough to school it."

Mr. Ewen suggests to parents who think of buying a pony for their youngster to select a large pony or a well trained older horse with good behaviour. After the child gains the necessary riding experience, then a pony might be considered.

Riding, like many other sports, is very popular today. The cost of riding lessons is reasonable. It is not even necessary to own a horse. Children can learn to ride on the school horses. If the child shows interest, a suitable horse can be bought and stabled at Bayview Farms or at any of the fine riding establishments in the district.

At present there are 55 horses at Bayview Farms and this includes boarding and school horses. There is a difference in riding stables too, Mr. Ewen points out. Some stables rent horses to anyone who wishes to ride. Others are strictly boarding or teaching stables and some of them, like Bayview Farms, combine boarding and teaching activities. There are stables to suit all individual requirements.

THE MOUNTIE TRAINING IS GOOD FOR BOYS

When a man has spent almost 22 years watching the training of rookie Mounties, his opinion has weight.

"When I was stationed at Ottawa, we had a lot of young fellows coming in for a 10 month training period," said Mr. Ewen. "When they left the post, they were men capable of coping physically and

(Continued on Page 14)

County Boundary Archaic

(Kitchener-Waterloo Record) From a first reading of the 34 pages of typescript which set out Waterloo County's views on local government, one refreshing idea at once emerges. The authors of the brief, which was handed this week to the Waterloo area local government study have not let their thinking be confined within the stiff limits of county boundaries as the latter now exist on maps of Ontario.

County government was a new idea for Canada in 1849 when the Municipal Act of that year set out the rules for it. There were then only two cities in Canada West—Toronto and Kingston. The framework created for regional government did not take much account of cities.

Now we have 36 city governments in Ontario, but we still have the same old legislation, which naturally does not prescribe for modern problems of fitting growing cities into the county, or regional, framework.

Reeve Erwin Nelson of Hespeler and his fellow-members of the warden's committee of Waterloo County Council have looked at the facts of urban growth as they are today, and have taken into account the urban area of Guelph in connection with proposals for the future of local government in the "Waterloo area." They sensibly disregard the fact that county boundaries, as they were laid out in the 1850s, put Guelph outside Waterloo County.

That was good enough in the far past, when it was a two-hour drive, with a buggy and a good horse, from Waterloo to Guelph. Nowadays, though, the trip from the eastern Kitchener to the western limit of Guelph is eight minutes at normal highway speed.

The pits of the plan put forward by Reeve Nelson's committee is that the three cities, four towns, three villages and five townships now within the boundaries of Waterloo County should be regrouped to make seven municipalities instead of 15. Each of the seven would have limited powers, and most of the responsibility for local government would be given to a metropolitan council.

The added feature of the brief is the suggestion that the present Townships of Puslinch and Guelph and the City of Guelph should be merged to make an eighth unit of the Waterloo metropolitan area.

It would have been a silly idea in 1849, but it makes sense in 1967.

AURORA: Council has approved construction by Mario Pivola of Toronto for 90-foot apartment buildings on Wellington Street West, west of the new senior public school. The development will contain 106 apartments and 102 town house units. The apartments are to be built first and the town houses will be subject to later agreement. The town's planning board's position has been that the project was economically unsound for Aurora.

George Mayes On—

The Flip Side

Happiness is being a French translator looking for a job in Ontario.

Say what you will about our federal government, but you'll have to admit that any government that prunes the payroll for the CBC and the Company of Young Canadians can't be ALL bad!

Speaking about the CBC: We see where it intends doing away with its foreign-language broadcasts . . . that is, its foreign-language broadcasts to foreign countries.

Canada's peace-keeping troops on Cyprus are reported to be engaged much of the time in distributing candies to children . . . and writing home about being in a "sticky" situation!

Britain's train engineers are striking in protest over trainmen being crowded into their cabs as a result of an economy move which eliminated the crews' cabooses. . . They argue, logically, that the cabooses should be the last to go.

Ottawa's proposed changes in the divorce laws are still for the upper classes. Most divorce seeking victims of a marriage breakdown will need a language breakdown of the allowable reasons.

See where last week's mobs of anti-war demonstrators around New York's draft induction centre were led by the noted Dr. Spock. . . Still being a child authority, eh?

The United Nations announces it is doubling the number of its observers along the Nile. . . Well, apart from being a French translator, THERE is a job we wouldn't mind for the winter.

Toronto heart specialist, Dr. William Mustard, says of the South African heart replacement operation: "Anybody can transplant a heart." With, of course, a red thumb.

Volume 1 of the Bi-Bi Commission's report reveals that widely different versions of Canada's history are being taught in French and English schools. . . So maybe, in THEIR books, WE were the Zombies.

The Ballet African, which had performed without incident in cities across Canada, was closed by Montreal's morality squad because of the bare-bosom exposure in a native dance scene. . . Yep, now that Expo's over, everything's getting back to normal.

A Toronto alderman proposes charging \$4 per hour at the city's parking lots to discourage people from bringing their cars downtown . . . \$4 an hour! It would be cheaper to leave it on the street and pay for a parking ticket.

Quote Of The Week

Premier Joey Smallwood, as he left hospital after his eye operation: "I think we might give Quebec everything it wants; and THEN, if they still aren't satisfied, we should start getting suspicious." (See! Already he's seeing things more clearly!)

Merry Christmas, Friends

When the ground is white, and shining With the welcome Christmas snow, And the blessed stars are gleaming From the sky, on earth below! When from brightly lighted windows Comes the sound of Christmas glee, As they celebrate the birthday Of Him, Who said, "Come unto Me!" Then, let's call some weary traveller, Faltering off, in life's grim race, In, to share our Christmas blessings, Our Christmas tree, warm fireplace! List, the bells are softly chiming; And their glad message seems to be, "As ye have done it, unto these, Ye have, also, done it unto Me!"

Mary Honey Brown, 191 Centre Street West, Richmond Hill.

Pay-As-You Go Policy Remembrance Parade

A proposal from No. 172 York Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets to guarantee appearance of their pipe band in Richmond Hill's Remembrance Day Day parades for the next 10 years in return for a grant of \$500, was not accepted by town council, when presented at the December 4 meeting.

Council members voiced appreciation of participation by the squadron in the parade for several years, at its own expense. The letter stated the squadron understood some difficulty has been experienced in the past by parade chairmen in obtaining a pipe band. It also said responsible citizens of the town

had suggested the above proposal be made, and stated highland uniforms are not supplied by the RCAF.

Councillor Lois Hancey expressed admiration for the progress made by the squadron in the past few years and asked that the request be referred to the 1968 committee for consideration when preparing the budget.

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst reported himself sympathetically inclined to the squadron. "However I don't think the town would be wise in accepting this proposal. We should go on a pay-as-you-go basis."

Two Million Christmas Trees Ready For Ontario Homes On Corner Lots

Corner lots are now blossoming with their annual crop of Christmas Trees—pine, spruce, balsam in limited quantities and thousands and thousands of Scotch pine grown especially for the Christmas market.

Between 11 and 12 million trees will be harvested this year in Canada for the Christmas market and about eight million of these will be exported. Last year Canada exported 7,889,934 trees worth \$5,845,000 to the United States and another 96,888 were shipped to several Caribbean and South American countries.

Forecasts are that this year trees will cost 10 to 15 percent more than last year, because of greater labor costs and scarcity of the popular Scotch pine.

An innovation of the last few years has been the cut-it-yourself woodlot. Many people make it a family affair, mother, dad and all the kids, accompanied by the dog, tramping through the snow to find just exactly the right tree, cutting it down and carrying it back to the car for transportation to the home.

Ontario uses about two million trees every Christmas and ships another two and a half million to the United States. Last year's exports brought \$2,218,000 to the growers. This province's trees are almost all lot-grown Scotch pines and this year's harvest is estimated at 7,500,000. Lots range from a few hundred trees to a few hundred thousands. Major



growers have millions of trees. Gone are the days of the get-rich-easy growers, who thought all they had to do was plant the trees on cheap land and return in eight years to reap a cash crop. Most trees now are grown by people who know there is much work than that involved.

Three-year-old nursery stock is transplanted and then protected from natural hazards such as birds and insects. The trees need pruning every year and labor for this usually has to be imported from the Maritimes. A good pruner can earn up to \$50 a day at piecework rates, it is claimed.

In spite of all this care, about 50 percent of all trees

planted are unsuitable for marketing as Christmas trees. They have their own ideas of form and shape. Those which don't meet the specifications are burned, since Scotch pine is not suitable for lumber.

Some growers are packaging their product, placing a network of string around the branches to keep them from being injured and to make them more compact for shipping. This is particularly valuable for those trees which are exported.

A Wisconsin grower plans to market branded Christmas Trees nationally through franchises. He already has more than 200 growers set up with 10 million trees growing. In 1969, the firm will harvest a million and a half of them and sell them

through 1,000 franchises near major centres, all handling trees with a "Santa's Forest" label.

But the lot or forest-grown Christmas Tree is finding a lot of competition these Christmas trees in almost real-looking artificial trees. Some even carry with them a small vial of pine scent to give a greater semblance to reality. Mother likes them because they don't litter the floor with needles (neither do the real Scotch pine), and father likes them, because he has to make only one major expenditure which will last for years.

However, most Canadians still prefer the real Christmas tree, with all its fuss and muss—it helps to make a real Christmas.

Remedial Group Elects Officers

Mrs. A. Haworth of Thornhill was elected president of the Richmond Hill Branch of the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities at a meeting held at Richmond Hill United Church November 30.

Other officers elected were Vice-President of Finance Craig Bowden, Richmond Hill, Vice-President of Programs Mrs. Alan R. Crawford, Thornhill, Treasurer, Mrs. S. Beggs, Richmond Hill, Recording Secretary Mrs. Craig Bowden.

Mrs. P. Dawson, Richmond Hill will be in charge of memberships, publications and donations and Mrs. J. Downey, also of Richmond Hill, will be in charge of publicity. Telephone Convener for Richmond Hill will be Mrs. T. Dunlevy, for Thornhill, Mrs. A. Hutton.

The branch operates the York Educational Clinic which endeavours to meet the special learning needs of children with diagnosed specific difficulties.

Members of the staff of the clinic are Miss E. Staunton and Mrs. R. McKittrick, both formerly teachers with the Richmond Hill Public School system. Latest addition to the staff is Mrs. Chris Gandy, a language pathologist who has worked with the Institute of Child Study of the University of Toronto and as language consultant and therapist at Warrendale. She is also on the speech and hearing staff of St. Joseph's Hospital, Toronto.

With the addition of Mrs. Gandy to the staff, the association feels the clinic is able to offer a more comprehensive remedial program.

NEWMARKET: A petition is being circulated by Millard, Arden and Lorne Avenue residents to protest the use of a home on Millard Avenue by John Brown Camps Ltd. as offices. They claim they are protesting the office use because they feel it may possibly result in turning it into a slum area.



GEORGE COLBOURNE

Announcement

David Baker, vice-president of Baker's Sales and Service Ltd., Yonge Street, Richvale, announces the appointment of George Colbourne as sales manager of the Jeep (family of vehicles) division of Baker's American Motors Dealer. George (or Mr. Jeep to his friends) brings to Baker's many years of experience with the Jeep organization, first as a fleet representative for Kaiser Jeep of Canada and later sales representative for two of the larger Jeep dealers. George will be at home to his many friends and an added asset to the ever expanding organization.



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