



The Liberal



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On The Way Out?

Are police villages obsolete?
 At a time when the term "regional government" is on everybody's lips, it would appear that they are. Certainly the Ontario Government is encouraging regional governments to which police villages are the obvious antithesis.

The Smith Report on Taxation makes wide recommendations concerning regional government and while no specific mention is made of police villages, with their responsibilities allocated elsewhere, there would be little reason for their continuance.

Coming closer to home, Vaughan Township during the past year has made proposals to both the Police Village of Maple and Thornhill which would, in effect, leave little reason for their continued existence.

Now the Thornhill Village Trustees have themselves proposed to Markham Township that it assume responsibility for village roads, lights and garbage collection and will discuss a similar proposal with Vaughan. In doing so, they tacitly admit that the

village should disappear as a municipal entity as with the exception of care of sidewalks and partial responsibility for the village park, the trustees would have no remaining tasks.

Further, this move has aroused the interest of a neighboring village and Unionville Trustees have asked to receive a copy of the agreement between Markham Township and Thornhill when it is finalized.

Talk too of amalgamation and/or annexation of the Metro fringe areas certainly leads to the conclusion that police villages would have no place in the resulting enlarged municipality.

While many of us may regret these developments, it must be accepted that "the order changeth" and many things dear to our hearts in the past "yield place to the new".

At the same time, however, we would like to see a determined attempt made to retain the charm and atmosphere of our quiet villages. Let's not get them filled up with high rise apartments with all the attendant stresses of high density living.

Fine Those Litterbugs!

Perturbed at the high cost of keeping Ontario roads free of litter, the Department of Highways has launched a campaign to persuade the public to be more considerate in its disposal of waste. Last year the department spent over \$750,000 cleaning up the mess left behind on the province's 13,000 miles of highways and 1,700 roadside picnic areas.

much-needed, worthy effort, but gentle persuasion alone will not be enough to bring about a reduction in the thousands of tons of litter that are strewn every week along the highways and byways of Ontario. The American and other tourists who visit here every year will not be much exposed to the department's publicity, and there are always those who couldn't care less.

Fines of up to \$50 can be imposed for littering the highways. The department could put some teeth in its campaign by reminding the public of this penalty and by instructing traffic police to be particularly alert for litterbugs and to fine offenders heavily.

Richmond Hill Town Council on motion of Councillor William Lazenby has taken a step in the right direction to counter the growing problem of litter in the town by preparing a bylaw that would provide a stiff fine on anyone found littering streets or public places. Mayor Thomas Broadhurst has cited as an example of the beneficial effect of such a measure, the sparkling, waste-free condition of streets in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, where that municipality provides \$500 fines for infractions of its anti-litter bylaw, which according to the mayor, is rigidly enforced.

We hope it won't be long before Richmond Hill has its own anti-litter measure in force.



Litter is not only costly to remove, it is unsightly while it lies around and it can be dangerous. Recent concern over the disposal of non-refundable bottles has brought to light numerous instances of persons, particularly children, being cut by broken glass from these bottles. Every year there are cases of people being injured by cans, bottles and other material thrown from cars, and lighted cigarettes tossed away by the thoughtless are notorious causes of fires.

The Department of Highway's campaign to make people more aware of the evils of litter is a

North York Frowns On Non-Returnable Bottles

North York Borough Council recently took a tentative step towards banning non-returnable bottles, by supporting a recommendation of Kitchener City Council that the use of the bottles be made illegal.

The North York Works Department is to gather statistics over the next few months regarding the disposal of non-returnable bottles, as are other metro boroughs, according to North York Works Commissioner Brian Ruddy.

The boroughs plan to meet in the fall to discuss the results. "There does seem to be a lot of broken glass around of a type that splinters easily," Mr. Ruddy commented.

Many people believe that non-returnable bottles are made of an inferior glass that splin-

ters easily into small pieces. However, this view is denied by Anthony Griffiths, executive vice-president of Consumers Glass Co. Ltd., Kipling Avenue, who claims that the glass used for returnable and non-returnable bottles is "identical."

Mr. Griffiths believes the blame for smashed bottles and bottles strewn in parks and on beaches should be attached to litterbugs and not to non-returnable bottles. Heavier penalties for littering and a more rigid enforcement of litter control measures would curb the problem, he thinks.

"Cars aren't banned because people get killed in them, so why ban bottles because a few people smash them?" he asks.

A letter from Kitchener, so far the only Ontario municipal-

Should Consider Rail Transit For Northern Commuters

This fall the Department of Highways is to conduct a survey of transportation needs in the northern fringe of Metro, according to a letter sent by the department in June to the Go-North Transit Committee, formed earlier in the year to press for a rail commuter service to link Northern York County to Toronto.

In its survey the department would be expected to consider the merits of a rail transit system as opposed to alternative transportation links, notably the far north extension of the Yonge Street subway or the expansion of the northbound highway network.

At present the highways linking Toronto to the north are barely adequate. They are all busy thoroughfares, easily clogged with traffic

in parts. With the population of centres north of Metro expected to increase greatly in the next decade, steps must be taken soon to improve the transportation links between Toronto and the rest of the county.

Population projections for 1980 by the York County Planning Office, Newmarket, are: Richmond Hill 27,300 (against 19,343 in 1967), Aurora 15,770 (10,421 in 1967), Newmarket 13,200 (9,148), East Gwillimbury Township 22,420 (12,936), Vaughan Township 37,240 (18,419), Markham Township 31,450 (13,300).

Some decision will therefore have to be made by the Ontario Government in the not-distant future on how to improve the links with Metro, and because of financial considerations, it may well

have to choose between the establishment of a northerly GO system and the eventual extension of the subway system to Steeles Avenue.

By 1972 the Yonge Street subway is due to reach Sheppard Avenue, construction work on the extension having already begun. A further extension to Finch Avenue is being considered by the Toronto Transit Commission due to the existence there of parking space on hydro lands for some 4,000 cars.

As growth continues north and south of Steeles Avenue, pressure will later build up for an extension to Steeles. This would be a boon to commuters north of Metro, but subway extensions cost a pricey \$20 million a mile to build, and it may be preferred to set up instead a



Graphic evidence of the menace of non-returnable glass bottles is shown to little Richard and Beverly Bedford by their mother Mrs. Donald Bedford. Mrs. Bedford saw the bottle tossed from a car to shatter on her front lawn and has begun a campaign in Maple to ban their use.

Ban Those Bottles!

What began as a one-woman crusade to ban non-returnable glass pop bottles is picking up momentum in Maple and appears to be gaining community-wide support.

Mrs. Donald Bedford of Clemson Crescent began her campaign quite suddenly when she saw a child in the back seat of a car toss a pop bottle out into the ditch in front of her house. The bottle missed the ditch and shattered on her front lawn, while the adult occupants of the car merely observed what had happened and drove on.

Lacking a car at the moment, Mrs. Bedford, enraged, mounted her bicycle with the top of the broken bottle in her hand and attempted to overtake the car but was unable to do so.

"I don't know what I would have done if I had caught up to them," said Mrs. Bedford. "I was furious."

Mrs. Bedford has two pre-school children and her next-door-neighbor has three. "There are over 20 youngsters on this block and they often go barefoot," she explained. "This is a real hazard."

Mrs. Bedford feels that with returnable bottles, there were usually enough enterprising

youngsters around to take the bottles back to the store for the 2c refund, so they were not such a nuisance. Not only will the non-return bottles be a hazard to playing children, she feels, but it will cost the Ontario Government thousands of dollars removing them from roadsides and parks.

A petition asking that the non-return bottles be prohibited has been placed in Perry's Drug Store at the Maple Plaza and has already collected a respectable number of signatures. Mrs. Bedford plans to take the petition from door to door later on and has found a willing volunteer for this task in her neighbor Mrs. Peter Steinhäuser.

When the petition is complete, it will be delivered to York Centre MLA Donald Deacon, whom Mrs. Bedford hopes to interest in the protest.

"Some people seem to think one woman can't do anything," said Mrs. Bedford simply, "but I'm going to try."

The Bedfords have lived in Maple for six years. Their two children are Richard, 4½ and Beverly 2½. Mr. Bedford is a transfer officer with a Toronto trust company.



In the Spotlight

By JOAN HAROLD

The Hanneford horses stood under a canvas awning protected from the hot sun, as the cicadas in the trees overhead buzzed frantically as if to tell us that we were all mad to be going to the circus in an 85 degree temperature — but the immaculately groomed and be-plumed animals calmly swished their tails and waited patiently for the familiar oom-pa-pa of the overture.

The El Shamaly Shrine Club who presented the Hanneford circus for four performances last Sunday and Monday in aid of crippled children, must have worried that the heat would send everyone out of town looking for a swim, but there was a fair sized audience which happily found the Richmond Hill Arena a cool place to be, and the circus a high calibre and fast-moving entertainment. It started on the dot of two o'clock after a group of clowns kept the excited children sitting happily in their seats, while their equally excited parents rushed about buying pop, candy-floss, and balloons — well, isn't the circus for children of all ages?

The first act after the overture filled the one large centre ring with an array of the most adorable, high spirited dogs, ponies, and monkeys which cavorted happily, doing the most amazing tricks. My five year old daughter reflected my own thoughts when she turned to me solemnly and said, "How come our dog won't 'sit' when we tell her to?"

We equally enjoyed the trapeze and trampoline artists, the elephants and clowns, but the bears left us cold. Muzzled and yanked about on chains, there is no pleasure in seeing these dignified animals looking ridiculous on motorbikes and other contraptions.

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Ask Wigwag Signal At Townline Crossing

Markham Township Council agreed at its August 6 meeting to a request from the Township of Pickering that the Board of Transport be asked to install a wigwag signal at a CPR crossing on the Markham-Pickering townline. The crossing between 16th and 17th Avenues is at present unmarked except for white crossing signs.

Only about seven per cent of the cost of signal installation would be apportioned to the two municipalities. The balance would be shared by the Ontario Department of Highways and the Board of Transport's grade crossing fund.

Reeve Stewart Rumble asked Engineer Dusan Miklas about York County's intentions regarding the townline. "When will the county take over?" Mr. Miklas replied, "Not this year or next, I'm afraid, with the county's new 'needs' study coming up."

Storm Sewer Tenders
 Twelve tenders for the Elgin Street storm sewer in Thornhill were opened and displayed a wide variation, ranging from a low of \$112,487.05 submitted by Cafagna Bros. Construction Co. Ltd., Toronto, to a high of \$302,056 submitted by Domenic Contracting Ltd., Toronto.

The sewer will provide drainage in the Elgin-Dudley area, 534 feet on Dudley Avenue and 680 feet on Elgin Street.

Bylaws
 Council gave two readings to Bylaw 2402, a restricted area (zoning) bylaw which would bring parts of Lots 6 and 7 in Concession 4 east at the corner of 14th Avenue and Concession 5 under the same standards as the North Don Mills Industrial Bylaw.

Three readings were given to Bylaw 2403 and it was passed.

This provides for the borrowing of money as capital funds for TSA 2 — pending the issue of debentures. It was noted that bank interest August 6 was 7%, but council was advised that the rate would likely drop to 6¼% in the near future.

Accounts
 Council passed general accounts for July in the amount of \$262,311.32; welfare \$2,214.40; road \$63,186.56.

Council also agreed to raise the allowance for mileage of private cars for personnel on township business to 15c per mile.

Mental Illness Is Shunned Problem

(London Free Press)
 Governments respond to public opinion, and very little else. In few fields is this more evident than in that of mental health.

Except when the anguish of mental illness is personally experienced by a family, people are generally indifferent. They tend to regard such tragedy as someone else's problem, differing somehow from other illness and social trouble, and to categorize it as an unpleasant business to be isolated and hidden from conscience in institutional buildings.

George Rohn, administration director for the Canadian Mental Health Association, says this country's mentally-ill are underprivileged because such illness is "the most neglected of all the health problems in Canada."

Governments, he said, regard mental illness as a commodity to be deported to an institution and forgotten. But effective treatment means, not custodial care, but rehabilitative treatment and research which, in sum, simply mean: involvement.

Canada's 70,000 mental patients represent only those who are acutely ill. There is a far greater number of tortured sufferers whose problems are unrecognized, or who have nowhere to turn because society doesn't really care enough to provide all that it could for helping them.

The public gets worked up about the shocking results of mental health neglect, as demonstrated in family tragedy — particularly as it affects children — and social crimes. But people fail to relate the effect to the cause.

Until enough people do, and grow genuinely concerned, government action will remain inadequate. Whether generated from a selfish desire for self protection, or from compassion for helpless victims, aroused public opinion is essential before effort equals potential in alleviating untold distress.



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

"A Flower For The Teacher" from "Uncle Arthur"

"Uncle" is what the children of Arnold Avenue, Thornhill call Arthur Elsey. A very affectionate term for the kindly man who spends his retirement years propagating interesting plants in order to give them away.

"Kids are always coming around," he said. "They want a flower for their teacher, their mother or their sister."

Arthur and Mal Elsey have lived at 114 Arnold Avenue, corner of Arnold and Charles for ten years. Before that, Arthur Elsey, as an executive for Dupont, travelled extensively in Canada and Europe. Dupont is the largest chemical firm on the North American continent.

Retirement poses no problems for the Elseys. Mal works at the curling office of the Thornhill Country Club and a small greenhouse keeps "Uncle Arthur" happily occupied both winter and summer.

A GARDEN OF HIS OWN

Mr. Elsey couldn't forget his memories of the school gardens when he was a boy in England. He recalled winning a prize for the best garden. Since that time he was without a garden until that lucky day when he settled at 114 Arnold.

"It was nothing but a jungle when we moved here," he said.

And as Arthur Elsey suspected all along, he really did have a green thumb. It's more than green, it is a magical one. One of the most varied flower borders I've seen hugs the front and sides of the Elsey property.

Mr. Elsey grows nothing but flowers. He raises most of them from seed in his small automatically controlled greenhouse. There he learns more and more about his chosen hobby and propagates plants to his heart's content.

"I'll be learning as long as I live," he said.

Arthur Elsey has been fairly successful in propagating the Hoya, a vine that produces clusters of fragrant flowers. George Mowat, a neighbor once gave him a hibiscus and results were good here too.

When the Elseys travel they bring back new varieties of seeds. On one trip which took them to Revello, Italy, they collected about seven or eight different kinds.

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