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## Letters to the Editors

### DONALD DEACON MLA DEFENDS STAND ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

In the June 18 issue of "The Liberal" Reeve Donald Plaxton of Richmond Hill used the term "Scare Tactics" in referring to attempts made to enable the town's representatives to appear before a committee of the Legislature concerning the York Regional Government Bill.

Since my election in October 1967, I have supported every effort to bring about a good regional government program. But I have also endeavored by every possible means to alert the government and the people of this region to the need to determine the costs of any proposed changes.

To this end, I have held over ten meetings at which the members of every council were invited and were represented. In addition, I have had scores of other meetings in an effort to develop a basis of understanding and agreement in the interest of every citizen.

Bill 102, as introduced and now being forced through the Legislature by Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough and his colleagues, has three major defects:

1. Although every previous regional government bill has strengthened the financial position of the growth areas by adding the assessment strength of developed towns and cities to the existing county (e.g. Metro Toronto, Ottawa Carleton, Niagara and Thunder Bay) the York program does not add a strong financial base. In fact the Minister proposes to strip us of a major portion of our existing industrial/commercial assessment and greatly weaken the financial base of the new region. York needs a specific provincial support program to finance growth in its developing centres to offset its lack of major assessment enjoyed by other regions.

2. Every previous regional government has access to suitable sites for water sources and sewage treatment. However, York is barred from Lake Ontario by Metro and yet no special provision has been made to ensure adequate water and sewage services.

3. No method is specified for financing the special needs of an area lying between Metro and its playgrounds. Without specific provincial grants the crippling burden of extra roads, police and other special costs due to proximity to a major metropolis will bankrupt a region consisting primarily of bedroom communities and agricultural and recreational lands.

Before he recently announced the York Regional Government Plan, Mr. McKeough held only two meetings with the Inter-Municipal Committee he appointed in April 1969 to "develop the plan". On those two occasions the committee worked without the benefit of a detailed cost study which would show the members the tax implication of any changes. They were not asked to provide a forum for dialogue with the other members of the council and with the general public as the plan developed. As a result, after reading the bill, ten of the fourteen municipal councils in York indicated that they wanted an opportunity to express their views to the Legislature's Legal and Municipal Committee. I endeavored, on second reading, to achieve this right for them. On every previous occasion I can recall contentious legislation, including the county education bill, has had the benefit of this democratic procedure. But, Mr. McKeough has denied the people of York this right.

I had hoped the formation of the York Region would solve many of our areas' problems. However, for the reasons I have cited I believe the bill being rammed through the Legislature will make the problems and taxes imposed by the county school board plan and the new assessment seem like trivia.

DONALD DEACON MLA,  
York Centre.

### WATER SHORTAGE AND MORE APARTMENTS

Dear Mr. Editor:

Early in June we received by mail, a notice of restrictions regarding lawn watering throughout Richmond Hill. We are allowed to water our lawns two nights a week for three hours a night, the penalty for disregarding this notice to be as high as \$300. The reasons given for these restrictions were that during the hot summer weather there is not sufficient water in Richmond Hill to supply the higher regions of the town or the upper levels of the existing apartment buildings.

In the same mail delivery we received a notice of proposed rezoning of our street, this being done to accommodate the building of three of four new apartment buildings.

Once in the last few weeks we have had our taps run dry and the weather has not been extremely hot.

There is an insufficient supply of water in our community at this time, yet, in one day we receive two notices, one to the effect that we have to curb our water consumption and a second notifying us of further developments in our area. The implication to me is one of LACK, Lack in future planning and lack in consideration to the residents in this area.

MRS. NORMA HENDERSON,  
236 Cedar Avenue,  
Richmond Hill.

### TOGA PARTY NOT A DRAMA

Dear Mr. Editor:

"Gaudemus igitur, iuvenes dum sumus."  
Let us rejoice, therefore, while we are young.

Student Song since 1200  
On June 10, we were pleased that Mrs. Mary Monks accepted the invitation of the public relations representative, Anne Paxton, to be present at Richmond Hill High School's third annual Toga Party at which we were also host to the Latin students of Bayview, King City, Langstaff and Markham.

It was flattering, I suppose, that Mrs. Monks seemed to consider our toga party to be a dramatic presentation; however, this misinterpretation prompted what seemed to me and to some of my students several rather

icy judgments. I would like to correct some of these mis-impressions.

First of all, we were NOT attempting to perfect Fellini's "Satyricon" (based on the "Cena Trimalchionis" or Trimalchio's Feast). We WERE attempting to recreate the atmosphere of a Roman social gathering. The purposes included in this attempt were to promote the idea that Latin can be fun and to give the Latin students an in-depth lesson in Roman life. But above all, the purpose of this party was a gathering of friends with a common interest.

There were 180 students in attendance from the five schools plus an uncounted number of spectators — "non-Romans" in the balcony of the auditorium. This was the largest turnout for a toga party since perhaps the first one five years ago.

Most of the students, I thought, did a very good job making their togas, considering that they had no pattern or model from which to work. Of course there were a few who had "bed sheets and safety pins" thrown together with little real effort, but we have people today who in normal circumstances make only a hasty and half-hearted attempt at their dress. The idea was to have everyone who attended this party in a toga — the experience was important, not the degree of perfection. As Mrs. Ladell, also a Latin teacher at RHHS, remarked, "It was an awe-inspiring sight to look out on the football field and see this large group of people, milling about in Roman dress."

Mrs. Monks' comments that one of the "Latin lovelies" wore a bikini under a see-through toga, has certainly helped to build up our advance registration for next year's party. We have had innumerable phone calls requesting the date of the next toga party.

By the way, the Latin lovely chosen for comment, Miss Donna Percival, spent many hours working on the preparations for the party. She sent out the initial invitations to 10 schools and followed these up with a personal visit to each school to clarify the purposes of the toga party and what was expected of each school. Besides this, Donna

made up the program for the day's events, and supervised the order of events with Barry Buchanan, the Pontifex Maximus (who, I felt, looked and acted his role with stature — he was no chafeur!).

The chariot races provided a great deal of fun for both participants and spectators, and to the best of my knowledge there was only one person and not more, injured in these races. Steps have already been taken to insure that the possibility of injury will be eliminated from future chariot events.

Chief Chariot-Maker Greg Binkley was confronted with an awesome task: two days before the party he was presented with the problem of supplying eight chariots for the races because the other schools felt they could not supply chariots themselves. Certainly these chariots would not have passed the Ben-Hur standard, but I don't think the Romans would have judged them too severely, as they were known for their love of novelties. This trait is best seen in the variety of gladiatorial combats they enjoyed, for example, man versus beast.

Once again, it is flattering that Mrs. Monks considered the move from the auditorium to the football field, a parade. We had planned a parade around the block (in cooperation with Police Chief Robbins), but this event was necessarily cancelled because of the late arrival of the guest schools.

Mrs. Monks also was not satisfied with the selection of the winning skit (that of Langstaff). Admittedly Markham High School students deserve credit for delivering their lines in Latin. However the first criterion for judging past skits has been originality, and with all the skits based on ONE event — the assassination of Julius Caesar — the prize had to go to Langstaff for their theme at least, which was very original, "The Mercy Killing of Caesar."

For anyone who had been present at either of the two toga parties previous to the 1970 one, it was obvious that there had been quite a revival this spring. From a small gathering of about 50 students (from two schools) in the cafeteria, it was quite a change to the large number in a surprisingly well-decorated auditorium complete with special lighting effects and a public address system, thanks to Barb Hayes, Sybil Beacock and Anne Minchin.

The refreshments of course, could not be elaborate. We had to be satisfied with the pizza, a few sandwiches, cake and soda pop (sorry, no wine). It was perhaps a simple peasant's fare, but it was enjoyed by all with thanks to Janice Pimlott and her volunteers.

Obviously many students at RHHS put a good deal of time and effort into the toga party and their work was done in excellent fashion. Certainly some things were not perfect, but as pointed out before, perfection was not the aim of the toga party. In conclusion, I would like to quote the Latin Scholar Gregorius Binkus, "Nihil pendendum erat" or, "No one had to pay to get in."

PAUL COSTELLO  
Latin Department,  
Richmond Hill High School.

### WANT EXTRA INCOME?

A temporary job may be the answer. Read the Help Wanted Columns in "The Liberal" every week for job opportunities throughout York County.

## Here's To You Victorian Order Of Nurses!

You bring a touch of empire from the pages of history Good Queen Victoria, the young gal who said I will try to be a good queen.

She was, through the length of the years that have been in times of peace, in times of war, she ruled with a firm hand.

She knew sorrow, pain and death, But even to her queenly duty she did her best.

You Victorian Order of Nurses are her Miss Canadas I love to see you come down the street.

Winter or summer you look sweet in your uniform, trim and neat.

Old John is waiting for his needle, And more than that — a friendly chat.

Mrs. Bronson must have her bath Feels good, your hands are soft and gentle The old memories of Mrs. Bronson provoke your hearty laugh

"Yes Nurse I said the old queen, my she was a good one. She could talk back to Mr. Gladstone and say, "Mr. Gladstone we have already seen."

Hurry on Miss Victorian Order of Nursing Canada Cuts to bandage — babies to weigh and feed Everywhere there are people in need.

So on you go, come wind, come weather You are empire's daughters, Therefore when duty calls you never falter Here's to you Victorian Order of Nursing God be with you, both now and then.

(Rev. Herbert Newton-Smith, Richmond Hill, author of this poetic tribute to the nursing staff of the Victorian Order of Nurses, at one time was a patient receiving the services of this home care nursing program.)

By MARY MONKS

## In the Spotlight

### Japanese Customs And Old World Courtesy Delight Jennifer Morton

Getting to know our neighbors can mean a lot more these days than chatting to the girl next door or the man across the street. We hop a plane to once remote corners of the earth with less trepidation than our grandparents boarded a bus.

Jennifer Morton, well-known to local audiences as a dancer, recently spent ten days in Japan as a member of a troupe of 24 dancers performing at the Canadian Pavilion at Osaka, in honor of Canada Day. They were picked by Alan Lund to accompany him to Expo '70, where they joined the eight dancers who comprise the regular show.

Jennifer has brought back some interesting impressions of the people and customs of Japan which she could never have acquired from magazine articles or geography lessons. Being a bright and articulate young woman, her observations went deeper than the superficial comments one might expect after such a brief visit, surrounded as she was by the glamor and excitement of a "really big show".

What she found particularly noticeable was the old world courtesy and consideration of the people, qualities unfortunately disappearing rapidly from the western scene in all walks of life. Although she found Osaka itself highly commercialized, as one would expect from a city hosting an international exposition, as soon as one was even a little way out of the city, the customs and dress of the people appeared conspicuously old fashioned by our standards. She described the fashions as being five or ten years behind those of North America, with the exception of a very few chic women. Although she saw a few long-haired males, these too were the exception rather than the rule.

The Canadian visitors were amused, (and a little thrilled, I suspect), to find themselves being treated as celebrities. Especially in the case of the blondes, like Jennifer, the Japanese youngsters wanted to touch them, and ask them innumerable questions. Jennifer says that in place of the perfunctory interest shown by Western teenagers in a visiting group, the Japanese wanted to know the type of people they and their families were, and in turn gave detailed descriptions of their own parents' personalities and the kind of lives they themselves were leading.

(Continued on Page 14)

## Agreement On Guidelines

(The Wall Street Journal)

Advocates of some form of voluntary wage-price guidelines appear to think it will be impossible to get everyone involved to agree to the idea. In that connection the current experience of Canada should be instructive.

True, Canada's federal and provincial finance ministers did agree on wage and salary guidelines limiting increases to 8% or less a year. But it's usually possible to get everyone involved to agree to the idea. In that connection the current experience of Canada should be instructive.

It's also true that leading Canadian businessmen have agreed to keep price increases well below cost increases. And Canada's Prices and Incomes Commission has also obtained price rollbacks in some industries.

Businessmen, especially large ones, are vulnerable to government pressure, legal or otherwise. To the extent that such pressure is effective, of course, it distorts the price system and misallocates resources.

At any rate, prices have to have some relation to wages, or businessmen won't be able to go on paying the wages. And a spokesman for the Canadian Labor Congress, the largest union in the country, quickly labeled the new guidelines an attempt to "sabotage" collective bargaining.

Unions said this "meant war". There were warnings of widespread strikes if provincial governments stick to the guidelines. Negotiations later this year will involve hundreds of thousands of workers in a wide range of industries.

What the Canadian politicians may have overlooked is that labor leaders are politicians, too. And the labor leader who asks his constituents to forgo bigger wage increases, to advance something like the national interest, is a leader who doesn't really want to keep his job.

On the wage guideline front in Canada, then, the progress report so far is no progress. What reason is there to think that the U.S. result would be different?

## County Board To Sell Its Surplus Supplies

Surplus furniture or equipment owned by York County Board of Education will be disposed of. It cannot be used in other schools or offices in the system.

At a meeting on June 22, the board agreed that such equipment as might be needed in the foreseeable future might be stored, but otherwise surplus should be sold, or scrapped if sale could not be arranged.

Items that can be located will be transferred within the area. Those not required within the area will be listed with the purchasing officer who will circulate other areas to see if any item on the list is needed in another area.

Items not required will be stored for future use, but if it becomes obvious there is no likely to be a need for them they will be advertised and sold.

"Many poorer boards would be happy to buy our surplus," commented Roman Catholice Trustee Conrad Thompson of Richmond Hill.

TURN SPARE ROOM INTO SPARE CASH CONSULT THE LIBERAL CLASSIFIEDS FOR BIG BARGAINS

## Nation Comes First

Canada is going through extremely difficult times with inflation rampant throughout the land and the resulting depressed economic conditions a major problem of national importance. The federal government, the Income and Prices Commission and the provincial governments have all supported a six percent limit on wage increases during the current crisis.

The trade union movement has met this national call for restraint with a belligerent unco-operative attitude. They seem determined to place themselves and their movement above the national good. Their leaders' attitude towards worsening economic conditions and rising unemployment has been an uncompromising stand based on narrow, selfish class lines.

The leadership of the trade union movement seems determined to turn the present economic crisis into a Socialist class struggle. A prime example of this haughty attitude was shown in the report of Allan MacIsaac, business manager of Local 721 of the International Association of

Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers, when replying to questions regarding the 20% wage settlement his union has won in the construction industry. Mr. MacIsaac told reporters, "We had our own guidelines." If inflation fails to subside and unemployment continues to climb then governments will most certainly be forced to introduce wage and price controls and Canada will drift further down the road towards a collectivist, Socialistic society. Already Premier Thatcher of Saskatchewan has announced his government will shortly pass legislation to force union compliance with the six percent guidelines during the present emergency.

Canada is a great country — one of the few favored nations in the world today. We are free of much of the strife and internal discord that is tearing so many other peoples apart. If this happy land is to continue to grow and prosper then we must have a sense of national purpose and every segment of society must be willing to play its part in the overall mosaic.

## More Bad News For Vaughan Township Taxpayers

Already faced with a soaring local tax rate Vaughan Township taxpayers received more bad news with the announcement their council has signed a new labor agreement with the Canadian Union of Public Service Employees covering a major portion of their staff which is going to cost the municipality an additional \$207,426.50 in wages and benefits during the next two years. Added to this figure must be the cost of the settlement (wages and benefits) made with the police and fire departments.

In an extremely generous settlement the people's elected representatives have signed a union agreement which is going to add an increasingly heavy burden on the home owner. The timing of such a settlement couldn't have been much more inopportune. Taxpayers in Vaughan are already in open revolt against the highly discriminatory and costly property reassessment by the county

on guidelines laid down by the provincial government. Such reassessment has granted a measure of relief to the industrial and commercial taxpayer at the expense of the home owner.

Now to add to their woe council has signed a particularly costly union settlement. Council must remember the financial burden incurred in any wage settlement has to be borne by the individual taxpayer in the municipality. It would be interesting to relate the average income of Vaughan taxpayers with the increased wage levels and benefits now to be enjoyed by the civil service. Results of a recent poll of citizens showed that 75% of those interviewed felt taxes were already past the acceptable level. Governments who are elected supposedly to represent the wishes of the electorate should remember this when they are busy spending other people's money.

## Maple Church Plans Home For Senior Citizens

Churches across the country are continually under fire for their alleged failure to meet the needs of the people they were founded to serve, but a close look at what is taking place in these churches shows that they do care.

Many of our York County churches are demonstrating in practical ways their concern for the community by assuming a greater share of responsibility for making life more meaningful and more comfortable for important segments of society.

For example, a committee from Maple United Church appeared last week before the planning board of Vaughan Township to ask for rezoning of a parcel of church owned land. They want to build a home-like residence for senior citizens of the community — for people who have been long time residents of Maple, but are no longer able to maintain their own homes.

Unfortunately a deputation of citizens who live in the area and are opposed to "apartment development" in a residential area apparently put up a stronger argument than the church committee. The planning board agreed in committee to recommend to the township council that the application be turned down.

The church is not asking for money, nor does it intend to restrict use of the residence to members of its own congregation. All it wants is permission to provide a building with eight self-contained suites, common lounge and hobby room near the centre of town, to ensure that elderly citizens of Maple may retire to comfortable quarters in their own community, close to their friends, their churches, their local post office, and live out their lives in comfort and dignity.

The congregation is anxious to get on with the project — not just because this is the church's Centennial year and it would like to have the project well under way for its 100th birthday observances in October — but also because the need is there.

The committee has confirmation that the project can be financed from capital funds on hand, annuities, mortgage bonds and outright gifts and bequests from the community. It has the assurance of engineers that the site can provide adequate drainage for a septic bed for eight residents until sewers are installed and the suites made available to couples.

Architectural drawings have been presented and enthusiastically received by a majority of the congregation, and the community at large was invited to a recent meeting to view the sketches of the buff brick and cedar shingle structure, which looks like a large private home in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. Estimated cost of construction is about \$80,000.

The church's plan for its Centennial project is particularly commendable in that it recognizes the importance of making it possible for people who have lived in and served the community for many years to continue to live in their own home town, and to furnish their own suites with their own belongings.

Too often the elderly are shunted off to distant lodges and institutions because there is no alternative — they are no longer physically able to maintain their own homes, but there is nowhere else to go.

The Maple project is an excellent example of Christian concern and Christian duty, to make life more worthwhile for all, whatever their age or financial status.

The opponents appeared before planning board in full force, and by sheer weight of numbers gave the impression that community support for the plan is virtually non-existent.

They may be right, but if they are wrong, now is the time for those who are in sympathy with the church's project and would like to see it carried through, to stand up and be counted, to lend support by their presence when the planning board recommendation is brought before council.

## A Camp Holiday Or A Plaza Gang For This Fatherless Boy—It Is Up To You!

School will be out this week, but one local mother at least, Mrs. S. is anticipating the summer vacation with misgivings. Her concern, what does the summer hold in store for her son, John?

John S. is 14, and his father is dead. He is the oldest of three children, and the family is dependent on Mrs. S's earnings as a salesclerk for its livelihood.

Her time and thoughts fully occupied with the responsibilities of earning a living and bringing up her family, Mrs. S. was not aware of the gradual change in John's attitude around school and home until recently.

She knew that John was getting by in school, and that he was indifferent to performing his share of the chores around the house, but was usually too tired after work to probe more than superficially into what he was getting by with his friends.

Recently, while preparing his clothes for the laundry, she discovered a package of cigarette papers and when John denied they belonged to him, tempers flared and John was sent to his room.

When Mrs. S. checked later, she found that John had gone out the window. A police search followed, and when an officer brought him home, he reported that John had been found in a local plaza with a group of older boys, some of them known to the police for minor offenses.

On learning of the family situation and the growing tension between mother and son, the officer suggested that Mrs. S. get in touch with the Big Brother office in Richmond Hill. This she did the following Saturday, and during the usual assessment process, the Big Brother social worker found that Mrs. S's major concern was whether or not a Big Brother would have time

for John during the summer. Now that she was aware of the type of friends that John had made, she was afraid that he would be poorly influenced by this crowd, especially during the long hot summer months.

The social worker had to admit that often Big Brothers are away for varying lengths of time in the summer, but assured her that the relationship is not forgotten. Big Brothers correspond with post cards and letters when they are away, and always let the "little brothers" know when they will return.

Mrs. S. is still concerned however. She feels this would not be enough for her son, because he will not be able to go away for a holiday. She cannot afford a vacation for the family, not even for John.

The only hope, she was told, is the York County Big Brothers' Summer Camp Fund. No promises can be made. The number of boys who will get a camp holiday through the fund depends entirely on the generosity of the community.

However, Mrs. S. grasped at the suggestion with joy. John will soon be matched with a Big Brother, reports Norman Opperman, social worker for the Big Brothers of Richmond Hill, and for this Mrs. S. is extremely thankful.

But she is still worried about the long, boring school holiday ahead. Are you worried? If so, please consider a donation today.

All contributions are tax-deductable, and receipts will be sent. Donations should be sent to Big Brothers of York County, Box 34, Aurora, Ont.

For interviews and information, contact the Richmond Hill Big Brother office any Saturday at 884-9121.