

The Liberal

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Out of Touch

It is now apparent there is a very real credibility gap between the mass circulation dailies, national television and the public. The British election upset simply confirmed long-held suspicions that most of the national news organizations are out of touch with the average citizen.

The decisive victory of the British Conservatives under the leadership of Edward Heath is a shocking commentary on how little the reporters and commentators really knew about the election outcome. The national press, television and pollsters were all of one accord — Harold Wilson's Labor Government was going to coast to an easy win. It is obvious the reporters out in the field not only failed to establish any rapport with the British voter, but also were anything but observant in recognizing the cracks in the Labor armour and the signs of the coming Tory victory.

The British people were fed up with six years of Socialist bungling on the domestic scene, mismanagement of the economy and the incessant demands of a militant trade union movement which put narrow sectional, class demands above the national good.

This isn't the first time this complete disregard for voter patterns has eluded the daily press. The startling re-election of Premier Bennett's Social Credit Government in British Columbia just a year ago was another prime example of a highly inaccurate forecast. For weeks before the British Columbia election the three Toronto dailies kept telling us the NDP Socialists were going to send Mr. Bennett into a forced retirement. Such just was not the case as the Socialists administered a staggering loss to the Socialists, even

to the point of sending their leader down to personal defeat.

In addition to a lack of communication, many of the reporters and editorial writers on national publications and television tell us what they want us to hear. Because of their own political convictions they hope an election will turn out a certain way and this lack of objectivity allows them to pre-judge the final results in favor of one particular party, which is usually the left-wing Socialists.

Like it or not many journalists are going to have to realize that there is a swing throughout the Western World in support of law and order and less government interference in the everyday lives of our citizens. The trend to right-wing governments is shown with Nixon in the United States, Pompidou in France and now Heath and the Conservatives in England.

Federal Creditiste Leader Raoul Caouette has repeatedly drawn to the attention of Parliament that the Quebec Separatist movement has infiltrated the French Network of the CBC. These very same people then attempt to manage the news in order to favor the anti-Confederation forces of Rene Levesque and the Parti Quebecois. Their handling of the Quebec election returns was an indication of their biased attitude when Mr. Levesque, who could only win a corporal's guard in the Legislature, was given far more air time than Premier-elect Bourassa or Opposition Leader Bertrand.

It is difficult to accept a situation where the Canadian taxpayer is paying the salaries of known Separatists as part of a national communication system supposedly dedicated to the task of keeping the country together.

Expensive Words

We are constantly being reminded of the busy, demanding lives our provincial politicians lead. In fact, to hear them tell it, they are kept on the run so much they just had to agree unanimously (the whole 117 of them) last December to vote themselves a sizeable jump in salary. Without as much as one dissenting voice (not even the redoubtable Dr. Morton Shulman as much as offered a whimper) the Conservatives, Liberals and New Democrats raised their own salaries from \$11,000 a year to \$18,000 for a private member. They then had the audacity to back-date the increase to April 1, 1969. The very generous benefits for this privileged class don't end with the salary increase. The sum of \$6,000, or a third of their pay, is tax free, a privilege they enjoy with their federal counterparts in Ottawa. The politicians in both governments

also reap the benefits of an extremely generous pension plan.

In the face of the many pressing problems facing this province and the excessive salary demands of our politicians, one would hope the Legislature could devote its energies to matters of a wider magnitude than why the Brewer's Retail Stores don't sell beer in kegs.

Bernard Newman, the \$18,000 a year Liberal member of the Legislature for Windsor-Walkerville, directed this very question just the other day to Provincial Secretary Robert Welch, the \$35,000 a year cabinet minister and Conservative member of the House for Lincoln. In reply to Mr. Newman, Mr. Welch felt it was a "very good question" and promised to investigate the matter.

Heaven help our politicians!

Dominion Day IS July 1

It is quite evident that some retailers and business establishments are determined to turn July 1, our nation's birthday, into just another business day. Their efforts have led East York Council to pass a by-law requiring all retail outlets to remain closed on that day and North York has a similar bylaw on the way.

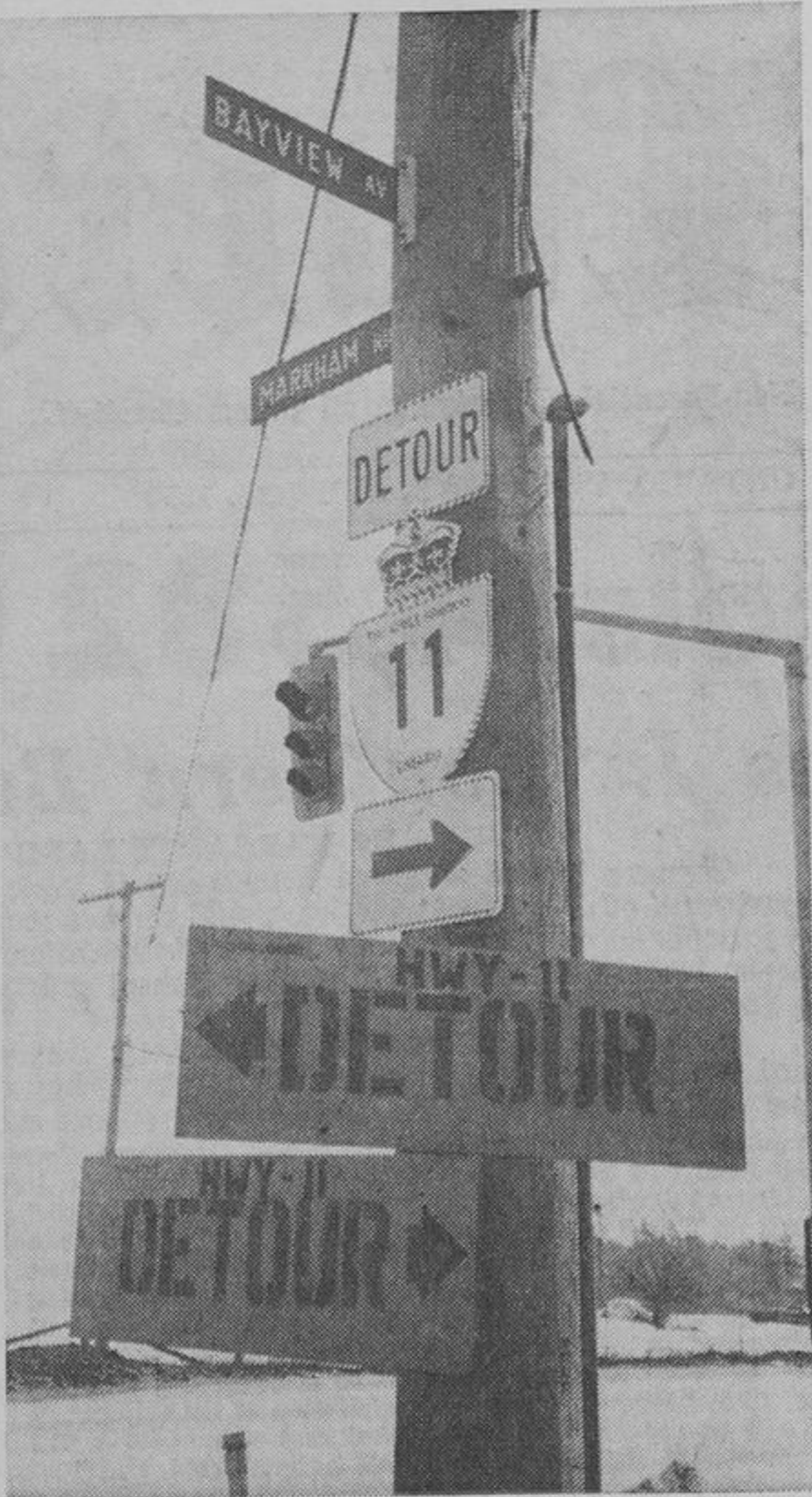
Such bylaws should not be necessary, but it appears that they are the only effective way to maintain Dominion Day as a holiday, on which people may express their pride in the accomplishments of this country in its 103 years of nationhood.

The small independent merchant, the responsible and long-established larger business enterprises and the labor force have been quite happy with the federal government's decision some years ago that the birthday of our country will be celebrated on July 1, no matter the day of the week on which it falls. Of course all are delighted when it falls on a Sunday or Monday because that

gives them another long summer weekend, but when it comes mid-week it gives them another break in the week, a situation with which most people are content.

The culprits are few, those obsessed with the pursuit of the almighty dollar. If they are allowed to have their way and remain open on our national holiday, then the other retailers will have to follow suit.

We firmly believe that July 1 as a national holiday should be observed by all Canadians and by all who live in and enjoy the benefits of this country. We believe that there are plenty of other days in the week in which to make money. In our business, Wednesday is the most inconvenient day of the week for a holiday, but our office will be closed that day and members of our staff will have the opportunity to celebrate Canada's 103rd birthday as they see fit.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Pity The Poor Motorist!

At its June 15 meeting Richmond Hill Town Council gave two readings to its long-awaited sign bylaw, which has been in the works for at least two years. Third reading and implementation of the bylaw will be delayed for a period long enough for interested persons to study it and express their opinions.

Although the above clutter of signs disappeared a few weeks ago when work on the storm sewers on Yonge Street was completed, they are a good example of "sight pollution". Unfortunately they will reappear when reconstruction of the roadway begins, and remain throughout the construction period.

The town's sign bylaw is aimed primarily at commercial signs and is intended to improve the aesthetics of our municipality. Under the present system commercial signs can be and sometimes are another horrible example of "sight pollution".

In the Spotlight



By MARY MONKS

Successful Experimental Production By Thornlea SS

Open a show with an ear-splitting, mind-bending, scalp-tingling rendering of "Hey Jude!", and the audience knows right away that it is not in for just another evening of high school music.

The students of Thornlea Secondary School, hot on the heels of their fine production of "The Crucible", again proved that they are a versatile and lively bunch by producing an experimental, multimedia program with the title "I Herd Uh Butterflies".

A runway from the stage brought the performers into the midst of their audience, and even the floor space beyond became a performing area. This was enclosed by a floor to ceiling screen of plastic with multiple uses. Particularly in the second half, a number of slides were projected to point up comedy.

The first half of the program consisted of varied instrumental and vocal items, well chosen and placed for contrast and impact. The cacophonous opening was followed by a mournful little ballad, the story of which was mimed from behind the screen, appearing to the audience in silhouette. Precise choral singing accompanied an attractive ballet, while in complete contrast Greg Benoit's frenetic singing was accented by go-go dangers — and how those girls could move!

Several amusing numbers which could be described as musical skits were obviously enjoyed by the company, and were certainly fun for the audience.

Shirley Keith's singing of "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" was quite beautiful. Those who saw "The Crucible" will remember Sheryl for her moving performance as Elizabeth Proctor. She has a purity of voice and a most unusual warmth of personality that captures her audience. I happily wept as she sang.

Another sweet singer was Joni Carson, who sang with Sheryl in the second half.

(Continued on Page 16)

Letters to the Editors

DEPLORES WATER SHORTAGE AND DEAD FISH

Dear Mr. Editor:
My wife's parents have been visiting us from Germany, and I was explaining how much snow there had been during the winter. "Then why can't you water your lawn now?" they asked. "Or does snow not turn into water in Richmond Hill?" Their response saddened me. I had thought they would have guessed we cleverly exported it, so that we could then in a gesture of neighborliness inform on each other and fine each other for using what we kept. Thus the town is twice as rich as if we merely sprinkled, as people do elsewhere.

So I took them to the Mill Pond. "Full of fish," I assured them. Sitting quietly by the golf course stream, I caught one. With my hands. It was a foot long, perhaps even two feet — times make a difference. It was also dead, my father-in-law explained. I said it was merely asleep, a special Richmond Hill type of sucker, known as the dozer, a delicacy in these parts because of its special taste. "And the smell?" he asked. I told him one grew to admire it. "And these others?" he asked. They, too, I explained, were sleeping. "But they're different fish?" "It is the time of day. Look at the anglers. They are also asleep."

Much to my discomfort, he woke them up and showed them how to catch fish with their hands. The small boys and their fathers were delighted, his accent convincing them he was a scientist to whom all fish were brothers. The crowd went home heavily laden to dine on their fresh catch. People moved out of their way to let them past.

They had caught about a dozen, a meagre catch compared with the town council's. They assure me they had about six hundred, all vigorously dead. But no one seemed to know why, or prepared to say, or even to post notices: "Fish asleep. Do not disturb. Maximum punishment, death."

Perhaps "The Liberal" could tell us. Is it simply cyanide, or one of the side effects of summer-time?

My father-in-law has returned to Germany with some rare tales of Richmond Hill, and I'm not sure he believes them all. This reduces my standing in the family, leads to juvenile delinquency, the break-up of homes and eventually nations. And what with the lawn turning brown only three months since it was white, my standing is already knee-high to a grass-hopper.

BARRY ARGYLE,
160 Richmond Street,
Richmond Hill.

NEW APARTMENTS WILL FURTHER AGGRAVATE WATER SHORTAGE

Dear Mr. Editor:
Here it is the end of June, and we have been on water restrictions for almost a month now, with the taps of Richmond Hill running dry at least once. Now with water at a premium,

the town wants to rezone the land on the east side of Cedar Avenue from industrial to residential R3A to permit the building of three or maybe four apartment buildings.

If this type of rezoning is permitted with our present inadequate water supply, Mr. Editor, all I can say is this summer and

Bayview Students Give \$1,100 Emotionally Disturbed Children

A cheque for \$1,100 was received last week by Blue Hills Academy, a residential treatment centre for the emotionally disturbed children of York County, from the students of Bayview Secondary School, Richmond Hill. Blue Hills is located on the CPR Sideroad in King Township.

In a letter to Blue Hills, Bonnie Brinkles, president of the student council, and Barry McKillip, chairman of the Korean Adoption Plan Committee of the student council, said, "Each year Bayview Secondary School has a fund-raising campaign in order to support seven Korean Orphans. This year the Korean Adoption Committee at Bayview was able to raise funds exceeding the amount required for the children."

"After careful consideration, we have chosen to donate \$1,100 to the Blue Hills Academy in King. We are certain that this contribution will be used for the benefit of young people less fortunate than most of us."

Robert Silcox, chairman of the Blue Hill campaign to raise \$209,400, said, "Certainly we are grateful for all the support we can get. However it is always most gratifying when that support comes from youngsters wanting to help other youngsters."

"There is a tendency for some of us as parents to be critical of today's youth," said Mr. Silcox. "Perhaps we should pause and reflect upon the many good things that our young people are doing every day of every week which, unfortunately, is not brought to public attention."

Asked for comment, Glenn Ferguson, a resident of King Township and a member of the board of directors of Blue Hills, said, "We did not go to these students. The initiative was theirs. Representatives of the committee came to Blue Hills

Markham Twp. Building Boom Hits \$8,356,410

Markham Township's construction boom continued in May with building permits issued for nearly \$2,000,000 worth of new development.

This brought the 1970 five-month total to \$8,356,410, which is nearly double the total for the first five months of 1969.

New single-family detached dwellings accounted for the majority of the new construction authorized in May. Permits were issued for 52 new homes with a total value of \$1,055,000.

The other major category for new construction in May was for three industrial buildings altogether valued at \$785,000.

One project is by Bayview Summit Developments Limited of 4949 Bathurst Street, Willowdale, for a \$325,000 industrial plaza on Denison Street. This property is to be leased to commercial tenants.

The second project is by Meadowview Heights Limited of 4949 Bathurst Street, Willowdale, for a \$300,000 industrial plaza for lease on Doncaster Avenue.

The third project is a \$160,000 building on Doncaster Avenue for the Mayfair Tennis Club.

As the building report was tabled, Deputy-revee Anthony Roman noted that nearly half the month's permits were for industrial purposes. This, he said, reflected the township's success with its policy to attract a healthy amount of industry to stabilize the tax base.

A Basis For School Dialogue

(London Free Press)
The campus concept of public and church-affiliated high schools suggested in an exploratory vein by Ontario Revenue Minister John White is worthy of further examination. It sounds eminently sensible. It would adapt to the high school level a system comparable to that used by universities, where church-linked colleges form part of a cohesive educational structure.

Mr. White's proposal is at least an attempt to work out an answer to the politically sensitive separate school issue that has mounted in intensity with the Roman Catholics' campaign for full provincial tax support of their high schools.

Though it would not entirely solve the need for money to preserve separate Roman Catholic high schools, it could ease the cost load — by the sharing of many facilities — while maintaining their Roman Catholic character.

Perhaps there are valid reasons why such an experiment wouldn't work but they don't come readily to mind. The idea certainly should not be dismissed out of hand as an irreversible step toward a unified school system which Roman Catholics don't want.

The campus approach could surely maintain diversity. On grounds of cost and quality, a universal system is ultimately desirable — but not at the expense of provoking denominational conflict. It can only come by consensus, not by imposition. Before it can be achieved, school integration must have the support of the Roman Catholic parents themselves.

There must be something better, however, than the total separation which now exists at great cost to Roman Catholic parents. Mr. White deserves marks for suggesting a reasonable basis for dialogue.

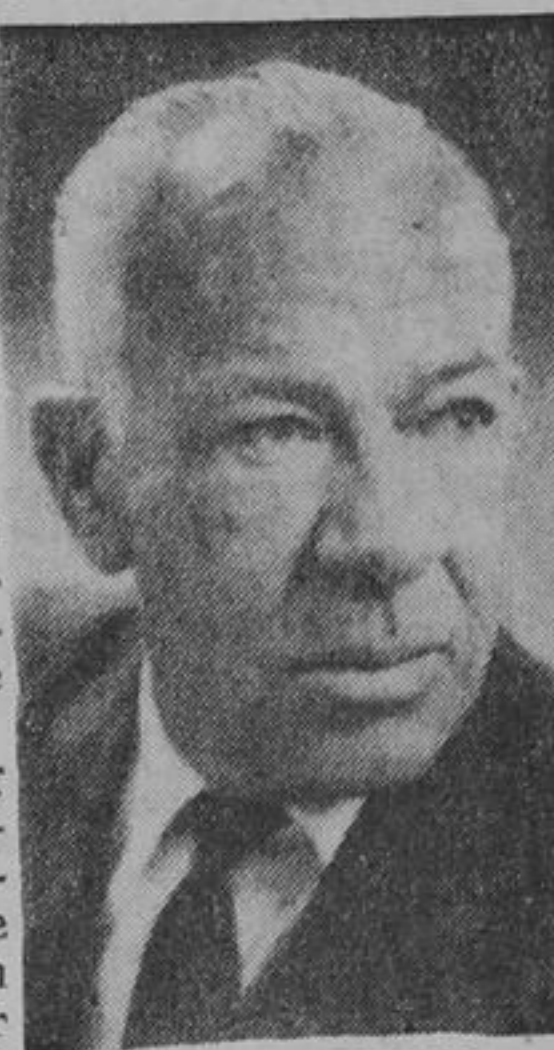


Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

Markham Parks Manager ... Allan Sumner

Last January, former Markham Township Councillor Allan Sumner was appointed parks manager for the township's parks and recreation department. This is a job to his liking. All his life he has been a lover of the outdoors and has had a passion for conserving open spaces. He was a council representative on the Metro Conservation Authority for three years.



ALLAN SUMNER

In addition to being parks manager, he is secretary of the North Thornhill Community Centre Board. His office is in this centre, the former Heintzman House, whose spacious rooms have been put to good use for large and small meetings, receptions, dances and teen activities. Other popular centres in the township are at German Mills, Crosby Park at Unionville, Victoria Square, Cedar Grove and Box Grove.

According to the ex-councillor, it was apparent to Markham Council over the years that as much land as possible should be required to serve the expanding population as recreational areas. As far as possible, council tried to locate these parks adjacent to school properties which would prove advantageous in the development of playing field areas. At the same time they were mindful of the need for areas of passive enjoyment and neighborhood parks. Parkettes with junior playground equipment were established within easy reach of small children without the danger of crossing major roads.

There are four main areas over which the parks manager must keep a weather eye. Area 1 lists Grandview Park (adjacent to Henderson Avenue School), Rayneswood Parkette, Almond Park (a passive area), Proctor Park (with possibilities of passive and play areas), Don Valley Lands (another passive area), Sprucewood Park (no development yet), Answell Park (a historic site commemorating "Holy Anne" Preston), and Woodland Park (adjacent to Woodland senior and junior public schools).

Area 2 has Pomona Mills Park, North Thornhill Valley, North Thornhill Community Centre, Methodist Burying Ground and Parkette, Bayview Lane and a yet unnamed parkette.

(Continued on Page 16)

Ontario Liberal Leader Robert Nixon Promises To Fight Tories On Regional Government

(In a speech delivered to a meeting of the Western Ontario North Liberal Association at Listowel on June 17, Ontario Liberal Leader Robert Nixon accused the Conservative Government of Premier John Robarts of failing to provide an adequate financial base for the introduction of regional government throughout the province.

Mr. Nixon promised that the 27 member Liberal caucus in the Legislature will rigorously oppose the legislation establishing regional government in York County. — Editor.)

"The bill to impose regional government on York County is before the Legislature now, and we intend to speak and vote against its provisions. The legislation raises the whole matter of regional government — a matter of deep concern to all of us living outside the large Metropolitan regions of the province. It particularly concerns this area of Western Ontario where, as yet, government policy has not been established.

"We, as Liberals, believe that the government's policy on regionalization of local government is deeply flawed

in two important respects. The first has to do with the financing of local government. "We believe that no regional legislation should have been entered into before a full reform of our provincial tax base, and particularly in the provision of funds for municipal government. The transference of education costs away from land assessment is an essential cornerstone which we, as Liberals, have vowed to accomplish. Twenty percent of education costs is a large enough share to be raised locally to maintain and hope-

fully strengthen local autonomy over school matters. Unconditional grants, payable by the provincial government, must have no strings attached so that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Education are no longer second-guessing locally elected councils and boards, as they have in the past to such an extent that local autonomy has largely disappeared in Ontario.

"The Royal Commission on Taxation reporting in 1967 after five years of work, costing almost \$4 million, described Ontario's municipal grant system as chaotic. Nothing has been done to improve it since that time except to implement the Shelter Grant Program — obviously an inefficient and wasteful way to relieve the pressure on local taxpayers and circumvent the responsibilities of locally elected municipal authorities.

"The second major flaw in the Conservative policy with regard to regional government is the ineffectiveness of their policy of so-called "consultation". Although the Department of Municipal Affairs conducted the extensive studies in the Niagara

Region for five years before the regional bill was introduced, the bill to impose regional government on the area received second reading only five days after its original introduction into the Legislature. There was no possible time or circumstance for the citizens of the area to respond to the policy of Mr. McKeough expressed in the bill before it was put before the Legislature for approval in principle. Consultation has to be a two-way street. It is not just a patient listening to the views of one side of an argument, all the while, having a definite

idea of what the regional government will encompass and not communicating it to those concerned. "I believe that if regional government bills are to be brought forward in a continuing program, similar to the past year, they should be introduced, given first reading, and allowed to sit on the Order Paper for a full year while their effect can be assessed by those who will have to live under the new regime, and would therefore have an opportunity to express different opinions before the policy moves forward.

"To be clear on this matter, we, as Liberals, accept in need for improvement. This municipal government. This improvement must be based on the true acceptance of the doctrine of local autonomy. It must be clearly expressed by (1) the transference of education costs away from property, (2) unconditional grants to support well understood municipal responsibilities, (3) a return of the assessment responsibility to the municipalities in the reform of the county or the region, and (4) full consultation and acceptance by local

communities of proposed changes. "It is strange that the lessons from the county school board experiment have not been learned more effectively by Mr. McKeough. Those boards were imposed without consultation by the Premier in Galt a few weeks after the provincial election in 1967. During that campaign, I tried to make this an area of debate so that the people of the province would have an opportunity to express their views. This, the Premier steadfastly refused to do. (Continued on Page 16)