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United Voice

With the lack of any clear-cut decision by our municipal politicians, our citizens must surely be quite confused as to what form regional government will take when it is finally implemented. Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough has indicated he intends to introduce regional government in the fringe areas both north, east and west of Metro.

The eastern fringe area is expected to include Pickering Township, Pickering Village and Ajax in the Whitby-Oshawa region, although Pickering Township is making strenuous efforts to be included in Metro. The western fringe area will include the Halton-Peel area where the number of municipalities has been reduced from 17 to seven.

Mr. McKeough is expected to meet with York County Council sometime in April to hear its ideas on the northern fringe area of regional government. In preparation for this meeting York County Council, which represents the 14 municipalities in the county and the Southern Six (the Towns of Richmond Hill, Markham, the Townships of Markham and Vaughan and the Villages of Woodbridge and Stouffville), should attempt to agree on some central theme which Mr. McKeough can use as a guideline in implementing regional government.

At a meeting of the Southern Six held on February 5 these municipalities voted 12 to 8 against the present County of York as the political

unit for a regional government. Instead those present indicated they favored a regional government for the Southern Six based on a two-tier system composed of three municipalities on the lower tier.

Then Richmond Hill Town Council in session on February 17, by the narrow margin of 4 to 3, voted against basing any regional government purely on the Southern Six. Markham and Vaughan have yet to make a decision on regional government.

Donald Deacon M.L.A. York Centre, in an interview, forecast regional government may very well include parts of the three Counties of York, Ontario and Simcoe.

With our elected representatives so divided on the future form of regional government it is no wonder the ordinary citizen is confused. In laying down the guidelines of a regional government Mr. McKeough forecast a population base of between 150,000 to 200,000 which he feels is necessary in order to provide an adequate tax base for a full range of municipal services. The Southern Six with a population of some 75,000 falls short of this basic requirement.

The municipalities should make a real effort to arrive at some consensus of opinion as to the form and area regional government should encompass. Mr. McKeough is more likely to be guided by a well thought out majority decision than if he is greeted by a chorus of discordant voices.

Subway To Finch... At Least

While the Metro Council Transportation Committee decision on extending the subway to Sheppard Avenue is still not finalized, it would appear that no one is going to convince officials to build the subway to Finch Avenue at this time.

The transportation committee has indicated that the money just isn't available to construct the Yonge Street line to Finch. However, Gordon Hurlburt, North York controller, outlined a suggestion to the Willowdale Businessmen's Association recently that, if implemented, might be the answer to Metro's problems, and take the subway even further.

Controller Hurlburt, looking a good many years into the future, suggested that the fares cover costs of the subway from Eglinton to Steeles and that the public, municipality or province pay for the line from Steeles to Richmond Hill.

Terminating the subway at Sheppard appears to be short-sightedness into the future of northern Metro. It will cost \$79 million to build the subway to Sheppard, plus millions to supply parking in the area. The terminal, according to Mr. Hurlburt, will

have about six ground level bus bays, and one can't help wondering if they will all be needed when the subway moves north again, as it certainly must.

While a subway to Richmond Hill is far from top priority, it would appear that an extension to Finch at least would be in order. Land in the Finch area is cheaper, there is more of it, fewer business establishments will be forced out, and driving in the area isn't quite as hectic. Cost of subway construction from Sheppard to Finch has been estimated between 22 and 26 million dollars, and Metro could appeal to the Federal Government for assistance, as Mr. Hurlburt suggests.

Waiting isn't going to solve anything. It will be 1972 at the earliest before the subway is completed to Sheppard. After that is finished, then do they start squabbling about plunging further into the northland? Why not start buying land now? All the way to Richmond Hill, if necessary.

In 1972, how much will it cost to build a subway to Finch? Certainly more than the present estimate of \$26 million.

Co-operation Means Success

At the last meeting of Richmond Hill Council Mayor Thomas Broadhurst expressed the town's appreciation to Shaun Beggs, all members of his committee and co-operating business people, who combined their efforts to make Richmond Hill's first Winter Carnival a marvelous success. Every citizen and every visitor to our community during that highlight of the winter season must join the mayor in this tribute — it was well earned.

In spite of the sceptics, this result of co-operation proves once again that there is a community spirit in Richmond Hill and a desire to make this town one of the best of its size anywhere in the world.

Of particular interest was the number of young people who participated in the planning and work of the carnival. Their enthusiasm was a delight to their fellow workers and played no small part in getting the project off the ground and making it

a reality that surpassed the wildest hopes of the originators.

At a time when others of their age group in Canada and in other countries were demonstrating their rebellion against the world as it is by "sit-ins", riots and destruction, these young people were making their contribution towards making their corner of the world a better place in which to live. They undertook a task which needed to be done and made it a meaningful occasion for everyone concerned — even for those who only sat on the sidelines to enjoy the two-day program.

Instead of saying "Somebody should do something," these young people said, "Something should be done and we will do it" — and that constructive viewpoint paid dividends in enjoyment for thousands of people. These dividends will continue to be paid in future years as the carnival becomes an annual event with more and more attractions and more and more people participating.

Cadets Will Tag April 18, 19

172 Squadron Air Cadets, under the command of Major G. M. Kessler CD, were granted permission to hold a tag day in Richmond Hill on the evening of April 18 and all day April 19, by town council. These dates coincide with the tag day held in Metro. The cadets will be well supervised and the funds raised will be used for the benefit of the local boys who are involved in the youth training program of the air cadets. Major Kessler stated in his letter of request,

Winter Night

The moonlight falls upon the cloth of white That covers rolling fields and tree and hill; A watchdog's voice disturbs the quiet night, Another answers and then all is still. The frozen fronds bend down along the creek, The snowy owl has ceased his eerie call; The stately hemlocks crown the distant peak As night has wrapped the valley in its shawl. A lonely farmhouse sheds a beacon light Wherein a troubled one may lie awake Not knowing that the lovely face of night Might for an instant soothe a sorrow's ache, As winter bends above the sleeping land, And paints a picture with a Master Hand.

ROBERT D. LITTLE



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Local Astronomer Addresses YCHA

The guest speaker at the annual meeting of the York Central Hospital Auxiliary was the renowned astronomer, Dr. Helen Hogg, of the University of Toronto, who is pictured above (right) receiving a pot of spring flowers from Mrs. R. D. Little, following her very appropriate talk on "Astronomy Through A Hospital Window".

The meeting, which was extremely well attended, was held February 13 in the hospital cafeteria.

In the Spotlight



By MARY MONKS

It is more than twenty years since I first saw a production of "Oklahoma" in London. Those were the days of postwar austerity in Britain, but they were also the days of the great American musicals, "Annie Get Your Gun", "Kismet", "Kiss Me Kate", "Paint Your Wagon" and of course "Oklahoma".

After the sophistication and gentility of the Noel Coward and Ivor Novello style of operetta of the thirties, and the star-spangled rubbish fed us in the movies during the war years, these trans-Atlantic musicals came as a transfusion to the theatre of the late forties and early fifties.

One realizes how long ago that was, since now these shows have joined Gilbert and Sullivan in the repertoire of most amateur operatic and theatre groups.

We have an opportunity to see "Oklahoma" during the next few days at Bayview Secondary School, where it will be presented on February 28 and March 1, and again on March 7 and 8, and performed by students of the Music Theatre Arts class.

The show is under the guidance of music teacher Elizabeth Mathews, who has wisely relieved the young cast of the strain of four performances by double casting. This also enables twice as many actors to participate.

In common with all musical comedies, the plot is not the most important factor. Boy meets girl, loses her, finds girl again, (not always the same one), and after the resolution of their problems and half a dozen sub-plots, the show ends in the final clinch, to the accompaniment of a reprise of the love duet and a rousing chorus of the theme tune.

When the songs are as tuneful and enduring as those in "Oklahoma", Rogers and Hammerstein at their best, one goes home humming at least one of them, and feeling a little brighter for having escaped to neverland for an hour or so. You can gather from this that I'm a sucker for this kind of show.

The Bayview production will have the benefit of a number of very talented young people, some of whom work professionally in other areas of show-business, and some knowledgeable teachers to direct and advise them.

Assisting Miss Mathews are the dramatic (Continued on Page 14)

Now Or Never Social Planning Council

By MICHAEL RAPS

David Porter looked at the litter of telephone messages on his desk and got mad. Mr. Porter is a school attendance counsellor and his job is dealing with problem children.

"I was getting pretty disgusted," he says. "Problems kept coming in but solutions weren't coming in as fast as the problems. Kids were running wild — with a recreational set-up that was excellent but a lot of kids weren't using it."

He knew other social workers were in the same boat so out of frustration he telephoned them and arranged a meeting to discuss recreation.

"Within 10 minutes we knew that was only one problem the town was faced with," he says.

Discussions with the Children's Aid Society for a family counselling service have been revived; a day care centre is ready to be launched as soon as suitable quarters can be found; a drop-in centre for youth is being contemplated; a door-to-door survey of the town's social needs by social workers from Humber College is in the offing and a help mate service is getting off the ground.

and implement new programs.

That was four years ago and although Richmond Hill still doesn't have a family counselling service, Rev. James Burn, council president, believes the 50-member organization is fulfilling its role. Mr. Burn is minister of St. Matthew's United Church.

"The aim of the Social Planning Council is not to run a particular agency but to bring together people with a germ of an idea and develop that idea," he explains.

Rev. Burn believes that the council is on the verge of a major breakthrough. Ideas that have been percolating over the past four years are about to become realities, he says.

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The help mate service to provide short term volunteer help to families in emergencies is the type of community effort the council tries to foster.

"A great number of people in the community care about the other guy but don't know where the other guy is or what his problems are," explains Mr. Porter.

Help Mate would put these people to work where they are needed as homemakers, babysitters, big brothers, foster parents or just visiting shut-ins.

"Often I've had kids at 2 o'clock in the morning knocking on the door. They've been kicked out of home," Mr. Porter explains. Help Mate would find them overnight accommodation from a prepared roster of people willing to help in this way.

Teams of volunteer professionals to provide medical, legal or other advice to people in trouble would also be available on a once-a-week basis through the service.

"A great many times the answer is there and if you can have 10 minutes with a person you can put him in touch with it," he says.

Help Mate will operate

Letters to the Editors

TO ALL PET OWNERS

Dear Mr. Editor:

Any persons who care about the safety of their dogs or cats should write at once to their local member of the Legislative Assembly and urge him to oppose the bills recently introduced by Attorney-General Arthur Wishart and Minister of Agriculture William Stewart.

The latter bill would require humane societies to hand over all unclaimed animals for research purposes. The Attorney-General's legislation will remove the power of officers of the Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals to enter into private property to inspect it or to seize animals on the property. Under the new act the inspectors will have to obtain a search warrant.

Our main objections are: 1. Canada has no legislation, as Britain has, to protect animals once they are in the hands of the research scientist.

With concerted action we can get this bill delayed, at least until we have parallel legislation which will set some limit to the pain and terror which may be inflicted on a research animal.

2. It is cruel to use for research animals which have been household pets, which have

been "humanized" to some degree. Researchers should breed animals for their own use.

3. The time limit of 48 hours in which a pet may be reclaimed is a mockery — as everyone who has lost a pet knows.

4. If humane society inspectors are required to have a warrant before entering premises where an animal is being abused, rescue work will be hampered seriously.

Passing of these bills will set Ontario back 50 years in humanitarian work.

ETHELWYN WICKSON, York County Branch, Ontario Humane Society.

PRaise NOT CRITICISM

Dear Mr. Editor:

Through the columns of "The Liberal" I should like to attempt to correct a misunder-

standing that has arisen as a result of the first aid coverage at the recent Winter Carnival.

The lads of the 1st Beverley Acres Venturer Company, who have earned themselves a fine reputation for their first aid coverage at hockey and ball games in the vicinity, have been accused of giving up and going home early.

It was NOT the 1st Beverley Acres Venturers that provided the first aid coverage and in fact when the people doing so left the Mill Pond all of the Beverley Acres boys that were present went to volunteer their services to those in charge.

Rather than any condemnation, I feel that an accolade would be more in order.

WILLIAM WIDDIFIELD, Venturer Advisor, First Beverley Acres Com.



Don Deacon

MLA York Centre

Reports

The proposed withdrawal by the Southern Six into a new region has given us plenty of reason to rethink the big trend to centralization of government. Soaring welfare and education costs are only two examples of the result.

Business is finding that decentralized operations symbolized by franchise operators are more efficient and responsive than chain operations where decisions are made at head office. Changes in local government too often ignore the abilities of local people to deal with local problems when given the proper guidance and information.

Boundaries and methods workable 100 years ago should not be patched over in the redesign

of local government today. The transportation study now being conducted throughout the county by volunteers under the guidance of Canadian Facts is nearing completion. The whole area owes a great debt to these citizens who have spent many hours conducting interviews and gathering the facts which will give us a clear picture of the transportation needs of our citizens.

Canadian Facts expect their report will be ready about mid-March. I hope the budget which the government brings down on March 5 will include moves to arrest the growing tangle of red tape of the 37 or more separate sets of regional organizations serving us.

School Board Can Make Friends By Saving Cash

(Barrie Examiner)

Want to earn some extra money on the side? Buy a Volkswagen and join either the county board of education or administrative staff. The board voted recently in favor of a whopping 15 cents-a-mile travel allowance for itself and its staff.

This, of course, is in addition to the \$250 a month paid to trustees for attending meetings and salaries of up to \$30,000 a year for senior staff members. And, of course, there's extra allowance for other out-of-pocket expenses incurred on board business.

It should be warned that for the time being, staff members will have to keep a log of their mileage. But even that may change. One trustee argued that it was beneath the dignity of anyone making \$25,000 or \$30,000 a year to have to keep a record of mileage. Education administrators, it seems are above and beyond normal procedures of the business world.

The board's generous allowances came after county education director Jack Ramsay ticked off the county press for its charges that the board is over-spending on salaries and is "empire-building".

Yet, at this meeting, the board trimmed its proposed senior staff and, at the same time, presented the naughty county press with the most damning evidence supporting its empire-building argument.

Perhaps because of this press criticism, the board eliminated the positions of assistant area superintendents. It combined the proposed budget office with the accounts office. It combined the two jobs of supervisor of maintenance and supervisor of caretaking into one position.

It cut down on the Interim School Organization Committee positions. The personnel office is to be combined with the payroll office with the subsequent elimination of the position of area superintendent of business affairs administration has been held up "until the need becomes more apparent".

Now, county taxpayers will certainly appreciate the tremendous saving that this staff cut promises. But, at the same time, they are led to suspect that, if all these jobs can simply be lopped off, there may be many more just as unnecessary.

Experts say gas will continue to be generated for perhaps 100 years.

LUXBRIDGE: Six municipalities have already approved a resolution asking that Ontario County as a whole be kept in the regional government to be set up to the east of Metro. They also request a detailed study be carried out without cost to the municipalities.

Challenge OF Cancer

Thanks largely to improvements in treatment and to much earlier diagnosis, stomach cancer is not the terrible threat it used to be. In 1958 it dropped to second place as the most lethal form of cancer. The Canadian Cancer Society still urgently needs funds to finance research into all forms of cancer. The annual drive for funds is in April.

WE GET LETTERS — and we want more. If you have a comment on a current event, an anecdote to relate, grouse to get off your chest, drop us a line.

All letters must bear the writer's name and address, although a pen-name will be used in the paper if requested and at the editor's discretion. The editor reserves the right to cut or publish portions of letters if necessary.

We can't return your letters. Sharpen your pencils — and let's hear from you.