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Where Now, Lake Wilcox?

Who knows best what a community needs? The person who lives there? Who eats and sleeps there? Whose children go to school there? Or is it the disinterested, well-intentioned outsider? The objective viewer?

This seems to be the crux of the question confronting the York Regional Council as it prepares to approve appointments to the Lake Wilcox Special Project Committee.

The Lake Wilcox-Oak Ridges communities, like Topsy, were not planned; they "just grew". Thirty years ago it was not too far for Metro residents to travel on war-time rationed gasoline for a summer Sunday or holiday. The unpolluted lake was a pleasant place for swimming, and the beaches perfect for picnicking. Cottages sprang up like mushrooms and everybody was happy.

The war ended, gas was no longer rationed, and the cottagers moved on. People of more modest means, forced out of the city by a housing shortage, bought up the cottages and in many cases winterized and improved them.

But there were others, too; the indifferent and the improvident, the people who for some reason just never could make it, and the hoodlums and motor cycle gangs congregated, making life difficult at best, downright miserable and dangerous at worst.

Those who had grown to love the area, who had pride in their homes and their community, struggled to make it a good place to live. It was not easy. There were problems — water, sewage, garbage disposal, roads. Rundown and abandoned buildings became a fire hazard — polluted waters a health hazard. The churches and the schools struggled to maintain a sense of community, to provide constructive leisure time activities for young and old, to give dignity to their modest homes.

With the advent of regional government last January, Lake Wilcox and the neighboring Oak Ridges became part of the Town of Richmond Hill. A new spirit of community blossomed, and the town council agreed with the residents that a comprehensive study of the area should be undertaken as a prelude to restoration of the new wards.

Regional council was quite willing to let Richmond Hill go it alone on the study. But Richmond Hill, like the Towns of Markham and Vaughan, has its own planning director and planning committee, and these are kept going with local planning. It seemed like a good idea to make use of the expertise of the new regional planning staff, which also serves as a planning department for the other six regional municipalities.

Richmond Hill asked the region to aid in the study, and it was agreed in an open meeting of regional council that a committee of six should be set up to assess the need and to make recommendations. Richmond Hill Council was to appoint three representatives to the committee. The Regional Council was to appoint

three. One of each trio was to be a resident of the area duly nominated by the local community association. Richmond Hill Council promptly appointed Ward 5 Councillor Stewart Bell, Ross Farquharson, former reeve of Whitchurch Township which formerly had jurisdiction over the area as far west as Yonge Street, and Rev. Robert McElhinney of St. Paul's United Church, Lake Wilcox, a relative newcomer to the area, and a man with considerable experience in the social outreach program of the United Church.

The planning committee of the region was charged with the responsibility of appointing the three remaining committee members. But apparently its Chairman Garnet Williams, mayor of Vaughan, was not listening when the region laid down the ground rules. Nor were the rest of his committee. Their nominees were Councillor Robert Pollock of Georgina, Councillor James Jongeneel of Markham and Mayor Richard Illingworth of Aurora — none of them a resident of the area, and none of them nominated by the local residents.

Mayor Williams was not listening, either, when he told Richmond Hill Mayor William Lazenby in an open meeting that Richmond Hill should nominate three people as regional representatives. When Richmond Hill put forward the names of Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe, a resident of the area for 24 years, and Robert Roth, the citizens' nominee, it came as a complete surprise to Williams. They agreed on one name, however — that of the Aurora Mayor.

Planning Committee Member Gladys Rolling, Mayor of East Gwillimbury, protested that the committee was "unaware" of the amendment stipulating that a regional nominee must be a resident of the study area. The Regional chairman blustered that it was all a mistake. Mayor Illingworth and Councillor Jongeneel offered to step down to make way for Rowe and Roth. Councillor Pollock maintained a discrete silence. Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Kenneth Laushway added his voice to those of Lazenby, Illingworth and Rowe in urging council to ratify the appointments recommended by Richmond Hill, but they were outnumbered and the question was referred back to the absent-minded committee.

Naming of the committee is scheduled to come back to council today (Thursday), and since this study, like all studies, is merely a prelude to action, let us hope that there are no more delays. A six-man committee that includes five local representatives may appear to be a bit lop-sided, but Mayor Illingworth is not a man to be ignored or pushed around. We feel that he can be relied upon to be objective, and to make his views known loud and clear. Rehabilitation of Lake Wilcox is long overdue. Let us not put more obstacles in the way. As the mayor of Aurora said at the last meeting of the regional council, "Let's get on with the job!"



WHEAT CHAMP — The winner of the Canadian National World Challenge Trophy for Wheat at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, is Gerald Malcolm Unger, of Alctown, New South Wales, Australia. Unger won the 1971 title with an entry of winter wheat called Petatz Surprise. Shown presenting the trophy and other prizes are: (l to r) "Miss CN", Claudette Laporte, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Plant, Denilguin, Australia, who accepted the trophy for Unger, and W. D. Piggott, assistant vice-president, Canadian National.

Letters to the Editors

ESTATE AND CAPITAL GAINS TAXES

Dear Mr. Editor: I was interested in your lead editorial of November 4 entitled "Negative Economic Policies." While I could comment on many facets of the editorial with which I agree and disagree I think it important to correct one major point of fact. You suggest that the tax system is the reason for the Superfund and other sales but then say "especially estate taxation."

It is true that the absence of the capital gains tax at the moment does encourage such sales but estate taxes at the federal level will be eliminated by the legislation presently before the House of Commons so that this should not be a consideration in any such sale except for any estate taxes applied by the provincial government.

WE NEED INDUSTRY IN ELGIN MILLS AREA

Dear Mr. Editor: In the November 11 edition of "The Liberal" there is a report that the present town councillor for Ward 1 intended to appear before the committee of adjustment to protest an application for a severance in the Elgin Mills Industrial Area. Surely, no councillor in Richmond Hill has ever so deliberately turned his back on the citizens in such a manner. The town is crying for industrial and commercial assessment to ease our tax burden. While there was no great increase this year, remember that this was possible only because of a non-recurring grant from the province of some \$4,500,000. Next year, we will have to make this up in direct property taxes.

general. The weak argument that people in the area might be discomfited was presented. Elgin Mills was widened before any of the houses flanking it were constructed. People generally realize that concession roads are main traffic carriers, and this is usually reflected in purchase price of homes near them. In the case of Elgin Mills, there is a grassed strip along the south side of the road all the way down to the highway. The lowland and some trees have been planted as a sight and sound barrier. Only two houses actually front on Elgin Mills, and one of them is near Yonge Street. That lot will probably be developed commercially in the not too distant future. The town has spent much taxpayer's money servicing the Elgin Mills Industrial Area. So far, only Reynolds Aluminum has located there. No member of council has the right to deliberately cause taxes to rise because of his own feelings. Our industrial committee does its best to attract industry and commerce — are we to have their efforts wasted? ERIC GEORGE, P. ENG., 413 North Taylor Mills Drive, Richmond Hill.

A Child

A child is a dream and a wish, it bursts into the world like the morning sun through the dawn over the mountaintop

A child's first loud cry tells us: I'm here now, I'm alive. I can feel, so make me feel warm. I can hear, talk to me gently. I can see shadows of light, so let the soft golden light shine into my face. I'm hungry, so feed me.

Now he is warm and cuddled. He feels peaceful and secure and understands the first moments of love. He looks up into the most familiar face, the face of his mother. He gives her a big smile, joy and now a loud laugh of joy.

He is exercising his body, on his tummy. Now up go his legs into the air. With shouts of laughter he tells the whole world: Make room for me. I want to crawl and explore everything.

One day he stands up, slowly, with one step forward, one, two, three . . . here he comes with a happy smile and down again, but only for a moment because there is no stopping now. Soon it will be a fast run. A child's first words are followed by new words and with that the days are filled with lots of questions. He wants to learn about life and everything around him.

One day, it is a special day. There is a big chocolate cake with five candles. Soon he walks proudly and straight into the new classroom. It is the beginning of his new world.

LYDIA HACHMER, 95 Cartier Crescent, Richmond Hill.

Wanted - A Big Brother For Johnny And Others

Since schools reopened in September, just about every week brings a new fatherless boy to the Big Brothers of York office in Richmond Hill looking for a man to call a friend. Social Worker Doreen Wright chats with the boy and his mother tries to match him up with a suitable Big Brother. There are always more boys than men, however, reports Mrs. Wright. She has about 14 lads on her waiting list and for some the need is urgent. One of these is Johnny. In a letter to "The Liberal" last week, Mrs. Wright made the following plea:

"Wanted: Man to go bowling, skating or hiking once a week with a ten-year-old boy. A man over 21 whose girl friend or wife and family will share him for part of each weekend with a fatherless boy is needed. Johnny who lives in a female-oriented household. "A hard-working, weary mother will trust her son with this man, knowing he has been given personal and medical references, has cleared a police record check and has been chosen for her boy on the basis of mutual interests and personal compatibility. "Sisters may wish they had such a friend, but all family members will know the one-to-one friendship is not to be shared. "One man is needed mature enough to know he may have to go 75 percent of the way for several weeks, suggesting outings, commenting on passing sights and sounds. A man who will eventually be identified to Johnny's friends loudly and proudly as 'My Big Brother.'"

Where does this man inquire about Johnny? He calls Richmond Hill 894-9121. The phone number belongs to Ronald's Federated, a local industry which donates office space, telephone service, and much goodwill to the Richmond Hill district of the Big Brother Movement of York Region. A message may be left on weekdays. Professional staff may be reached on Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm.

Single Parent Family Topic Of Discussion

The needs of children in single parent families is the topic for the first of a series of three programs to be presented by Markham Family Life Centre in co-operation with Parents Without Partners. The discussion sessions, using a panel and small groups, will be held at Markham Library from 8 to 10 pm on three successive Mondays—November 29, December 6 and December 13. On the first evening the panel will be Ruth Chambers, York County Children's Aid Society; Lillie Johnson, York Region Community Health Nurse; Mario Bartoletti, director, Family Life Centre. Moderator will be Tom Neval, chairman of the Family Life Centre's education committee.

The second session will deal with marital breakdown; legal aspects and the family court system. Members of the panel will be Mrs. Pat Evershed, clerk of the juvenile and family court in Newmarket; Larry Calcutt of Single Parents Association, and Stouffville Lawyer Gordon Ness. The series will wind up with a discussion of the emotional needs of the single parent. Panelists for that evening are Douglas McMurchy of Parents Without Partners; Mrs. Beverly Hurlbut of the Family Life Centre's education committee, and Mrs. Gail Newall, also a member of the education committee.

The public is invited to participate in the series. Admission is free and coffee will be served.

OTTAWA REPORT
By John Roberts MP
YORK SIMCOE

Ottawa Is Not Going Communist

In the last couple of weeks I have received several letters—some puzzled, some angry—complaining that the Canadian Government acted as host to Mr. Kosygin and Mr. Tito during their recent visits to Canada. Does this indicate the Government is going Communist? Are we selling out our friends in the United States? Why should liberal democrats welcome Communist tyrants? The simple answer is that international visits of this kind in no way indicate moral approval or support for the foreign country or its government. It is simply part of the process of opening channels of communication in international affairs. We establish embassies, send official delegations, visit and receive visits, not to indicate endorsement, but as part of the normal process of carrying on international affairs. Perhaps it would satisfy our sense of moral idealism if we refused all such trade with countries unless they met our standard of democratic propriety. I suspect the result would be to place us in a ghetto, in contact with few countries. But would that help our interests? Would it help the peoples of the countries involved? Where would we draw the line? Russia, Rhodesia, South Africa, Argentina, Thailand, Portugal, Algeria, Greece, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran? It would be better if the world were full of liberal democratic governments. But it is not. And wishful thinking will not make it so. We must deal, in international affairs, with the world as it is, not as we would like it to be.

Board Gives Old Desks To Historic Society

At a meeting November 8 York County Board of Education agreed to give some of its unused cast iron school desks to the Aurora and District Historical Society and to make old desks and obsolete books available at no cost to recognized historical societies and museums in the region. On November 2 Norman Jolly of the historical society and Liaison Committee Chairman Deena Simpson, a Richmond Hill Trustee accompanied by members of board staff, visited Lloyd School to examine stored furniture and equipment for its historical value. They found about 75 old cast iron desks and reported that about 24 could be used to furnish an "old time" classroom. The committee reported that a number of obsolete text books are stored at another school, and that the society could make use of several copies of each title that have historical significance. The committee suggested that the books be sorted and approved groups be given the opportunity to select those that would be of value to them. These organizations would be responsible for transportation of the items. The board is also attempting to collect old school records from defunct boards and school districts throughout the region for its own archives. Records were often stored in the homes of secretaries or officials of the small area boards that antedated the township and county boards and many have still not been accounted for.

Students To England In Mid-Winter Break

A field trip to England for 30 students of Langstaff Secondary School was approved by York County Board of Education at a meeting November 8. The students will make the trip during the mid-winter break, March 18 to 26, and will pay the full costs themselves. The tour is described as an English and theatre arts enrichment program. Students will visit the British Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Portrait and Tate Galleries in London. They will also visit Stratford. The participants will be grade 13 English students studying the social and historical background of English literature and theatre arts students interested in studying theatrical tradition, stagecraft and critical appreciation of drama. Cost of the tour to the students will be \$285. They will be accompanied by two teachers, Mrs. Georgia Stein and Mrs. Pamela Beldan.

Troubled Waters In King

It's hardly an exaggeration to state that the way of the new 1971 King Township Council — and particularly that of Mayor Ken MacTaggart — has not been an untroubled one.

The latest ripple in a series of ripples was the recent verbal pasting handed Mr. MacTaggart by 24 housewives at a "World Around Us" discussion at York Pines United Church.

It's open to question as to whether the mayor was or was not handled in a somewhat unladylike manner by his aggressive female inquisitors. The point here is that it did happen, which is further strong indication of a growing disenchantment with the present administration by King Township ratepayers.

And it is also impossible to escape the conclusion that the present council — all new members with the exception of Mayor MacTaggart — have done just about everything a wise body of politicians should avoid doing in such a situation.

With one complete motion they swept aside the format of the previous council, apparently without even so much as a thought about the turmoil they could be creating. They started handling the bulk of the "nitty-gritty" decisions of the municipality in closed committee meetings which were barred to the press and public. This was certainly a sudden and drastic decision to make for a completely new body of councillors.

Then with the turning of the former planning board into a planning

committee of council, it was also decreed that this phase of the municipality's business would also be barred from the press and public. Planning board meetings in the past had always been open, and rightly so.

Adding to the above changes was the decision that all ratepayer delegations would be heard in committee with, of course, the press barred again.

The end result of all this, of course, has been to turn council into a rubber-stamp type of operation with the press picking up any crumbs thrown to it by the politicians.

Again, it's not that the sudden changes in King were so revolutionary, or developed, wrongly in this newspaper's view, by numerous other municipalities. But King has been even more drastic in its policies.

What is really getting council into hot water is the seemingly thoughtless, "don't care what the taxpayers think of our decisions" attitude of council. It's an attitude that smacks of "if you don't like what we do, vote us out".

One lesson the present King Councillors have to learn is that while a new broom sweeps clean, a new political broom should sweep very carefully and slowly in the beginning as well as cleanly.

The lessons to be learned? It may or may not be too late for council to retreat from its present disastrous course. Maybe it has no desire to do so.

Gala Benefit Aids Happiness Fund For South York Retarded

By HAL BLAINE "We need a community residence. What we need very much is money to support our work," a gala benefit for the Happiness Fund for South York Retarded in Southern York Region was told on a recent evening in Richmond Hill.

The event was a Canadian film festival and sherry party at the Richmond Hill Odeon Theatre. Sponsor was the York Central Association for the Mentally Retarded, 321 Enford Road, Richmond Hill, in co-operation with Richmond Hill Cable TV Limited.

In attendance were about 300 invited guests from the towns of Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill. Included were many leading citizens. Noticeable too were a large number of Southern York Region politicians from the provincial and municipal levels of government, both the successful and the unsuccessful in recent elections.

It was an unusual opportunity for local residents to see award winning examples of the new wave of Canadian films. On hand to introduce the films was noted CBC film critic Gerald Prately. He is a director of the Ontario Film Institute and recently served as chairman of the Canadian film awards jury.

The feature shown was the Canadian film "Going Down the Road", depicting the exploits and sad fate, without redemption, of a pair of Nova Scotians. They journey to Toronto to seek their fortunes. Although the fateful ending and earthy language were a little hard to take, it was a real thrill to see a movie on Canadian places, theme, people and events. The short film "Ski de Fond" was a pleasant, exciting, and colorful exposition of the physical and the straining dogged speed of cross-country skiing. Another French film short "Essai a la Mill" left the audience wondering at its doleful symbolism. French and English speaking watchers were equally confused about defining the actual meaning of the film. It reminded one of the last 15 minutes or so of the recently popular U.S. feature film "Odyssey 2000". But the photography was similarly exciting.

The film festival at the Odeon Theatre was complemented by a program series of award winning Canadian films on Richmond Hill Cable TV Channel 10.

Continuing his talk on the program and needs for the Southern York Region retarded, York Central Association for the Mentally Retarded President Westworth Dowell listed the following: • An annual requirement for \$25,000 to meet the operating deficit of ARC Industries, 321 Enford Road,

Richmond Hill, the Southern York Region adult rehabilitation centre; • A capital requirement of \$100,000 to provide a permanent building for ARC Industries; • A capital requirement of \$25,000 as the local community share to be added to a government grant of \$200,000 to build a community residence in the proposed Markham general hospital complex for boys and girls of all ages.

"That's why your association needs your help. Mental retardation is no respecter of persons. It can strike anywhere at any time. It is as unpredictable as the accident that can cause it in any family," President Dowell told the audience.

"We have volunteers, although we can always use more. Our volunteers have been working, raising money and spending endless hours since 1954," he said.

"Jerry Weingold, a former director of the New York association for the retarded and an Oxford educated parent of a retarded boy said, "Although there is a great doubt about how much we can change our children for the world's sake, there is no doubt how much we must change the world for our children's sake." And that is the task to which so many good people in this community are dedicated. Some I know will devote the rest

of their lives to this cause," Dowell said. "I think it becomes clearer and clearer in this world that whatever a parent does for the other fellow's child, he's doing for his own — and this is the burden placed upon us. "Yes my friends, there is ever so much to do. Pearl Buck, beloved brilliant writer and parent of a retarded child, wrote, "In every age, however troubled, there are always heartening events. One of the most encouraging in our time is the awakening of the public to the needs and rights of the mentally retarded child. For too long he has been the hidden citizen — the forgotten one. But thanks to those who know his plight and his potential he is coming into his own," said Dowell.

"Let us be grateful, not only for the sake of the child, but also for the sake of civilization! The test of any civilization is the measure of consideration and care which it gives to its weakest members," said the retarded association president. YCAMP President Dowell, an executive in the provincial government Department of Trade and Development and a Richmond Hill resident, spoke of his many years of experience working for the retarded in the local, provincial and national organizations. Retardation effects three

out of every 100 people in Canada. More children suffer from it than from the total of four major childhood disabilities, he said. Genetic causes are but a small share of the total of those affected. Brain damage, however caused, is basically to blame.

"If you ask what is retardation, I would say it is a boy sitting alone because other children don't play with him," said Dowell. "Retardation is the little girl whom it took years to train to tie her shoelaces. Retardation is the handsome 17-year-old painfully trying to explain something.

"Retardation is parents shopping the medical world because they won't accept their doctor's diagnosis. They want that unobtainable hope their child is all right. "Retardation is the heart-breaking case of mothers and fathers whose fate has placed in their care a mentally retarded child for whom they know not what to do, or where to turn," said Dowell.

"As many as 200 factors have been investigated as causes of retardation," said the association. They include German measles in early pregnancy, injury at birth, lack of oxygen for any reason, near drowning and electrical shock. It can happen in any family. No one is immune, said Dowell. It can happen just

as a child in any family can be hit by a car. "The list of causes shows retardation is something that can happen to anybody. It could be your family or your children's family that discovers after three months, or maybe after three years, that a child isn't using a spoon, or isn't using his crayons or isn't concentrating. Yes, it could be your family that stood outside the doctor's office when he made the discovery a child was retarded," Dowell told the audience at the film festival benefit.

"Maybe you cried and asked why this has happened to you. It could be your family that learned its boy was born with an imperfection in his brain . . . your family that had wanted for the boy perhaps fame — and sports — and a profession — and success. "It could also be the members of your family, too, who could learn that their boy could still have a happy life. That different than it used to be in another day and time, he wouldn't be the shame of his family. And that's where the York Central Association comes in!" said Dowell. "I was asked to speak tonight because I have been a part of this volunteer group for many years. I moved to this community because we had moved our school from (Continued on Page 14)