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## Liberal MP Suggests Uniform Assessment Across Canada

A suburban Toronto MP has come up with an idea for uniform real estate assessment across Canada and he claims the proposal is gaining support. Hy Chappell MP, Peel South (Liberal) says that a uniform Canadian assessment system, placing market value, on all real estate, could be kept up to date with a computer system and would save millions of dollars.

At the same time, he said, it would correct many inequities that exist in the present system of taxation and grants between municipalities, the provinces and the federal government.

Ontario, he points out, is already moving towards uniform assessment, and Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough has expressed keen interest in the idea.

Requests for the formula have also come from Nova Scotia and Alberta, says Mr. Chappell.

Assessments in Ontario today vary from 100 per cent of real value to 4 per cent of real value, and from 10 per cent to 150 per cent on business, he said.

Considering that the provincial grants to municipalities and the federal grants to provinces are based on assessment, the wide disparity of criteria used for assessment creates gross inequity, he said.

Mr. Chappell would have all property assessed by a joint system, which could be varied in computers to up-date values as the economic conditions changed either nationally or locally.

New water and sewage system service to a particular area, for example, would increase land values. The computer could be fed facts on such changes, increasing assessed values.

"Market values would give a fair basis for provincial grants and could be used as one of the main indices for federal equalization grants," he said.

The system could also be used for valuation, if and when some of the provisions of Finance Minister Benson's White Paper on Tax Reform come into effect.

The same figures should be used for assessment, valuation for estate and gift taxes, and for calculating capital gains, he said.

In addition, if a municipality, a province, or the federal government had to expropriate for government purposes, the cost of expropriation could be instantly retrieved from the computer.

Costs of various routes for highways, for example, would be available in minutes, removing the need for expensive and appraisal teams.

Hit and miss formulas for assessment are not fair to individuals or to municipalities," said Mr. Chappell.

He also suggests that governments put a ceiling on the potential tax increase such a reassessment would create, with increases staggered over perhaps five years.

There might be a dual taxation system to remove potential inequities.

## School Tax Shouldn't Be Based On Land

The amount of land an individual owns should not be a gauge of how much education tax he has to pay, an agricultural marketing researcher from the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph said in a speech at Fergus on October 20.

Murray MacGregor told Rotarians that governments are sometimes tempted to manipulate taxes to their advantage.

Mr. MacGregor told the group that there are basically two types of taxes: ones for which the payer sees tangible products and "the other kind."

For the first, taxpayers see sewers, water systems and roads, Mr. MacGregor said. In the second, however, the taxpayer cannot assess the indirect benefits of education.

Land ownership has undergone radical change in the past few years, the researcher said. Farmers require more capital per employee than in any other industry.

## In The Spotlight

(Continued from Page 2)

filled his room with outdoor displays, complete with trees and painted skies. He spent as much time in the woods as he could and he drew pictures of animals and birds. He is fulfilling a dream now by making taxidermy his livelihood and has recently begun capturing his own trophies by camera, not gun. As well as preparing trophies of fish, fowl and animals for sportsmen, he does some biological experimentation for schools with dyes and latex red and blues for tracking. Friends bring in small birds, (such as the humming bird mentioned before) that have hit window panes or have been found by their children and Steve mounts them.

He dipped into one of the tanning bins and pulled out a bear skin to show me how it softens. It is imperative to the trophy that the bear be shot in season or the hair will simply fall out. Steve went on to show the forms he has carved for fish.

Steve Wright takes a great deal of pride in his work and indeed has a sensitivity to the beauty of nature. Every wish for continued success Steve.

## Seneca Concert Series

Seneca College's weekly series of musical concerts, launched last September, is being extended by popular demand to mid-December.

Free and open to the public, each weekly program is a combination of light and classical music extending over a period of one hour and forty-five minutes. The series runs every Thursday at 7 pm on Seneca's Finch Campus, Finch Avenue East at Woodbine.

Concerts during November and December will feature rock, blues, jazz and dixieland in combination with classical guitar, strings and piano trio. The O'Keefe Centre Orchestra will be featured on December 10. The full schedule of remaining concerts is listed at the end of this story.

Dr. William McCauley, Seneca's recently appointed director of music, says the concerts are jointly sponsored by Seneca and the Trust Fund of the Toronto Musicians Association on a cost-sharing basis.

Following the Christmas-New Year's period, the Seneca concerts will resume January 7.

## Public Should Know How Assessment Works

The public should be allowed more information on provincial assessment procedures, says the Bureau of Municipal Research.

Current property assessment in Ontario is riddled with inequities and inconsistencies, the bureau said October 20 in a report. Properties are under-assessed, over-assessed and some are not assessed at all.

The bureau is an independent, non-profit organization which has studied civic issues for more than 50 years.

It proposed four changes in the Assessment Act:

- Removal of a section which prevents assessors or employees of a municipality from disclosing information to the public which is not on the assessment roll.
- Enactment of legislation to permit assessors to discuss or make public any assessment information pertinent to their work.
- Revision of the assessment rolls so they carry more complete information on rental data, type of structure and activity for which the property is being used.
- Greater accessibility by the public to assessment files on properties to give a history on the individual assessments.

Balance of Schedule November 5: Light — Ginni Grant, Blues. Classical: Martin Polten, Guitarist (by popular request).

November 12: Light — Peter Sunny and company, Rock Comedy. Classical: The Chamber Players of Toronto, Strings.

November 19: Light — Trump Davidson, Dixieland. Classical: Hyman Goodman, Violinist, Erica Goodman, Harpist.

November 26: Light — Ted and Cathy Moses, Jazz. Classical: The Orford String Quartet.

December 3: Light — Stone-free, Rock. Classical: Faculty of Music Student Piano Trio (University of Toronto).

December 10: Combined — O'Keefe Centre Orchestra.

## 25 Service Groups Learn About Retardation At YCAMR Meeting

More than 170 people including representatives of 25 service and fraternal groups crowded the workshop at ARC Industries, 321 Enford Road, October 20 for a general meeting of the York Central Association for the Mentally Retarded.

They were shown two films, "Hi Look Us Over" dealt with the "Retarded Olympics" held at the CNE in 1969. The audience was delighted to see the children from Thornhaven School and the trainees from ARC Industries participating in this film. It was colorful and cheerful.

"Danny and Nicky" was an honest and serious film showing the alternative environments open to the retarded in our society, at this time, and packed an emotional wallop. The film followed two retarded boys in their day to day life. Danny lives with his family in Montreal and attends the John F. Kennedy School during the day. Nicky is a patient in the Ontario Hospital at Orillia and attends school there.

Monday, November 2 to 6 students of 10 area secondary schools will be out on the annual Christmas card blitz. President Dr. Arnold Arai announced. Preparations for the blitz would require three volunteer work sessions by members.

The association is planning a different approach to fund-raising the president reported. Since costs are spiralling so greatly, new sources of revenue are being sought, and it has been decided to experiment in the social realm.

The first project is a dinner-dance at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre November 27. Due to space the guest list will have to be limited to 125 couples. There will be a cocktail hour, a sukiyaki dinner complete with all traditional trappings, an excellent oriental program and dancing to an excellent modern orchestra.

Dr. Arai stressed the fact that literature on retardation is also available from the association.

The next general meeting of YCAMR, November 17 will be a social happening and dance at the Victoria Square Community Hall. Senior students of Thornhaven and the trainees from ARC Industries will be hosting their parents, members and friends on that occasion.

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## New Format For CODL Festival

Mrs. Woodburn Thomson, a past president of the Richmond Hill Curtain Club and now president of the Central Ontario Drama League attended the Dominion Drama Festival executive meeting in Montreal on October 23-24th.

The cross Canada delegates considered the interim report of Dr. Philip Spensley on the total picture of theatre in Canada, with reference to the possible change in role the DDF may make. He felt it very important that there be a national body representing amateur theatre which comprises, he says over 80% of theatre in Canada for which he has a deep respect. With the comments of those studying his report he will bring in a final report which will be the centre of the DDF executive meeting to be held in Toronto in January.

One year ago the DDF began the painful task of self study in its attempt to evolve a more viable role in the light of the recent tremendous growth of both professional and amateur theatre. As an early step to reorganization, the 1971 National Festival is being widely expanded and virtually the whole of the National Arts Centre, the theatre, studio, salon, foyers, lawns and roofs, will be opened beyond its member groups for the broadly conceived picture of a truly national showcase festival. Invitations have already been sent to professional and semi-professional, amateur avantgarde groups etc. that can be contacted and while the Canada Council travel grant has been withdrawn this year for participants, accommodation is being arranged in Ottawa for the week of May 17 to 22. It is expected that the festival will be somewhere between Edinburgh and Woodstock.

Dr. Spensley holds a Ph D. in acting, pedagogy and playwriting and presently holds a teaching position in the drama department at the University of Guelph. A Canada Council grant of \$10,000 has funded his study which involved a cross Canada tour to contact local theatre bodies at all levels.

The Central Ontario Drama League has been freed to alter the format of its annual festival to one which it is hoped will be more suitable to the needs of this region. The format suggested last year by the Curtain Club was that of a "Travelling Festival" with each group performing in its own theatre and the adjudicator making its comments public to the audience of the night. A festival committee has been set up with the participating groups to work out details of operation and awards system of noncompetitive, but merit basis. When Mr. Dennis Stainer made his presentation to the CODL he hoped this would be fairer and less expensive for the participants.

A gala ceremony and party will mark the finale of the festival after the closing date of March 6. The Curtain Club's first entry into the regional festival in 1959 won them the regional trophy and in the many times they have entered since they have always come off with several honors, the last being the Bessborough Trophy in 1969 for the best production of a classic play in the zone (Ontario is made up of four regions).

## Name Two Men To Water Resources

The Ontario Water Resources Commission, established in 1956, to be responsible for water management in Ontario, has been brought up to strength by the appointment of two men to fill the existing vacancies.

The new appointees are F. S. Hollingsworth of Saul Ste. Marie and Dr. C. A. Martin of Milton.

The former is president of two manufacturing firms in "The Soo". Dr. Martin, a physician, is one of the pioneers in the establishment of the 16 Mile Creek Conservation Authority and was instrumental in establishment of the Kelso Lake Conservation Area. He served as mayor of Milton from 1936 to 1938 and is the past Warden of Halton County. At present he is a member of the board of governors of Sheridan College.

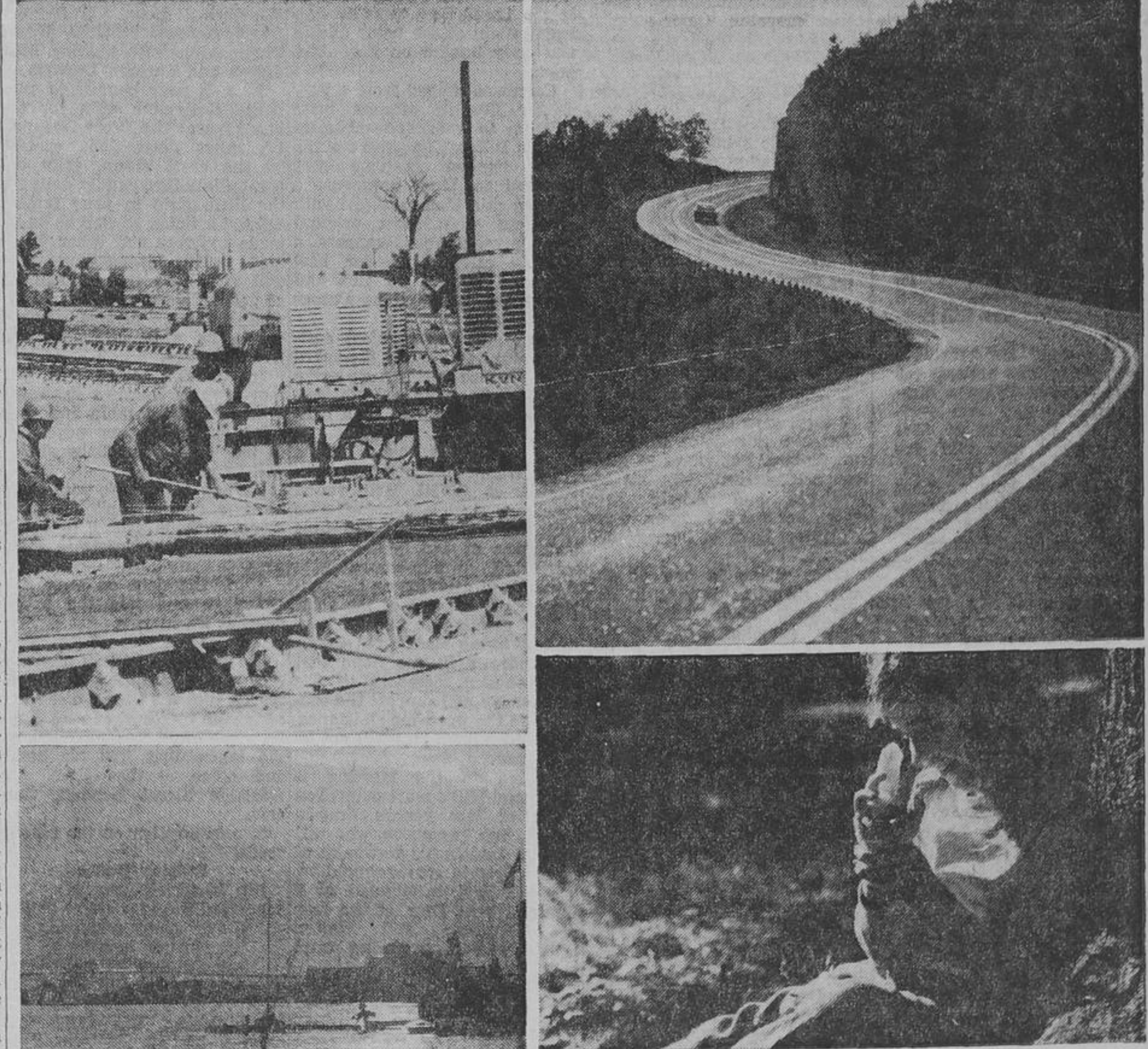
Other members of the commission are Chairman Donald Collins, Vice-Chairman John Root, M.L.A. H. E. Brown and Leo Venchiarutti, both of Toronto and D. A. Moodie of Richmond Hill.

Through the years the commission has pioneered many pollution abatement and water support programs, with the result that it has become one of the most efficient water management agencies in North America. It gives leadership in water supply and waste management in Ontario.

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we had a surplus to boot. Yet, needed programs have not been neglected. The Ontario Housing Corporation for example, has housed 120,000 people to date and currently has almost a billion dollars worth of programs active in nearly 200 Ontario Communities. We need a vigorous economy of course, to support these important programs. And, that's where you come in. Though our productivity has doubled in ten years and our incomes in twelve, Ontarians don't sit on their successes. There's a demanding decade ahead full of challenges and opportunities to make the quality of our lives better yet. To meet these challenges, we've got to believe in ourselves. Which, when you think about it, isn't such a bad idea.

Everytime you boost Ontario... Ontario and Canada get a little stronger.  
Government of Ontario John Roberts, Prime Minister.