



The Liberal

An Independent Weekly: Established 1878

Subscription Rate \$5.00 per year; to United States \$6.00; 10c single copy

Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association
Published by Richmond Hill Liberal Publishing Co. Ltd.
W. S. COOK, Publisher
"Second class mail, registration number 0190"



King Needs Its Plan Now

King Township's badly needed new Official Plan has run into several bad snags in the past couple of weeks.

This is most unfortunate. The nub of the controversy appears to be sewers and home sizes. In the meantime, township residents have no protection against the many sorts of undesirable development that could take place on the other side of their fences.

Major recent instances of uncontrolled development include a private airport landing strip and a dance hall.

More and worse things could happen at any moment.

Those holding up passage of the new Official Plan no doubt believe they have right on their side.

This may well be true.

Existing communities, most notably Nobleton, may well be having septic tank troubles that must be overcome. The obvious solution first coming to the minds of residents in such areas is most likely to be sewers and sewage treatment.

The sewage situation in Nobleton should be studied and solved, perhaps by the Ontario Water Resources Commission.

But is there time to resolve this issue when King Township is threatened right now with all sorts of uncontrolled development?

This is one of the questions members of the township council must answer for themselves.

Perhaps the other major issue of house sizes can be more quickly resolved.

We feel that the township might well take a less selfish point of view.

Certainly, under the present circumstances, it would create an unhealthy tax situation if the township were thrown wide open to an

unlimited number of small homes.

On the other hand, a limited number of small homes could be absorbed each year without an unduly heavy tax burden being placed on the existing population.

Township planners say the "hardship" provision in the new Official Plan will have the effect of allowing just such a limited number of small homes to be built.

Perhaps this "hardship" provision could be more fully explained to the satisfaction of those opposing the new Official Plan on the grounds of home sizes.

Failing that, a satisfactory amendment to the new Official Plan shouldn't be too difficult to formulate, nor take too long to implement.

But time is of the essence. The protection afforded by the new Official Plan is very badly needed right now.

It should be remembered by those involved in this business that Official Plans are flexible and can be changed.

On the other hand, undesirable land uses, once established, may be with us forever and a day.

Better to pass the new Official Plan now, with a few flaws in it, than to wait for several months while trying to make everything perfect.

It would probably do very serious harm if the Official Plan were not made fully effective before the end of this year. With regional government coming into effect January 1, there is a great danger the matter would not be attended to for a long time.

The new regional government for many months will probably be too occupied with the problems of reorganization to give attention to King Township's planning problems.



Canadiana And Americana

At a special reception held recently at Toronto's Sutton Place Hotel to mark joint United States - Canada Day celebrations, a display of Canadiana spinning by Black Creek Pioneer Villager, Betty Service (right), is explained to Judy Jamison of American Airlines Toronto staff.

In the Spotlight



By MARY MONKS

Wins First Gold Medal At National Music Festival

In the year and a half during which I have been putting people in the spotlight I have met some young people who have racked up more kudos in a few short years than many of us accrue in a lifetime. What always surprises me is their modesty; in fact, most of them take for granted the fact of their success, and are loathe to talk about it.

One of these is Shirlene Austerberry, whose latest achievements at the National Music Festival were reported in "The Liberal" last week. Shirlene started learning the accordion three years ago at the age of ten, actually as a forerunner to playing the piano. Her progress was so rapid that it soon became obvious that the accordion was her instrument. Her choice was probably the right one at that. After all, it is much easier to take an accordion to a party — pianos make rather bulky hand luggage!

After only two-and-a-half months of study, Shirlene was entered by her teacher for the National Music Festival, and won her first gold medal with 95%. The following year brought another gold medal, and in 1968 Shirlene placed second with 94%. By this time she was playing with the Willowdale Junior Accordion Band, which came second in its class in the same festival.

On July 18 this year at the National Music Festival, held at the Royal York Hotel, Shirlene entered in the Senior Open Division and was awarded a silver medal with 93%. In the Senior Division for 14 years and under, her marks were 92%, and won her a bronze medal. The Willowdale Accordion Band (Intermediate Division), of which she is a member, placed second, with a performance of "The Blue Danube". Shirlene also played with the senior band, of which a number of members were 17 years and over, and their rendering of "The Rische Suite" put them in first place. The band was competing with some fine musicians, including the Steel City Band from Hamilton, and bands from Barrie and Brantford.

The Willowdale Band made an attractive visual display, with the boys in dark suits, and the girls in delightful floor-length mauve gowns.

Next year a tour is being planned for the senior band, and negotiations are in the offing for a (Continued on Page 14)

Susan Brown Writes Of Life In Japan

This is the fourth in a series of feature articles by Susan Brown who is spending the summer in Japan. Susan is a resident of Maryvale Crescent in Langstaff and a third year Honors BA student at Trent University, Peterboro.



Susan and her girl friend are spending the summer tutoring English at a school in Osaka called Osaka Eigo Gakko and living with a Japanese family. They plan to live in this traditional family setting for seven weeks and then spend the last three weeks touring the country especially Hokkaido in Northern Japan.

This year marks Susan's second trip to Japan. She first visited the country in the summer of 1968 at which time she took an introductory language course in Japanese.

★ ★ ★

This may seem like a strange question, but why would two Japanese girls invite two Canadian girls to visit their university for an afternoon? You might assume as we did that they wished to take us on the twenty-five cent tour so that we might compare Canadian and Japanese campus life. Aah soo desuka? No, that is not so. In fact, we ourselves should have been charging a quarter since we were the main attraction!

To explain further (before you get the wrong idea that I'm boasting), many oriental university students study English. Irrespective of whether they wish to visit foreign countries, a knowledge of English is invaluable for improving one's position in a future business career. And naturally, the best way to learn to speak a language properly is to hear it from the horse's mouth. So there we sat — the horses!

Unfortunately, our friends believed we would enjoy staying in the office of their Interpreter Guide Club (I.G.C.) for an hour or more in order to meet its members. Please don't think I am selfish, for I really enjoy meeting Japanese students. But not when there are three hundred at one time and you get the impression that they had been ordered to come in a few at a time to meet the gaijin and speak with them!

We were even invited to attend one of the English conversation classes later in the day as "observers" — don't you believe it! We would have been swamped with students.

Seriously though, I greatly admire the Japanese perseverance. Despite the fact that they study (Continued on Page 14)

Barking Dogs Don't Bite -- But

There is nothing less conducive to a good sleep than a barking dog or a screeching and spitting cat in the neighborhood.

Twelve ratepayers on North Taylor Mills Drive recently, after trying every other method, petitioned Richmond Hill Town Council to stop the incessant barking of a neighborhood dog, which is interfering with their sleep — many of them are shift-workers and so must sleep in the daytime.

They had asked the owner of the dog to keep his pet from barking. They had called the police. But neither action had had the desired result.

The petition led to a council resolution recommending to the town's police commission that the local police be instructed to enforce the town's bylaws.

In all fairness to the police, we know of other cases where their warning to owners of barking dogs had the desired result. It must also be pointed out that under the town's anti-noise bylaw, which prohibits

"noise which disturbs the public", the onus for laying a charge is on the average citizen — the member (or members) of the public who is being disturbed.

We trust that the 12 residents who signed the petition will not have to proceed with the charge and that the owner will co-operate with his neighbors. In this way, only, can the weary worker enjoy a restful sleep day or night in his own home and that young children can be put to bed at a reasonable hour and slip off to sleep without being continually disturbed.

We have no suggestions as to how one is to determine the owner of the cat whose midnight songs of love and war are equally as disturbing. We have tried throwing any missile which came easily to hand and drenching the serenaders with cold water, only to have the cacophony break out again in a few minutes in a neighbor's garden. At that point we bury our head under the pillow and hopefully wait for the yowling to cease.

Barnard's Municipal Gravel Pit Brief Hits Queen's Park "Brick Wall"

A major effort by the municipalities of Ontario aimed at stopping a provincial takeover of pits and quarries control, has apparently "run into a brick wall" at Queen's Park.

The arguments of the municipalities were recently presented to four Ministers of the Robarts Government by a committee headed by Whitechurch Township Deputy-reeve Norman Barnard, Minister of Mines Allan Lawrence, Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough, Highways Minister George Gomme, and Transport Minister Irwin Hasket.

After the meeting at Queen's Park York County Warden Gordon Cook, a member of the municipal committee, said it was quite clear the provincial government was going to go its own way. In spite of the position taken by Ontario's 400 municipalities and their four organizations.

The municipal submission was made on behalf of the Association of Ontario Mayors and Reeves, the Ontario Municipal Association, the Association of Counties and Regions of Ontario, and the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities. The submission was formally supported by 12 Ontario cities, 24 towns, 25 townships and five other major municipal authorities.

Municipal Committee Chairman Barnard was a little more optimistic than Warden Cook after the meeting. Mr. Barnard said he felt the brief was reasonably well

received. The Ministers asked the committee to remain intact, implying the possibility of future negotiations before final pit and quarry legislation is written, said the Whitechurch deputy-reeve.

The municipalities object strongly to a report on pits and quarries prepared by a provincial government committee. They point out that the municipalities didn't even have any representation on the government committee.

The municipalities agree with the province that the laws governing pits and quarries are now inadequate. But they don't agree to having the responsibility for pits and quarries taken away from municipal governments and out of the hands of the local councils.

The municipalities also want provisions giving them some kind of adequate tax return from pits and quarries to help pay for the wear and tear on roads caused by heavy trucks.

The municipal committee is critical of the provincial government committee report, because of certain aspects the report seems to have ignored. "Although great emphasis is given by the report to the importance of the aggregate industry to society, and the need to have pits and quarries located close to large urban communities, there is a total omission of views and opinions concerning the feasibility of transporting sand, gravel and stone by boat from new quarry and pit

operations in the remote parts of the province. This, as an alternative to obnoxious operations close to the urban communities, should be fully explored.

"Research into new products, and re-use of existing materials, while unlikely to produce immediate results, should be carried out now in anticipation of future requirements," says the municipal submission.

The municipalities have submitted to the provincial government a statement of five principles which they feel should be followed in any future pits and quarries legislation. These five are as follows:

- The report of the provincial government's Mineral Resources Committee gives undue priority to the exploitation of sand, gravel and stone resources in relationship to other land uses. It subordinates aesthetic, conservation, community planning and overall environmental values to the mining of aggregates. The report, in fact, proposed that land use planning would be done after and around mineral resource planning.
- "We deplore this viewpoint. General land use planning considerations, with proper emphasis being given to all factors determining desirable use (including the recognition that the operation of its quarries is incompatible with most other forms of land development, must dominate all decisions relating to establishment of aggregate mining operations. In short, the lo-

cation and operation of a pit or quarry must be satisfactory in the terms of the overall community.

- "In addition to the foregoing policy, it is our belief that comprehensive studies should be undertaken on the effect generally that pits and quarries inflict on the total environment. This would include water tables, water purification, pollution (air, visual and auditory), ground vibration, traffic hazard and road destruction, etc. Each proposed area of mineral operation should be judged by such criteria.
- The control over the establishment and extension of all pits and quarries must remain with local government. The provincial depart-

ment of mines and its engineers, far removed from the affected community, are not competent to determine whether or not a pit or quarry in a given location is desirable or acceptable to the community. We therefore strongly oppose the proposal in the report to transfer to the provincial level the power to determine the location of pits and quarries.

"We insist that the use of land for aggregate mining be treated the same as any other land use. Control of location would be by adaptation of the present technique of zoning to a "Pits and Quarries Control Act", applicable to all municipalities, whether or not they have an official plan or zoning bylaw.

"No operation could be started or extended without application to the local municipality for permissive zoning. Any bylaw granting such permissive zoning would have to go through procedures similar to those under the recent Planning Act, such as notification to all interested authorities and neighboring properties, followed by a public hearing and decision by the Ontario Municipal Board.

"The 'Pits and Quarries Control Act' should provide for a site plan agreement between the operator and the local municipality. This system would provide a large measure of local accountability and safeguard against arbitrary action. It also gives some recourse to the applicant if he is turned down by the council.



NORMAN BARNARD

MINIMUM TAKE HOME PAY \$100

Dear Mr. Editor:

Negotiations between the federal government and the postal workers has been going on for months without much success. I, for one, sympathize with the postal workers, having seen some of their take-home pay cheques. In this day and age, I believe, the lowest take-home pay for these public servants should be \$100 per week.

The government has given reasons against this proposal, so let's take a look at some facts.

(1) The Members of Parliament raised their own salaries and have increased their income tax exemption. Any member sitting for just four years may draw a pension. The Old Age and Canada Pension are not enough for them it seems, although they think them sufficient for the rest of us to live on.

(2) The government and postal workers were in negotiation

long before the 6% guideline for wage increases was announced. This is the wrong way to fight inflation. I have heard a lot of criticism from people in all walks of life about this 6% guideline, although no one has offered an alternative.

It is my thinking that what should have been done, at least a year ago, was the freezing of wages at \$3 per hour, and instituting price controls where needed. If it were not for the loose credit of these days, many more people would be on unemployment insurance and could well be less unemployed than now.

(3) Millions of Canadian dollars are spent each year to help other countries and yet Ottawa cannot find the money needed for its employees in every department, not only the postal workers. So let's cut this foreign aid down and pay a decent wage to Canadians.

It's not so much how many brains we have, it's how we use them. With a little common sense and understanding, taking the middle of the road, this problem could be solved quickly. So I ask the MP's to stand and be counted, regardless of party, and help our employees receive a better deal.

The above letter was in the hands of the editor before Federal Labor Minister Bryce Mackay's July 21 announcement. He stated that earnings of postal workers were \$102 and \$129 a week. What he did not say was these figures are gross earnings and not take-home pay. After deductions the take-home pay is around the \$80 mark.

I will continue to contend that the lowest take-home pay for a federal government employee should be \$100 per week. GEORGE LINSDELL, 7471 Yonge Street, Apt. 311, Thornhill.

NO PLACE FOR BIKES AND MINIBIKES

Dear Mr. Editor:

I believe that all bicycles and mini-bikes should be banned from Richmond Hill parks, especially around the seats during sports events.

People attend these events and games to watch the action on the field. They don't want to see a bunch of mad youngsters tearing around the seats on bikes. It spoils all enjoyment in the game and is dangerous to small children, who become restless and leave their seats for one reason or another.

I ask for the co-operation of the police and parents in putting a stop to this annoying and dangerous practice. Let's stop it now before someone gets hurt. Or do we have to wait until some little one gets hurt? ALFRED FRY, 22 Oxford Street, Elgin Mills.

YOUNG PEOPLE EXPRESS THANKS DROP-IN CENTRE

Dear Mr. Editor:

On behalf of the Richmond Hill Drop-in Council, I would like to publicly thank:

The seven members of our town council, the parks and recreation committee, Mayor William Lazenby, Councillor Shaun Beggs, chairman of the parks and recreation committee; Alan White, recreation director; John Griest, owner of the Richmond Heights Centre; Richmond Hill Arena Board; Jack Hollowell, chairman of the arena board; the officers of the Richmond Hill Police Force and mostly to Rick Branfield, our constant friend and aid.

For the invaluable cooperation and work they have given our Drop-in Council, and more important, the youth of Richmond Hill, by providing them with a Drop-in Centre. This action will help greatly in solving this summer's youth unemployment and general inactivity.

We of the Drop-in Council have worked hard in organizing, operating, and maintaining the centre at the old arena, but without the help of those persons mentioned above, the Drop-in Centre would not exist.

The significance of this proposal becomes apparent when we realize that less than one quarter of the municipalities in the province are covered by official plans. Even where official plans are in existence, it is admitted that few will contain a mineral resources policy "deemed to be adequate by the minister." (It is estimated that there are only seven or eight in this category).

"While municipalities could regain jurisdiction by enacting an official plan satisfactory to the minister, the fact remains that control of location and regulation of pits and quarries in almost every municipality in the province would immediately vest with the minister of mines.

"This is a back-door technique by the province to force every municipality to adopt an official plan. While we fully support the need for adoption of official plans in the growth areas of the province, their inflexibility and incomprehensiveness make them unnecessary and unsuitable for many municipalities in dormant rural areas. In any event, the long delays in developing and amending official plans, coupled with this inadvisability of instituting them in much of the province, would assure that control of location and regulation of pits and quarries in most of Ontario would remain with the province almost indefinitely," says the Ontario Municipal brief to the provincial government.

The Ups And Downs On North Yonge Problems

To the ups and downs of north Yonge. How my heart goes out to you For we have our little problems, Right here in Richvale too.

We are surrounded with beautiful homes, But we have no heart at all. For over the fence, and just next door The weeds are ten feet tall.

We spend hours planting and weeding I have seen them sit and cry. The grubs and snails, have all moved in Why should they even try.

Let me pause just a moment I don't want to lay it on too thick. But with all the grubs, and polluted air, It really turns one sick.

It pains me very deeply To have to speak so frank, But the natural gas that we get here, Comes from the septic tank.

I really hate to tell you this, It will be against your will: Soon all those problems will be yours When we join with Richmond Hill.

VIDA E. WILLIAMSON, 53 Edgar Avenue, Richvale.

