



# The Liberal



An Independent Weekly: Established 1878

Subscription Rate \$5.00 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

"Second class mail, registration number 0190"

## Queen's Park Must Help

York County in common with all counties located outside the large urban centres throughout Ontario had a system of county education imposed on it by the Robarts Government effective last January 1. Now most of the new county boards are facing a financial crisis of staggering proportions.

Shaken by the information that many boards are facing local tax levies two or three times the 1968 levies, Premier Robarts last week ordered his Education Minister William Davis to prepare immediate reports on county budgets and their expected effect on local tax rates in 1969.

Reports indicate the new provincial grants formula sent out to the counties during the past two weeks, was the result of drastic cutbacks in spending ordered by Treasurer Charles MacNaughton. One county board official said the effect of the new formula has been to reduce the overall provincial contribution to education to about 40 percent from the 1968 figure of 45 percent.

Some rural municipalities in Wellington County in Western Ontario are facing a 100 percent increase in school taxes. In Simcoe County last year's school tax of \$400 on a modest home is expected to jump to \$700 in 1969.

For some time now this newspaper has questioned the wisdom of rushing into county education so close on the heels of the consolidation of individual boards into municipal units. The townships hardly had time to "digest" the new municipal system when they suddenly found themselves thrust into the greatly enlarged county system.

A county system of education could only result in a sizeable jump

in home taxes and a real loss of local autonomy and individual rights. One of the main arguments in favor of the county system was that it would result in tax savings and a fairer distribution of the economic burden on our citizens. This obviously hasn't been the case. Any increase in home taxes could only be avoided if the province was prepared to bear a far greater share of the total cost of county education. Judging by the grants structure of the Robarts Government in the past there seems little likelihood that Queen's Park would be willing to assist the property owner to any appreciable extent.

But the whole sad part of this matter is the repeated failure of the opposition parties in the Legislature to evoke any public debate on this major change in community life. The performance of the Liberals and Socialistic New Democratic Party has been woefully weak and inadequate to a sickening degree. They have drifted along and have been unable to mount a concerted offensive against the government.

The leadership of the Liberals, who comprise the major opposition group (28 members) in the House, has been discouraging and disheartening. Robert Nixon is a fine young man but he seems to lack the verve and drive so necessary for a successful political leader. Mr. Nixon apparently hopes to fall into the premier's shoes by default — that a series of Tory mistakes will land him in the top job in the province. Mr. Nixon or NDP Leader Donald MacDonald will only become premier if they can show a majority of the people of Ontario that they can offer a vigorous, viable alternative to more than a quarter of a century of Conservative rule.

## The Other Side

English-speaking Canadians everywhere are becoming increasingly concerned with the obvious attempts of first the Pearson Government in Ottawa, and now Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, to turn the face of Canada towards Quebec and the incessant demands of the French-Canadian nationalists.

The central government is not the only administration guilty of this pandering to the French — the Robarts Government here in Ontario is also guilty of buckling under to their unreasonable demands on the English-speaking character of the North American continent.

For some time now English-speaking Canadians have lacked a national voice to champion their cause with the same energy and vigor. The majority of our daily newspapers have been, if not openly promoting, at least playing down the demands of the French-Canadians. But of late there have been signs that English-speaking Canadians are at last showing a willingness to stand up and oppose this unfavorable trend towards French expansion.

Toronto School Trustee Thomas Clifford, chairman of a Metro committee planning facilities for Franco-Ontarian education, has relinquished the chairmanship in order to be able to fight plans for a special school for French-speaking students. Mr. Clifford says he opposes not only the whole concept of separate French schools but also the militant and demanding attitude of the French nationalists. He warned that a system of French schools will prove to be an extra heavy burden on the already hard pressed Metro taxpayer.

"It is my belief that to unite Canada from east to west there should be only one language and that language should be English."

A newly organized loyalist organization in the Western Provinces and the Maritimes plans to combat the demands Quebec is making at Ottawa and several of the provincial capitals.

The group first came into public view last October in the Moncton area, shortly after the CNR announced that it would gradually increase the number of bilingual personnel on its Montreal-Halifax train which serves a half-French, (income workers in Moncton) and half-English clientele.

The CNR stressed that present employees would not be affected and that bilingualism would apply only to those hired in future for dealing with passengers, such as porters and conductors, but the announcement aroused insecurity among the thousands of rail workers based in Moncton who speak English only.

Similar fears about language discrimination in promotions are spreading among federal and provincial civil servants in New Brunswick, who are predominantly English-speaking. The two governments have denied repeatedly that bilingualism will affect any civil servant's career adversely.

The recent disgraceful performance at Quebec's Laval University where Opposition Leader Robert Stanfield was treated shabbily by the all-French student body, whose members booted and mimicked his address to them in their own language, is indicative of the uncompromising attitude of some of Quebec's young people towards English-speaking Canadians. Laval's rudeness saw one student tossing a half-filled glass of water at Mr. Stanfield. However, to his credit the Tory leader remained calm in the face of their taunts.

A combination of French national-



Pioneer Pub at the corner of Steeles Avenue and Yonge Street, built in 1847, may go back into business if York University students are able to move it to their campus and refurbish it. University administration must approve the plan.

## York Students To Rescue Old Inn

BY DORIS M. FITZGERALD

Many old buildings in the Thornhill area have been moved to other sites and given a new lease on life. One of them will soon begin a second such journey if enthusiastic students at York University attain their objective. On their ultra-modern campus they want to restore and preserve the one time Steele's Inn as a pleasant pub and meeting place, and as a picturesque link with the district's past.

Initiator of the idea was David Cooper, second year arts student, who noticed a drawing of the old hotel in the recently published "Pioneering in North York" by Patricia Hart, and called around to look at the weathered clapboard house on Steeles Avenue West, close to Yonge Street. Slated for demolition since 1961 when the property was sold for commercial development, the old place has become incredibly untidy and run down but Cooper saw its inherent possibilities and went back to discuss them with some of his colleagues on "Excalibur", the student newspaper.

As a result they visited the present owner William Popovich of Yonge and Steeles Motors, who was amazed to hear of their interest and agreed to donate the building to the students if it could be moved from his premises by May 1. In a conversation with David Blain, a news writer for "Excalibur", and a member of the original five man committee, I learned that a feasibility study was undertaken at once with the architect, N. A. P. J. Simpson Jr., vice-president of the Toronto Historical Board, and consultant to the Black Creek Pioneer Village. An authority on early Canadian buildings, Mr. Simpson has had wide experience in renovating and moving them, the Edey house in Thornhill being one example.

and he gave full approval to the scheme. The cost of moving, restoring, fireproofing and suitably furnishing the inn has been estimated at \$138,000, and of this amount \$14,000 will be required by May 1 to move the building along Steeles Avenue to the campus. The campus planning board has already recommended a site beside a wood lot, northwest of Founders College, provided the project will not be an expense to the university.

On March 31, this recommendation was presented to the property and building committee on which eight members of the board of governors sit. If approved by them, as Mr. Blain is confident it will be, he says there is a 99% chance that it will be passed by the board of governors at their meeting on April 14.

John Adams, third year political science student, is present chairman of the Green Bush Inn Committee which is in the process of being incorporated.

The history of Steele's Hotel goes back to the early days when Yonge Street was a narrow dirt road bordered by forests and farms. Even then the junction of Yonge Street and the town line (Steeles Avenue) was deemed a good place for business and in 1830 Joseph Abrahams built his Green Bush Inn on the northeast corner. In the same year according to records in the registry office, another well known hotelkeeper, John Montgomery bought a corresponding site on the northwest corner for \$27 2s, but it is doubtful that he ever used it as the same owner was sold to John Morley, in November 1840 for \$100. From Morley the property passed in October 1856 to Thomas Steele for £580, and from then on was operated by Thomas and his son John C. Steele, — a record in this area

## Middlesex County

### Historical Fund Is Proposed To Preserve The Centennial Work

Middlesex County in Western Ontario wants to keep Canada's Centennial spirit alive.

County Treasurer Derek Newton recently proposed establishing a trust fund for beautification projects and preservation of historic sites. It's an idea that might well be adopted by York County.

Mr. Newton said that individuals and groups accomplished a great deal during centennial year.

"Now that the enthusiasm — and the money — has died, there is danger that everything we did will be undone and the money and effort will be in vain," he warned.

He suggested that \$5,000 be budgeted each year for a fund to preserve and augment the

work done during Centennial. He said the fund might be used to buy "sites of particular beauty, or of unusual interest to the community. Old buildings of special interest such as very early township halls, schools and churches may receive grants for their preservation."

Privately owned buildings might be purchased or leased through the fund, he added.

Mr. Newton also recommended that the fund might be used to eliminate or restore viasquees such as roadside dumps to their natural state.

He said initiative for such projects ought to come from the local level and that the fund should be used only after every effort had been made to raise the necessary money locally.

## Fort Henry Ready Summer

For several months each year, Old Fort Henry at Kingston, broods silently under wintry skies and swirl-

The Fort Henry Guard is another matter. The day after the fort closes in mid-September, planning and

where necessary. Small arms are checked, cleaned and repaired to ensure dependable service, as part of a detailed

# Letters to the Editors

## GOOD SAMARITANS

Dear Mr. Editor:  
We would like to thank all the people who phoned us regarding our lost bulldog. We have our "Alfie" back home thanks to the kindness of the Sandy Neal family, Langstaff Road West. They gave shelter to our dog and phoned us. The boys of the family had covered Alfie with a blanket and looked after him until we picked him up.  
We are more appreciative since we have read in Toronto papers that some people keep lost dogs looking for a reward. No effort is made to find the owner, and if a substantial reward is not offered the dog is not returned.

Again our many thanks,  
IRENE AND JOHN HOUGH  
5 Essex Avenue,  
Langstaff.

BILLS 73 & 74

Dear Mr. Editor:  
Many thanks for publishing letters pro and con the humane society's opposition to Ontario Government's Bills 73 and 74. I have read all the letters and editorials and the proposed legislation itself and I feel there are still one or two points not clarified.

Money donated or bequeathed for a specific purpose cannot honestly be used for another purpose, least of all for one which would bring about the very thing the donors hoped to avert. It would make one think twice before giving or bequeathing sums of money to any charity, if this were actually permitted.

Isn't it a great oversimplification to say that all research benefits mankind? The United States, and Canada on a smaller scale, spend a great deal of money on research into biological warfare. This means the misery of thousands of animals, and what human beings benefit? Some have said that nothing should impede medical progress; no methods should be forbidden. But consider the appalling case of war. Even at the height of war, when the safety of thousands of intelligence, the torture of prisoners of war for information is not allowed by the Geneva Convention. This is felt to be too inhumane to be tolerable. What we want is a Geneva Convention that will say some things are too cruel.

Equalization of educational opportunity and greater efficiency in administration are benefits that are supposed to accrue from the establishment of county boards of education. It was for these reasons that the operation of their schools was taken away from the people and local boards and handed over to these administrative giants.

In the matter of efficiency one might have expected that the single boards and administrative staff for all county schools would have solved duplication of administration and thereby cut costs. That alone, in the opinion of many who are acquainted with government bureaucracies, would have been worth the price. But it seems one would have been wrong in expecting any such benefit.

Though only a few months old, the Simcoe County Board of Education is building itself a chain of command, a departmental structure and price tag that would put even the bureaucrats at Ottawa or Queen's Park to shame.

It appears that the county board will maintain all the present administrators and offices in the various communities and add to that, a tremendous superstructure of "educationists", secretaries, assistants, assistant secretaries and secretaries' assistants of its own.

Judging by the salaries to be paid to the two assistant supervisors who will fit into the bureau somewhere between the chief supervisors and the area supervisors, the cost of the brass alone will be phenomenal. Each assistant will receive \$24,000 a year in salary. It was at first thought that the supervisor

to be done to any animal, pet or otherwise, because humanity is degraded by some actions, whatever the material gain. If the medical schools and hospitals would collaborate with the humane societies in working out and applying such a code both science and the humane movement would gain.  
ETHELWYN WICKSON,  
Kettleby.

## "CO-OPERATION IS KEYNOTE"

Dear Mr. Editor:  
May I congratulate and thank you for your editorial of March 20, "Co-operation is Keynote".

It is both gratifying and encouraging to have a newspaper of the stature of "The Liberal" take a positive position on an important action of the York County Board of Education, such as the co-operation with the separate school board. Such an editorial could well be the cause of the spreading of this atmosphere of co-operation over a much wider area and into other fields.

Co-operation is certainly the keynote of the York County Board of Education — co-operation not only with other boards but with all sections of the community, in order to provide the best education possible for the children of York County in accordance with the wishes of the community. It was with this in mind that the board recently passed two important statements of policy; that of making all its decisions in public, with the exception of property and personnel matters and that of fostering ratepayer involvement in establishing policy.

The board recognizes that its members represent the ratepayers and hold in trust assets that belong to the community. Thus, they believe that many facets of board policy should reflect the wishes of the community. An interchange of ideas will be actively fostered between the board and the public, in which it is hoped papers like yours will play an important role, as exemplified by your March 20th editorial.

JOHN MacKAY,  
Chairman,  
York County Board of Education.

## In the Spotlight



By MARY MONKS

Since I started writing this column I have had the opportunity to observe the efforts of a great number of young people in this community, in churches, schools and drama groups. What has impressed me most has been the professional attitude with which they tackle their various tasks, and though most of these activities are pursued in their leisure time, these kids don't fool around. The majority of them are seriously intent on learning their crafts and assuming their responsibilities.

In Easter week I attended a performance of "The Crucifixion", an adaptation by a grade 13 student of Langstaff Secondary School to be entered in Simpson's Drama Festival. Paul Aspland, as well as adapting the Biblical account of the crucifixion for the stage, directed the production and played the demanding role of Jesus.

The action of the play moved through three scenes, opening in the Garden of Gethsemane, followed by the trial before Caiaphas, the High Priest, and Pilate, and concluding with the scene on Calvary.

The playwright has adhered closely to the dialogue of the scriptures, and has made good use of the drama of the trial to introduce some action to the play, which, by its very content, is solemn in the extreme and tragic in its conclusion.

Paul has a deep feeling for his subject, obvious both in his direction and his performance. He gave a passionate and masculine portrayal, which must have won the respect of his audience, and was well supported by his fellow actors. Marvin Yake as Caiaphas and Paul Wood as Pilate gave particularly convincing performances, and Joyce Wade, though she had a very small role as a trial witness, impressed me with her clear diction and presence.

The dangers of directing a play in which one is also acting, particularly in a lead role, is that one does not get the overall picture so necessary to a director. It is impossible to assess the effects being achieved on stage when one is up there. For this reason I felt that Paul had perhaps taken on too much and would have been wiser to have given the play to another director.

Not enough use was made of the large stage, and the action took place either far upstage against the curtains, thus muffling the voices, or too far downstage, where the lighting was insufficient to illuminate the faces. The suggestion of sets, such as rocks, doorways and battlement, were effective, but poor lighting throughout marred some otherwise moving scenes. To light the Cross, the spot

lights have been masked by the actors.

It is not my intention to experience the hazards of directing a play, but when a play depends on dramatic effect, as this one should be made to

(Page 14)

DINING LOUNGE  
ENTERTAINMENT

LUNCHEONS  
12.00 noon - 3.00 p.m.  
Canadian food  
ALL KINDS OF  
PARTIES

DA TAVERN  
Reservations phone 884-4278