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Stringent Legislation Needed To Protect Wild Life

Two Toronto men recently chased a brush wolf with a snowmobile on Lake Simcoe for 90 minutes. It is estimated they ran the animal for 20 miles before killing it. For this feat the men became eligible for and will collect a provincial bounty. However, the incident is being investigated by the Ontario Humane Society and Provincial Police, who maintain that this was a wanton display of cruelty to a defenceless animal. To prevent further occurrences of a similar nature the Federation of Ontario Naturalists has urged the province to stop paying a bounty on wolves. Brush wolves are fairly plentiful in this area, according to the Department of Lands and Forests. They are often seen on Lake Simcoe where they go out on the ice to look for fish and fish viscera discarded by the ice fishermen. They are known predators of smaller wild animals and are suspected of sheep and fowl killings, for which dogs are often blamed. For this reason the department has been paying a bounty for many years. Add to this the fact that these animals are also often victims of rabies and can infest other wild life as well as farm animals and the necessity of continuing the bounty is realized. But this is no excuse for torturing them by chasing them until they drop from sheer exhaustion. Lands and Forests Minister Rene Brunelle has indicated that he will seek changes in existing legislation which will make such "pranks" an offence. They should be. A stiff penalty might prove to be the needed deterrent. At present the Ontario Game and Fish Act prohibits the harassment of game animals including rabbits. Wolves have not been the only victims of snowmobilers, according to Kenneth Faulkner, a conservation officer in the wild life branch of the department at Maple. He recently found carcasses of 21 jack rabbits piled up beside a fence in a Vaughan Township field near Concord. One carcass bore the tread marks of a snowmobile and tracks from these machines criss-crossed the field. A similar case has been reported in another township. People are already up in arms because of the thoughtless conduct of some snowmobile operators who persist in operating their noisy machines long past a reasonable hour and who threaten the safety of others through carelessness. These few, along with a few who harass wild animals will make it imperative that stringent control legislation be passed by some level of government. Thus every owner and operator of these vehicles will suffer.

Better Libraries Welcome

Notable strides toward improvement of the public library system in Southern and Central York County have been made in recent months. King Township is now enjoying the use of a fine new central library in King City. Although the library still has a lot of empty space on its shelves, the library board's budget is in no danger of rising above the provincial per capita average. The township, therefore, can soon fill the library shelves without causing any undue hardship for its taxpayers. Much credit should go to King Township Library Board founding chairman Wilfred Jens, the present chairman Wilfred Jens, the present the library board, the township council and the devoted citizens who made this fine new library possible. In Markham Township, too, the great shortage of library facilities in the Thornhill area has been recognized. The township council has agreed to assist the Markham Township Library Board in its efforts to obtain a site upon which to build additional library facilities. Although the present library is doing a fine job, and is expected to continue to do so for many years to come, its capacity has been exceeded twice over by the community's needs. An additional library is sorely needed in the eastern part of Thornhill. We Canadians to date have not written a very good record, at least in the quantity and adequacy of our public libraries. Although we have enjoyed the use of many fine libraries, we have still lagged far behind our fellow nations in the western world in this regard. There can be little doubt that the steps forward by Markham and King Township Library Boards have come none too soon, but this does not make them any less welcome.

Church, Drugs, Women's Role Topics Provincial Meet

Nine women from York County were among the 500 members of the 33,000 member Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario who attended the federation's annual conference in Toronto recently. The theme this year was "Come Alive: A Call to Social Action", and delegates heard experts from a number of fields discuss social problems ranging from drug abuse to the church in the modern world. A luncheon meeting on February 21, was chaired by Mrs. Signe Snary, 92 Lawrence Avenue, Richmond Hill, an associate master teacher of libraries for York County Board of Education and a provincial director of the FWTAO. The speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Preece, secretary of special services for the Salvation Army in Canada, spoke about the pressures of today and how the Salvation Army is helping people in trouble. His department aids in rehabilitation of the mentally ill, suicide prevention, and service to immigrants who are trying to establish themselves in their new country. Other speakers at the conference include Dr. Margaret Nix of Pace College, New York, who talked about children in modern society. A panel discussed the new role of women, with panelists including Dr. Lita-Rose Betcheman, Director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, and representatives of the "new feminists," as well as other who expressed conservative views on the role of women. A highlight of the conference was a play, "The Concept", performed by former drug addicts from Daytop Village in New York. The play, which has been running off-Broadway for almost two years, gave conference delegates an insight into the causes and treatment of addiction.

Benson's Legislation Will Destroy The Small Businessman

Before we go any further we should mention what we consider small businesses. It is not those making profits of \$35,000 per year, the cut-off between small and big at the present time, but those which on a ten-year average, can show an average profit of \$3,000 to \$5,000. This is the one that Mr. Benson is trying to shake out of the tree and it represents what we believe to be the majority. They consist mainly of damned fools who prefer to be their own bosses and are willing to accept something less than the going rate of pay and the annual pay increase which has been built into the economy in the hope of making a profit which they can declare as a dividend so they end up with something close to the going rate for the job they are doing. The fact that they don't make that profit doesn't bother them. It is easy to explain. There was a long strike, so they couldn't get deliveries or collect their bills, or a big chain outfit chopped the price of the article they were selling or producing, so they were stuck with a big inventory. They are kidding themselves, of course, so shake them out of the tree, Mr. Benson. But there is one thing you might think about, Mr. Benson. Take Jake, the president of the Skukum Falls Widget Makers Ltd., who showed a \$5,000 profit on a 50% gross this year. When he goes to the local banker, the banker knows Jake paid himself something less than the going rate for chokermen or green chain hands, but the regional superintendent of the bank doesn't, so the banker can give him the \$3,000 loan he needs to buy new widget twisting equipment. He can do it because he knows Jake pays his bills even if he has to mortgage his home. So Jake can't get the loan if you take half that \$5,000 and he goes out of business. What does that profit you? There's another point too. People like Jake are nuts, we agree to that, but they are also the salt of the earth. They are the ones who leave a bridge game at 11 pm to open up the shop and find an odd sized bolt a person needs to get his low-price, easy terms. Simpson-Sears furnace working because a resident of his town finds Simpson-Sears doesn't answer the phone at that time of night. Or he is the merchant who leaves his garden on a Sunday afternoon to fit a customer with a dark suit so he can catch a night plane to his grand mother's funeral. He is the man who antes up the 12% manufacturer's tax, even though the business he sold the articles to has gone bankrupt and he knows he is not only out your 12% but also his labor and material. He is the man who buys the uniforms for the little league baseball team and the peewees hockey team even when he knows the parents of the players shop in the big neighboring city because they think the prices are lower. But shake him out of the tree anyway, Mr. Benson. Nobody will miss him except the thousands and thousands of people who live in the small towns across Canada and rely on the local small businessman to pay a substantial chunk of their local taxes and keep their towns going. Sock him for all you can get, Mr. Benson. He has no organization to protect him and he will never be missed until he is gone.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Top CWL Orator York County

Speaking on "Middle Age And Over", 13-year-old Bernie Talwin of Pottageville, won the Catholic Women's League (CWL) York County Regional Public Speaking Contest. It was held March 1 at Holy Name School, King Township. Bernie will now represent this region in the Toronto CWL Archdiocesan Public Speaking Contest, at St. Edward the Confessor Parish, Willowdale, April 12 at 1:30 pm. Bernie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Talwin and a grade 8 student at Holy Name School. He represented the Sacred Heart Parish, King, in the competition. Runner-up was Geraldine Skelhorn who represented St. Mary Immaculate Parish, Richmond Hill and is a student of Our Lady of the Annunciation School, Oak Ridges. Representing Our Lady Queen of the World Parish, Richmond Hill East, was Coleen Farrell and the entry from St. Patrick's Parish in the Town of Markham was Kathy Foulds. Similar contests had been held in each parish to select a contestant for the regional finals. Arrangements for the March 1 competition were made by Education Convenor Mrs. R. W. Bell of Stouffville. Judges were Sister Rita of St. Mary's, Bradford, Gus Parent of Newmarket, R. W. Bell of Stouffville, with Sister Katherine of King acting as timekeeper. Prizes were presented by Regional Spiritual Director Rev. Father Reinhard Buchardt, who congratulated all contestants for their excellent work. The winner is seen above with the trophy which will remain in Holy Name School for the next year. He also received a personal trophy and each contestant was presented with a remembrance.

Letters to the Editors

THAT FEROCIOUS WOLF

Dear Mr. Editor: Since many of us cut our teeth on such stories as red riding hood and the big bad wolf, three little pigs, etc., we tend to project these fictitious images onto the real thing. Many people today who fancy themselves to be so enlightened about the world around them, have their heads in the sand when it comes to the wolf. A great part of the responsibility for this attitude must lie with the news media. A good example of such prejudice (and animals just like people can be victims of prejudice) was the picture and story in the March 5 edition of "The Liberal". The description of a dead wolf as still appearing "ferocious" and also "the big bad wolf" is nothing short of irrational fabrication. That one must protect his property, no one will deny, but such action does not warrant more than a small mention, if this be news. To portray a man in an heroic pose, flaunting his prey, with not a ferocious expression, but rather one of pain on its face, is an insult to the intelligence of your average reader. There have been several articles and recently a very enlightening television documentary which would contribute greatly towards the exoneration of the wolf. If only the public would avail themselves of such material, it would do much to dispel their false notions. But there must also be intelligent support from the news media from which people glean the information that helps formulate their opinions. So let us reverse this guilty until proven innocent attitude and remember that the wolf, like man, is one of God's creatures, and as such is entitled to a better deal. MRS. MARILYN HAGBORG, 298 Neal Drive, Richmond Hill.

STOUFFVILLE: A pedestrian crosswalk, properly signed and illuminated has been approved by council for the intersection of Main Street with Civic Avenue. The present "courtesy walk" at Main and Market Streets will be abandoned.

THE SNOWMOBILE MENACE

Dear Mr. Editor: Every member of Richmond Hill Town Council has received complaints about the danger, extreme noise and stench from snowmobiles on our streets and in our parks. The parks and recreation committee has also received the same complaints. Citizens have been bothered constantly by these cursed machines all day and all night and want them banned from our streets and parks. Now that the winter season is almost over, a committee of three council members is suggested to look into the matter and attempt to contact neighboring municipalities, etc., etc. The council of Richmond Hill knows exactly how the town's taxpayers feel about snowmobiles. Why can't they make their own bylaws instead of running around to contact other municipalities? Let US be the example for neighboring communities! Let us look at the three members of council suggested to meet with the police commission: 1. Councillor Shaun Beggs, who represents Ward 4 and is the former chairman of the parks and recreation committee. Mr. Beggs owns two snowmobiles and says he should have the right to use them on our roads and on the sides of our roads. (Remember, taxpayer, that many of our roadsides are grass lawn boulevards.) Mr. Beggs says further, as the former chairman of the parks and recreation committee, that he feels the place for snowmobiles is in the parks. (You don't have to be bright to know the damage that will result to growth to say nothing about the danger and discomfort to the pedestrian child and adult.) These are very strange words from the chairman of our parks board. 2. Reeve Donald Plaxton. Mr. Plaxton has always voted against any ban on snowmobiles in Richmond Hill when the matter has come up before council. He says any ban would be unfair to the people who own snowmobiles. Therefore, he feels a minority should be allowed to disturb and terrorize citizens at will. 3. Councillor Lois Hancey. Mrs. Hancey has received plenty of complaints against snowmobiles on her side of town, but she also voted against any ban on snowmobiles in Richmond Hill the last time the matter was brought up at council. By their own words, the above people have no desire to legislate any ban on snowmobiles and they are the ones suggested for a committee to look into the problems of snowmobiles pestering citizens of this town. Why not appoint Deputy-reeve Ivan Mansbridge? He has repeatedly pointed out in council the danger of these machines on our roads. Thanks to Mr. Beggs' love of snowmobiles we had screaming hundreds of them, many from outside of town, who came to the Winter Carnival and disturbed everyone living within three-quarters of a mile for three days and three nights. Snowmobile owners can have their pleasure in the many areas and many hundreds of miles of tracks set aside especially for them on provincial lands... free. Richmond Hill citizens have repeatedly asked to have these machines taken off our roads and out of our parks which are all close to homes, so why hasn't local legislation been passed before now? We citizens will not forget about it when the breezes of spring take away the snow and we ask council not to shelve this serious matter. J. C. WOOD, Richmond Hill.



In the Spotlight

By MARY MONKS ANTHOLOGY Challenging Production Friday, March 13 was a big occasion for the members of Theatre 42, Bayview Secondary School's drama club. It was the opening night of the club's second major production, "Anthology", consisting of six excerpts from famous plays, ranging in authorship from Shakespeare to Albee. The program, like Gaul, was divided into three parts. The first was a minor Shaw Festival, opening with "Caesar and Cleopatra", followed by "St. Joan". I have to own to considerable disappointment in both productions. Perhaps I was expecting too much after the very excellent production of "The Miracle Worker", and I can realize the difficulty of finding forty actors, among high school students, equally endowed with acting ability and stage presence. Since there were very few minor roles, almost everyone on stage had the responsibility of keeping the show going. This is not easy. Even in professional theatre an actor can start as a spear carrier, and unless he drops the spear with a clang his lack of experience need not be noticed. To drop the meaning of the Shavian lines, however, is another matter. I was not convinced that the majority of the cast of "Caesar and Cleopatra" were fully aware of the significance of Shaw's play. There was also little to suggest that the ageing Caesar was lover to the young queen, who, as played by Janet Dilworth, suggested a petulant child rather than a seductive and extremely clever woman. At the time of their association, Caesar was in his late fifties, (old by the standards of those days), (Continued on Page 14)



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson "Accounting Is An Art"

About this time of year, mathematical figures are running through my head like crazy... and there's not much order to them at all. Give me words everytime and I will make them take shape and sometimes even make sense. It comes as a surprise to me to learn that accounting is really an art. I've always thought of it as a purely technical business. Philip Rayson, a Thornhill chartered accountant says it's an art. The way he explains it, I believe him. Mr. Rayson grew up in the City of Toronto, was educated at Harbord Collegiate and graduated from Queen's University in 1960. Philip and Ruth Rayson moved to Thornhill six years ago. They have three children, Steven, Rivanne and Andrea. At one time, Mr. Rayson was an active weight lifter and found time to write poetry and short stories. He is still interested in the art of writing and hopes someday to write a book. He is an avid reader of history. He believes one of the first requirements for a good accountant is to be a master of the English language. IT'S A BROAD FIELD While attending the university, Mr. Rayson wasn't at all sure of what he wanted to do. However he had a general interest in business and this led him to choose accounting as a profession. It was to be a stepping stone to the future. (Continued on Page 14)

Surrey Richmond Hill Citizens Win Battle To Keep Famous View

Richmond Hill's new Official Plan and its proposed sign bylaw are designed to preserve and improve the aesthetics of this town. It is interesting to note that the place for which it was named, Richmond Hill, Surrey, England, is also very aesthetically minded. It has been recorded by our local historian, William Harison that this community's first school teacher, Benjamin Barnard, had known the delights of the Surrey Richmond Hill in his youth, boasting on the "Thames and spending leisure time in the shade of the ancient trees on the hill, enjoying the view. This led him to recommend the name for his Canadian home. Recently, an extension to the Star and Garter Hotel in Richmond, Surrey, a suburb of London, threatened to interfere with the famous view from Richmond Hill. Members of the Richmond Society and the Richmond Hill Committee led the fight to prevent this. They claimed the extension would be a danger to the trees because building within 10 feet of a sizeable tree is almost always lethal and alterations to the hotel would spoil the view from the hill. Their battle to preserve the famous view was won when Minister of Housing and Local Government, Anthony Greenwood told the owners of the hotel that the proposed reconstruction and provision for parking 44 cars would not be allowed. He stated their car park plans were "operationally ineffectual and visually detrimental". We are indebted to Douglas Hill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hill, Church Street North for the newspaper clipping telling of this victory. Mr. Hill has been councillor for the past three years for the Department of External Affairs, Canada House, London, England.

Tax Relief Now

(Mississauga Times) Politicians won't work. Political cliches, glib answers and smooth-talk won't solve the problem for hundreds of Mississaugans facing the prospect of being taxed off their land and out of their homes. This year's provincial reassessment holds out the very spectre of impossible taxes for pensioners, persons of fixed incomes and owners of Veterans' Land Act properties. A recent meeting between Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough and town councillors produced very little by way of concrete solutions to a problem of crisis proportions. Councillors went into the meeting, ostensibly to discuss reassessment inequities, without their homework done. They were to have brought with them a list of the most glaring discrepancies in this year's assessment roll. They didn't, and the Minister sent them back to get it. Now town officials claim they just can't figure out who should go on the list and who should be left off. A council which reneged on its first promise to appeal assessments on behalf of all homeowners; changed its mind and then flubbed in an apparently half-hearted effort to convince McKeough to help, doesn't deserve less than the wrath of its electorate. Perhaps not all councillors are as remiss as those who returned from the meeting mouthing words of "relief" and "we recognize the gravity of the problem" when they knew darn well no relief was in sight and the Minister didn't have any ready solutions. The small farmer on Base Line, the elderly couple in Lakeview and the immigrant who has struggled to build his modest contracting business in Dixie... all stand to lose everything because of skyrocketing property taxes. They don't want false promises of help; they don't want another Pleasant Valley. They don't want long range solutions which may take provincial bureaucrats years to implement. Those hardest hit, want, and must have, a more realistic assessment of the property they own... more realistic taxes and now.