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York Region Could Expand

The bogey of Metro's proposed grab of the Thornhill area has been finally, and we think happily, laid to rest.

The firm decision to keep an expansive Metro south of Steeles Avenue is one of two recent senior government announcements of paramount importance to our infant York Region.

Tremors are also to be felt here from the big things happening just over the region boundary to the southeast. There in Pickering Township in Ontario County the newly announced international airport could be as important to York Region as keeping the Steeles Avenue boundary.

We judged there was overwhelming evidence during the past year or so to support the conclusion that local opinion was almost completely against any northward movement of the Metro boundary. But we did hear from a very few who were for it.

Certainly the York Region Council and the region's constituent local town and township councils wanted the Steeles Avenue boundary maintained. The school board and every known ratepayer group, as well as some other organizations, were all on record in opposition to Metro expansion. A conclusive student survey of Thornhill area residents showed a large majority wanted Steeles maintained as the boundary.

So it is gratifying to hear the provincial government's confirmation of the Steeles belt around Metro. The government has certainly obeyed the expressed wishes and best interests of the people of Thornhill area and York Region.

It wasn't long ago that the then Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough raised the Metro boundary bogey in a statement at a public meeting here in Richmond Hill. It was ironical then, to see the same man — now Treasurer, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister — lay the bogey to rest with his recent statement in the Legislature confirming the Steeles boundary.

In this case at least, it's true that the more things change the more they remain the same.

"A horse of a different color", however, is the situation raised by McKeough's simultaneous advancement of a plan for a new international airport in Pickering and a new 200,000 person Town of Cedarwood.

The plan seems well prepared and opportune in the light of all the circumstances. But it cuts a hole again in the York Region boundary and opens up the boundary issue all over again.

The same arguments that applied to Metro's grab of Thornhill also apply to any airport grab of Locust Hill and its surrounding rural area of York Region. Admittedly the loss of population and assessment is much smaller, decreasing the weight of the arguments to that extent.

So the threat to the region in this new Locust Hill grab situation is the same as the old one just laid to rest. This time, however, the way may be open to expand York Region instead of reducing its size.

It could well be the new region, the province, the airport and the new townsite would all benefit best by an expansion eastward of York Region. We feel this possibility must certainly be given serious consideration.

York Region's Commissioner of Planning Murray Pound supports this view, as do a growing number of our local municipal elected officials. Commissioner Pound pointed out the present economic structure of York Region is marginal, making heavy provincial subsidies necessary. He feels a larger region might be more healthy economically, although this would have to be determined.

The idea of adding another town to the infant regional configuration is interesting. It raises the prospect of a regional system surrounding Metro. Inside the regional boundary the integrity of rural areas could be maintained, except for those regional urban districts to be allowed along the lines described in the Toronto-Centred Region Plan advanced last year by the provincial government. Within the region a life style and environment far different from crowded Metro could be maintained. The alternatives and possibilities for the future are certainly thought-provoking and exciting.

Labor Can't Afford Strikes

The reappraisal of the strike as a means of achieving a labor objective by George Meany, head of the 16-million member strong AFL-CIO was surprising. Mr. Meany recently declared that strikes no longer were an effective weapon and should be replaced by compulsory arbitration.

The leading spokesman for organized labor in the United States based his conclusion on the fact that labor has now become middle class, that the majority of union members now own their own homes (albeit with mortgages) and may be sending one or more children to college.

"Years ago you put people on strike who were making 50¢ an hour. You could go begging and you could get food. You could keep them going. But now the workers have a little home; they may have a couple of kids going to college. You put them on strike, they're overboard within a week. So we would like to eliminate strikes just on that basis alone," he said.

The labor leader is right. Strikes by labor in the past have been a tool which has brought them better

wages, better working conditions, more security, more leisure, better housing and a stake in the community through home ownership. But this very affluence has brought its own problems.

No longer can labor afford to go on strike — the worker suffers, his family suffers, the employer suffers, the innocent bystander suffers because the nation's economy suffers. The prime sufferer is the general public. Compulsory arbitration appears to be the only answer.

At present, when negotiations between the union and the employer fail, either side has the privilege of asking for arbitration but neither side is bound by the findings of the arbitrator.

Compulsory arbitration is therefore needed for the future particularly in the essential public services of police and fire protection, hydro, sanitation, water, transportation, the post office, hospitals and many more.

The results of such arbitration would be binding on both the workers and the employer and strikes would be unnecessary.

Albion Hills Farm Now Open To Students Daily

The gates of the Albion Hills Conservation Field Centre Farm has now been opened to students on a day-use basis. The students will have access to the farm, its animals, and the examples it provides of renewable

resources, such as, the land producing crops and livestock, necessary for man's continuing food supply. The farm is operated in the Albion Hills Conservation Area, one of 14 conservation areas operated by the Metro Conservation Authority. Albion Hills is located five miles north of Bolton on Highway 50.

A modern, practical, beef-swine operation, the Albion Hills Farm is representative of some farms operated in this area and has acreage, managed, to produce a complete range of feed crops for its animals. Prior to this time, the farm had been used only in conjunction with the five-day and weekend "in-residence" programs for students, offered by the authority.

Nurses Consider Role Of Women

"The Changing Role of Women in the '70's" will be the topic for a dinner meeting of the North York Chapter of the Alumnae Association of the Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing on April 10. The meeting, to which all graduate nurses are invited, will begin at 6:45 pm in the Heritage Room at the Ontario Science Centre, Don Mills Road and Eglinton Avenue. Guest speaker will be Dr. Marion Powell, medical officer of health for the Borough of Scarborough. For information and tickets call 485-6205.

Under the new operation, several different programs for children and students can be arranged, ranging in length from one hour to two hours and for varying levels of comprehension. The students see animal husbandry, from the breeding to marketing stages and the farm manager will answer questions on all aspects of the operation, including farming, crop-raising programs, marketing procedures and everyday problems encountered on the farm.

The new programs also include options for children to take hayrides around the farm area, which range from one hour to one and a half hours in length. This may be combined with many other educational activities in the 1,200 acre Albion Hills Conservation Area. These rides are available for both students and adult groups. Adults can also visit the farm on weekends. For further information on the wide range of new programs available under this new Albion Hills Farm operation, contact the conservation authority at 630-9780.

AURORA: A \$15,000 study on the town's sewage disposal plant by Pollutech Pollution Advisory Services Limited shows that no matter what happens to this municipality its sewage plant is going to cost money. Mayor Dick Illingworth said it will cost money to fix the plant "even if we don't build another house in Aurora."



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Spring Is Coming — We Think!

Now the day is over,
Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening
Steal across the sky.

Shadows of the evening also steal across the field in the scene above which has been altogether too familiar in these areas during the past few weeks. The first few hardy robins are back from their winter in the south and the stronger sun and longer hours of daylight are a certain promise that spring will come — and no one will be sorry.

Letters to the Editors

MORE ON ABORTION

Dear Mr. Editor:
I am continually surprised to hear people say, "It is better to have an abortion than to see an unwanted child suffer," and I think it is time to get a few FACTS straight.

First — there is no way of knowing if an unborn baby will be an unwanted child. Sometimes when a woman becomes pregnant, she is angry and thinks she does not want the baby, but when that baby is born she dearly loves him and wants him. On the other hand often the baby from a planned pregnancy is unwanted. Studies done in California determined that of 400 battered children, 90% were planned pregnancies.

Next — this unborn baby is NOT just a blob of jelly as some would have us believe. When the ovum and sperm join, a unique individual with characteristics acquired from both parents is already there! Nothing is added at a later date — he just grows and grows until he reaches manhood.

At six to seven weeks, if the unborn child's lips are stroked he responds by bending his body to one side and moving his arms. At eight weeks if his nose is tickled he moves his head away from the stimulus, and at nine weeks he is able to squint, swallow and move his tongue! At 11 weeks he can even suck his thumb! Granted he is small, but certainly not an unfeeling jelly.

There is then no doubt this unborn baby feels being aborted, whether by being cut up (D&C) or sucked out in pieces by the new suction method or poisoned by salt saline injection.

Clearly, abortion is NOT the way to save a child from suffering.

Let us stop this needless mass killing. It is a crime against humanity — a slaughtering of innocents being done on such a scale to make even Herod shudder.

MRS. LALLAH CALDWELL, 177 North Taylor Mills Drive, Richmond Hill.

THE NEW AIRPORT

Dear Mr. Editor:
I have just returned from the meeting at Pickering High School on the proposed new airport. It is obvious that more than the quality of life in Pickering Township is at stake.

Firstly the map indicates a noise boundary that ends just east of Richmond Hill, which will probably be in the flight path of one of the runways. Secondly, Malton and the new airport are only 35 miles apart. Normally flight circling radius is at least 20 miles during peak waiting periods. Since it is highly unlikely that both control towers can keep track of each other, what happens in the overlap?

Thirdly, someone said that if a plane hit the nuclear power station in Pickering, you could forget about Oshawa. What

about the rest of the surrounding area, too?
Fourthly, apparently the Pickering site was on a selection list 18 years ago but was turned down. Maple was second after Pickering.

Fifthly, the building of Cedarwood for some 200,000 people creates another urban centre outside Metro.

I lived in London, England, for the first 15 years of my life. During that time the governed area changed from Metropolitan London to Greater London. The move swallowed up one county, the size of York Region and made a mockery of the green belt. The planners now say that urban sprawl is out of hand, that to make life bearable the Greater London Region needs to be formed. That is the area originally called South-east England.

Personally I have no desire to live in an urban sprawl, stretching from Hamilton to Bowmanville, when large tracts of land in depressed areas would make marvellous 21st Century city sites.

I believe the people of Pickering feel this way, judging by the way they packed the high school. They are calling on the support of the people of Metro Toronto and surrounding area to stop this catastrophe for all time. Further it was suggested by ex-residents of Etobicoke and around Malton that the facilities there be expanded. Certainly both pilots and controllers say the runways can handle bigger and more traffic. And also instead of expropriating rich Canadian farm and parklands, the government expropriate the subdivisions around Malton, which are now no longer suitable to live in and are hazardous to mental and physical health.

For further information write "People Over Planes", Committee Room, PO Box 159, Clarendon or phone 416-649-2118.

One last suggestion — write your MLA, your local council and better still, your MP (this is election year) and express your views.

Remember the 1984 machine is on the move and once started needs everybody's effort to stop it.

ALEX SHADRACK, Shur-Gain Research Farm, Maple.

FALSE IDEA OF PROGRESS

Dear Mr. Editor:
All my life I have lived in Richvale (now part of south Richmond Hill) and as far back as I can remember one of my greatest pleasures has been going for walks in the quiet natural beauty of a forested valley on the west side of Maryvale Drive, bordered on the north by Carrville Road and on the south by Langstaff Sideroad.

As children, my friends and I spent countless Saturdays exploring and playing in this little forest and as an adult I still took pleasure in hiking through this lovely valley.

You will notice I have written the above sentences in the past tense for in the first week of March, 1972, this irreplaceable parcel of solitude was permanently disfigured and destroyed. It seems that someone was interested in building a vast housing complex north of Carrville Road, a sewer system was needed and so the forest fell prey to the axe, the bulldozer and the almighty dollar.

Now I suppose this might be viewed as progress. But is this really true? Granted, sewers are ecologically essential (even if not aesthetically pleasing), but must we sacrifice natural beauty for their construction? Surely there is a gross contradiction here for a sewer system should be a method of saving our environment, not of tearing it apart. I cannot help but feel bitter towards the Richmond Hill Town Council for giving this incredible crime their grace and I know my sentiments are shared by many.

Furthermore, I can only say that once again it appears that an elected government has acted not in the best interests of the people it represents, but on behalf of an outdated and false ideal of progress. BIGGER IS NOT NECESSARILY BETTER.

They have acted not using the enormous scientific knowledge available to them concerning the importance of preserving natural environment areas, but only with regard to the goal that Richmond Hill and her financial coffers keep growing.

It is time to realize that money alone cannot, and never will, undo the damage allowed by negligent decisions of this type by our politicians. Why can't we elect enlightened humanitarians instead of politicians?

I didn't mention the little fact that this sewer project will not even serve the original inhabitants of Richvale whose land is being laid waste by the roaring bulldozers. It is intended for the new northern subdivision only.

Oh, well — progress you know!

BRYAN SMITH, 18 Edgar Avenue, Richvale.

(Editor's Note — The BAIF Subdivision was inherited from Vaughan Township by Richmond Hill with the advent of regional government on January 1, 1971, and had been in the planning stages for several years. Location of the sewage disposal plant was changed from the Carrville Road area at the request of the ratepayers of the area with the view of its use being extended to them at a future date. Location of the plant was approved by the OMB before the takeover by Richmond Hill and allocation of its capacity was by a Cabinet order.)

SHERWOOD ROAD

Dear Mr. Editor:
We are extremely concerned to read in "The Liberal" that Vaughan Mayor Garnet Wil-

liams and council members have decided to rename Sherwood Road to Rutherford Road.

We protest most strongly. If the council wishes to perpetuate the name of the late Albert Rutherford, there are other ways of doing so. Sherwood Road is the only existing evidence of a once thriving farming community of which the Village of Sherwood was the centre.

We have urged council to reconsider this decision before another chapter of history is obliterated and forgotten. It is unfortunate that we were only aware of this from your newspaper of March 9. We would have taken action much sooner had we known earlier.

MR. & MRS. HENRY BALLINGER, 2267 Sherwood Road, Maple.

Captured In The Hill Two Men Get 14 Years

Two Northern Ontario men, on parole from prison, were sentenced to another 14 years each March 15 in Newmarket Court.

York Regional Police Detectives Clifford Cox and Douglas Tribbling, with assistance from officers of the Metro hold-up squad, arrested four persons March 7 as they left the Summit Motel on North Yonge Street, Richmond Hill. A maid had found a gun in the room, became suspicious and notified police. A saved off shotgun and a quantity of shells was found in the car.

The arrested and convicted men are James Richard Mason, 24 of Espanola and Paul Orel Perron, 22, of Kirkland Lake, pleaded guilty to armed robbery, attempted armed robbery and possession of a restricted weapon. Similar charges against Perron's 13-year-old wife Sherry Lyn and Linda Mann, 22 were withdrawn by the Crown.

They had held up a variety store in Metro March 6 and escaped with \$800. Two days earlier they got \$434 from a Becker's Store on Eglinton Avenue East and were unsuccessful in a third attempt at armed robbery when the cash register jammed as they tried to remove the money.

LUXBRIDGE: No flight patterns for the new Toronto airport will be established over present communities, Federal Transport Minister Donald Jamieson has assured York Simcoe MP John Roberts. The Minister said aircraft noise levels in Stouffville, Clarendon and Ballantrae will not exceed "ordinary street noise."

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In the Spotlight



By MONA A. ROBERTSON

Verne And Marj Dynes

This was to have been a column putting Verne Dynes in the Spotlight. However, as all realize, who have known Verne since he came to Richmond Hill in 1955 (and opened his first jewellery store on Yonge Street, south of the theatre in November of that year), Verne is a quiet, unassuming but very community-minded citizen and businessman who shuns any limelight. Consequently you will not read about the life of Verne, or his wife Marj, or their two sons and daughters (who were born in the Hill), but about their impressions of Manila, where Dynes Jewellers won the World Fastball Championship.

The fact that Verne has sponsored this team since 1956 is, in his opinion, just something he has enjoyed doing. He never looked for fame — but he is pleased and proud of his boys who put Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada on the sports map.

(One little aside: Bill Lazenby is now known in Manila as "the Mayor of Canada" — given this title by the natives for his sincere interest in his hometown team, which took him and his charming wife, Evelyn, to Manila to support the ball team.)

Both Verne and Marj agree that the hospitality they, and the 43 other members of their local group received, from the moment they stepped off the plane at the Manila Airport — to their takeoff 13 days later was absolutely "bounteous". The group were greeted by executive members of international softball associations, city dignitaries and, "Remy Jose" their own personal public relations hostess of the Hotel Sulo (where most of the guests stayed throughout their visit), and luau's were draped about their necks in welcome.

Remy, a very attractive and well-educated young lady, took the wives of the visitors on conducted shopping sprees and cultural tours of the city. The visitors noted that although everyone in Manila dresses pretty much in the western style, very few dresses or suits are sold "off the rack" in the department stores. However, the sales staff were smiling, helpful and pleasant persons, very much appreciated by the shoppers. Later Remy took those who wanted dresses or outfits made to her own dressmaker. This entailed a fitting and only a three-day wait. Some very lovely costumes will probably be seen later in the year on their wearers in Richmond Hill.

Groups of twelve travelled about town in "Geepneys" (there are 6,000 such vehicles on the streets of Manila), all gaily decorated with bright paint and colored curtains and slogans. Invariably each geepney, taxi or bus had a religious picture suspended from the front of the vehicle. It was not unknown for bus drivers to depart from their regular routes to drive a group anywhere they wanted to go! Just another way of being helpful. Marj Dynes says, "It was this endearing, good comradeship we received from everyone that made our visit so memorable."

Even during the games — particularly when the Philippines team was bested by Richmond Hill, the response to the Canadians was tremendous. It was apparent throughout the games that the Canadian team was first second, then the first choice favorites of the native people.

Included in the "sights" visited were: the beautiful new cultural centre, housing the arts and a museum as well as a theatre — The latter could only be compared with Toronto's new St. Lawrence Centre in beauty. Here the auditorium had red carpeting, a low ceiling and a stage which came right out into the centre of the theatre. Prices ran from "very moderate" so that everyone can afford to attend. But even the best seats in the house are much lower than those here, Marj said.

The Sports Centre, another new venture, is ultra-modern.

A visit was made by all the group to the "Philippine Village." Marj said this is along the same line of our Black Creek Pioneer Village, incorporating as it does the local history of the City of Manila and its surrounding islands. They also toured Corrigidor — the big, rocky fortress built in 1903; which was taken over by the Japanese in World War II. The remains of the barracks may still be seen, likewise a YMCA building and an American hospital. The site was levelled by the Japanese, and 5,000 of their troops committed Hari Kari there at the end of their occupation. Another sight was Tall Lake, in the mountains. This is a lake within a lake in a volcano.

"Just say, 'They were wonderful' — they couldn't do enough to make our stay memorable", Verne and Marj told us. The final days of their stay marked a performance of 500 teachers, male and female who performed their national dances, wearing national colorful garb, in the stadium field, at the close of the winning game. This was followed by a Victor's Party at the Plaza Restaurant, where a bouquet of red roses — symbol of the town of Richmond Hill's slogan, "In The Rose We Flourish" — was complimented with tiny white flowers (resembling lily of the valley) called "Sampaquittas", the Philippine's national flower.

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