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Should Bear The Cost

There is an old saying that "he who calls the tune must pay the piper", which is as relevant today as in any previous time.

Therefore, we agree with Councillor Lois Hancey that the cost to the various municipalities in York Region (and the regions established in Niagara, the Ottawa area, Thunder Bay and Muskoka) of borrowing money to meet current expenditures and board of education commitments should be the responsibility of the provincial government.

Legislation passed by the provincial government requires the municipalities to make payments to the board of education at stated intervals or pay the going rate of interest. Salary and wages must be paid and equipment and supplies must be purchased. Without revenue from tax monies, the only recourse is a bank loan.

Again it was provincial legislation which set up the regions and made the hiring of additional staff and purchase of more equipment necessary.

Prior to regional government, most municipalities in this area, had their tax rates set by June 1, with the total taxes collected in two or three instalments.

This year, the Department of Municipal Affairs asked to have the budgets presented to it by mid-April. In calling for them by that early date, its officials recognized the fact that these were only tentative figures, that councils had not had time to evaluate all items contained nor to do any pruning. It is customary and, we believe, a logical procedure for each municipal department to ask for the amount of money which will enable it to do the optimum in providing services, purchasing equipment and supplies. In the past, at least, council's pruning sessions have kept these expenditures as low as possible, even at the expense of much needed work, to keep the im-

part on the local taxpayer to as reasonable a level as possible. The Department of Municipal Affairs must have been aware of this when its request for the budgets was made.

The department's intent was to computerize the information and come up with a mill rate for the component parts of the new municipalities, created out of bits and pieces of former municipalities — all with different services and all with different mill rates. Almost four months later, the municipalities are still waiting for these figures. Rumor has it that the formula devised by the department to arrive at these tentative mill rates did not work — nor did two or three other formulae. Further delay was occasioned by the drafting and passing of legislation which would permit the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Dalton Bales, to make transitional grants to these municipalities.

There will be a further delay after the municipalities receive these figures, as paring of proposed expenditures is done at the local level and as the financial staff prepares the figures for computerizing the tax bills. This is all time consuming.

Granted each municipality was given permission to issue an interim tax bill, and all have done so. But the funds raised by these have long been spent.

Mrs. Hancey's proposal that the province be asked to provide an interest free loan to the municipalities until tax levies are received was, we believe, the result of wise financial thinking. Since her motion was lost, Richmond Hill's taxpayers will have to pick up a substantial cost for interest charges this year, unless the provincial statisticians include such interest charges in the government's transitional grants. Her motion, if forwarded, could have brought a commitment to that action.

Little Known Law

Tumbledown, abandoned buildings, which are a safety and fire hazard, plague most municipalities.

It has been known to happen that when one of these eyesores was accidentally (or purposely) set on fire the local fire department has concentrated on protecting nearby buildings and installations and let the flames do their work, eliminating a danger spot.

Some municipalities have tried to deal with the problem by passing municipal bylaws which allow an order for demolition to be issued. But these bylaws, when challenged, proved to be unenforceable and councils have been left with the impression that all the municipality could do, if the demolition order was ignored, was to sit tight, pray that nothing of a tragic nature would happen, and wait until taxes on the property fell a complete three years in arrears. They could then take over the property, but still would have to wait a further year (a period granted the original owner for redemption) before taking action.

Unfortunately, in too many cases, accidents did happen — and usually to small children. Last May one of

these accidents claimed the life of a two and a half year old Lake Wilcox child.

Recently Richmond Hill's Solicitor, Tom Fraser, dug up the fact that demolition of fire hazards could be carried out under the Fire Marshal's Act, with a maximum delay of months instead of years, which is good news to concerned members of council, who had thought their hands were tied. We understand that immediate action under this act is being planned in Richmond Hill.

The one thing we can't understand is that two employees of the Fire Marshal's Department in Toronto were witnesses at the June 15 inquest into the fire death of Diane Naugler, and neither mentioned the fact that such legislation existed. They must have listened to the testimony of Whitchurch Township Building Inspector Marshall Miller as he explained the difficulties of enforcing a municipal bylaw, but they did not volunteer the information that the Fire Marshal's Act filled the bill.

Could it be that they were not aware of that fact?

Naturalists Lead In Outdoor Education

One of the most interesting trends in education in recent years has been the move to get the class out of the classroom, to study history with the aid of trips to historical sites and museums, to study nature in fields and parks and conservation areas, to learn social sciences on visits to other towns and cities, and even to other countries.

Through the summer months and in professional development courses through the year teachers from York County Board of Education and York County Roman Catholic School Board have been broadening their own knowledge of the world outside the classroom so that they will be able to pass it on to their pupils.

Many people from the Richmond Hill area have been responsible for setting up and conducting these programs for educators. When the College of Education, University of Toronto, set up

a course in outdoor education two years ago, Professor John Passmore of Richmond Hill was put in charge.

This summer more than 20 teachers from schools across the province took part in a four-week course conducted by Prof. Passmore. The first two weeks were spent at Clairmont Conservation Area and the second two at the Albion Hills Conservation Area.

Both areas have field centres complete with classrooms, libraries, lounges, dining facilities and sleeping quarters. These are in use the year round, and hundreds of students from elementary school age to adults go there on field trips or to camp and study the environment.

And this year, Professor Passmore reports, there have also been programs at Cold Creek Conservation Area and at the College of Education. Participating teachers study the broad problems of con-

servation and ecology, and on completion of the course receive a credit towards a bachelor of education degree.

The philosophy, says Professor Passmore, is borrowed from Dr. Lloyd Sharp who was "Mr. Outdoors" in the United States for over 30 years.

"Teach indoors those subjects that can be taught in the classroom, but do teach outdoors those activities that can be taught in an outdoor environment."

In the course recently completed, teachers studied plants and trees, birds and animals and insects, tested streams and ponds for pollution and learned why the largest and smallest things in nature depend upon one another for survival.

A tremendous amount of leadership for study of the outdoors has come from people in Richmond Hill, says Professor Passmore. He referred to William Babcock, vice-principal at Don Head

Secondary School, as a pioneer in this field. Mr. Babcock is chairman of a committee on outdoor education for the Ontario Teachers' Federation, and this summer has been speaking at principals' courses all across the province.

Also working closely with the College of Education are Richmond Hill Naturalists Peter and Ottelwyn Addison. Mrs. Addison Professor Passmore described as "one of the finest naturalists in Ontario."

Others cited by Professor Passmore for their contribution to nature study are Richmond Hill residents Russell Tilt, director of parks in Ontario, and Dr. Douglas Pimlott and Dr. Bruce Falls of the University of Toronto.

Of the more than 20 teachers in the summer course, however, just one was from the Region of York... Gary Wynn of Crosby Heights Senior School in Richmond Hill.



Local Shrine Club Honored By Alhambra

During the recent 34th Biennial Convention of Alhambra International held in Toronto, Supreme Commander Stanley Matulawicz presented a citation to Noble Robert Brooke, president of El Shamaly Shrine Club (of Rameses Shrine Temple) which is located at Richmond Hill.

The Alhambra, a senior branch of the Knights of Columbus, honored 23 members of fraternal organizations with citations for their work in the service of God, humanity and country. Also receiving a citation was the George Vanier Chapter of the Knights of Columbus in Richmond Hill.

The Shriners work with crippled children and the Alhambra with retarded children.

The five day convention drew 20,000 delegates and their wives from all over Canada and the United States. Highlights were a monster parade and a huge drum corps spectacle on Civic Holiday.

Biggest Show Of Year For Local Gardeners

The Richmond Hill Horticultural Society's flower show and social at the Lions' Hall August 17 drew the largest crowd of the season.

One of the main attractions was the ice cream social, which has become an annual event. Mrs. Daphne Thompson and her committee did themselves proud serving delicious refreshments with the ice cream.

During the evening Fiddler Stan Leno and Pianist Elsie Patton stirred the blood of square dancers with their music, and several of the dancers displayed their agility on the stage.

Many visitors from neighboring societies enjoyed the very attractive flower show staged by the members. In quality and quantity it set some sort of a record.

The first three winners in the specimen class were Bill Riseborough 78 points, Bob Little 30 points and Norman Lightfoot 20 points.

In the arrangement section points were won by Mrs. George Barker 16 points, Bill Riseborough six points, and Mrs. Vivian Hart and Mrs. Grace Sanderson tied with five points each.

The court of honor was occupied by a magnificent specimen of an Imperial Silver Lily shown by Bill Riseborough and a clever arrangement of one gladiolus by Mrs. George Barker. Judges were Mrs. Irene Hooper of Toronto and Mrs. Doris Spafford of Thornhill. Both are members of the Toronto Garden Club.

President Gladys McLatchy announced a number of future dates of interest to horticulturalists, including the Fall Fair and Festival at the Lions' Hall on September 18.

NEWMARKET: Newmarket's parks and playground program wound up last week with a parade to fairground park. The parade featured the Newmarket Citizens Band, the town fire department float carrying the park princess. About 7,500 children have taken part in the program this summer, participating in sports, hikes, arts and crafts.



By BONNIE SHEPPARD

Things That Go Bump In The Night

Have you ever been to a seance? You know, the kind you see on the late movie, with the small group of believers clustered about the table, hands touching and concentrating intensely on the medium. The lights are dim and the medium trembles involuntarily as she enters trance and communion with the spirits. No? Well my friends you've been missing something.

Pat Krzehlik of Romfield Circuit in Thornhill is a practicing spiritualist and although scenes like this are certainly not an everyday occurrence, she is very familiar (no pun intended) with them. Each Monday through last winter, Pat conducted both seances and lessons about psychic awareness with amazing results. Several of the participants had experiences they describe as nothing short of phenomenal. Joshia Wedgewood award winner Joyce MacKay relates how she was able to dissociate her spirit from her body and observe herself down in the room from a roof top vantage point. Sounds incredible doesn't it? Others contend that they have seen visions of distant friends, only to learn they had died about the same time the visions occurred.

It was in England over twenty years ago that Pat discovered spiritualism and her psychic talents. She began attending seances and healing groups shortly after the birth of her first child. One healing group with which she was regularly meeting was graced by the spirit healer, Dy Fu, an ancient Chinese doctor who healed those in the group who had need of it. As well as helping Pat, he cured a man of gall stones on the eve of an operation. Imagine the doctors' surprise when they x-rayed the man the next morning and the gall stones were gone! Pat tells the story with great sincerity.

Pat believes that each person is psychic and each has the ability to see the future and know events which have not yet come to pass. The key to this, she contends, is tranquility. One must be able to concentrate on one thought and be at peace with himself to do this. It occurs to me that the philosophy reflects this attitude too. The Willowdale United Church invited Pat to address a young peoples group on spiritualism and psychic awareness and this she did. The youths reacted vigorously to her ideas and the scepticism they held when she began her talk, soon gave way to fascination. She had each person remove some small personal article, a watch, ring or necklace and put these into a box. The young people then each drew out an object and concentrated on it for about fifteen minutes. To their great surprise, each youth was able to tell something about the person owning the article. Concentration! Since that time Pat has addressed the group many times. The attitude of her audiences? It sure beats drugs!

Pat also lectures at Thornlea Secondary School in Thornhill for a credit course on the supernatural. Her students are most enthusiastic and Pat herself loves the work. She has had so many psychic experiences that few things phase her. But Pat admitted astonishment as one of her fifteen year old students calmly related details of his previous FIVE lives.

Pat Krzehlik has some spellbinding stories to tell whether they be of seances in the turret of Casa Loma or rescue seances during World War II. She will be lecturing again this year at Thornlea and having what she calls "impromptu seances" in her home. The latter is by invitation but Thornlea may be open. It's a fascinating subject and I did so enjoy talking with Pat. (I'm fishing for an invitation). Take a few moments now and concentrate — it may be worth it!

No Lot Fees

Increase Grant For New Schools

Although the province has not endorsed its proposal, York County Board of Education will continue to press for authority to impose lot levies on developers and/or municipalities to help pay costs of providing school space for additional students.

At its annual meeting August 16 the board received correspondence on the subject from the Department of Municipal Affairs and referred it to the special committee on lot fees chaired by Markham Trustee John Hadfield.

In a letter to Education Director Sam Chapman, Milt Farrow of the department's community planning branch says, "Our Act appears to limit the Minister to considering the adequacy of school site, and this would make it difficult for us to set conditions regarding provision of school buildings, etc., by way of a levy paid to the board of education."

In the past year the board has received numerous plans of subdivision from regional municipalities. In areas where an influx of new families would make it necessary for the board to build new schools or additions, the board has stated it would find the plan acceptable only if a \$900 dwelling unit fee was paid to the board by the developer or the municipality for schools, just as fees are paid for other services.

It has been the contention of the board that schools are an essential service as roads, parks and sewers. It has long been the practice, the board points out, for municipalities to levy dwelling unit fees to cover cost of providing such services.

Included in the correspondence was a copy of a letter from Municipal Affairs Minister

Dalton Bales addressed to Mayor Garnet Williams of Vaughan. Commenting on a subdivision planned for Vaughan, Mr. Bales writes, "I know of no statutory authority for the board of education to apply imposts as a condition of approval of a plan of subdivision. As you know, the board does not approve plans, but rather, like a wide variety of agencies to whom the plan is circulated for comment, they advise the Minister as to whether the plan should be approved and generally provide advice as to the anticipated impact of the proposal in regard to schools."

"Several requests have been made by school authorities to this government to permit them to impose imposts", the letter continues. "The government has not deemed it appropriate at this time to permit such imposts."

A brief prepared by the board outlining its reasons for seeking the lost levy, or impost, was sent to former Education Minister William Davis and was widely circulated throughout the province. Letters of endorsement were received from many boards, and although it failed to gain the majority support at the Ontario Trustees Convention last spring the board agreed that it would continue to press for a change in legislation that would shift part of the financial responsibility of providing schools to those responsible for creating the need.

Meanwhile there has been some assistance forthcoming. In July Education Minister Robert Welch announced that capital grants for school construction

have been increased by about four percent a year. There will also be higher grants on debt-burdened charges.

The Minister stressed that boards will not be allowed to increase the maximum expenditure for school building, but that a larger portion of this maximum cost will be eligible for grants. The changes, he said, will apply to 1971 construction programs, including renovations and portables as well as new schools.

Grants, said Mr. Welch, will average more than 90 percent of nine-tenths of construction costs and will be adjusted annually to keep pace with construction costs.

The board feels that in this way the province has acknowledged the need for relief in financing new school construction. The new grant structure with 15 percent more of debt-burden cost will be borne by the department of education, and the overall improvement will come to about 21 percent more than was received by the board when it prepared its brief on lot levies a year ago.

Dear Mr. Editor

Dear Mr. Editor:—

I wish to express my gratitude to the men of the Richmond Hill Fire Department who extinguished the fire in the upholstery of my car on August 20.

Thank you for your promptness, thoroughness and consideration. Not only do I still have a car but also great confidence in your department.

Mrs. Dorothy Templin, 185 Shaughnessy Blvd., Willowdale.

September 12 At Cold Creek

Family Day & Sports Fair To Feature Latest In Outdoor Equipment

Champion bird dogs and retrievers will be put through their paces by expert handlers under simulated field trial conditions during Family Day And Sports Fair '71, September 12, at the Cold Creek Conservation Area of the Metro Conservation Authority.

Family Day And Sports Fair '71 is a major, one-day display of outdoor sporting activities and equipment by leading manufacturers and outdoor organizations.

It is sponsored by the West Toronto and Hubertus Conservation Club in co-operation with the MTRCA and will utilize nearly all the facilities at the Cold Creek Area for demonstrations of the equipment on display and other activities. The event begins at 9 am and continues until 7 pm.

Don Cowan, of the Ontario Bird Dog Association, will start the hunting dog demonstrations using such breeds as poodles, pointers, German short-haired pointers, Hungarian Vizlas and Weimaraners. Techniques demonstrated will include how dogs locate hidden game birds, and honoring the flush once the bird has been located.

After lunch, Miss Sandy Briggs takes over with the dogs of the Labrador Owners Club and will demonstrate retrieving techniques used in training these dogs.

Also present will be champion duck caller Roy Baldakin, of Wild Duck Sports Shop, who will be assisted by decoy caller Al Glasford, whose decoys have been consistent prize winners at many outdoor shows. They will show hunters how to get this year's ducks within shooting range.

In the Green Barn Theatre, Winchester Western will provide movies for a relaxing break after visiting the many exhibits. The trap shooting facilities at Cold Creek will be in full operation and expert shooters will be on hand to assist novices trying their luck.

Small-bore shooters will be able to use the .22-calibre rifle range, and all equipment and ammunition is supplied and ranges manned by members of the West Hubertus Club. A small fee is charged to cover costs involved in operating the shooting ranges.

Snowmobiles and accessories for '72 will be one of the major attractions at the event which

will feature more than 50 displays of sporting equipment and information.

Other displays by major manufacturers at Family Day And Sports Fair '71 will include:

- Various makes of truck, tent and caravan campers;
- All-terrain vehicles;
- Mini-bikes and trail bikes;
- Tents and other camping supplies;
- Fishing and hunting equipment;
- Appliances for boats and cottages.

Arrangements for other exhibits are still being finalized and will be announced at a later date.

Cold Creek is located between Bolton and Nobleton about three miles north of the King Side road, on Concession 11. There will be the normal park entry fee of \$1 per car.

For further information please contact George Calver at Bolton, telephone 857-1646.

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