



# The Liberal



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## Wires Crossed?

The medium is the message, we have been told, but what happens when the medium, officially, doesn't get the message?

Not that no message is conveyed, as one might expect, but that an erroneous message is received.

We certainly hope anyway that recent messages emanating from York Central District High School Board are erroneous.

Twice within the past month members of the board have hidden behind the parliamentary device of "committee of the whole" to discuss matters and reach decisions which are of wide, general interest to the public at large and to the municipal council which have appointed members to the board.

Having, in a public meeting, during which strongly held opinions were expressed, refused to permit an anti-war group the use of a high school auditorium, the board subsequently, in private, reversed the decision.

Why? Evidently other opinions, even more strongly held, were expressed in the closed meeting, causing the board to change its mind. Whose were they? What were they?

We submit that the public has the right to know, because it has the right to know just what kind of people it has looking after the education of its children. Certainly the first, public, meeting on the question indicated that some of them at times express themselves intemperately and are not always completely logical in their thinking. This is no sin, however, and only reveals them to be, even as you or I, imperfect human beings.

But what were the more reasoned counsels that prevailed? The people have a right to know.

Again, at its March 25 meeting, the board excluded the press from discussion on its current budget. The excuse given was that the board did not wish councils to receive first inklings of the budget from the press.

Better, we suggest, that they receive some inklings from the press than none at all until the figures land on their doorstep. As we recall it, this was the chief complaint other years, that councils were not kept fully informed of the direction the high school board (and its budget) was taking.

Aside from this, however, ratepayers throughout the entire area will be affected by the high school board's budget, both in the impact it will make on their pocketbooks and the effect it will have on their children's education.

If some of the earlier budget discussions even, had been open to the press, parents would have been able to learn what plans the board has for secondary education in the system, what things were being given top priority, what deleted or delayed and why.

Councils too would have been made aware what stand their appointees took on various items, how much care had been taken to keep expenses within the bounds of the ratepayers' ability to pay.

Instead? Nothing, just the bare figures communicated to the various municipalities, and eventually, we suppose, to the press.

So what is the message? It would appear that the high school board is saving, from some Olympian heights, that its decisions concern the board alone, that none, ratepayers or councils, have the right to enquire what is being done or why.

We hope this isn't the message the board intends to send — but that's the way it comes out at this end.

We would urge that a full presentation of the budget and the reasoning behind it be made to the four councils jointly, and that the press and public be invited to attend. Only then will mutual trust and understanding be restored.

Get the message?

## Propaganda

Patrick Lawlor, the newly-elected New Democratic member of the Legislature for Toronto Lakeshore, made sense in his maiden speech in the House when he said too much tax money is being wasted on needless government publications and lengthy commission reports.

Mr. Lawlor said the Law Reform Commission report on family law ran to three volumes when all that was needed had been contained in the last one. He maintained such excess verbiage should be eliminated as a means of reducing government expenditures.

He said members were also inundated with department reports in glossy covers that were little more than house organs. "They're made for the purpose of buttering each other up within the department and taking each other's picture."

At a time when every administration is attempting to make real savings in its operations, our politicians would do well to take a serious look at the sea of paper work that is

threatening to paralyze the whole government process. Forms, reports and slick glossy publications are now a part of every government department.

For the most part the publications are nothing more than propaganda pieces designed to keep the party concerned in power. They are expensively produced, featuring a smoothly presented message extolling the merits of some government department or commission. Many such publications, all of which are financed out of public funds, go far beyond the need to present some basic facts and figures. It also must be remembered that the potential audience is restricted. The average citizen finds such reading boring and uninteresting to say the least.

Every newspaper office is deluged with these government publications. Each mail brings another tide of such reports. Real tax savings could be made by curtailing the efforts of these mutual admiration societies. We need information — yes, but propaganda — no.

## New Deal For Scouting — Boy-Centred Programs

After a six year study of the Scouting movement and a special three year subcommittee investigation dealing with the Boy Scout section, a bold new program of Scouting activities will be inaugurated September 1, 1968.

change in almost 60 years have been scheduled to be phased out by the end of December, 1968. Part of the program which will replace the original organization has already established the new Venture Section for boys 14 to 17.

The key to the new plans, however, is flexibility. More

options and alternatives activities are planned in the belief that the programs must be adaptable to the needs of individual groups of boys and communities. Through this program, the initiative, intelligence and experience of boys and adults from all levels of Scouting will be best utilized.



## A Relic Of Ontario's Past

Serene among snow covered fields, one of only 20-odd octagonal barns in Ontario, stands on the west side of Dufferin Street, just north of Steeles Avenue, formerly part of Fraserdale Farms.

It was built sometime before 1892 by Isaac Hafenbrack with even older timbers that may have come from another barn. It is one of the few barns in Ontario having a gambrel roof with a broken pitch. Still in use, the barn will probably fall before long when the area develops industrially.

The barn was recently celebrated in verse by Canadian poetess Miriam Waddington who refers to it as a "barnboat". "It has a ramp (or gangplank) in front of it for the animals to come in on, and it has a turret on top of it for someone to gaze out of and see the dove, the leaf and the lay of the land," she wrote.

## In the Spotlight



By JOAN HAROLD

Ruth Walker is an artist, and one of those very lucky people who sees design, color and texture, in every form of nature. That is why she chooses to live surrounded by her collections of rocks, shells, seedpods, and other odd things that she picks up if they appeal to her artists eye. "Tree bark, for example is full of wonderful patterns; in fact this tree stump has been an inspiration to many of my art students", she said, pointing out a worm-eaten stump. "I love worm-tunnels!" she added.

The quaint little house on Highway 7 just east of Bayview Avenue, nestles behind an enormous hedge on an acre and a half of ground, and from any window an abundance of livestock can be seen roaming about happily. Three ducks waddled by in formation, along the lane that runs between the house and the little red building where Mrs. Walker's husband Geoffrey, runs his real estate and insurance business.

"These birds are wonderful to draw. I think they are my favorites. They have been my models for countless paintings and silk screen prints. I haven't taken them to my classes at the YWCA though, as they are a little difficult to handle! However, for the last lesson of the course, I let the children come out here and draw, or fool around — whichever they like. The 'Y' ladies bring the picnic, and we all have a great time."

Mrs. Walker obviously enjoys working with children, and every Saturday morning, eleven pint-sized artists sit eagerly round the tables at the "Y", waiting to see what treasures she has brought to inspire them. Last Saturday it was rocks. After a very informal chat about type and location, the children were asked what they could see in them. This brought forth a flood of ideas, "a face", "a waterfall", "a dinosaur", they all chimed in. Then came the big moment of choosing a rock to draw. "Ooohh! I like the amethyst", said a little fair-haired girl already imagining her work of art.

Gregory Straumann, aged seven, started work on the alabaster egg. "Should I put 'Made in Italy' in my picture?" he asked. Mrs. Walker thought it probably wouldn't enhance the design!

"I pelt them with as many ideas as I can, then (Continued on Page 14)

## Only 100 New Homes In '68

Residential building in Pickering Township will be limited to 100 homes in 1968, the Municipal Board has ruled.

The OMB has forbidden the municipality to issue more than 100 house building permits this year — and the ban may be extended into next year, unless the tax ratio between residential and industrial assessment improves.

The OMB will review the situation at the end of 1968.

Pickering's financial problems reached the crisis stage last year, when the OMB made the council reduce its capital cost forecast by \$3,000,000 — the price of an addition to Dunbarton High School.

Reeve John Williams said rumors had circulated that Pickering was bankrupt. "Rather than bankrupt," he said, "we're on the road to recovery."

## Tough Subdivision Agreement Milton

The town of Milton has received Municipal Board approval for a subdivision agreement under which the subdivider must provide watermains, sanitary sewers, paved roads, five-foot concrete sidewalks on both sides of two roads and hydro services.

Nine lots are involved. All work must be done to the town's specifications.

The town's request for storm sewers running along two 130-foot roads with a trunk line to a creek 800 feet away was rejected. The OMB said evidence showed the storm sewers would not be needed until some time in the future.

The board also rejected the request for a \$1,000 capital levy for each lot. The board said the town did not produce enough evidence to prove \$1,000 was the correct figure — indicating that some capital levy would be acceptable, if the town could arrive at a correct method of establishing it.

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# Letters to the Editors

## ADULT SKATING

Dear Mr. Editor:

My wife and I, who enjoy thoroughly pleasure skating, were extremely interested in a recent report in "The Liberal" that the Richmond Hill Arena Board is losing money by reserving Saturday evenings for skaters.

We have skated in arenas at Aurora, Markham Village, the Lakeshore and Richmond Hill and from our experiences have some suggestions to offer the local arena board, which could make pleasure skating a profitable project.

First we would like the arena kept open all summer for skating, with Saturday nights reserved for adults. A live band once a month is also a paying attraction. If this was well advertised, enthusiastic adult skaters would come from a wide area to use the ice surface.

If this suggestion does not meet with the arena board's approval, we suggest that the monthly band night be introduced next fall. However, avid skaters like ourselves like to skate the year round and if you can get the crowd coming, they will continue to come.

Proper supervision is a must.

Recently my wife and I enjoyed skating on a Saturday night at the arena in Markham Village. Three hundred and fifty adults had paid admission of 75c each and spent additional money at the snack bar. I am certain this proved a more profitable evening for the arena than if the ice had been rented for hockey.

CECIL RUSSELL,  
64 Proctor Avenue,  
Doncaster.

## SPECULATORS AND DEVELOPERS

Dear Mr. Editor:

May I congratulate you on the recent editorial "Vaughan Should Stand Firm" and the accompanying cartoon with speculators depicted as vultures looking for easy pickings in Vaughan Township.

I agree with you that Vaughan should stand firm and resist attempts of speculators to manipulate our township to their own advantage. I also support your opinion that the Southern Six municipalities should co-operate in servicing the area for the development of housing and industry.

I regret however, that you do not appear to know the difference between "speculators" and "developers", as you use the terms interchangeably. Rather, speculators should be distinguished as being nothing but a curse on a municipality — and on developers!

In contrast, a good developer is a man who brings to fruition something which is beneficial to the community as well as to himself. By providing sophisticated development which includes all the amenities modern living requires, he is not only contributing to the community a desirable environment in which to live, but converting low income land into something which will yield handsome tax returns to the municipality.

In addition, such development in Vaughan and the other Southern Six municipalities could break the back of the Metro

housing crisis, with untold benefit to thousands of house-hungry average Canadians.

However, as long as our municipality of Vaughan supports the status quo of "no development", we could lose our independence to others by default.

Today, one can picture Vaughan as a well fed, sleeping giant, watched over by speculators as your cartoon depicted. A very easy victim for satisfactory picking.

I would suggest that while negotiations with the Southern Six municipalities over sanitary sewers are prepared, that Vaughan take no chances and proceed with its own individual study and preparation of secondary zoning plans.

With a new and knowledgeable planning director and a rejuvenated engineering department, the township should have no difficulty producing the type of planning studies necessary to meet present and future requirements.

Council should also look into possible changes within its present set up, such as an enlarged council, possibly a full time reeve, a new department or commission to deal with industrial land, parks and sanitary disposal facilities. Perhaps also, increased remuneration to council members would be an inducement for them to work harder for the benefit of all concerned.

Yours truly,  
C. D. MILANI,  
C. D. Milani  
Land Developers Ltd.,  
Willowdale.

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CARNIVAL '68

Dear Mr. Editor:

May I on behalf of the Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club and myself express a sincere thank you for the publicity you gave to our carnival in "The Liberal".

As perhaps you know the carnival was well attended and

well received due to the help of many people and we do appreciate the advance publicity you afforded us.

Thanking you,  
I remain,  
Yours very truly,  
RITA HALL,  
(Secretary, Mrs. W. R. Hall)

## VIETNAM GROUP TRYING TO STOP A WAR — NOT PROMOTE ONE

Dear Mr. Editor:

Several years ago while I was teaching a group of children in humane society work, I approached the York Central District High School Board regarding the high school auditorium for a film and fundraising program. I was treated courteously and my request was granted immediately. On top of this, to my surprise and pleasure, the usual rent was cut in half because I was promoting education. The venture was a great success due to the co-operation of these gentlemen.

I still do as much work as time permits for the humane society, but now I have another mission, more important than the first — at least not less so! Since the district high school board were so co-operative previously in an educational program which teaches children to be kind to animals, I feel there must be some misunderstanding which makes them fail to realize the greater importance of a program which attempts to teach people how to be kind to people! As a member of the York Committee To End The War In Vietnam I was shocked and disappointed by the manner in which our request for use of the high school auditorium was handled.

As a ratepayer and one who helps support the school board I was furious to be deprived of a fundamental right, or worse still, to have strings attached to a consent. That members of a school board should resort to childish name-calling is deplorable and we should feel sorry for anyone whose vocabulary is so limited. However, the school board is only a small group, and should not be permitted to use its puny influence to deny a reasonable request like renting a classroom. It was promoting a war instead of trying to stop one, one could understand their reticence.

Free speech and the use of public facilities is our democratic right and this must be guarded lest pressure become increasingly heavy and our right taken from us.

It is to the public interest to know as much as possible about the Vietnam War, for further escalation could bring total disaster to mankind. The York Committee To End The War In Vietnam promotes educational programs and these should be attended and supported by all who value life and beauty and honesty. Let any board who would promote any humane group, be it humane society, Red Cross, UNICEF or any other, realize the primary and greater importance of the York Committee To End The War In Vietnam.

Sincerely,  
MRS. BRUCE WARK,  
9205 Bathurst Street,  
Langstaff.



## Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

### The York Central Newspack

Examinations really put a halt to high school activities. However, Richmond Hill came through with some interesting news. So here goes:

### THE RICHMOND HILL REPORTER

Roy Clifton, the talented coach of Richmond Hill High School Drama Club says that the club will soon be offering its 10th annual production. "Berkeley Square" will be presented in the auditorium of the high school on April 18, 19 and 20. The play is by John Balderson. Tickets are \$1.50 for adults and 75c for students. Tickets may be bought at the door. This is the second time around for Berkeley Square. Mr. Clifton produced it six years ago and it was very well received. There are 15 actors in the cast and many of them have appeared in former productions, for example, "Birthday Party", "Lady Audley's Secret" and "Trespas".

Christopher Cornwall has the leading role of Peter Standish. Kate Pettigrew is Susan Duffy. Lady Ann Pettigrew is Gloria Emms. Helen Pettigrew is played by Jodie Loftus, a grade nine student and this is her first dramatic role.

Chip Martin is Tom Pettigrew. Interesting thing about Chip is that he was a stage manager until last year in "Birthday Party". Jane d'Arnot (Jane Clifton) plays the Duchess of Devonshire. Jane played the part of Kate Pettigrew six years ago. The Ambassador is William Thompson. Marjorie Trant is Jennifer Morton. Major Clinton is impersonated by Stephen Clark and Mr. Throble by Adrian Truss. Elizabeth Bone is Mrs. Barrick. The maid is played by Deborah Blackburn. Miss Barrymore by Karen Loden, Lord Stanley by David

(Continued on Page 14)

## Rally Ho! Feminine Touch Wins For Richmond Hill Driver

By GREG PETERS

Why would a woman deliberately drive her husband's shiny red Volvo through snow and sleet, over back country trails and across high-speed sections of unpaved roads?

Linda Floyd, of 93 Rockport Crescent, Richmond Hill, housewife, mother and sports car rally driver extraordinaire has lots of reasons.

Back in 1962, Linda's introduction to this fast and fast-growing sport came through her fiancé Ray who is still extremely wrapped up in all phases of motor sport. But before they were married and despite some "friendly disagreements", the couple had won their first trophy with Ray at the wheel and Linda navigating the rally course.

Since that first rally, the

Floyds have managed to fill six shelves with trophies from events in Ontario and Quebec. But as the couple became more proficient on the easier courses, they graduated to more sophisticated competition.

Their car is now equipped with extra lights and special heavy-duty shock absorbers and a complete set of county maps. The Volvo also carries a Halda Trippmaster which takes the correct mileage off the front wheels so that any spinning of the rear wheels will not affect precise calculations.

Ray and Linda compete together now chiefly for fun, since Ray teams with other drivers in professional rallies in which manufacturers give prize money to competitors driving their cars. But Linda hasn't retired.

Linda has discovered that she likes cars and likes to drive. In the past six years, she has driven to many victories including the Coupe Des Dames at the CNE and the ladies' section of the National Red Cap Rally in Orangeville.

"Rallying isn't as dangerous as racing," said Linda, "but it's the next best thing. I like competition."

As the rallies become more competitive, Linda has found that being a woman has some advantages. What man, for instance, would know that facial toning exercises help keep a driver awake during a long haul at night? If a car breaks down, who will get help first?

In 1966, Linda challenged one of the toughest rallies in the world, the Shell 4000. Linda and her navigator

Peggy Kurting of Burlington left Vancouver but had an unofficial stop on a British Columbia trail when the car skidded off the road into a gully where it stopped inches from another of the 18 starters who did not finish the race.

Near Wainwright, Alberta, the girls finally had to drop out of the race when stones sheared the water pump, fan-belt and went through the radiator.

Undaunted by this experience, Linda hopes to enter this year's Shell 4000 which will be held June 1-7 instead of the usual early spring date and will run from Calgary to Halifax, cutting out the treacherous Rocky Mountains.

Preparations for an event of this kind are carefully planned. Shortly before the rally, Linda goes on a high

protein diet to give her the stamina required for the trip, although tension seems to be the hardest factor to overcome. Coffee and oranges are the stay-awake diet on the road. Another problem occurs when drivers must quickly adjust their driving techniques from paved highways to dirt road conditions.

As a warm-up for the Shell rally, Ray and Linda recently entered the Fiat Car Club rally which began in Toronto. As navigator, Linda spotted an out-of-place instruction which the rally organizers had slipped into the hundreds of detailed turns and mileage checks which must be followed correctly in order to remain "clean".

Linda was the only navigator to notice this rally trick and the result was another

glistening first place trophy. The Floyds have made many friends by competing in rallies and through Ray is president of the York Central Club which meets each week in the North York Community Centre and although Linda says that everyone connected with the sport is "a little kooky", she obviously enjoys the meetings and rallies.

Why become a rally enthusiast? Linda says it isn't just to get away from housework and diaper duty for their two sons, David, 3, and Craig, 7 months; it isn't only to test one's skill in competition; it isn't just to see new country and meet different people but some combination of all these reasons makes it worthwhile. "Whatever the reason," says Linda, "once rallying gets into your system, you can't get it out."