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Oldsters Out Of Luck

The whole question of the need for suitable housing for older people living alone or in couples was brought into sharp focus in recent days when Markham Township authorities turned down a proposed geared-to-income apartment building for senior citizens in Thornhill.

It appears that years of planning and preparation have "gone down the drain" without the slightest progress being made.

In the meantime old people continue to be the unwanted minority in the Vaughan and Markham areas of Thornhill. Badly needed extra tax revenues are being lost.

The need for such senior citizen accommodation in Thornhill was demonstrated by a survey in 1967.

Where are these people living now? Are they in institutions at great public expense while actually able to look after themselves in the right sort of apartment? Are they in the basements and attics of rooming houses?

Three years ago Richmond Hill obtained its first such senior citizen apartment house and already this year additional apartments are under construction to meet the demand.

This whole social area of people growing older should be recognized by our community planners. People's needs change as they grow older. Many don't want or can't handle a large house with furnace to tend, lawn to cut, and snow to shovel.

But they want to stay in the same neighborhood. Recently the psychiatrist who is director of postgraduate education at Toronto's Clarke Institute, Dr. Vivian Rakoff, warned that today we are seeing the first large numbers of people over 55 coming out of the nuclear family. He says the loneliness that ensues is a major problem that needs attention.

We have developed a family structure composed of father, mother and 2.7 children in our communities. This is said to have created intense emo-

tional pressure on isolated family members.

We no longer have communities, but just groups of people who live and hustle in the same place at the same time. People aren't sharing a common bonding of the kind possible in an extended family of aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins living together or near each other.

It is suggested that many young people leave home for communal living because they are seeking the extended family situation that is lacking in our society.

Perhaps the injection of senior citizen apartments should be regarded as a desirable improvement to a single family dwelling community, rather than a threat to property values.

Ontario Housing Corporation, the provincial housing agency, searched Thornhill for 2 1/2 years before finding a suitable senior citizen apartment site.

When finally found, the site proposed was rejected "out of hand" by Markham Township Council and planning board. Surely the least the authorities could have done was to consult the local community as was proposed by Mayor-Elect Anthony Roman. It is unfortunate that Reeve Stewart Rumble and Councillor James Jongeneel were absent from this council meeting, for they might have supported a more constructive approach.

If the senior citizen apartment site proposed by OHC on Clark Avenue was indeed really unsuitable to the community, which we very much doubt, then an adequate number of suitable alternative sites should be furnished forthwith.

The citizens and municipal authorities in Vaughan and Markham Townships surely must feel that they are aiming to do a good job of planning their communities.

But how can their planning be considered complete if there is no provision in the plans for suitable senior citizen apartment sites?

A Good Beginning

York Central Hospital is to be congratulated on its initiative in setting up a mental health service, even though it will be two years, and probably more, before it will be able to locate a psychiatric service in its own building.

Plans for the addition and renovation of the hospital include active treatment centres for adults, adolescents and children in an up-to-date psychiatric department which will have facilities for private counselling, group counselling, recreation and quiet rooms for all ages.

There are however, hundreds of people in the county who do not need to be hospitalized. They can be treated in daily or weekly counselling sessions while continuing to live at home and go to work or school.

The public does not have to be sold. Dozens of volunteers are already working with the York County Mental Health Association visiting the mentally ill in protected homes and driving them to craft classes in Newmarket. More recently ten volunteers from the Markham-Unionville Lions Club have been driving to the new mental health service at 122 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill.

When the hospital-sponsored service had its recent open house, nearly

the entire staff of Blue Hills Academy for Emotionally Disturbed Children near Aurora turned out to meet the psychiatric team. Blue Hills is the first publicly financed residential treatment centre for children in York County. Sponsored by the mental health association with the blessings of county hospitals and the public, it has been operating only about six months, but already has many success stories to its credit.

Professional people came from Scarborough, North York and Oshawa as well as from all over York County to visit the rambling bungalow that houses the York Central Hospital Mental Health Service.

Most of the visitors echoed the sentiments expressed by York County Welfare Administrator Bilton MacDonal: "There is no doubt as to the need. Even the layman on the street is aware of this. Many people will derive benefit from this type of facility — from the casual, relaxed informal setting."

The hospital is also to be congratulated on bringing together a staff of the highest calibre, and we share Mr. MacDonal's hope that the street side centre will remain open after the hospital has its desperately needed active bed care centre.

London's 700 Year Fight, Killer Fog

Because of the hue and cry you hear at every turn about air pollution, you may be surprised to learn it has been a matter of major concern of some men for a long time — 700 years to be exact.

Although the voices crying doom and ruin have been heard for many years, little attention has been paid to what they said. But now that the mass medium has brought the subject right into the living rooms of most homes in the western hemisphere, it's being treated as something brand new. But even the noisiest of the alarmists expresses surprise when told that men have been officially concerned themselves with air pollution problems since 1273.

In 1273, the City of London, England banned the use of coal, because it was "prejudicial to health." But it did little good. So, 33 years

later a Royal Proclamation prohibited the use of a sea coal in industrial furnaces — an offense punishable by death. And indeed, one man was executed for such an offense.

Since those days the British Government and the British people have concerned themselves continually about air pollution problems. Millions of words have been written, published, spoken and read into official reports — but it wasn't until about seven years ago that any of it had any real effect.

However, although the government and the people were concerned with air pollution from 1273 on, no one apparently kept any record of the number of deaths due to respiratory complaints prior to and during periods of smog, until quite late in the game.

The Clean Air Year Book, published in England in

1969, shows that in 1873, 268 more persons died during the week of a smog in London, because of bronchitis, than the week before.

In 1880, the increase in bronchitis deaths during a smog period was 692 over the previous smog free week. In 1891, it was 572.

All of this time, the city was achieving a world wide fame for its famous "London fogs." Not because of the death of the fog was dealing out to Londoners, but as a prop for fiction writers, who wanted to weave tales of evil lurking in the fog's swirling clouds.

The real killer, and worst evil of all as it turned out, was the fog itself.

In 1951, the City of Coventry became the first smokeless zone on the British Isles. Those concerned with pollution cheered, but their joy was short-lived.

In 1952, 4,000 persons died



Canadian Agency Aids Foreign Students Further Education

Although Seneca College at Willowdale is one of Ontario's twenty community colleges, a number of students from other countries are taking courses there through the assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency. Seneca President William Newnham was host at a recent luncheon for six CIDA students attending Seneca College this year.

Left to right are: John Omeli, James Masanja, Zebede Mpogolo, Ben Kudanya, President Newnham, Hassan Lema and Isaac Chao. All these students are taking accounting and finance except John Omeli who is registered in general insurance administration.

Letters to the Editors

PLAXTON, SCHILLER, ALSO OPPOSED INCREASE IN COUNCIL SALARIES

Dear Mr. Editor:

In the December 22 issue of "The Liberal" it was noted that the 1971 Council of Richmond Hill considered salary increases and approved of an increase in town council salary from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and an increase in the mayor's salary to \$10,000 per annum.

The article noted that the only member of council to object was Councillor Andy Chateauvert. I can only attribute this error to the lateness of the hour, the meeting ending about 11:30 pm. In fact I opposed the salary increases absolutely and I believe Councillor David Schiller was also opposed to the increases.

My reason for doing so which I put before council was that I was aware of the salary when nominated and therefore I felt a commitment to the taxpayers of Richmond Hill to work for the amount that was paid in the past year.

It was then suggested that my position was inconsistent with that of the salary increases for regional council, however, I would emphatically reject that suggestion as it is obvious to anyone following the meetings at the regional council, that the volume of work expected from a 17 man York Regional Council will be as large or larger than the volume expected from the regional council of either Niagara or Ottawa both of which have some 28 members.

I also would suggest there is no real basis of comparing regional council salaries with the county council, since the responsibilities and time required are completely different.

I do not, however, want it inferred that I have supported any salary increase in the Town of Richmond Hill because that is simply not the case. I am certain that your reporter whose coverage of our council meetings has been excellent was confused by the lateness of the hour and I am not implying any criticism in that direction.

I trust that the publication of this letter will serve to keep the record straight.

DONALD PLAXTON,
Councillor,
Town of Richmond Hill.

NON-RETURNABLE BOTTLES AND CANS

Dear Mr. Editor:

Nobody is in favour of pollution. Everybody thinks it should be fought. Sadly, by "somebody" else. The government, the manufacturers, the retailers. Those "other" people, the careless ones. Democracy works slowly, and only if "people" make their preferences known.

The particular area I write on is, non-returnable, no-deposit bottles and cans. The present score on progress is almost in-

visible, i.e. the Canadian beer manufacturers have agreed not to bring out any new bottle shapes, which would add to the expense of sorting and handling. Also, they do not intend to put product in cans. The beer industry has been mentioned by Pollution Probe as the best one, as far as elimination of throw-away containers is concerned. So far, so good.

With other beverages, a great deal remains to be done. The retailer is understandably against returnable bottles. The widely different varieties, returned for cash, aggravated his overtime activities. Some retailers are on record saying they would refuse to stock beverages if the returnable bottle was forced on them. Nobody but you, the customer, can change this attitude — by insisting on uniform, returnable glass bottles — by refusing to buy the non-returnables and cans.

The cash return on returnable bottles, two cents on small, has not changed in over twenty-five years. When first introduced, children (and adults) kept down the problem of mess and hazard by turning them in. This would be resumed if the cash return was increased to say, five cents, with six-pack cases to facilitate handling at the store. Where family size (30 oz.) bottles, make these, ten cents, and use the six-pack carton here, too.

Now, as to uniform bottle shapes (similar to beer) this can't be changed overnight. But can be phased in gradually. The life of a bottle, I'm told, is about nine re-uses, before the glass is eroded and has to be sent back to the glass works by the beer company, for melting down and new molding. So, re-

turnable bottles can be replaced by new, on a regular age basis. The more we use, the sooner a uniform size and shape in 10 and 30 oz. bottles can be agreed on by soft-drink companies. Why? Because the cost of handling, in factory and in store makes no other plan acceptable.

Now, as to using no-deposit bottle glass in a road pavement mix (glassphalt) this must be labelled no-deposit. Again, the key is, cost-of-handling. Moving and storing these at asphalt plants, is far more costly and hazardous than moving sand, the main ingredient in road-building. Sure, a quarter-mile strip was laid recently in Scarborough — at an exorbitant cost. Don't let the bottle-makers tell you otherwise.

Cans, either tin-plated or aluminum, are an unthinkable answer. As one time use only, cost higher. As rubbish, the vast quantity of ugly discards, and the extra work sorting at the dump by sanitation workers, are additional no-no reasons.

So how do we move forward? Assuming, as we do, this front on pollution is well worth our thinking efforts, I'm not sure we should resort to tired clichés like "write your MP". Just make a start closer to home. Clip this out of "The Liberal" and send to your mayor or council member, with a note asking him to initiate and support a bylaw to prohibit the sale of beverages, locally, in non-returnable bottles and cans. And back this up with your own resolve to buy only in returnable bottles. The latter can be effective at once. The town council will act if you care enough and indicate your concern. In sufficient numbers. If you differ, and you think your MP is the right man to send message to, include him, too. It is coming up for debate in February, and you can bet the retailers and bottle-makers will be lobbying their private interests. Against clean lands and shores.

"One Small Step" on the right path. By next spring, and with warm weather thirsts, a lot of these steps could bring us a country of lands and lakes free from these eyesores and hazards.

Make a ripple in our little harbor. Enough of us, joining in, can make a large wave. It was done in British Columbia (now non-returnables and cans are prohibited.) It has been done in widely scattered towns on this continent. Why, not help with your personal push — send this letter to your town council, and tell retailer, by your personal purchase of beverages in returnable bottles only. A little inconvenience now, for a great benefit, later.

R. C. BASSETT,
3 Dodie Street, Aurora.

WHY SALT AND SAND?

Dear Mr. Editor:
 Could someone please tell me why the roads are salted and sanded after even the slightest falls of snow (i.e. Sunday, December 27, Richmond Street was treated shortly after 10 am. The road surface was lightly dusted with powder snow, the barometer stood high and it was obviously going to remain a fine sunny day.

Also, has anyone noticed much of an improvement on Yonge Street after the recent alterations and destruction of trees in the vicinity. We really are being taken all round, aren't we?

JAMES WHITTINGHAM,
249 Richmond Street,
Richmond Hill.

We Shall Pray

Clusters of mindless creatures,
 Scarce a move,
 Walking not; talking not.
 Never to be touched by a thought.
 Body, breath, soul,
 Soul lit not by eternal flame.
 Shall live forever.
 Seeking not; speaking not.
 Empty; Empty. Nothing: nothing.
 Reach out; help.
 Lives without meaning,
 Living death.
 Nothing but existence.
 Life? Life?
 Lord, pray it not so.

BARBARA STREPNEK,
Age 13,
87 Cartier Crescent,
Richmond Hill.



By BONNIE SHEPPARD

Just Sign On The Dotted Line

But do be careful. . . Not for the usual reasons, time payments and all that, but be careful because you are putting the "real you" on that line. John Peckitt of Stouffville is a certified graphoanalyst and he believes, "You are what you write and no two people have exactly the same handwriting. Handwriting is spontaneous motor expression of the writer's feelings, thoughts and emotional attitudes."

Mr. Peckitt first called me in November and asked if I was aware of graphoanalysis and its meaning. Since I'm "your average suburban housewife" I replied in naivety, "Isn't that graphology?" Now saying that is akin to blasphemy to the members of the Ontario Chapter of the International Graphoanalysis Society (OCIGS for brevity) of which John Peckitt is president. He explained a graphologist is one who analyses handwriting but has no recognized credentials or training. On the other hand, a graphoanalyst is one who has completed eighteen months of intensive study, has passed examinations and only then is recognized by the IGS. A certified graphoanalyst's testimony is readily accepted by police and court officials in cases of questioned documents." (Is it all clear to you now?)

In any case, Mr. Peckitt scrutinized two pages of my handwriting for approximately eight hours and came to some definite conclusions about my character and adjustments to life. He maintained he could tell "the range and depth of my emotions, the strength of my motivation, scope of my imagination." (Continued on Page 12)

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The Municipal Board As Watchdog

(Ottawa Journal)
 The Municipal Board is best known for its work as arbiter in such as zoning disputes between municipality and public. But the OMB's 64th annual report shows its 15 members — eight lawyers, three accountants, two businessmen, an engineer and a planner — have many other tasks.

The board approves annexations (19 ordered in 1969 involved more than 77,000 acres of Ontario land), and sets rates municipalities must pay for Ontario Water Resources Commission water and sewer works. Since 1966 it has had to approve capital expenditures of all school boards. Its arbitration of assessment appeals has become a major task under a uniform provincial assessment plan, with 633 appeals to the board in 1969 compared with only 243 in 1968.

A major task of the board is keeping municipal capital works costs at a reasonable level. This is achieved first by having municipalities file five-year capital works forecasts for board approval, and by establishing yearly quotas that municipalities must follow. In the past few years the OMB has increased pressure on local governments to limit capital demands to only the most urgent projects.

Much of its success in this area cannot be measured statistically, for the board works as much in the area of "friendly persuasion" as in outright rejection of municipal demands. But its persuasive powers worked to the extent that in 1969 there were less than 2,500 requests for capital works projects, the lowest number in five years.

The board feels its duty is to "protect the rights of individuals and minorities." Those include the taxpayer's right to have a useful check against local council's over-spending.

Etobicoke Resident Conservation Director

The appointment of H. R. Ledingham of 17 Kingsford Court, Etobicoke, as administrative director of the Metro Conservation Foundation, is announced by Elgin Card of Willowdale, chairman of the foundation.

Mr. Ledingham succeeds Charles Sauriol of Toronto, who resigned from the position to become administrative director of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The foundation was established in 1962 to provide financial assistance through fundraising in the field of conservation education.

Since that time, it has played a major role in the establishment of the three conservation field centres in Metro and region, in the continuing development of the Black Creek Pioneer Village, as well as other Metro Conservation Authority projects.

Mr. Ledingham, a commerce graduate from the University of Toronto, has been active in business and industry in Montreal and Toronto and also as a sportsman and keen conservationist. During World War II, he served with the Royal Canadian Air Force, as a pilot with the rank of squadron leader and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He is an executive member of the Board of Trade Club and a member and director of the Goodwood Club.

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