



The Liberal



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Limit On Apartments

Limiting further apartment units in Richmond Hill to 600 has been suggested by the planning board and we believe that this is a reasonable step for the town fathers to take. Of this number 447 have already been committed to applications already being processed in the various town departments. These applications are for apartments on sites which are in areas where the zoning permits them or where council has taken some action such as rezoning which indicates approval.

The remainder of 153 units should be reserved to be allocated in the Yonge Street corridor, planning board suggests. Municipal thinking is that apartment buildings in the Yonge Street area will provide more customers for merchants in the downtown core. This will encourage merchants in the area to spruce up their premises and improve the overall appearance and attractiveness of the town. Although old, the buildings are structurally sound and as "Project Facelift" demonstrated can be co-ordinated into an attractive shopping area with a minimum expenditure of money.

It is natural for developers to seek the greatest density of population possible for their land. Serviced sites in this municipality are expensive, although only a fraction of the cost of sites in Metro. High mortgage interest rates are another factor which discourages the building and sale of single family detached residences.

But there are other alternatives to

a high-rise jungle. There is an existing demand for duplexes, triplexes and condominium or rental town houses. For a family of young children any of these are preferable to a perch in a lofty tower, with nowhere to play except around, over and under the cars in the parking lot.

We also believe that a condition imposed on the owners of all apartment buildings should be provision of adequate play areas both indoors and outdoors — with a substantial penalty if these are not kept available to the children in the building.

Although there are fewer children from apartment units than from single family residences, a medium-size apartment building can bring enough children into a school to require an additional classroom.

Large numbers of apartment dwellers also means an extra need for parks and recreational facilities — and Richmond Hill is already running far behind the demand in these respects. In many areas, no land areas of sufficient size remain to be acquired for park and recreation development even if the town could afford them. The levying of a fee on each new apartment suite might make it possible for the town to acquire at least a couple of parks to help fill what will become a more pressing need. Unfortunately, it is only where a rezoning is required that council is permitted, by negotiation, to exact such a contribution, by present laws. Permissive legislation is now being sought.



MARG MULLIS

Richmond Hill Of The Future?

Letters to the Editors

DRUGS RUINING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Dear Mr. Editor:

I happened to give a lift to a lad of about fifteen the other day, who told me he had been "kicked out" by his parents for taking drugs and was on his way to stay with a friend.

I asked him where he had got the drugs, and he said, "At high school", (not in this district, however). I asked him if there were many young people at his high school taking drugs, and he said, "Thousands", and that there were sixty or seventy drug pushers "selling pot, hash and LSD."

Making due allowance for the fact that he could not have had any accurate idea as to how many there were; it is still evident that he, at least, believed there were a great many.

He said that a friend of his was now taking "speed", which he claimed was a killer and that he was in a very bad way.

One does not need to know much about drugs to realize this presents a very serious situation. Unfortunately it is not a new one; but I felt I could not pass it by without at least bringing it to light.

I have little doubt that great efforts are being made by police and schools to cope with the situation. One can but pray that their efforts may be successful. Nothing less than the future of very many of the young people of this country is at stake!

D. C. H. MICHELL

(Rev. Michell is a former rector of St. John's Anglican Church, Jefferson. He is now rector of a parish in Dorset, England. Mr. Michell was recently visiting his former parishioners and friends in this area— Editor)

ONTARIO AND MEDICARE

Dear Mr. Editor:

The fathers of universal medicare undoubtedly hoped that the federal payment to the provinces of 50 percent of the

people's medical bills would result in a corresponding reduction in health insurance premiums, thus alleviating the burden of medical expense on low incomes.

Federal medicare agreements with some western provinces leave much to be desired, but the agreement with Ontario leaves much more. Ontario has been allowed to enter medicare on its own terms, or so it seems, which is practically the status quo. This defection by the Federal Liberals in Ottawa has put the Liberals of the Ontario Legislature in an embarrassing position; it took the wind out of their sails.

And how come Ontario's medical exemptions for income tax purposes have been cancelled when the federal \$175,000,000 kickback from the two percent welfare tax has been appropriated by the Roberts Government for purposes which presumably have more political value but are not a direct benefit to the citizen with medical expense?

Nova Scotia responded nobly. It has one insurer or agency against the retention of about 150 private companies by Ontario. It has no deterrent fees and no premiums; being financed entirely by the federal contribution plus an increase in the provincial sales tax from five to seven percent.

John Gilbert, Hanover, Ont.

Loss of Their Autonomy Worrying Municipalities

(Barrie Examiner)

"The natives are really getting restless." Mayor Robert Bentley said this week in commenting on the loss of municipal autonomy. He described this loss as the key issue at the Ontario Municipal convention at Niagara Falls at which he was a delegate.

This feeling is becoming more and more evident throughout the province as the government prepares to take over such vital functions as assessment and to institute regional government. On the same day the mayor made his comments, since County Council voiced its alarm about the impending takeover of assessment. "We feel it should be delayed," Collingwood Deputy-reeve Don Spooner said in summing up the feelings of many other members of county council.

These council fears have been based on certain disturbing facts. A report was submitted showing that expenditures have doubled, and in some cases tripled, while services decreased in the Ottawa-Carleton area since the introduction of regional government there last January.

This was the system which was supposed to have increased efficiency and cut taxation. Yet in this one instance, at least, the reverse has been true. Is there any reason to believe that regional government in other areas would not be as costly to the already downtrodden taxpayers?

Apart from the Ottawa-Carleton experience, the county form of school board has also proved to be an expensive proposition. This is regional administration on a smaller scale but it is a reasonably good yardstick of what the people may expect when municipal councils largely give way to super councils. In short, our taxes will go up sharply unless the Ontario government finds formulas for economies that, so far, have eluded them.

This newspaper has already contended that the Ontario Government should consult the people, either in the form of a plebiscite or through their own municipal councils. We cannot accept the proposition that "big brother" is right and that he knows what's best for us.

Municipal governments as we know them today, in fact, will become more important with the passing of the years. Mayor Bentley drew attention to an estimate that 80 percent of the population of the country will be living in urban areas. Consequently, he held, it is an anachronism not to recognize municipal governments, since they will be directly governing 80 percent of the country.

He also offered another vital argument. There should be a constitutional partnership between the three levels of government — federal, provincial and municipal. As of now municipalities are creatures of the provinces and they are being treated like step-children.

In the Spotlight



By MARY MONKS

While listening to a polished performance by one of the great opera companies, have you ever wished that you could be part of the production? Without being able to sing a note you can participate in a rehearsal of "Die Fledermaus" by Johann Strauss in the O'Keefe Centre on September 8.

The evening will be an extension of a scheme started last fall by the Canadian Opera Guild, who allowed its members and their friends to attend a working rehearsal, and to meet the cast, musicians and crew afterwards. The occasion was so successful that this year the Guild is co-operating with the Actors' Fund of Canada, and the evening will be a special benefit in aid of the actors' fund and the Guild Scholarship Fund.

The rehearsal, in "dress", will cover most of the opera. Sung in English, "Die Fledermaus" is gay and colorful, the music lighthearted and tuneful in the Strauss manner.

An opportunity to see this famous company at work should appeal to those with an honest love of music and a genuine interest in production methods. (As opposed to those for whom a night at the opera is a purely social occasion — to see and be seen!) After the rehearsal, the performers and crew will join the audience in the lobby, where the bars will be open, and the evening promises to be fun.

The causes that will be aided by the benefit are both well worth your support. The actors' fund assists those of the profession, who, through illness, infirmity or other adverse circumstances, are unable to work. A precarious means of livelihood at best, the acting profession seldom offers security, and only the favoured few make the big time. Yet how often we take for granted the pleasure derived from watching talented and hard working performers. Here is an opportunity to show our appreciation of their efforts. The world would be a duller place without them.

The Guild Scholarship Fund is in its opening phase, and this will be the first attempt at money making on its behalf. The Opera Guild hopes to provide a scholarship annually for one talented student of the opera school.

Tickets for this unusual and stimulating evening, which starts at 8 pm, are \$3.50 each, and may be obtained from Mrs. Margaret McBride, Secretary, Canadian Opera Guild, 129 Adelaide Street West, Suite 517, Toronto 1A, or from Graham Spicer, Actor's Equity Association, 35 Hayden Street, Toronto 285.

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Rambling Around



by Elizabeth Kelson

Slow Down And Live

The summer traffic along the main highways of this beautiful country is in full swing. Mothers, myself included, young people and men whose livelihood depends on their ability to drive a truck or car all seem to have different views about what constitutes safe driving. The only thing they have in common is the tendency to "pass the buck" to others when questioned about what constitutes safe driving.

I am one who holds the view that people who drive more than fifty, at the most, sixty miles an hour on the open highway shouldn't be in such a hurry and that "tailgating" is an unneighborly act. Who questions me? Most likely those who feel compelled to drive past the speed limit and who crowd other cars on the road. They are in a hurry.

In a hurry for what, may I ask? In a hurry to die or be crippled for the rest of their lives. How many cars fail to take the sharp corners at excessive speed? How many pass on a hill? How many stop for railroad crossings? Safety voices are always asking the public to "Slow Down and Live."

"Slow down and live," cry the reporters, and the announcers of radio and television broadcast their pleas. Almost every medium of communication is dedicated to the purpose of warning the public that the life they save may be their own. How often have I heard this bit of bragging. "The trip used to take four. Now I make it in three and a half," or I shaved ten minutes off that last trip.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

The most unsocial traits seem to come to the fore in many otherwise normal people when they're driving. Take a traffic tie-up, for instance. What

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Tell Us About Your Summer Vacation

What was the very best vacation you and your family ever had?

Was it a camping trip in one of the many wilderness areas of the provincial parks of Ontario, or elsewhere? Was it perhaps an unusual adventure entirely off the beaten path?

Was it a trip to Europe, the Far East, South America, or Africa? Was it a transcontinental bus or motor trip or a train journey? Perhaps it was a cruise to near or far-off lands or a visit to another hemisphere.

Wherever you began and wherever you went, you are invited to tell "The Liberal" about your trip in 500 words or less. The best "travel experiences" selected will be published in future issues of "The Liberal".

Please address all stories to: The Editor, "The Liberal", P.O. Box 390, Richmond Hill.

Amusing Incidents When Wild Animals, Suburbanite Clash

District Biologist Allan Wainio of the Department of Lands and Forests Lake Simcoe District reports embarrassing encounters with wildlife are on the increase.

That this is so is evidenced by the fact that department officers are getting more calls from the public. As the urban sprawl continues to spread and more city residents are purchasing country homes more people unused to the ways of the wild are coming in contact with animals.

Some of these encounters are humorous, and a few are hilarious, leading department officers to the ultimate conclusion that many people are downright helpless and a little bit frightened in the presence of wildlife.

Take the other day, for example. A lady phoned and insisted that someone come to her

cottage immediately and remove a groundhog that was inside the house upsetting the flower pots, climbing all over the chairs and tables, peering into her glass cabinets, and poking into the closets. This did not sound like a groundhog. When the officer questioned her further and obtained a description of the animal, black and furry ringed tail, it was obviously a raccoon.

She had closed the doors when she discovered the creature inside. The poor raccoon was probably just searching for an exit. The officer told the lady to let the animal out, and that henceforth whenever she left the house to lock all doors and block any possible entrances. She was reassured but nevertheless sounded rather disappointed that no one was coming out to help her. All she had to do was open the

doors! ***** Then there was this incident. During one summer in the sedate surroundings of suburban Don Mills a pair of raccoons clamoured about in the empty swimming pool, on the back porch and TV aerial of an elderly couple. By means of live traps the gentleman finally removed them from the neighborhood.

What really irked him was the way the raccoons would climb his aerial tower at night, sit on it by his window and stare into his bedroom. When he shone his flashlight on them they just blinked their eyes and stared right back. When he rapped on the window to scare them away they bent closer. It was unnerving, he told us later. He and his wife could not sleep knowing those creatures were peering through

the curtains. A pair of peeping toms in Don Mills. ***** A young housewife frantically phoned about a cricket she wanted removed from her house. This request stumped us and we inquired further. Apparently she and her husband had recently moved into a newly constructed house in Etobicoke and since they had very little furniture they slept on a bare mattress by the fireplace.

During the first night a cricket had serenaded them to sleep. The chirps echoed pleasantly throughout the empty house. It had been very romantic. But after two weeks the constant chirping was driving them hysterical. They could hear the cricket but they could not find it. They were both desperate for some undisturbed sleep. She insisted that the department do something. We recom-

mended a spray and jokingly reassured her that if that failed we would send over our cricket patrol. ***** In early summer a woman phoned from her Toronto home by the Humber River north of Bloor Street. She was almost in tears but managed to explain that a muskrat was eating up her prize ornamental flowers. She was heartbroken about the flowers she had already lost.

While talking to us she stood by the window, watching the muskrat ambling about her flowers. Halfway through the conversation she suddenly cried out, "Oh, he's starting on my geraniums now!" We suggested that she quickly take a broom and shoo the creature away. She was too frightened to do that. She had looked herself in the house and was not venturing out until the animal left.

Well, when it departed, we told her to spread some moth balls about her flowers and we would later send over a trapper. The state she was in we wondered why she had not called the police first. ***** Another woman, also barricading herself in the house, phoned from Holland Landing to report that large snapping turtles were raiding her backyard. It was late spring and the large turtles were crawling about her sandy backyard rooting up her radishes, carrots and beets, excavating holes for their eggs. She went out with a broom to scare them away but the large armoured creatures stretched their necks up at her, hissed and opened wide their large sharply-beaked mouths. She was horrified and raced back to

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Markham Conservatory Alumni Meets Monday

The Markham Township Chapter of the Alumni Association of the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto are holding their first fall meeting on September 8 at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting will take place at the home of the president, Miss Grace Bailey, 4 Wooten Way, Sherwood Estates, Town of Markham. Eligible new members are invited to attend.



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