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Good Idea For Region

Our York Regional Council has been asked to enter into a family service centre program with staff paid one-half by the province. Office costs in each area would be paid by public subscription or by local towns and townships.

A network of five offices is proposed, our Southern York area to be served from Old Markham, Richmond Hill and Nobleton.

Already with financial and moral encouragement from the province, local organizations in Old Markham-Unionville and Thornhill-Richmond Hill have established successful working family service centres on a limited scale. These two centres have been utilized to capacity by the public and have shown such a program is needed and wanted.

These pilot centres have also won acceptance in the schools and within community groups where much preventive social work has been done.

Markham Family Life Centre Executive Director Mario Bartoletti has ably demonstrated his motto that "you don't get born knowing how to live together... you have to learn."

Initiation of the family life centre program here has been given strong and active support by local clergymen. Probably no greater endorsement could be given than that of these churchmen who are among those most often called upon for help by families in distress.

Altogether it looks to us as if the region council would be "missing the boat" if it fails to grasp this opportunity to establish a family life centre network as proposed in the brief recently submitted from the Thornhill-Richmond Hill and Old Markham-Unionville organizations.

We hope the regional council will act in a positive way to this suggestion.

The "Y"'s Changing Image

This week is "Y Week" in Canada. YWCA's and YMCA's all across the country are celebrating more than 100 years of dedication to the spiritual, social, recreational and physical needs of people of all ages.

Founded before Confederation, both organizations were in the beginning basically evangelical. Over the century there have been many changes, and the Y's bridge different faiths all over the world. Seeking to fill the need where they find it, YMCA's and YWCA's are different things in different places and to different people.

In our urban-oriented society the Y continues its successful and popular programs of keep-fit, swimming, camping and clubroom activities such as bridge and crafts and art. It is also concerned with the problems arising from this urbanism, technological change and social tension that touch the lives of all of us.

Gone are the days when the YWCA was "for men only" and the YMCA "for women only". To the majority of people in the Richmond Hill area the YWCA is simply the "Y". Husbands and wives enrol for Yoga and for bridge. Families take part in swimming classes. Boys and girls enjoy the art classes and group guitar lessons.

But all of these are just the tip of the iceberg. Members of the "Y" devote many hours to its international World Service project, raising

funds to assist less affluent groups in other countries where "Y" workers teach homemaking skills to mothers and occupational skills to young men and women.

On the home front, the YWCA of Richmond Hill is studying the needs of the area. Two current studies deal with latchkey children and mothers who do not speak English. The people at the "Y" want to know how many children go home to empty houses at lunch time and after school. They want to know how they can help.

They are also concerned about the mothers who are becoming alienated from their families because the children learn English at school and on the street, and their husbands learn English from fellow workers. How many such mothers are there in this area, and how can the "Y" help them?

It is a time of change, of friction between age groups, of social and economic fragmentation, of pollution and unemployment, of emotional idealism.

During "Y Week", January 17 to 23, the YMs and YWs of Canada are emphasizing the importance of emerging as a dynamic social force in the community they serve outside their buildings. The theme is "People... Helping Change Happen" for Canadian "Y Week", 1972. Support your local "Y" through membership and participation.

Captains Of The Cabinet

(Hamilton Spectator)

Ontario's great experiment in governmental streamlining has begun with excellent material. In Robert Welch, Allan and Bert Lawrence and Darcy McKeough, Premier William Davis has chosen strong, knowledgeable men for these important posts.

Each man will be responsible for a specific grouping of departments with related responsibilities. The job, as the premier described it, as co-ordination.

For example, it will be Mr. Welch's function to pull together the many diverse policies of ministries answerable for universities, education, health, housing, and social and family services, in his capacity as provincial secretary for social development. Each department would remain the individual responsibility of a separate minister.

Bert Lawrence has been assigned to co-ordinate resources development. Allan Lawrence, justice and related departments; Mr. McKeough, financial and inter-governmental affairs.

There's always a chance that Mr. Davis' attempt to achieve a more workable government could backfire. The first team could become just one more layer of bureaucracy, one more place to pass a buck. But that isn't likely because of the calibre of the men chosen for the new assignments and because the premier obviously intends to make the system work.

Logically, it should work well. In the phenomenal growth of government, an almost inevitable result of Ontario's incredible development, post-war premiers have inherited a bureaucratic monster too big for any one man to comprehend, much less control. Even the cabinet, bigger than the council of a major city is a basically unwieldy mechanism, with the premier's office the only co-ordinating agency for 21 different departments.

Now, the demanding task of co-ordinating the Ontario Government's policies in widely divergent fields will be shared by the premier and the secretaries he has chosen.

A Wish On A Winter Day

By LYDIA HACHMER
95 Cartier Crescent, Richmond Hill.

I'd like to be a bird, so light and free, I would fly high, high up in the sky. My movements would be gentle in the light summer breeze, very softly I would glide down and sit in a tree.

Up on a branch I would sit and sing the song of love and peace, I would sing in the light summer breeze. People would look up to me, they would stop and listen to the happiness I bring.

The tree would be my home, so sheltered with leaves so green, They also would play and move in the wind with me. And I would have many friends, flying and singing with me in the tree.

Now it is winter, so cold with ice and snow. I feel for all the birds, they look so cold. I wish for a new spring to come, for all the birds and me, I hope we'll all be happy again in the light summer breeze.

Richmond Hill Girl Finds Excitement Teaching In Far North

(Judy Purvis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Purvis, 65 Bridgeport Street, Richmond Hill sent the following report to us from her teaching post in the Ontario North at a point northwest of Thunder Bay and not far from the Manitoba border. Miss Purvis attended Richmond Hill High School and graduated from Macdonald College at St. Anne's, Quebec. She taught physical education for about four years at Hudson, Quebec and for two years at Willowdale. In September, 1969, she went to Weagamow Lake where she wrote this report, but recently she moved 80 miles further north to a two-room school at Kingsfisher Lake — Editor.)

ing moments in my life developed into one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences. Stepping out of the small Cessna 180 after a 202-mile flight due north of Sioux Lookout, Ontario, I was met by almost the entire population of some 400 Cree-Ojibway Indians at the Round Lake Settlement, situated on Weagamow Lake. I now can understand the giggles and murmurs of the people inspecting another new teacher. The safest thing I thought to do was to smile and laugh with them.

At a week's orientation course in the latter part of August at the University of Western Ontario, all teachers new to the Department of Indian Affairs were briefed



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Lake Wilcox Residents Appreciate Wildwood Library

A well-appreciated addition to the community of Lake Wilcox is the Wildwood Branch of the Richmond Hill Public Library which welcomed its first patrons, including Allen Gore (left) and Ernie Ensor (right) seen above with Library Assistant In Charge Mrs. Josie Fleming, December 1.

The branch library, located in a portable classroom made available by York County Board of Education adjacent to the Lake Wilcox School, has a large collection of paperback books and a small reference collection for both adult and juvenile readers. Inter-library loan facilities are available, so that practically any book desired by a resident of that area may be obtained in a short space of time.

The branch library is open from 1 to 6 pm each Wednesday and from 9 am to 5 pm each Saturday. A story hour is held Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 to 3 pm for pre-school children. The telephone number is 773-5533.

Letters to the Editors

TIME CONSUMING JOB

Dear Mr. Editor: I have lived in Richmond Hill for 14 years, and up until now found it very convenient to drop into the police station either during the day or evening to buy a licence for my dog.

But this year things have changed and the working man pays again — not only in inconvenience but in the increase from \$3 to \$4 in the yearly licence for a male dog. But the increase is nothing compared to the silly procedure that has been set up.

Dog licences are issued by a special office in the town hall and hours are from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. As my husband and I both work from 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday, when do we get a chance to pick up the licence.

However, yesterday I gave up my lunch period, drove 10 miles and managed to find the right office on my first try. The clerk took all particulars then sent me to another office way down the corridor to pay the cashier. Then I had to take my receipt back to the first office to get the dog tag.

This is a prolonged waste of time which I do not have. Are the powers-that-be trying to make it so hard for the taxpayers to pay their dog licence so that they can issue summonses when payment is overdue and thereby make more money?

MRS. E. OHLIS, 156 Lawrence Avenue, Richmond Hill.

MATHEMATICS THE NEW LANGUAGE FOR CHILDREN

I read with interest the article "School Daze" with the subtitle "Mathematics Is A New Language For Children", in your December 30 edition. You are to be commended for giving this type of "nuts and bolts" education its due publicity. A number of worthy comments appeared in this particular article, but I must protest the treatment of the division algorithm. This method of long div-

ision was one of the host of new techniques which arrived with the advent of the so-called "new math". It, like the others, was designed to help the child "understand" what he was doing, and, I believe, has fulfilled, to a certain extent, this prophecy. The fact which needs clarification in Mr. MacRae's article is that this method must never be allowed to be the final or only method of long division. In explaining the particular example which he uses, 24:528, Mr. MacRae states "accept any answer" — and so his solution is

24:528 10 240 288 10 240 48 2 48 48 0 22

By the way, this is rather a conservative solution to some I have seen by students who use the "accept any answer" approach. After a child has gained experience with this method and fully understands what he is doing, he should be encouraged, yes, even forced into making more accurate estimates of his answer. That is, instead of estimating "how many 24's in 528?" as 10, he should see that 20 is a more accurate quotient. Thus at this second stage of development, his solution might be:

24:528 20 480 48 2 48 48 0 22

When the student has mastered this method, he is ready to move into the third and final stage — the much-dreaded "bring down the next number" method. The bilious attacks referred to by Mr. MacRae can be avoided by pointing out to the child that he is writing down many more digits than he needs — particularly zeros and the repetition of his answer (as 20 + 2 and 22). The third and most elegant stage of solution would then be:

24:528 20 480 48 2 48 48 0 22

which strangely resembles "old math!"

An algorithm, simply, is a method or technique for solving a problem. In mathematics we use many different algorithms. The most practical method is the fastest method — although this is not always the way students initially meet the problem. Unfortunately, many of these techniques have been abused, both at the elementary and secondary school level, with the advent of the "new math". But as teachers gain experience with some of them, we begin to sort the "wheat from the chaff" and hopefully in a few years we will bring the pendulum back to a middle of the road approach.

DAVID ROSEVEAR, RR 3, King, (Head of Mathematics Department, Huron Heights Secondary School, Newmarket)

(Dear Mr. Rosevear: Thank you for your letter regarding my column on mathematics. I'm pleased to think we are very nearly in complete agreement. I too, would introduce the abbreviated algorithm as the last stage of the division process but only as you say "When the student has mastered (the last difficult) method" of stage one and two. I found it an interesting suggestion that a child be "forced" to make a more accurate estimate. Most students with whom I've been involved, if they can be shown an easier way requiring less time and effort, need little coercion. —John MacRae, School Daze Column)

IS JACK ALRIGHT? Dear Mr. Editor: Another year, another 365 days, have slipped by and all

the promises and hopes of 1971 are replaced by new utopian expectations for 1972.

Mind you, 1971 was not a year that we should hold high with pride. Bangladesh, the Pakistani refugees, Belfast bombings, the Attica and Kingston Penitentiary riots, crowd the world scene.

Closer to home we witnessed an increase in Metro murders and manslaughters, an appalling record of automobile deaths and injuries, and an abundance of the "I'm alright Jack" attitude that aggravates and dismays.

Surely there was meant, for us all, more than conflict, intolerance, and selfishness? Are curling and golf tournaments, hockey weekends, and evenings at a local watering hole to be the sum total of our 1972 efforts?

Somehow, it does not seem logical that our energies were meant to be expended on the making of a buck, the skidding of a ski-doo, or beggling the boob tube.

We look to the United Nations to find the solution to gain world peace. We expect the Ottawa types to keep Canada strong and healthy. From our local system we demand the necessities and comforts of life... but what are we, the citizens of Richmond Hill, expected to contribute?

For sure, indifference, selfishness and intolerance are not the means whereby we can contribute towards a better year in '72. Perhaps a new phraseology is required. Instead of "I'm alright Jack", how about asking "Is Jack alright"?

Perhaps, we could consider our neighbors' feelings, not just our feelings towards our neighbors?

Perhaps, we can become involved in activities that contribute to the well being of us all, and not just to the satisfaction of ourselves.

Perhaps? ROBERT THOMPSON, 173 Trayborn Drive, Richmond Hill.

In the Spotlight
By MONA A. ROBERTSON
Creative Arts For Youth

We read with interest Roy Craven's Letter To The Editor of "The Liberal" in the issue of January 6. Mr. Craven asked, where in Richmond Hill our young people may go to develop their creative genius. Here are some answers which we hope may prove helpful. If there are other sources for artists, available to youth, please drop me a line and I will include them in a future column.

Mrs. Essie McMullen (884-3580), is a certified teacher of ceramics who is so interested in young people she gives free lessons one or two evenings weekly.

Essie, who has some beautiful examples of her art on display in her Essex Avenue home, has her own kiln, which other teachers and groups in the Hill use. Her husband and son assist her in creating beautiful molds for ceramic pieces. Mrs. McMullen says she has room for eight pupils. They do have to put a dollar in the "kitty" each week, but this money goes to buy supplies for the group, such as underglaze and "one strokes" (a highly concentrated underglaze for fine detail work. The kitty money also supplies the student with greenware — which is molding clay.

Classes would be from 7 - 9:30 pm one evening a week. Essie McMullen says she will meet with a group of interested young people and between them they will discuss an evening for art work, suitable to all.

The "Young Folk" of Richmond Hill United Church, an inter-denominational group who like to sing, play an instrument, recite poetry or act, invite others to join them too.

We suggest you read last week's column for further information on this group and then, if interested, call Mrs. Jean Thompson at 884-8100.

Also, Roy Craven, did you know in Richmond Hill, the YWCA does not mean "for women only"? If you call 884-4811 (the "Y" itself is at 25 Yonge St. North in Richmond Hill), you will learn all you want to know about the following creative art classes:

Crafts — The "Y" says, "Discover your talents... be creative".

Guitar — Group lessons are held weekly with well known Instructor Mark Crawford.

Yoga — This is a class more and more men are entering and enjoying. Beautiful form of "art" for training the body and enriching the mind. Alel Molema, instructor.

Decoupage — "An ancient art of gluing paper designs on wooden boxes, plaques, furniture, etc." Mrs. Norma Booth, instructor.

Macrame — The ancient way of tying knots in string to create lacy patterns for wall hangings, belts, bags, etc., without using an instrument other than your hands.

Oil Painting and Sketching — Inquire regarding availability of these classes.

All the above classes with the exception of the oil painting, commence January 25 or 26; so if you want to join, make that telephone call now.

There is a fee charged for each class, at the YWCA, but it is not very much and it includes membership in a worldwide movement which has helped many people to a fuller, richer and more creative life in the arts.

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