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Legislation Not Regulation

Two recent attempts by the Ontario Water Resources Commission to impose restrictions on the growth of Richmond Hill, which are not backed up by legislation, have caused members of town council great concern.

In the first incident, described by Councillor Lois Hancey as "strangulation by regulation not by legislation", the OWRC has opposed Amendment No. 3 to the Richmond Hill Official Plan, on the basis that new guidelines (being introduced) will curtail any residential development within 1,500 feet of a sewage disposal plant.

Amendment No. 3, which provides for rezoning the existing industrial area between Markham Road and Crosby Avenue on the east side of Yonge Street to residential use, was designed to permit a steel fabricating plant on Markham Road to move its plant to an area where the noise engendered by its operation will not annoy people living nearby. The Bond Steel site would have been rezoned to permit a fairly high density of population.

The second instance happened much more recently, when the OWRC demanded reduction of the size of the trunk sanitary sewer which will take effluent from York Central Hospital, Don Head Secondary School and from approximately 3,000 people in the southwest section of town, into the sewage disposal plant being built by BAIF in the Bathurst - Langstaff area. The OWRC is using as the yardstick on which to base its demand a projected population figure in the Status Report of the Toronto-Centred Plan, of 67,000 people in Richmond Hill by the year 2000. These projected figures are still negotiable, according to Minister of Economics Darcy McKeough and the town is seeking a meeting with him and other ministers involved, as well as with regional officials to discuss a more realistic figure.

The present population of Richmond Hill is approximately 34,000. The BAIF development, alone, will bring another 33,000 people to the town and other developments will bring the total population approved by the Department of Municipal Affairs to 69,000 in the next 10 years. We believe it is not realistic to propose or even consider that for the last two decades of this century Richmond Hill be expected to stagnate.

Mayor William Lazenby put it succinctly when he told the OWRC in a letter, "If my municipality is to be strangled, I would feel a little better if I knew that the hangman was properly licensed, skilled and authorized to do so."

These comments point up the fact that the OWRC is an appointed body, not directly accountable to the electorate, and should not have the power to enforce regulations which are not backed by legislation. Nor should it assume that suggestions are the policy of the government, before the legislation is passed. All such suggestions are open to negotiation until the final passing of a bill in which they are included by the Legislature and Royal Assent.

We know that town council intends to fight these rulings before Premier Davis and his Cabinet, and we expect that they will be successful in this fight. In the meantime, OWRC, hands off!

Farmers Find A Friend

Ontario farmers found out recently that they have at least one provincial government Cabinet Minister on their side in their battle to right assessment wrongs being inflicted upon them at Queen's Park.

That member is Ontario Agriculture Minister William Stewart.

At a meeting of the York County Plowmen's Association at Victoria Square December 3, Mr. Stewart stated:

"Rural assessment in the past has not fairly reflected either the value of the land for farming purposes or the ability of the farmer to pay the tax load. There has not been sufficient consideration given to the unique conditions that face the genuine farmer who resides in urban-shadow communities. I share the belief that it is not fair or equitable to assess a farm property on the basis of the price paid for one or more adjacent or nearby properties that may have changed hands for non-farm purposes."

He also noted that should any of these lands, so assessed, be required for such public purposes as highways, pipelines, hydro lines or parks, then the same set of values should apply.

All of this coming from a senior Cabinet Minister such as Mr. Stewart should not be much of a surprise to farmers. Mr. Stewart is a farmer himself and therefore can be expected to understand and sympathize with his fellow tillers of the soil.

The question is how successful will Mr. Stewart be in convincing his other fellow non-farmer members of the government? It's an old axiom in government circles that there is always much talk, talk, talk before there is any action, action, action.

But at least the farmers have one sympathetic ear and, according to Mr. Stewart, a few other sympathetic ones in positions of prominence at Queen's Park.

And one ear is better than no ear at all.

It's hoped now that the sympathy for the farmers' plight is being voiced and that some concrete action will follow within a short period of time.

All too often the government tends to move in an agonizingly slow manner even after it has acknowledged that a change is necessary.

One has the feeling that this same situation applies now.

Let's hope we're wrong.

Let's hope Mr. Stewart can transform his personal sentiments into collective government action.

A lot of money, money belonging to farmers, is riding on it.



(Photo by Photique Studio)

York Police Hold Big Dance

Sgt. Harry Diamond (left) of the Aurora Division of the York Regional Police greets Richmond Hill Barrister Alfred Stong and wife Raymonde as they arrive at the association's first annual dance at the Jane 7 Country Club November 26. Over 1,000 persons attended the dance which featured the music of The Spectrums. Door prizes and spot dances also highlighted the evening's entertainment.

I'm Against Pollution

(PROTEST POEM)
I'm against water pollution,
Air pollution too,
Noise pollution is dreadful,
How can skies stay blue?
People dumping their garbage on alleys,
highways and streets,
On sidewalks, paths and crosswalks,
Where intersections meet.
Cars giving off smoke,
Factories polluting the air,
Everyone can see it,
But do they give a care?
Wait "till" it's too late,
We'll realize what we've done,
We've brought death and sorrow,
And spoiled all our fun.
People will start dying,
Plants and animals too,
Everything I've told you is absolutely true.
The moral of the story,
Is buy what you want with cash,
But whatever is left over,
THROW IT IN THE TRASH!!!

PAULINE BIRD,
11 years of age,
238 Demaine Crescent,
Richmond Hill.

Mayor Looks For Santa Claus

WANTED
A landowner with an approximate one acre lot available in the Richmond Hill area. To play Santa Claus to about 115 children.
Qualifications
No bona-fide owner of such a parcel of land will be refused whether he be private owner, limited company, speculator or just someone wishing to beat the capital gains tax.
Purpose of the Property in Question
To provide a site for the construction of a Day Care Centre in the southern area of the Region of York. Such structure to provide premises for approximately 95 under school age children and 20 mentally handicapped pre-school children.
Amount Available to Purchase
Approximately \$100.00 or less.
Guidelines
It will be appreciated that the provincial government, through its winter works incentive program, will subsidize 80% of the construction costs and if finished prior to May 31, 1972, will subsidize 100% of such costs. I expect if the project is completed by May 31, 1972 that the amount of work finished up to that date will be 100% subsidizable while the balance will receive 80% subsidy.
In the original concept the province had indicated that the lands costs would be included in either of the subsidies. Due to the number of requests for such day care centres the government has stated that it will give priority to those applications where the land for the site has been donated to or has been available at minimum cost to the government.
The need for Day Care Centres has already been established in this area. Both the present centre at St. Mary's Anglican Church and this one proposed will complement each other. The Town of Richmond Hill is an ideal location for such centres due to its central location to the population distribution of the region and the work locations of these people.
Day Care Centres publicly owned are administered through the health and social services committee, of which I am vice-chairman, of the Regional Municipality of York. Current maintenance charges which would include staff salaries, building expenses, etc. less income from fees charged to parents using the facilities usually result in a very minimal operating deficit. This operating deficit is also subsidized 80% by the provincial government with the remainder being picked up by the Regional Municipality of York.
The undersigned will receive applications from any interested parties with the above qualifications and willing to wear the usual red and white costume with appropriate black belt and boots, annually considered during this season to personify the spirit of giving from the heart.
WILLIAM C. LAZENBY,
Mayor,
Town of Richmond Hill.

R. H. Horticulturalists Have Active And Successful Year

The culmination of a busy year for the Richmond Hill Horticultural Society in 1971 was the annual convention, special dinner held November 23 in the Lions Hall, where members and friends spent an enjoyable evening. The Hawaiian theme was accentuated with decorations to fit the occasion—tables adorned with miniature palm trees, decorated place-mats and real pineapples—planned and executed by a keen and imaginative committee.

President Gladys McLatchy welcomed the guests, and following O Canada, grace and a toast to the Queen, introduced the head table which included Mayor William Lazenby and Mrs. Lazenby, guest speaker John Britton, Mr. and Mrs. William Risebrough, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Edmonds, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Boyd, Mrs. Hugh MacKay and Mrs. Violet McLatchy. Mayor Lazenby brought greetings from the town of Richmond Hill, expressed praise and thanks for the work done by the society, and for the beautification of the grounds of local public buildings. Program Chairman Edmonds introduced Joe Macerolla, Mus. Bac., Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto.

After explaining the mechanics of his accordion, he delighted his audience with The Jolly Caballero, followed by excerpts from the Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, and later in the program he played the lovely Lara's theme, Around the World in 80 Days, and a lively polka. President McLatchy's remarks centred around the word "thank-you," for her committee "one of the best," the many kindnesses of the members in general and a special thanks to those who generously bestow gratifying donations to the society each year. She also thanked Art Stong for his kindness in keeping the hospital flower beds free of weeds. Secretary Elsie MacKay reported on the year's activities, which were many and varied, including the general meetings, which have had a marked increase in attendance,

Letters to the Editors

LIBERALS GAG PARLIAMENT
Dear Mr. Editor:
I have written a letter to the Liberal MP (John Roberts) representing my federal riding, York Simcoe, expressing my disagreement with the implementation of Commons Rule 75-C in the current taxation bill debate.

Park Christmas Trees. Why should they use imported lights? Do the Japanese pay the taxes that pay their salaries? So what if Canadian lights cost "far more"—using them would help put bread on the tables of the taxpayers who support the Ontario Government.

Though we expect our elected Members of Parliament to vote in conscience in the best interests of Canada as a whole, we do not want them to forget that that interest is not always best served by blind support of all Government legislation. G. DAVIES, Tottenham.

We know that private industry usually settles for the lowest price when it is in the market for something, but we should be able to look to our government to show leadership in providing work and wages for the people of this province. A. FREEMAN, Downsview.

JAPANESE LIGHTS AT QUEEN'S PARK
Dear Mr. Editor:
Ontario's Public Works Department is using Japanese lights to decorate Queen's

MOUNT ALBERT — Mrs. Norma Jackson, formerly leader of the Norma Jackson Singers, was guest of honor at an afternoon tea in the home of Mrs. Robert Stackhouse of Newmarket recently.

In the Spotlight

By MONA A. ROBERTSON

Irving Layton's Crusade For Truth Launched With Latest Book Of Poems

We were among those present at the launching of Irving Layton's crusade for truth, when his latest book "The Collected Poems of Irving Layton", containing six hundred poems, was officially released to the world of art at York University last Thursday night. A small part of the world, about two hundred learned men and women; students and stars of the art world, TV, radio and stage; writers and reporters; one of Canada's foremost publishers, Jack McClelland, and Morley Callaghan's son, Barry, attended.

I felt somewhat unhappy for the world; for Irving Layton's poems claim to tell the truth as it is.

I'm for truth. Don't misunderstand me. But I ask, is it necessary, in order to be called a Canadian poet, to present life and the facts of life, animal, vegetable and mineral, in ugliness and crudely-screaming nakedness. Life, it seems to me, has many undertones, and overtones. There is still beauty, as we discern in Layton's first poem, "There Were No Signs".

The foreword in "The Collection" (Mr. Layton has published twenty other books), gives an insight into this man's many-faceted make-up. Born, the son of a Romanian Jewish immigrant, Irving was brought up—in what we might today term a ghetto—in Montreal. And according to the foreword, which we understand was published in a national Canadian magazine, Irving learned about the seamy side of life, not from his immediate family, which was a quiet, decent part of the teeming world of his youth, but from the tenants on the second floor of the boxlike house in which he lived.

He graphically describes his feelings of power when he performed his repeated, nightly task of broom-pounding the ceiling. This action he said, gained a few minutes respite of peace and quiet from the nightly debauches overhead. He also relates his unkind treatment as a Jew-boy, hounded by two Roman Catholic boys—then pictures empathic and understanding entering his home life after the death of his and the other two boys' fathers; after which the two mothers and the three boys at last become friendly neighbors.

The unveiling of "The Collection" took place in the Masters Common Room, Stong College, York University. Dr. David Slater, president of York University, who was introduced to the group of well wishers and students by Jack McClelland, publisher of Layton's book, said, "As long as there are Irving Laytons with energy and ideas, things are happening." Virginia Rock, master of Stong College said, "I have an absolutely unique relationship to Irving. For I think that no one else can say he is 'Master' of Irving." This could be truth, for Mr. Layton has been married three times.

Irving Layton came to York three years ago from Montreal and has taught several tutorials on poetry. Next year, after a planned trip to Mexico, he is scheduled to do a tutorial on "The Short Story."

This columnist is tired of hearing such nauseous phrases as, "push sewers", as one of Layton's poetry (Continued on Page 16)

Puppets, Films, Crafts Library Holiday Treat

Children's programs at North York libraries in the holiday season include films, puppet shows, crafts, folksinging and magic.

At the main library, 5126 Yonge Street in Willowdale, there will be Christmas films at 2:15 pm on December 23, 24, 28, 29 and 30. On December 21 and 22 there will be films at 4:15 pm.

At Bayview Library in the Bayview Village Plaza at Sheppard and Bayview Avenues there will be holiday films on December 28, a puppet show (Jack and The Beanstalk and Snoopy's Christmas) on December 29, and crafts and stories on December 30. All of these programs begin at 2 pm.

Centennial Library, 378 Finch Avenue just west of Bathurst Street is having films on December 28, Crafts for 6 to 12 year olds on December 29, folksinging on December 30 and a magic show on December 31. These, too, will begin at 2 pm.

At the community branch in Yorkdale Shopping Centre there will be a magic hour with a teenage magician on December 18 at 2 pm, films for Christmas at 7:30 pm on December 22 and 27, and a puppet show (The Old Witch And The Frog Prince, begins at 2:30 pm on December 28).

Other North York libraries are also planning special programs. For information call the main library 225-8891.

Canada And The Third World Is Conference Theme

(This past summer, as in several past years, "The Liberal" was privileged to sponsor a student from Richmond Hill High School, at the annual Couchiching Conference. This year the young delegate was Mary Cooper, a grade 13 student at the school. She lives at 230 Altamira Road. Also attending the conference from RHHS was Cathie Clark, of 30 Harding Boulevard, a grade 13 student, who was sponsored by Richmond Hill Cable TV. A report on the conference by Miss Cooper follows—Editor).

Chief Lodge on Lake Couchiching, Orillia, with about 50 students and 10 resource people attending. Theme of the conference was Revolution and Response: Canada and the Third World. It dealt with underprivileged countries and how they are trying to escape the domination of other countries and also how groups within certain countries are trying to escape the domination of other groups within the country. It also dealt with domination in France with respect to the French, the Indians, and especially with respect to the United States.

who are not the native population. This topic was representative of many countries, including Canada, but the full impact was brought home to us as we learned the truth about South Africa. The next day we heard from Nick Skoulas about the situation in Greece and from Betty Nickerson about conditions in Brazil. Then we broke up into small groups to discuss what we had learned and pass on other information. Resource people led these groups. The resource people had a knowledge of and experience in the topics being discussed. They became our good friends and the great thing was that we were all on the same level. These discussion groups were very important and enjoyable as they allowed everyone to speak their minds freely in a relaxed atmosphere.

four from Tuesday to Thursday was an analysis and a tie-up of other topics. The most outstanding speakers were Joel Carlson on "South Africa", Augustine Mahiga on the "Quiet Revolution in Tanzania", and Clair Culhane on "Vietnam". All of the speakers and resource people had personal experience and therefore knew what they were talking about. For example, Joel Carlson is a white lawyer from South Africa, Augustine Mahiga is a black student from Tanzania, and Clair Culhane is a Canadian who spent two years in Vietnam.

On the last day, which was Thursday, we split up into two groups for game teams. This game was led by Helene Castel and demonstrated how we naturally divided into upper, middle and lower class groups. Before the game began no one was aware of what was going to happen and the results of the game were interesting. In one group there was an attempt at a peaceful revolution among the lower 'class' while in the other group the lower 'class' violently revol-

By MARY COOPER
Last August "The Liberal" made it possible for me to attend the Lake Couchiching Conference for 1971. This experience was very valuable to me and, I am sure, to all the others who attended. The Couchiching Conference is a week-long student conference held at the end of each summer and is sponsored by the United Nations Association in Canada. Each year it provides students with a unique learning experience. This year the 13th annual conference was held at Big

Small seminars and discussion groups played a large part of the program was split into four sessions. Session one dealt with the politics of domination. First speaker was Joel Carlson who spoke on the situation within South Africa. His address moved everyone very much. He explained how the blacks in South Africa are completely oppressed by the whites who make up a minority of the population, and

And so the pattern for the remainder of the week was more or less set. Session two dealt with "Politics of Liberation", session three with "Aspects of Development (Colonialism)" and session

YORK CENTRAL HOSPITAL Memorial Fund
(c/o York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill)
Mr. A. Dow Richmond Hill
Mrs. S. Syme Trinidad
Mr. J. Calver Maple
Mr. C. Dolj Winnipeg
Mrs. F. Cass Richmond Hill
PEPPERLAW — Georgina Township Mayor George Burrows doesn't believe tax increases are out of line in his municipality this year. He said this recently when replying to reports that farm taxes had jumped as much as 100 per cent from 1970 to 1971. The charges were made by Whipper Billy Watson and others at a public meeting held in Keswick.