

# Economic Crunch Poses Problems In Education Davis Tells Meeting

(Continued from Page 1) aim of developing an educational system which will provide equal opportunity to all children, said Mr. Jacobs, the main concern has been financial.

"The economic atmosphere is posing a great many problems especially on the fringe of Metro where everything costs more."

Mr. Mackay pointed out that in the 16 months of its existence, his board has had to put together 24 boards of 47,000 students, 110 schools and 2,000 teachers.

"Part of our problems in an instant world — instant tea, instant coffee, is that people look for instant results in education, in organization and transportation."

The board has been faced with the needs of planning an integrated system from kindergarten to grade 13, with meeting the needs of new subdivisions, making the best use of existing facilities, with providing for the needs of schools for the retarded and finding sites for new schools.

Land costs have been a concern, said Mr. Mackay:

"What a subdivider feels is a fair price, we do not feel is a fair price."

He told the audience the board is asking the departments of education and municipal affairs for permission to levy dwelling lot fees in new developments to help meet the costs of providing schools for new residents.

In its short lifetime, he continued, the board has prepared two budgets and approved 32 policies.

"We are now having a second look at some of these (policies)," Mr. Mackay added.

The board has tried to set up good communications with the public, in meetings, through the press, at home and school meetings and visits to schools as well as in publishing three issues of its own education news sheet.

But, said Mr. Mackay, communications is a two way street, "and unless there is someone at the other end of the telephone, there is no way to communicate." Attendance at many meetings trustees and board officials had addressed had been very disappointing.

Transportation had posed the biggest problem in board relations with the public, said Mr. Mackay. Many delegations have approached the board asking for better bus service, yet at budget time the board is criticised for the cost of transportation.

Use of schools had been another matter of concern to the board, but on the whole cooperation between recreation committees in the various municipalities of the county and the board has been very good.

"We would like to see school facilities used as much as possible," said the board chairman.

"It is our policy to provide quality education and equality of opportunity across the county, but we will not achieve it in one or two years. It will take time."

Replying to a question from the floor Mr. Davis assured the meeting his department has no intention of abolishing the separate school system. "There is no real duplication of facilities," said the minister. "For X number of pupils we need X number of schools."

A questioner asked how progressive schools could be

reconciled with a policy of "conservatism", a adding part of the scepticism of the public results from the bigness being imposed on schools and school boards, with the feeling that "conservatism" should be more concerned with the individual, with the quality of education.

Mr. Davis replied that the individual should be more involved, not less, in the larger unit. In a school of 30 students in eight grades there was little attention to the individual, and many who needed it got no special attention — i.e. the perceptually handicapped, and others with learning problems. "A composite high school with 1,200 to 1,500 students may not be the ideal," Mr. Davis admitted, "but we have to relate it to the cost and conditions that exist."

Asked about the current disputes between teachers and various boards of education, Mr. Davis said his department does not intend to intervene "at this point, at this moment."

He believes as much autonomy as possible should be

delegated to local boards. "We have opted out of many areas of concern."

Speaking from the floor, Richmond Hill Councillor Lois Hancey alleged that York County is losing in excess of \$1 million in education and library grants because of the equalization factor established by the Department of Municipal Affairs in assessment.

Provincial grants for education average 51 percent of education costs, said Mrs. Hancey, but York County is getting only 47 per cent.

"We have asked to be treated in an equitable manner, and we would like you to use your influence to show that we are not being treated with equality."

While it is the department's intention to ultimately assume 60 percent of the cost of education in Ontario, said Mr. Davis, grants are distributed according to need, and in increasing grants from the former 40 percent, he has tried to be fair to everyone in the province, giving some relief to the property owner.

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(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

## Lucky Mother Shows Speedy Shopping

It was running shoes on and off the mark at the word "go" for Mrs. Leon Michal of 40 Kirk Drive, Thornhill, who won the Richmond Heights Merchants' Association's Mother's Day Lucky Draw. The prize was a three-minute shopping spree in Loblaws and Mrs. Michal made the most of that limited number of seconds to fill her shopping cart. Her entry was made by her daughter, Laurie.

The draw was made at 6 pm May 16.

Mrs. Michal is seen above as she sped past the dairy counter at top speed.

## Obituary

### Edgar Leno Dies In 97th Year Lived Here For Half A Century

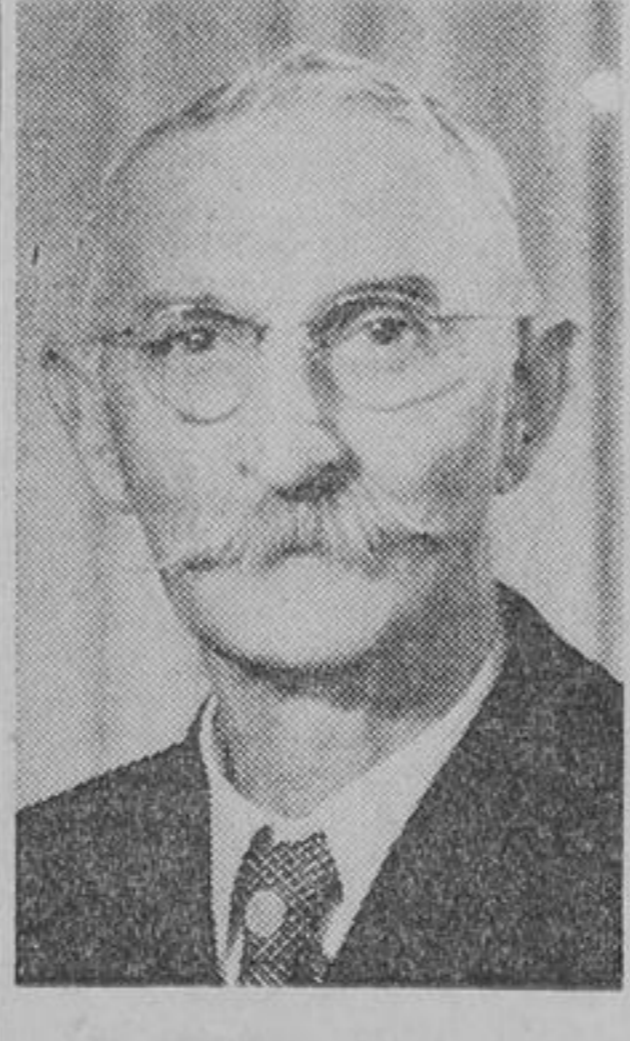
Edgar Leno who lived in Richmond Hill for almost half a century and saw his adopted home town grow from a sleepy country village to a town with a population of 20,000, destined to grow even larger, passed away at his home, 86 Leisure Lane, May 20. Mr. Leno was in his 97th year and will be remembered by a host of friends and business acquaintances who had benefited from his skills which found no task impossible.

Mr. Leno was born in England in the first year after Richmond Hill became an incorporated village.

Mr. Leno was married in London, England, in 1899 and came to Canada in 1906 with his wife, the former Elizabeth Floyd. They lived in Toronto and Mount Albert before settling in Richmond Hill in 1931.

Before settling down to married life Mr. Leno had lived a life full of adventure on the high seas. Places with strange sounding names became live and picturesque realities to him. He sailed round Cape Horn in full-rigged sailing ships and barques, Valparaiso, Callao, Iquique, Antofagasta, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro and a score of other harbors with glamorous names became ports of call to him at an early age. Coal from Swansea, nitrates from the coast of South America, hides and tallow, baled wool and many other cargoes were a few of the products of one country and another which he helped transport around the globe to their ultimate destinations.

Amongst his many adventures, which he delighted to recall for younger generations, was the time when adverse winds carried his ship off course to the lonely island of Tristan da Cunha, 1,500 miles southeast of the Cape of Good Hope where, here to for a couple of days, the crew bartered with the 82 persons living on the island. Another time his ship caught fire in the far south Atlantic and he and his ship-



EDGAR LENO Senior Citizen Passes

mates were in open boats for four days before being picked up and landed on the Falkland Islands.

Before going to sea he had, following a family tradition, served some time in one of England's famed volunteer forces, the Hertfordshire Yeomanry. There he won prizes for the "best mounted man" and for swordsmanship and shooting.

Trained in engineering, he took up that work when he came to Canada and followed it until his retirement in 1946, when his son Cyril succeeded him in serving the public of this area.

Mr. Leno is survived by his daughter, Doris, at home; three sons, Cyril and Stanley of Richmond Hill and Floyd of Toronto; a brother, John, Toronto; three sisters and two brothers in England; six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife and one grandson, Donald.

The funeral service was held at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Yonge Street Saturday morning with interment following in Aurora Cemetery.

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**- Public Notice -**  
**TOWNSHIP OF WHITCHURCH**

The Municipal Office of the Township of Whitchurch will be Closed For Business **TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1970** to enable our staff to move into the newly renovated office building.

Stewart Burnett Reeve Thomas Kerr Clerk

**COMING EVENTS**

MILLWOOD Recreation Ltd. Open swimming at Slater's Indoor Pool, Don Mills Rd. at Vandorf, Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. \*\*\*\*\* tml6

MAY 30, SATURDAY 7:30 pm Showtime 70 at Bayview Secondary School, Midmer Dance Academy. clw48

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### Safety Check Shows Ten Unsafe Vehicles

Ten unsafe vehicles and 28 traffic charges were laid by Markham Township Police last week during a four-day car safety check at the station on Woodbine Avenue (formerly Don Mills Road).

More charges may be laid after drivers without insurance cards are fully checked out, says Police Chief Harvey Cox.

Altogether 217 vehicles were checked. This is the fourth year the township police have held a vehicle safety check.

Sergeant Evan Kelley was in charge of the project this year.

### "Suburban Dilemma" Ch. 5 Weekend Fare

Council members, local residents and businessmen from Richmond Hill, Woodbridge, Kleinburg, Markham and Stouffville will be taking part in "The Suburban Dilemma", on Channel 5, this weekend. The 17 hours of cable programming is the most ambitious project to date of Richmond Hill Cable TV. Over 30 suburban topics, each comprising a half-hour segment, will be discussed.

Some of those who will be taking part are: Deputy-reeve Tony Roman of Markham Township, Mayor William Lazenby of Richmond Hill, Reeve Ken Laushway of Stouffville, Reeve John McLean of Woodbridge, Mayor Alma Walker of Markham, Reeve Garnet Williams of Vaughan Township and Pierre Berton of Kleinburg.

**Have you heard this one?**

The football coach was with his new tackle in the dean's office trying to get him admitted without a written examination. "How much is seven and seven," asked the dean.

"Thirteen," replied the boy.

"Aw, let him in anyway, Dean," coaxed the coach. "He's only missed it by two."

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