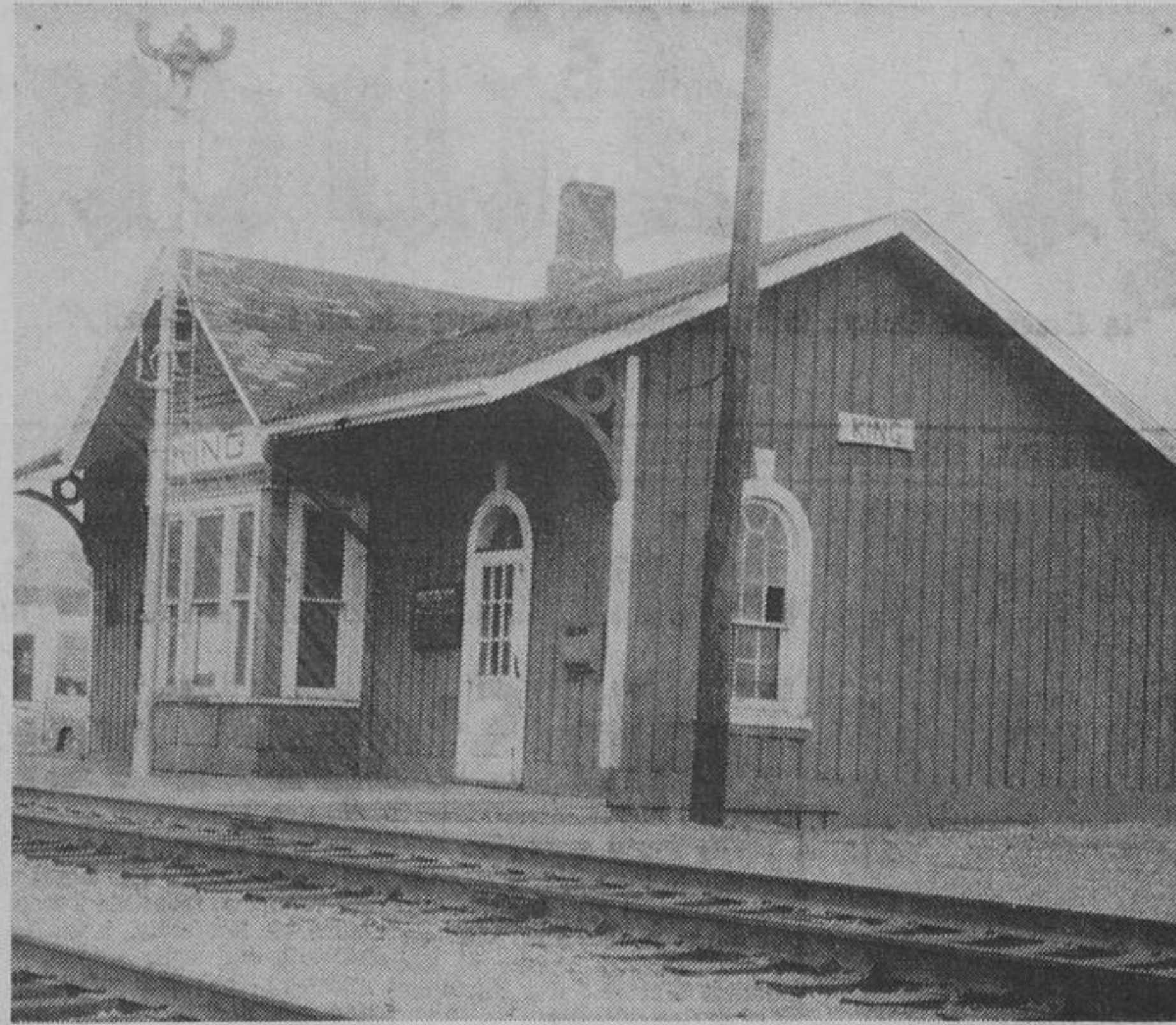


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Preserve Historic King Depot

King City's CNR station, built during the 1850's, which has not been in use for several years, left its site recently for Boyd Conservation Area. It is hoped eventually to add it to the historic buildings at Black Creek Pioneer Village, but a final decision has not yet been reached. In the meantime, the building will be stored at Boyd Park.

The depot, which sheltered travellers for more than a century, finally travelled itself — on a wide-track float truck. It was on the road for five hours, crossing country roads and bridges and using an overpass over Highway 400 to the temporary site.

For a time the Town of Aurora had hoped to acquire the building for a railroad museum. However, the plan was delayed so many times the CNR finally withdrew its offer to sell. It then offered the building to the Metro Conservation Authority contingent on early removal.

Many hours of planning and \$2,000 were spent on re-location of the building in Boyd Park, with Russell Cooper, administrator of the historic sites division of MTRCA in charge. The transfer brought out Bell Telephone and hydro workmen, photographers, conservation officials, police and a CBC cameraman as the more than a century old building took its first trip.

Vandals Hurt Themselves

It is strange to adults that young people who commit acts of vandalism always fail to realize that the persons who suffer most from these deeds, which may give a vicarious pleasure for a few minutes, are the young people themselves and their friends.

A recent occurrence was the thoughtless destruction of washroom facilities in the new Richmond Hill Arena which led to introduction of a regulation that only those young people with skates and intending to skate would be admitted to Saturday night skating sessions.

A complaint that young people participating in the town's winter recreation program at Our Lady Help of Christians Separate School were abusing the privilege of using the school's facilities could have led the trustees to withdraw those facilities. Fortunately for the young people, the trustees realize that this is a needed service and it will be continued as long as the youngsters confine their activities to the designated area.

Richmond Hill has little enough in the line of recreation, particularly for the older teenagers — and it would be a great pity to have any of the programs now underway curtailed in any degree. In fact we believe that these programs should be enlarged. A wider choice of things to do and places to do them would leave fewer young people to roam the streets, destroy public and private property — and get into mischief.

Such programs have been suggested in the past but lack of town funds has made it impossible to introduce them. We, too, are taxpayers and we know that the tax dollar has many other demands to fill — education, roads, police, administration and all the other costs of municipal government — but a little more invested in the recreation program could well pay dividends in decreasing the cost of vandalism. If our young people have the chance to enjoy healthful recreation, they will have less time and less inclination to get into mischievous trouble.

Backbencher Speaks His Mind

Ronald Knight the newly elected Liberal member of the Legislature for Port Arthur spoke for many Canadians when rising in the House the other week he deplored the trend to the two nation English and French policy of the Robarts Government. Mr. Knight was right when he said the move in Ontario toward official recognition of the French language has created a festering wound among Canadians who believe in oneness for Canada.

Mr. Knight sprang his one-language argument on the Legislature as a surprise. His was the first voice raised in the chamber against the Robarts Government policy of public support for the French language in Ontario. Mr. Knight who is completely bilingual opened his address in French.

In his speech, Mr. Knight acknowledged that he was flying in the face of Liberal Leader Robert Nixon who is in favor of immediate implementation of the recent recommendations of the Bilingualism and Biculturalism Commission that Ontario become officially bilingual.

"I firmly believe in one Canada with one main language be it English or French, and I am disappointed to think that no one has had the courage to take this decision. Once again we are following the route of the compromise in the illusion that dividing Canada into two languages will unite it". Mr. Knight said the reference to English or French meant majority rule and it was obvious which language had the majority.

Mr. Knight said some other members of the Liberal caucus might

agree with him quietly but all were afraid to take a stand publicly.

Both Ottawa and Queen's Park have continually supported the two nations concept. In fact all of the parties — Conservative, Liberal and New Democrat — have been falling over each other in an endeavor to promote the so-called claims of Quebec against the other nine provinces. Instead of assisting the cause of confederation and national unity, they have simply encouraged the radical element in Quebec in their attempts to destroy Canada. None of our political parties in either the federal or provincial field are ready to champion the rights of the majority.

And yet Quebec's problems are more economic than separatist. Two points bear out this fact. The bonds of the Quebec Government are producing \$13. per \$100. less than those of Ontario. Quebec is also paying 1 1/2% higher interest charges than Ontario when it goes on the bond market to borrow money, to say nothing of their extremely high sales tax.

Mr. Knight said he had sought written opinions from his constituents and found them five to one against officially introducing French to Ontario. "The letters came from a cross-section of nationalities. The predominant arguments echoed over and over were: 'We don't want French forced down our throats', and 'One Canada, one language'.

In their headlong rush to pacify Quebec, our politicians have lost touch with the average Canadian citizen and his real aspirations for a united Canada.

Mental Hospital Economy

(Hamilton Spectator)

There is a fly in the otherwise salutary ointment Queen's Park has prescribed as a provincial inflation remedy. The government intends to postpone \$43.5 million worth of planned construction to reduce provincial spending. One of the shelved projects is a \$3.5 million new development at the Ontario Hospital at Penetanguishene.

Ontario can get by for a few more years without the other major facilities that have been temporarily tabled. They include a \$24 million government office expansion at Queen's Park, a \$7 million renovation of Osgoode Hall and the \$3.2 million St. Catharines-Welland regional jail.

These works are necessary but they do not rate priority. Mental health does.

Overcrowding at some provincially-operated mental hospitals is chronic. Existing Ontario Hospital buildings — some in Hamilton are nearly 100 years old — desperately need replacement.

Unlike cramped government offices, mouldering jails and antiquated judicial centres, Ontario Hospitals cannot afford to wait for the economy to level off. Sick people need treatment regardless of the dollar's gyrations.

Provision of adequate mental hospital facilities is an essential, not a convenience that can be postponed until better times. Belt-tightening that squeezes out necessary services is dangerously false economizing.

And \$3.5 million is a scant drop in Ontario's \$2 billion-a-year budgetary bucket.

Ontario has a long way to go to catch up with its needs in the whole range of mental health services. The province is critically short of trained psychiatrists and psychologists for government - run institutions. The Mental Hospitals urgently need expansion and replacement of ancient buildings.

In the meantime, the number of Ontarians requiring mental health facilities increases. Without hospital expansion, a greater load will be thrown on overburdened resources.

This is no time to worsen an already inadequate situation for the sake of saving dollars that would make no appreciable difference either to inflation or provincial finances.



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

This Teenager Is An Artist

For some time now I have been admiring the fine picture of a British frigate and two American brigs which is displayed in the art gallery of John and Yvette Adkins of Thornhill Paint Supplies. They are the focal interest in a painting by Michael French of Thornhill.

Michael is the 16-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. J. Barry French of Thornebank Road and is a grade 10 student at Thornhill Secondary School.

The painting conveys a sense of excitement, recalling the spirit of the War of 1812 and the sea battles between the British and the Americans. In the picture itself, however, there is no sign of battle.

The frigate, giant masts stripped to the bare bones, is tied to a quay, projecting an aloof, unfriendly look. The brigs, sails half-furled, are drifting together in a sisterly fashion. (The frigate is a three-masted British cruiser while the brigs are described as two-master square-riggers.)

Michael painted the picture before Christmas, giving much thought to its effect on the viewer. The finished painting represents 150 to 200 hours of work. Part of it was easy, Michael already having a love and a fair knowledge of ships of all periods of history. His first impressions of these came at a very early age from his grandfather, J. B. French, who owned a Cape Horn cargo ship — a three-masted square rigger about 300 feet long. It was once docked in New York harbor.

J. B. French was also a commercial artist and started Michael's love affair with oil paints when the lad was between five and six years old. Michael began painting seriously at the age of eight and is grateful to his parents who encouraged him and kept him supplied with materials. For this picture, Michael further prepared himself by consulting books about the sea and examining sketches and pictures of all sorts of rigged ships.

FIFTY PAINTINGS SINCE LAST SUMMER

Michael grew into painting and has never taken a course. His first love is boats, ships, land and sea and he has painted 50 scenes containing these since last summer. For the past two weeks a selection of his versatile art has been displayed in the window of Thornhill Paint Supplies. It's quite possible the pictures may remain there a little longer.

(Continued on Page 14)

Letters to the Editors

Necking, Petting Disgusting Exhibition At Old Arena

Dear Mr. Editor:

After reading Councillor William Lazenby's comments on hooliganism at the Richmond Hill Arena in last week's Liberal, I find I would personally like to comment on this situation.

On February 24 this writer attended a skating party with her husband in connection with the Maple Extension Group, of the Richmond Hill and District YWCA in Richmond Hill. Not knowing which of the two arenas we were to use, we entered the old building, where the attendant at the door suggested we would probably enjoy skating in the new arena.

Our group did use the new arena and found the facilities excellent, however skating was over at 9:30 pm and we were told the old arena was open until 10:00. so our group went over to the old building.

This writer was absolutely appalled at the conditions in this building. Most of the children in the arena were approximately ten and eleven years old and about half of them were skating; to which there was no music. The rest of the children were in the stands and their behaviour was the most disgusting exhibition that I have ever witnessed.

At no time during my stay was a policeman in the building. It is unbelievable to me that the Town of Richmond Hill would allow this type of conduct to take place in a public building.

As the mother of three small children, I have often thought I would like to take them skating to Richmond Hill Arena on Saturday night, as we do not have such facilities in Maple, however having seen this situation, I would not allow my youngsters to even enter the building.

I would suggest the parents of the children who go skating take the time to go to the arena and see for themselves the conduct of their children. I can assure you every one of them would be thoroughly shocked. I, for one, certainly hope the town takes some drastic action to clear up this situation.

Yours truly,
 MRS. RICHARD SODERBERG,
 53 Goodman Crescent,
 Maple.

THE ROLLING SWAMP OF KING TOWNSHIP

Dear Mr. Editor:

Oak Ridges residents of King Township are seemingly in a hopeless situation brought on by lackadaisical and belittling representation whose aims are lost by useless individual helter skelter rather than sound co-operative planning.

Home owners in the area are inclined to refurbish their property, but this is very difficult when faced with swamps and deathly water holes which infest the area. Council has been approached on numerous occasions to rectify this problem before a child is drowned or diseases are allowed to develop and spread through the community.

Generally, the population is inclined to believe with the ridiculously high taxes collected from them, that this would be but a small service to receive in return, but our representatives are more concerned with the entertaining aspect of council rather than justifying the responsibilities of their positions.

This recent quote (the conservation authority has made us look foolish in the eyes of the voters) is distasteful and disrupting, but definitely will open more eyes to the problem we face.

Our township council apparently entered into an agreement with the Metro Conservation Authority where they would contribute \$5,000 and wash their hands of the mess. Is this the price for the possible loss of human life? They arrived at this figure and gave the ball to someone else to carry; but they forgot to ask if that someone wanted to carry the ball and you guessed it! They did not!

It is becoming more understandable now why the sales turnover of private homes in the area has increased to unbelievable proportions. What is the answer — perhaps drawing industry into the area. The problem could solve itself if we attracted industry, possibly snake or alligator breeders; the swamps would be put to use and hopefully more tax dollars could be collected, but again maybe council would consider this too ambitious a project to undertake.

Admitted, the above is sarcastic, but if council does not begin functioning with a more business-like attitude they will find a stepping stone sliding beneath their feet.

WILLIAM DICKINSON,
 3 Poplar Drive,
 Oak Ridges.

CURFEW WOULD CONTROL ROWDY YOUTHS

Dear Mr. Editor:

If the police are expected to control unruly groups of youngsters at public places, like the Richmond Hill Arena, then they must be given laws and bylaws which they can enforce.

One of the best methods of controlling vandalism and delinquency is to have a curfew — a 9 pm limit for unaccompanied youths under 16 years of age to be at large. In some areas of the United States, elementary school children (those under 12 years of age) have to be at home or under adult supervision after 7 pm.

Do we have laws which allow police to disband unruly groups in public places?

Youngsters today know their legal rights and assert themselves to the limit. Habitual breakers of the curfew, after being driven home by the police, should be subject to fines. Or rather, their parents, who are ignoring their responsibilities, should be fined. These fines would pay for a part at least of the damage done to public parks and facilities.

Parent-driven car pools to dances and other teenage entertainment could also bring about an improvement in the existing conditions.

What is really needed is a parents' union to draw up minimum standards of acceptable behavior — to give support to those parents who are unable to discipline their own children. Yes, lots of parents, need this type of help. What is needed is for parents to unite for power, just as student power is being organized. (Our present governments at every level may have lots of fault, but government by children is ridiculous.)

Let's get some constructive ideas and put them to work — and make this area a pleasant place in which to live and play.

MRS. BERNICE LEVER,
 79 Denham Drive,
 Richvale.

A BUS! A BUS! MY KINGDOM FOR A BUS!

Dear Mr. Editor:

The announcement in last week's Liberal of the increase of 5c for the local bus fare had the same effect on me as waving a red flag in front of a bull. It followed too closely an unfortunate experience I had the previous night (the night of the storm) on my way home from work.

To start off, the bus was a good five minutes late (understandable in view of the weather conditions). However, when it did arrive the front door would not open and the back one would not close. But



If you are the victim of an uninsured driver you can claim damages from the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund.

For further information, write: Director of Claims, Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund, ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, 10 St. Mary St., Toronto 5, Ontario.

Completely Balanced Orchestra

By JAMES A. HANDLEY
 Toronto

I attended a concert by the Richmond Hill Symphony Orchestra March 7, by invitation, and for the purpose of writing a review or expressing my own criticism of the event. The existence of this orchestra is known all over the country because of the affiliation with several organizations involved in promotion of community efforts in the cultural field.

One reads about groups such as this one but hearing them in concert is much more satisfying. This concert held many surprises for me, even before a note was played.

The program content was similar to what would be expected at a concert by a major orchestra, the number of chairs set out exceeded the requirements of most community orchestras and the number of young people involved in this program attested to the existence of progressive school programs.

It is uncommon to see such an aggregation in a small centre, a little light on basses perhaps, but all in all a completely balanced orchestra.

Ezra's Overture
 Was a little ragged at the beginning, especially in the lower strings but soon settled down to a tightly-knit, driving rendition with full sound, good intonation and exposing some well played wind passages. Crisp brass and well tuned timpani brought this best known overture to a brilliant finish.

Piano Concerto No. 2
 Being my favorite of the five, I eagerly awaited the appearance of the featured artist, Kevin Tunney. After a nicely played orchestral introduction his intrepid approach to the solo line quickly alleviated any apprehension I may have had concern-

ing the success of this segment of the program.

This young man gave it a very musical, clearly-defined reading, and together with the sympathetic accompaniment Mr. Budd and the reduced orchestra afforded the soloist, made this for me, the highlight of the program.

Symphony No. 5
 I cannot say the treatment given this work matched the playing of the first half of the concert. Too many things went wrong, probably due to tension caused by the realization that this is such a well known work it would receive more critical attention.

There were moments of exceptionally fine ensemble playing from all sections, and the balance was usually good. A few passages suffered from faulty intonation, this is expected from part-time musicians, but unsure attacks and releases were all too prevalent.

Insufficient rehearsal, poor visibility, lack of attention to the conductor, stage fright or inadequate direction from the podium are all factors that can mar a performance and any one of these could have been responsible for this lack of precision. When the finale was reached the orchestra gave us some very precise playing and another surprise for me, a man picked up a contra-bassoon, rarely seen in much more mature orchestras and a crowning achievement, instrumentally, for this one.

This was a very good concert by a very good orchestra, and to an appreciative audience. Having a civic leader speak at the interval is a good idea and inviting the entire audience to stay for coffee afterwards tends to create a feeling of mutual participation between the entertainers and entertained.

Proposes Foundation Plan To Relieve Property Tax Burden

The rising cost each year of municipal government and services is a constant source of concern for every property owner.

A suggestion which might do much to alleviate the situation has been made in the Legislature by Ontario NDP Leader Donald MacDonald.

Mr. MacDonald presented a new approach to lightening the burden of municipal taxation by proposing a municipal foundation plan.

This is based on the principle that every Ontario resident is entitled to a basic "foundation" level of ser-

VICES, no matter where he or she lives. He should not have to pay more taxes for these services than any other Ontario citizen in similar circumstances. The foundation plan thus equalizes the cost of municipal services across the province. It would make it possible for each community to offer its property owners a minimum range of services and all taxpayers in the province would pay an equal share of the overall cost.

Any municipality could raise additional taxes to provide services above the basic minimum — and most of

them would. However, the province would have achieved a degree of fairness and equity in the local tax system.

Mr. MacDonald pointed out that the province already has a foundation tax plan for school financing. In arriving at the annual grant paid to each school board, the Department of Education uses an equalization factor. Where assessment is low and expenses proportionately high, the grant is higher than where assessment is high. This explains why some school boards receive only

40% grant of approved expenditures and others receive 75%.

A similar type of equalizing factor is proposed by Mr. MacDonald for all municipal costs.

The NDP leader noted that the Smith Committee, on Taxation which the province set up five years ago to examine this whole question, agreed that "major surgery" would be needed to bring sense into the present structure of municipal grants. But that committee did not perform the "surgery" and so failed to come up with any real alternative.

Both his party and the Liberals, he stated, agree

that the government should assume 80% of education costs by 1971. At present government grants on the average are only 45%. As well, he contends, the provincial government should assume the last local cost of health and welfare.

Mr. MacDonald warns that at the rate our population is growing every municipality is going to feel the pressure on property taxes increasing each year.

That's something that must be avoided and Mr. MacDonald believes that his plan could be a big step in that direction.