



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

RHHS Play Opens Wednesday Night

Richmond Hill High School's popular annual drama production opens Wednesday evening of next week and runs for four nights to Saturday night.

This live stage show is open to the general public and advance tickets are on sale at the school. Shows start each night at 8:30 o'clock in the school auditorium. Tickets are \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for students.

This year's play "Dear Brutus" by Sir James Barrie is the school drama club's 15th annual drama event. Audiences have been increasing steadily as the proficiency of the young dramatists increases.

Originally called "The Second Chance", "Dear Brutus" probes the question of whether or not people would live their lives differently if they could go back and make an important decision over again.

The cast of "Dear Brutus" includes the following students: Sharon Smith, Jodi Loftus, Jersene Sheppard, Elizabeth Bone, Vickery Cook, Thomas Grieve, Steven Tennant, Adrian Truss, David Smith, Douglas Browne, and Ronald Jones.

Shown at work this week on stage "props" are (from left to right) Lorrie Sommerville, Property Mistress Emily Clark, Assistant House Manager Deborah Nye, and Stage Manager Richard Hay.

Need Homes For Older Children

Fewer Babies For Adoption - CAS

The supply of babies available for adoption in the Region of York is "drying up," and people who want to adopt are going to have to start thinking in terms of an older child.

This was the message delivered by Donald Van Camp, executive director, at the annual meeting of York Region Children's Aid Society in Aurora on March 30.

The number of infants available for adoption in January and February this year was only about half what it was a year ago, Mr. Van Camp told the audience of more than 100 in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The number of unwed parents seeking was also only half of what it was last year, and not as many infants being referred to the region from other municipalities as has been the case in recent years.

"This used to be known as an adoption placement area. What has happened?" asked Mr. Van Camp. "Is it our education program? Are youth more aware? Is it the pill? Are there more therapeutic abortions of unwanted children?"

Not only are there fewer illegitimate children being born, he declared, but many more mothers are keeping their children.

"Surveys have shown that up to 44 percent of unwed mothers are keeping their children. We must realize that this may or may not be a temporary thing," continued Mr. Van Camp. "I am inclined to think it is not temporary."

People concerned with child welfare in the region must sit down and re-direct their thinking, he warned. Many more older children are coming into care, and are staying in care of the society longer.

OLDER CHILDREN

The needs of these children are different to those of the newborn. They have very different problems, emotional disturbances, established behavior patterns. Are foster homes adequate to meet their needs? Should we have an education program for foster parents? Should we be planning group homes? Should we concentrate on placement of older children for adoption? And what about institutional care; should we be concentrating our efforts in this direction?

These questions are a matter of concern to societies all across the province, said Mr. Van Camp. People who want to adopt a child may need help in thinking in terms of taking an older child.

"We will have to assess the situation and redirect our program to deal with these ever-growing problems," concluded Mr. Van Camp.

In his report for the year 1970 he spoke of the "unbelievable growth in requests for service" which has increased by more than 105 percent since 1965.

Much of this the director attributes to increase in population in York, increasing unemployment and housing problems which have contributed to the growing demand for service in the welfare field.

Operations have been considerably streamlined in the administrative area as the result of a review of procedures, improvement in information forms, microfilming, etc.

UP-DATE OPERATIONS

"The board of directors has also undertaken a self-analysis, and they have determined that their role in 1971 should be directed towards prevention — 'spark-plugging' a move towards public housing — studying the problems evolving from the many Metro society wards living in York Region, implementing and establishing a volunteer driving program, and finally, development of a public relations program in order that the population of York Region can be kept currently aware of, and up-to-date with activities in the child welfare field," reported Mr. Van Camp.

In 1970 there were 121 new cases in the protection and preventive area, compared with 114 in 1969 and 201 in 1968.

Workers counselled 152 unmarried mothers and 44 putative fathers last year. New cases in this department in 1969 were 131 and 28 respectively.

Adoption services workers had 210 children on their rolls in 1970, 196 in 1969, and 278 children were admitted to care compared with 204 in the preceding year.

The society's President Rev. Robert McNaught described the year as "challenging and exciting" although the agency exceeded its \$517,407 budget by \$67,413.

The growing numbers of cases requiring attention, coupled with the increased rates for boarding homes accounted for most of the heavy expenses of our budget and left us facing the end of the year with a deficit," explained Mr. McNaught.

FOSTER PARENTS

In the year just past, a foster parents' association was formed and, Mr. McNaught reported, has been functioning well as a source of help and inspiration to both foster parents and the social workers.

A volunteer service project was also organized, giving people of the community an opportunity to share in some of the work of the agency and at the same time relieving some of the staff workers for more pressing duties in the professional line.

"Other projects such as day-care centres and nurseries, better housing development, more adequate family counselling services for the northern part of the country, are being discussed and hopefully, will be on the drawing board for the coming months," the president continued.

Treasurer Willard Fish presented the society with a painting, "The Rocking Chair," in memory of the late Harry Toombs who served as office manager for a number of years.

In accepting the painting, Mr. Van Camp said it will hang in the agency's board room, a fitting memorial to Mr. Toombs, whom he described as "Mr. Children's Aid himself," dedicated to the welfare of children.



DONALD VAN CAMP
Executive Director

parents, adoptive children, unmarried parents with children, and families with problems that threaten the structure of the family.

It shows how social workers, child care workers, doctors and volunteers work together for the emotional and physical welfare of children of all ages. The film, said Mr. Van Camp, is available on request to church groups, service clubs and others who would like to review it.

Rev. Homer McAvoy extended the hospitality of St. Andrew's Church, which is celebrating its centenary this year, and women of the church served refreshments.

NEWMARKET: Planning committee has given a green light to plans for construction of a chiropractic clinic in a residential area on Lundy's Lane. An existing house will have an addition to be added to the back. Final approval awaits a site plan.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 10, SATURDAY — The Victoria Square and Headford CGIT groups are having a Daffodil Tea and bazaar of home baking, crafts and sewing etc. at Headford United Church. Time — 2:00-4:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. c2w40

APRIL 10, SATURDAY — 6th Annual Elmvalle Maple Syrup Festival. Bus tours to sugar bush, pancake dinners, street bazaar, rides, dance and Maple Festival Queen Contest. Maple Syrup available. Elmvalle located 15 miles north of Barrie on Hwy. 27. Bring the entire family and enjoy good old fashioned hospitality. c1w41

APRIL 11, SUNDAY — Teston United Church 11 am - Worship Service, 7:30 pm - Demonstration of new organ followed by selection of songs containing Easter message. Social hour following. All welcome. c1w41

MAY 1, SATURDAY — Rummage and Bake Sale. Proceeds to Color Party and Guard. Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion. 10 am to 1 pm — Legion Court. For pickup, call 884-2934-9323-6263. c5w40

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CURRENT FEATURES

SUSAN PROSSER, PRIMARY EDUCATION CONSULTANT FOR THE YORK COUNTY ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD talks about the educating of children in K to 6.

RUSH II, A MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME produced by the students of York Region.

DR. EUGENE JANISS, Architect for the new "free school" in the Baythorn subdivision in THORNHILL.

JACK MCCLELLAND, co-chairman of the committee for independent Canada talks about this committee's activities.

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CAS Board Too Large, Cost Unnecessary Members Say

York Regional Children's Aid Society reduced the size of its board of directors from 20 to 19 this year, but there are some members of the society who feel it could be reduced even further.

At the society's annual meeting in Aurora on March 30, a former board member, Alvin

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Gamble, of Unionville, urged that the board as it stands be abolished and administration be delegated to the health and welfare committee of the regional council.

Referring to the agencies financial report for 1970, which showed that cost for the year were \$67,413 over the budget estimate for the year, Mr. Gamble suggested that economies could be affected by abolishing the elected board. Members receive \$20 for each general or committee meeting attended, and on the average, said Mr. Gamble this comes to about \$300 per meeting.

Ten meetings are called through the year as required by the constitution, and most members are also serving on committees which meet as required.

Volunteers could very well provide the services now provided by the elected board, observed Mr. Gamble.

East Gwillimbury Mayor Gladys Rolling, an elected member of the board and a long-time advocate of a smaller board, agrees that much could be done by volunteers.

She doubts, however, that the regional committee could take over the job. In an interview she pointed out that this committee is a "very heavy" committee of the regional council. It is responsible for homes for the aged, the health unit and family services.

Mrs. Rolling feels, however, that an elected board of five or six could administer the agency more efficiently than the large board, that public spirited citizens serving as volunteers could fill committee posts now filled by elected directors.

The average four-hour board meeting is too long, Mrs. Rolling contends. It is a good thing to have discussion and get many opinions, but business could be dealt with much more quickly and efficiently with a smaller board.

She feels, too, that some of the work done in committee could be done by the board.

A member for several years of York County Council's welfare committee, Mrs. Rolling says that many municipal and regional representatives do not understand the functions of a corporate body such as the CAS. They may try to cut the region's grant to the agency, but they cannot cut costs across the board. When children come into care of the society, boarding homes and other services must be provided.

"They do not understand the law and the constitution governing corporate bodies."

In 1970, the province paid 72 percent of the cost of CAS operations, and the County of York paid the remaining 28 percent.

"They must cut the budget," Mrs. Rolling admits, "but they cannot say where it has to be cut."

Total operating costs for the CAS for 1970 came to \$584,820.

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