



# 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"

## Reform Needed

While we have no doubt that all the members of York County Council would declare themselves wholeheartedly in favor of progress, they certainly seem opposed to change.

Last week, county council once again voted down a resolution that committee reports be circulated among members at least two days before sessions. Such a resolution was proposed almost four years ago by Richmond Hill Reeve Donald Plaxton. This year's resolution came from East Gwillimbury Deputy-reeve Gladys Rolling.

Mrs. Rolling pointed out that the day before, council members had been required to vote on a recommendation to rescind the bylaw setting up the county board of education, a matter of vital importance to the entire county. Having seen the recommendation and the arguments and figures supporting it only minutes before, however, few councillors were prepared to vote intelligently on it, she argued. It was accompanied by two long pages of statistical information on county assessment and mill rate figures the import of which obviously could not be grasped on cursory reading.

Arguments advanced in opposition to Mrs. Rollings' resolution were weak in the extreme. "It would cause confusion", "They would be old news and forgotten by the time council meetings were called", "We would have to know four weeks before when county council is going to have a meeting", were some of the "reasons" given that committee reports could not be circulated before council sessions.

These are reasons? At the same session at which the board of education bylaw was discussed county councillors were asked to approve the report of the warden and commissioners which included a decision on embarking on an electronic bookkeeping system which will require a machine rental of \$615 per month and two pages of procedural bylaw amendments, many with diffi-

cult to grasp implications. At the next day's session, members were required to vote on a finance committee report containing five pages of statistical information. This report, including approval of \$9 million dollars worth of school debentures, was approved without a single question being raised.

While we don't doubt the efficiency and ability of the finance committee and staff members who prepared the finance committee report, surely other members of county council should have had at least a few queries. Or were they intimidated by the pages of figures with which they were confronted so suddenly and despaired of asking intelligent questions on such short notice?

A report of the welfare committee containing figures on case history totals did bring objections from Mrs. Alma Walker, doughty reeve of Markham Village, that welfare figures for her municipality were padded. This developed into a long hassle — all of which could have been avoided had Mrs. Walker seen the report earlier and had time to check what the figures meant.

It is certainly obvious from the point of view of even a casual observer, that the work of county council could be accomplished much more quickly, with less argument and contention, if council members were more fully informed on matters they are required to discuss. Early circulation of committee reports would certainly afford them an opportunity (whether or not they would take it) of becoming informed, at least slightly, prior to council meetings and would certainly save a lot of time.

It is the refusal of York County Council to make such elementary and innocuous reforms which has caused the wholesale loss of faith in the effectiveness of this level of government. Indeed, there are many who, because of this type of thing, insist that county governments should be abolished entirely.

## Young People Assist Needy

More than once in the past few weeks we have been reminded that the great majority of our young people are already very good citizens. They may wear long hair, may discard their shoes in favor of bare feet, grow sideburns, beards and moustaches — but they are not hippies or yuppies. They are intensely interested in their communities, in their country and in the world.

Hundreds of them have joined in walkathons for worthy causes, including UNICEF, Retarded Children's Association and the United Appeal, and accepted their blisters and aching joints as part of their contribution. Their jaunt to Toronto's City Hall ranged from 16 to 26 miles (the latter equalling the Olympic marathon course length) and consumed many hours. The hats of all older people, who find a six block journey beyond their walking capacity, should be doffed to these enthusiastic youngsters.

Without detracting in any way from the accomplishments of the young students or from their contributions to charities, we wonder why two schools in York County chose to walk for the Metro-based United Appeal, whose services extend only as far north as Steeles Avenue and are seldom, if ever, available to residents of York County. The Metro United Appeal already benefits sub-

stantially from residents of the county who are employed in the five boroughs.

If and when a United Appeal is organized in the Southern Six municipalities of York County, then this money will be available for use in the home areas of the donors. To this end Richmond Hill and District Social Planning Council is working on establishing a United Appeal.

Until their efforts in this direction are successful we believe that Metro should be able to look after its own charitable needs and monies raised by residents of York County should be directed to charities in the county or to those which serve the needy of the world.

At the present time, the York County Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association is seeking donations which will enable them to build a residential treatment centre for children and the York Central Association for Mentally Retarded is in the planning stages of a home for the mentally retarded, which will also require financial support from the community. There are many other established welfare groups which could use a helping hand in financing their programs. This money will be spent in York County to benefit residents of York County and not for the benefit of those living south of Steeles Avenue.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

## 60 Recreational Activities At "Y"

This is YWCA Week in Richmond Hill, as this active group begins its drive for \$10,000 to keep present programs alive and add new ones. Above Mrs. Johanna Bailey with the advice of Roy Austin refinishes a coffee table in the furniture refinishing class held every Tuesday evening at 25 Yonge Street North.

This is just one of the 60 recreational activities provided by the local "Y" for all ages — male and female.

## Letters to the Editors

### CRITICIZES LACK OF SUPPORT FOR OLYMPIC EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Dear Mr. Editor:

Although I did not personally read "The Liberal" article on the coverage of the Olympic Games Equestrian events, I understand that it was extremely well written. I would however, like to submit a letter sent out to the three Toronto dailies, the CBC, the Aurora Banner and the Newmarket Era regarding the general coverage of equestrian events during the 19th Olympiad.

Well at last, the horsemen finally reached news-worthy note but they certainly had to accomplish the highest athletic peak to do so. During this Olympics, television, radio and newspapers all virtually ignored the existence of our fine equestrians until on October 27, our jumping team won the coveted Olympic Gold Medal. Suddenly all of Canada focused its attention and enthusiasm on our three champion riders. I am sure that at that historic moment all Canadians felt proud that we at last could stand with the world's finest.

All news media gave excellent coverage of this last day of triumph, down to the final moment of the victory ceremony.

But what about the rest of our equestrian teams? We here at home hardly even received as much as verbal mention of their standings. How can we expect respect if no one in the home front offers a little encouragement. Canadians are fickle!!! The only time anyone notices is if our teams win. Even then equestrian coverage is limited to the back or women's sections of the papers.

I feel strongly that the horsemen and women who competed on our dressage, three day event and jumping teams all deserve a great deal of credit since they accomplished what they did strictly by their own efforts in the face of complete and absolute ignorance by fellow athletes and other Canadians.

Even on October 30, only two days after Tom Gayford, Jim Elder and Jim Day landed at Malton, the papers and television were again void of "horsey" news.

If Canadians want our equestrian team to maintain its present Olympic standard, we are going to have to get behind them with our support, both patriotically and financially and show them and other prospective young riders that we really do want continued success in this the most demanding and difficult of sports.

Yours sincerely,  
HILARY A. BALMER,  
74 Lundy's Lane,  
Newmarket, Ont.



## Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

### The Wonderful Work Of Andrew Wyeth

The other day I returned some books to the Thornhill branch of the Markham Public Library. Mrs. Allan Sumner, the chief librarian, directed my attention to The Work of Andrew Wyeth. This is a personal document of the art and environment of America's foremost living painter. With the purchase of The Work of Andrew Wyeth, the Thornhill library was given two reproductions which will not be available to the public.

Mrs. Sumner said: "This work is so popular with our library patrons that we have ordered a second copy for circulation. As far as I know, ours is the only library in the district which has this first edition."

You'll find this star attraction flanked by the two reproductions on a table in the art section of the library.

From my own viewpoint, I felt that the care that has gone into the preparation of this work is truly extraordinary. No comparable effort on so large a scale in the field of truly fine painting can be found in the United States and possibly in Canada.

This last statement is part of the text of Richard Merryman who has made a study of Wyeth the man and his paintings. Merryman immersed himself in Wyeth's thought and reveals the qualities of Wyeth's pictures as only the artist himself could know them.

As I examined the reproductions I was astonished at their utter realism. These were no ordinary paintings. I was made aware of texture in a way that I had never been before. I saw texture in a wooden floor, the fur of a cat, a woman's hair, the skin of a man, in the husks of corn and every picture had this quality of living texture.

There was more, something very rare and precious. There was meaning and timelessness. (I just can't get over these artists who say that paintings shouldn't have meaning. If beauty is a feeling then it has meaning of some kind, according to me.)

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## London Day Care Situation Said "Terrible"; Termed Social Crisis

The lack of day care facilities in the City of London Ontario has been termed a "social crisis" by a leading London pediatrician. Dr. John McKim, clinical director of the Children's Psychiatric Research Institute, in a recent issue of the London Free Press.

Dr. McKim estimates that London needs seven times its present number of child day care placements to serve its 2,000 children of working mothers. At present, it is estimated that there are only about 250 "full day care" openings in the city.

A federal department of labor report made two years ago confirms Dr. McKim's estimate. It indicated that at that time the city had 2,000 "sole support" families, that is, families where either a mother or father was living alone with children and having to raise them as well as earn a living.

Another London doctor, Reinhold Riese, director of the child guidance clinic at War Memorial Children's Hospital has termed the situation in London "terrible". He insists that where mothers have to "farm out" their children to private sitters, "great numbers are being damaged by the total absence of any form of stimulation vital to children of school age." Such children, says Dr. Riese, are getting a negative start in life.

Dr. McKim reports frequently going into homes and finding it "crowded with small children who were getting little or no active stimulation." He stresses that day care must be more than a baby sitting service. It would provide for the health, education and social development of the youngster.

London's director of public health nursing, Mrs. Dorothy Mumby reports that she too sees, almost daily, the need for more day care centres, especially subsidized ones.

Mrs. Mumby notes too that while sometimes a mother does not need to work for financial reasons, some mothers function much better at home after having worked outside during the day. Some who have become "psychotic" need a work "breather" away from their homes, she suggests.

London Alderman Marvin Recker, chairman of the service and policy committee of the Family and Children's Services of London and Middlesex looks on day care centres as a direct means of keeping people off welfare.

Privately operated nurseries are said to be losing positions. They cannot charge more than \$15 per week and lose money, particularly during the summer months. One such nursery had to close this year because of financial troubles and found half the parents unable to pay the \$16 a week fee.

A movement is on foot to encourage churches to make their facilities, which are often idle during the week, available for day care centres. Bishop Cronyn Memorial Church has recently transformed unused church hall space into a nursery which will soon serve 50 children of working mothers. The church's front lawn will become the playground area and \$5,000 has been raised to get the project underway.

## The Great Scientist

Eye pressed to glass, he tuned the sight,  
And viewed with hope, his mammoth work—  
Ten million moving flecks of light  
That floated in a sea of dark.

Then, carefully, with his listening beam,  
Each dusty particle he read,  
In search of Life, his fondest scheme,  
And heard a voice cry, "God is dead!"

M. Maxwell

## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BOOKS

Richmond Hill Public Library

### New Fall Reading

"Food That Really Schemes; Mennonite Country Cooking". Mouth watering delights such as Sour-cream Salads, Potato Dumplings and Shofly Pie; recipes handed down through generations of Waterloo County families. Edna Staebler.

devoted his life to living with, caring for and studying a vast array of Canadian wild birds. According to him traits such as a reasoning power, sense of humor and a need to give and receive affection are not uncommon among the tiny creatures. Hance Roy Ivor.

"Our Life In The Highlands". Traces the development of the Queen's life from the effervescent joy of her married life through to the maturity of her later years, and painting a portrait of the beauties of High-Victoria, Queen of Great Britain.

"The Electric Kool - Aid Acid Test". A graphic and detailed illumination of the very process of primary religious experience and development of the 400 horsepower energy, freedom and abundance of postwar America. Tom Wolfe.

"Distemper Of Our Times". A frank recreation of the mark of events that danced darkly across the Canadian political stage between 1963 and 1968. Peter Newman.

"The Transplanted Heart". The incredible story of the epic heart transplant operations by Professor Christiaan Barnard and his team. Dr. Christiaan Barnard.

"I Live With Birds". For nearly 40 years Roy Ivor has



## In the Spotlight

By JOAN HAROLD

### Richmond Hill High School Commencement

It was cloudy on the night of November 2 at the Richmond Hill High School Commencement, but the moon shone momentarily, illuminating E. B. Cox, internationally renowned sculptor, as he undraped his work purchased by the York Central District High School Board in honor of Centennial year. The piece, which stands outside the main entrance to the school, is as the artist says creative work should be, "food for the mind", and well worth a trip down Wright Street to see for yourself.

The auditorium of the school was attractively decorated in the school colors, all the speeches were brief and to the point, and obviously everyone enjoyed sharing this proud evening with Principal George Domina, the staff, and graduating students.

There were some inspiring moments too. Miss Edna Izzard who was head of the English Department from 1930 to 1962, quoted from Stephen Spender when she presented the Donald Leno Memorial Scholarship for highest standing in grade 13 Modern Languages to Penny Grieve, and the Mary Banting Izzard Scholarship for proficiency in English and History to Susan Rogers. Miss Izzard said that Mr. Leno and her mother had a great gift in common — that of being able to spread joy and courage in the face of great difficulties. Stephen Spender's words seem most apt.

"I think continually of those who are truly great . . . Who in their lives fought for life. Born of the sun, they travelled a short while toward the sun And left the vivid air signed with their honor."

Other special awards were:

The Morley Kinnee Plaque for highest standing in grade 13 English — presented to Lynne Freeman and Penny Grieve by James Jackson.

The Frank S. Hogg Memorial Scholarship for highest standing in grade 13 Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry — presented to Donald Harrower by Dr. Helen Hogg.

The State Farm Insurance Scholarship — presented to Janice Grainger by John McKenzie.

(Continued on Page 14)

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