

Your Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion
By Eric Chapman - 884-0086

Four days from the date on which "The Liberal" is published it will be Christmas.

Once again many of you will be awakened at first light by the excited cries of wide-eyed children who will have already explored the colorful array of boxes which lie at the base of the family Christmas Tree.

Once again you will be told that Santa came because I was a good boy, or a good girl, "And look what he left me!"

The parental bedroom will become littered with wrapping paper, candies, oranges, apples, nuts, mechanical tanks, tot-ropes, train sets and build-it-yourself dolls houses; and once again, bedlam will reign supreme.

Humbly you say? Never in a million years! A Very Merry Christmas to all of you.

One of the more trenchant of modern Christmas messages caught this reporter's eye in the December issue of Good House-keeping. This particular message was contained in a letter written by author John Steinbeck to the late U.S. Secretary of State, Adlai Stevenson, when the author was resident in Somerset, England. It is well worth quoting in part as follows.

"... Adlai, do you remember two kinds of Christmas? There is one kind in a house where there is little and a present represents not only love but sacrifice. The one single package is opened with a kind of slow wonder, almost reverence. Once I gave my youngest boy, who loves all living things, a dwarf, peach-faced parrot for Christmas. He removed the paper and then retreated a little shyly and looked at the little bird for a long time. And finally he said in a whisper, 'Now would you have thought that I would have a peach-faced parrot?'"

"Then there is the other kind of Christmas with presents piled high, the gifts of guilty parents as bribes because they have nothing else to give. The wrappings are ripped off and the presents thrown down and at the end the child says — 'Is that all?'"

"Well, it seems to me that America now is like that second kind of Christmas. Having too many 'things', they spend their

DECEMBER 28th

Blood Donor Clinic

LIONS HALL
Centre Street East
2-4 p.m. 6-9 p.m.
Come and donate YOUR Christmas Gift

Want More Rinks Accessible To All Town Children

Ward 3 Councillor Lois Hancey is still fighting to have an outdoor skating rink provided in an accessible spot for the children in the area south of Markham Road, west of the CNR tracks.

Ward 1 Councillor Ivan Mansbridge also continues to advocate outdoor rinks at all schools.

Last week council accepted a recommendation from its parks board made November 20.

The board recommends use of the old arena for free skating Tuesdays from 4 to 5:30 pm and Wednesdays from 1 to 3 pm. Crosby Park and the Mill Pond will be maintained for skating by parks board. Any other park or school area to be utilized for public skating will be prepared for flooding by the parks board and equipment made available to interested

neighborhood groups for the flooding and maintaining of rinks.

At the November 20 meeting Deputy-reeve Floyd Perkins moved that Walter Scott School be added to the list of ice surfaces to be flooded and maintained by the parks board. This motion was carried, but attempts by Councillor Hancey to have Lennox Park in her ward added and of Councillor Mansbridge to have Beverley Acres Public School included were unsuccessful.

Again last week both councillors returned to the battle, Mrs. Hancey making an impassioned plea for the children in the southern part of the town to whom the three open air rinks will not be accessible, Mr. Mansbridge made his pitch for

rinks at all schools.

"I realize flooding rinks is a costly business, but feel it is unfair to pick last winter as an example of the number of days of use. It was also unfortunate that when other municipalities were quoted as having discontinued outdoor natural ice rinks, it was not pointed out that they provide other recreation facilities such as ski tows and artificial snow and have a great number of parks," said Mrs. Hancey.

Mayor Thomas Broadhurst pointed out that this was a decision of the parks board and council has approved it. He suggested that any recommended changes should be made to parks. "We have never had adequate use from these rinks," he claimed.

Mrs. Hancey asked to have an appointment to discuss the matter with the parks board at an early date.

"I agree that we can no longer afford one at each school," Mrs. Hancey commented, "but we should have one in each neighborhood, at least where it is accessible to the children."

Councillor John MacDiarmid stated he would be happy to take Mrs. Hancey's suggestion back to the parks board, noting that Mr. Mansbridge is on the parks board "and can talk for himself".

At the council meeting the members also received a report from Architect Douglas Allen who discussed the proposed enclosure of the Centennial Swimming Pool. Council asked Mr. Allen to submit for further consideration an estimate of an adequate structure with necessary fixtures for enclosure of the outdoor pool and an estimate of tiling of the deck and pool. Mayor Broadhurst noted that this was in no way even a semi-commitment to enclosing the pool. "What council wants is an estimate of an adequate structure, rather than the rather inadequate proposal put forward by the recreation committee," he said.

Council also agreed that the works department should be made responsible for the maintenance of the swimming pool, rather than the recreation committee.

The 1968 parks board in the early summer, it was suggested, should approach the arena commission to book the two arenas for a winter skating program to cover public pleasure skating and shiny hockey for the next winter.

ELGIN MILLS - JEFFERSON

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Church News

Next Sunday being Christmas Eve, there will be no 11 am service at St. John's Anglican Church. The service at St. Mark's, Oak Ridges, will be a celebration of the Holy Communion at 10 am. At 7:30 pm there will be a service of "Carols by Candlelight" at St. John's. The choir has worked very hard practising for this service and the open collection will go to purchase of new cassocks and surplices for its members.

After the service refreshments will be served in the lower hall. At 11:30 pm the first Christmas Communion will be celebrated, with a second celebration at 11 am Christmas morning, both at St. John's. At the latter service there will be a 10-minute sermon on tape for children.

Wednesday afternoon the Winchester group of ACW held a Christmas Party, Miss Gertrude Simone, director of Ingalls House, gave a talk on her recent visit to Palestine, which was accompanied by slides.

Saturday evening some of the young people's group went roller skating at the Terrace, Mutual Street, while others attended the carol service of Koinonia at the Church of the Messiah, Avenue Rd., Toronto. The group will have a Christmas Party at 7:30 pm next Saturday evening to which all young people in grade 9 or over are invited.

The young adults group will meet Friday evening at 8 pm at the parish hall.

About 60 children enjoyed the Christmas Party Saturday afternoon with games, carols and a film. A few of the children put on a play. Refreshments were then enjoyed by all.

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Sell-A-Rama Price \$1719.

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Sell-A-Rama Price \$5195.

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