



# The Liberal



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## The Cause Of The Taxpayer

The worm has turned and the Vaughan Township taxpayer is protesting—more vigorously than usual. Massive protests at two public meetings last week are the direct result of the system of property reassessment that the Conservative Government of John Roberts has foisted on the municipalities of this province. Under the guise of a more equitable tax system, Queen's Park has struck a further mortal blow at local autonomy.

This planned reassessment by centralized, cold, impersonal provincial civil service far removed from the individual taxpayer is in reality very similar to the federal government's infamous White Paper — both are being sold by Conservative and Liberal propagandists as tax reform while actually both senior levels of government are quietly engineering a substantial increase in taxation.

One of the most unfortunate aspects of this whole provincial reassessment program is the shift in tax burden from industry to the residential taxpayer — the homeowner. Such large American-owned corporations as Continental Can have had their taxes reduced by reassessment as much as \$50,000. The vast majority of the more than 70 new industries that settled in Vaughan during the past six years are branches of large international corporations centred in the United States.

They were quite familiar with the tax picture in Vaughan before they located there and were equally willing to meet these obligations. Now provincial reassessment in the role of Santa Claus, has granted the industry of Vaughan a \$700,000 windfall. It would be interesting to know by how much the taxes on industry in the Newkirk Road area of Richmond Hill have been reduced at the expense of the homeowner, and similarly in the industrial areas of Markham Township.

For years now the municipalities

have been struggling to attract more industry in order to offset the high cost of education and give the homeowner some tax relief. Now the Tory Hierarchy at Queen's Park in one fell swoop has nullified this tax struggle and has once again substantially increased the tax burden on the property owner.

Taxpayers, not only in Vaughan Township but right across Ontario and this nation, are rising up against the unjust tax demands of our elected representatives. Governments are making burgeoning expenditures for elementary, secondary and university education, health services and for a welfare system in which the relief rolls are steadily increasing. Our governments today are plagued by vast inefficiency, fragmented programs and a socialistic welfare system that still does not encourage people to leave the relief rolls. The Governor of Massachusetts speaking to his citizens has urged a "revolt against a state structure that denies you the efficiency, the economy, the quality of government you deserve". Meanwhile the members of our House of Commons in Ottawa (Liberals, Conservatives and New Democrats are all equally guilty), while professing an attempt to combat today's serious inflation, have voted themselves an extremely generous retirement pension of a minimum of \$5,000 a year after only eight years' service, and Prime Minister Trudeau has appointed a commission to study the MP's repeated demands to have their present salary of \$18,000 a year raised to \$25,000 or \$30,000.

Taxes will continue to be high until we have a whole rethinking of Canada's social and other obligations and an efficient "costing" of those programs according to the most modern managerial techniques, followed by a revamping of the tax structure — municipal, provincial and federal — to ensure equitable tax-paying all along the line.

## Peace Festival In Vaughan?

The much publicized "Peace Festival", which its promoters, Karma Productions of Toronto, estimate will attract 500,000 young people from all over North America, may well be held in this area. The proposal has already been turned down by two municipalities and the site now being negotiated is located in Vaughan Township.

The site at the intersection of Highways 400 and 7 is zoned open space, which permits recreational activities, and if the owner grants permission Vaughan Council has no means of preventing it.

Before we are accused by interested young people of being "old fogeys" with no consideration for youth, we ask you to consider the magnitude of this venture. In round figures Richmond Hill's population is 20,000 and it is proposed to move 25 that number of people into this area for a three day stay.

We know that the great majority of young people attending will enjoy themselves and behave themselves. But, in that number of people, be they young, middle-aged or oldtimers, there is bound to be a percentage of undesirable of all kinds.

Criminal elements would believe the \$15 per ticket, and only ticket-holders will be admitted, a real incentive. What an opportunity a crowd of this size offers for pick-pockets, petty thieves, drug pushers — you name them, they'll be there. Also present will be those who would enjoy nothing better than to take the neighborhood apart. A small spark of resentment against a community can be easily fanned into an uncontrollable flame by those who delight in vandalism, and destruction. As always, those who suffer will be the innocent ones, who were attracted to the event by its name, and who

came to enjoy the entertainment provided.

We would also ask you to ask yourselves if this "festival" is really designed as a contribution to the cause of peace or is it a commercial venture from which the promoters hope to realize a substantial profit?

From the rumored promises to Vaughan Township and from the known promises to Parkhill (the second site) the latter would seem to be indicated. Parkhill was offered a \$50,000 donation to an artificial ice arena. The offers to Vaughan Township are reported to be much higher.

Among the promises is a temporary hospital with 300-400 beds, to be provided by a pharmaceutical firm. Why? Reports from other areas where similar "festivals" have been held indicate that with a crowd of the expected size, eight deaths (violent and natural) may be expected. It is also estimated that 100 young people will suffer permanent mental distress, and of course there will be minor injuries and illnesses.

Another indication that this is merely a commercial venture is that Beate John Lennon and Yoko withdrew their support when they discovered that a charge was being made.

If indeed 500,000 young people attend, at \$15 a ticket the take will be \$7 1/2 million dollars and the promoters can well afford to spend the estimated \$3 1/2 million to provide water and sanitary facilities, parking, bussing and policing.

Also ask yourselves why such "festivals" are not welcomed back to any area where they have been held. Even where no violence has occurred, the fact is that no municipality, no matter how large, is equipped to cope with the added needs of a half million people.

Estimated expenditures included moving the library's children's department to the basement auditorium room and providing staff to care for the needs of that department. This will utilize all space in the present building for library purposes and permit the board to enlarge its reference section to meet demand.

In 1969 the town contributed \$63,435.09 to the running of the library. This year, after cutting \$7,000 from the suggested levy, it will contribute \$69,043.66. Spokesman for the board

was its new chairman, Cam Smith, who told council that his board was prepared to accept the \$7,000 cut in its budget made April 6. "It is your right and duty to do so, if you consider it in the best interests of the ratepayers. To some extent we will have to reduce the services available to the public," Mr. Smith stated. "Our purpose in coming tonight is to answer criticism of the board. We would have preferred doing this in private with the finance committee and believe there was plenty of time to do so after our



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

## Yonge Street Business Recalls Predecessors

The charred remains of Charlton Hardware and Hans Beauty Salon, Main Street South, are seen in the above photograph, taken after the January 21, 1968 blaze, which destroyed the building. Four families living in apartments above the business establishments were made homeless by the fire fought for several hours on a Sunday morning. Estimated loss was \$150,000.

Charlton's Hardware has since relocated in a new building just south of the A&P Plaza on Yonge Street North and the property on Yonge Street South remained vacant until last fall when construction started on Richmond Hill Billiards. This new recreation centre opened its doors to the public a couple of weeks ago.

The site was initially used by the first nursery in this area. Later, the first Methodist Church was built on a half acre in 1846. Because the pulpit was not in place and the auditorium was not filled with pews until 1860, the dedication service did not take place until July 1 of that year.

Fire completely destroyed that first building on the site on December 21, 1879, being discovered shortly after the conclusion of the morning service during which the minister had used as his text, "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth."

## Lions Charter Night

The following poem was written by Charter Lions Member R. D. Little for the Richmond Hill Lions Club Charter Night held April 16.

Way back in nineteen thirty eight  
The Rich Hill Lions had a date:  
A club was organized to prove  
For service they were in the groove,  
And down the years the Lions name  
Has brought our town no little fame  
For throughout two and thirty years  
There's been some boos — and also cheers  
That comes to those who give their best  
To meet the Lions' service test.

Those early years were fun and work,  
And rarely did a Lion shirk;  
Street dances were our summer fare  
And Yonge Street was a gay affair,  
With traffic routed every way  
(We doubt it could be done today)  
And there amid the summer zephyrs  
We raffled horses, pups, and heifers,  
One week, just for a special caper,  
We edited the Liberal paper;  
The shows upon the high school stage,  
Put on by Lions, were the rage,  
And when the world with war was smitten  
We sent our bundles off to Britain.

In the late forties we recall,  
'Twas felt that we should have a hall,  
To get it going wasn't hay  
For opposition came our way,  
But Lions never know defeat,  
And so in time it was complete;  
Some said it was a hall for Paul,  
But it has proved a hall for all,  
And we are meeting here tonight  
Because some Lions saw the light  
And acted in that distant past  
In spite of opposition blast.

The chartered roll on — the shadows dim —  
The charters line has grown thin;  
There's Jim and Walt — there's Ted and Paul,  
And Little Bob, and that is all,  
And so we hail you younger fry,  
The torch is yours, so hold it firm,  
Your legacy you should fulfill  
So that the Lions of Richmond Hill  
Will stand ace high — each battle won —  
Until our service days are done.

## Province Helps Finance County Bd. Computer

York County Board of Education learned recently that it will receive \$57,000 from the Department of Education to aid in developing computer facilities.

The report will assess the value of the system and its relation to the cost of operation over systems used in the past. If the board finds the computer facility is not giving value for the cost of operation, it will nevertheless reserve the right to continue to develop a fiscal system using work done on this project, and will be free to either continue or abandon the system.

The board included \$40,000 in its 1970 budget for its share of the project, which it expects will save many man hours and increase efficiency in processing board records.

Treasury Board of the Department of Education and an independent management consulting firm selected by the Treasurer of Ontario.

Mayor William Lazenby reported that a major field of criticisms had been the reserve fund carried by the library board. Mr. Smith explained that, at his suggestion, the reserve fund had been set up four years ago to take care of contingencies in repairs. The sum of \$250 had been allocated to the fund each year. Last year, when it was evident that the board would be faced with major repairs to the main roof, which had developed a hole, to the patio roof and the heating system, and an

## Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

That's what sewing lovers say, and who am I to dispute them. They tell me sewing really is a pleasure, especially when you can select becoming designs and fabrics. Too often, a person purchases a pattern because she likes the picture. That's a mistake according to the experts. She should relate the design to her total personality. If she doesn't the results are often disappointing.

If you sew for yourself, ask yourself these questions. Who am I? Where do I live? What do I do? Where do I go? What are my needs?

The occasion counts and one should always aim for a well rounded wardrobe... one that can be used for all occasions. This does not mean a large one, but it does mean a co-ordinated one with a few carefully selected fashions and appropriate accessories. You have to consider the clothes you wear at home, on the job, for school, for sports, for shopping, for club activities and for evening wear.

The right color scheme is important too. Always select a color with the entire wardrobe in mind. Remember when you make your own clothes, you can play up your good points, hide your figure irregularities and emphasize your individuality.

That in a nutshell is what Ann Sternats thinks about some aspects of sewing. Ann Sternats of Thornhill is a professional dressmaker.

## SHE FASHIONS AN IMAGE

"I've been sewing since I was a young girl back in Germany," said Ann Sternats. Eighteen years ago, George and Ann Sternats came to Canada. They have five children. George and Gabriella are away from home. Robert and Linda attend Roselawn Senior Public School. The youngest, Susanne goes to Langstaff Public School.

"I was originally trained for office work," said Ann. "I never thought I would be sewing professionally. But children grow up and I find that I need more to occupy my time."

Because Ann loves to look after her home and making the gardens in summer, she carries on her dress-making business at her own address. She also knits, crochets, does all her home decorating and makes beautiful bouquets of dried flowers.

Sewing for five children through the years gave Ann a good deal of practical sewing experience. She makes drapes and dresses. Actually there isn't much she hasn't done except men's clothing. She makes alterations too.

"Mostly hemlines. It's amazing how many women can't hem their own skirts," she said.

Mrs. Sternats sometimes has five dresses to make up at a time.

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## Letters to the Editors

### SPEEDING CARS THREAT TO BEVERLEY ACRES THREATEN

Dear Mr. Editor:  
During the past 10 days, two small children have been badly injured on North Taylor Mills Drive near the entrance to the Bayview Shopping Plaza. Although these children may have been partly to blame, should not motorists obey the speed limit and stop signs?

Must a death occur before something is done to make this street safe for children? Since we are the parents of four youngsters and because we are concerned also for our neighbors' children, we feel very strongly that a reduced speed limit is necessary and that this limit should be enforced to the full extent of the law.

Children attending Our Lady Queen of the World Roman Catholic Church, Our Lady Help of Christians, Beverley Acres and Bayview Secondary Schools make this area a heavily travelled one. Numerous motorists, to avoid stopping at the stop sign cut through the plaza on their way to and from Bayview Avenue without stopping or slowing up.

We have witnessed many minor accidents at the entrance to the plaza during the past 12 years and feel that action should be taken by the authorities before a tragedy takes place.

MR. and MRS. DONALD COWDEN,  
448 Marybay Crescent,  
Richmond Hill.

### DEBBIE HITS OUT AT THE SMOG

Dear Mr. Editor:  
I feel something should be done about smog! All we do is talk of this thing called "Smog" and we don't do anything about it. We should at least send our dollars to Pollution Probe if that might help. We could die in 20 - 30 years if we don't do something about it!

DEBBIE HOOD,  
Age 12,  
Walter Scott Public School,  
343 Ferris Court Road,  
Richmond Hill.

### FRUSTRATED BY HIGH TAXES, VANDALISM

Dear Mr. Editor:  
On the front page of the April 16 issue of "The Liberal" I read that York County Board of Education wants approval for an addition to Crosby Heights School in Richmond Hill to include an extension to the library and showers in the change rooms at a cost of about \$50,000. What are they going to use for water? Our taxpayers' blood? Water is already rationed in the summer and our lawns resemble "Deadwood Park". They talk about high-rise apartments. What for?

It seems to me that the poor homeowner is being forced to give up his home to town people and move to apartments to help the rich get richer. We are being bled in taxes and we have no idea where the money is going.

Even the people who work for the board of education want \$1,000, tax deductible and 10 cents a mile for driving to work. Why should they be paid for driving to work? They get wages for that and neither my husband or any other person I know gets paid for driving miles to their jobs.

Apparently there is never a shortage of water for apartments, just homeowners. Surely

the third one I have found. My personal feeling is that teachers should not be paid as much as they now receive, since they don't teach these so-called students anything that will benefit the taxpayer. There are perhaps 25 percent of the students who are responsible and respectable, the rest are out to destroy and damage other people's property. Why cannot the teachers call a meeting of parents and tell them to straighten out their children. Let them take their bottles and garbage home, not throw them on lawns, and let them learn something about property rights.

We do not need more schools. We do need better teachers and the co-operation of parents with teachers. I believe we voted for the wrong trustees to run the board of education. They are demanding too much and mis-using our tax money.

Thank you, Mr. Editor for allowing me to express my views. I request that my name be withheld in order to prevent any further property damage by the irresponsible element in our society.

FRUSTRATED HOMEOWNER

## Nature Notes

### Native Canadian Trees Should Be Planted In Cities And Towns

Assistant Professor W. Morsink, M.Sc.F. spoke at the Richmond Hill Naturalists Club on April 17 and urged the use of native trees in "urban forestry". His talk was well illustrated with slides from many points in Canada and Europe.

Professor Morsink and graduate student in forestry at the Shade Tree Research Laboratory, University of Toronto.

One of his aims is to better the use of knowledge of foresters to grow native trees in urban areas such as towns, cities and parks. Under the Superior Shade Tree Program they locate and propagate superior strains of native trees for use in urban areas. These include, for example, Hard Maple with a more upright and dense branching habit for use on city streets where space is limited.

In order to retain desirable characteristics in nursery stock, they take cuttings from the selected parent trees. These are placed in special nursery beds with a continuous mist spray which induces the cuttings to

produce roots. The rooted cuttings can then be used as nursery stock with the same characteristics as the original parent tree.

Professor Morsink stated that there is too great a difference between the places we work, the cities and the places we play. Our cities have tended to become large factories which we flee from every weekend seeking a more pleasant environment. More trees should be included in our cities so they could be places where we could play and work. However, they should not be an afterthought but planned for in new developments.

Urban forestry aims to make space habitable. The use of native trees would make our cities distinctly Canadian. Professor Morsink said that we should be planting more of our native maples, oaks, walnuts and hickories. Also we should plant our native shrubs such as Black Elderberry and Staghorn Sumach with its antler like shape and red seed clusters.

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## Richmond Hill Library Board Answers Council's Criticism Of Its 1970 Budget Items

Seven of the nine members of the Richmond Hill Public Library Board attended the April 13 meeting of Richmond Hill Council to answer criticisms of its budget, made at the April 6 budget day sessions of council as a finance committee of the whole. The total 1970 budget was for \$106,327.66 with the town's share being \$76,043.66. The remainder included a grant of \$19,200 from the Ontario Government and \$7,800 from Central Ontario Regional Library, plus \$3,109 from fines and \$175 for auditorium rentals.

Estimated expenditures included moving the library's children's department to the basement auditorium room and providing staff to care for the needs of that department. This will utilize all space in the present building for library purposes and permit the board to enlarge its reference section to meet demand.

In 1969 the town contributed \$63,435.09 to the running of the library. This year, after cutting \$7,000 from the suggested levy, it will contribute \$69,043.66. Spokesman for the board

was its new chairman, Cam Smith, who told council that his board was prepared to accept the \$7,000 cut in its budget made April 6. "It is your right and duty to do so, if you consider it in the best interests of the ratepayers. To some extent we will have to reduce the services available to the public," Mr. Smith stated. "Our purpose in coming tonight is to answer criticism of the board. We would have preferred doing this in private with the finance committee and believe there was plenty of time to do so after our

unexpected claim for sick leave, the reserve fund had been increased substantially. Although the board had had a quotation of \$2,124 for roof repairs from a local contractor, it had been able to have a satisfactory job done for \$300. The problem of boiler repairs still remains and the board decided to put an additional \$500 in the reserve account to try to handle any problem in regard to sick leave, Mr. Smith explained.

A further criticism of an allocation for cataloguing services, which some mem-

bers of council had felt should be included under salaries, was explained by Chief Librarian Mrs. Patricia Hart to their satisfaction. The chief librarian told council it is now possible to buy some books already catalogued, with pockets installed, cards typed, and a minimum of work left to be done by the staff of the local library, at a saving. "More and more libraries are buying books already processed, freeing their staff to help the public," she explained.

Mr. Smith answered council criticism that so much of the board's budget is expended in the latter months of the year. He reported the board received funds from the town at the end of April and its provincial grant money at the end of May. "This negates purchasing in the first of the year. There is also often a lengthy delay between ordering books and delivery and again in invoicing. We try to get all invoices by the end of the year. We also have a number of projects we would like to do and if we find we have money on hand we will decide which projects to in-

take," Mr. Smith explained. He also pointed out that in 1969 the board received \$3,700 from another source.

Criticism of the board for setting salaries before the budget was accepted, was answered by the fact that the salaries starting January 1, 1970, were set last year and were less than for comparable positions in the town offices.

Mayor Lazenby repeated to the board a comment he had made on budget day, that council will in some way find funds for any major expense of boiler repairs in the library building this year.

Reeve Donald Plaxton stated he believed that no criticism had been intended of members of the board. "Any budget is the collective opinion of all members of a board. It would be a sad day if budgets were not cut, also if it would be a sad day if criticism became personal of any person who gives of his time to a public service. We recognize the contribution you make to this town and thank you for it."