



# SCHOOL DAZE

By John MacRae

## Release From Winter Break

Well, Mom and Dad, that horrible week of holidays finally came to an end. I noticed the signs of strain on the faces of many parents. As the week progressed their voices became a little more shrill, their steps a little more involuntary, their eyes a little more furtive.

We had coffee on Friday with our neighbor. She served us mugs in her kitchen. (Even the mugs shook so cups and saucers would have been impossible). She sat on the edge of her seat, smiled thinly and asked if I wanted cream. She knocked it over in my direction when her child came screaming in to tell her there was a bird in the backyard. I caught enough cream over the edge of the table to do and suggested to the child that he get dressed and go catch the bird. Instead, he pulled up a chair and sat between us to talk. He demanded all of our attention. The adult conversation was punctuated with his peremptory requests for sugar (3 times) milk (twice) cookies (5 times) and the butter which he insisted lavishing on his cookies. When we still seemed able to talk over, around and through him, he tried a new tack — he discovered a scratch on his finger and wailed until his mother cured it with a band aid.

I never cease to be amazed at the body's resilience, nor at the great compassion of the Creator who works in such mysterious ways to bring solace to the beleaguered. God scheduled his favorite TV programme just at that time and between commercials my neighbor explained why she wasn't letting Billy out of the house. On Wednesday he had gone out and despite dire warnings, had wandered six blocks to the plaza. His distraught mother found him at 6 pm trying to get gum out of a machine by inserting tinfoil and shaking it down. When I inquired as to the nature of his punishment his mother bleakly informed me that he hadn't been allowed out of the house since. His friends had been allowed in until a penalty shot broke a lamp in the family room. Now he was really being punished — he wasn't allowed out and his friends weren't allowed in either. Billy accepted this philosophically, made his mother a playmate, bombarded her with conversation to the point where she was very nearly a complete nervous wreck. She tearfully asked me what she could do. Retroactive birth control seemed logical but unfortunately impractical.

I have watched this child manipulate both parents since he was born. At six months a cry from the nursery brought one of them running to find out if a "bad old pin" was causing his discomfort. If they hadn't been in such a rush they would have noticed that the crying stopped as soon as their steps could be heard in the hall. Billy had never known a playpen because "he's so active he needs more room". Dinky toys were allowed on the coffee table because "they don't roll well on the carpet." They'd never been able to keep him in his own yard because shutting the gate seemed like "putting him in jail." Trucks and cars manoeuvred around him as he played with his tricycle on the road. His parents were amazed and secretly proud of this display of his courage and bravery in the face of such danger.

September of his kindergarten year was a traumatic month. Mother pushed him screaming through the door and then ran tearfully home herself. He didn't do much that year because as Dad said, "he seemed bored by it all — they just sing and paint anyway." Unfortunately, Grade 1 reading didn't turn him on either. The teacher commented that Billy "was immature, very dependent, required enormous amounts of individual attention, lacked interest in doing any kind of phonics or reading seat-work although he liked to participate in oral discussions of stories read to him". His parents hope desperately that the school psychologist (whom they requested be involved) will find some perceptual problem, that great catch-all invented by the schools to explain poor progress without implying a lack of pupil intelligence or a weakness of the parents.

When Billy's TV programme ended, I left. His mother's parting shot was aimed at those overpaid teachers who spent the whole week in the Florida sunshine. If one mother can become so upset after one week with one child, I sympathize with any teacher who has spent ten weeks with thirty kids. Maybe we should have paid her air fare.



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH STEPHENSON (Photo by Stuart's Studio)

## Fifty Golden Years

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stephenson of Don Mills Road will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary this coming Saturday (April 1) at a reception in Victoria Square Community Hall.

They were married in Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill, by the Rev. Canon William McDonald March 29, 1922, and farmed for 44 years on 18th Avenue and Leslie Street before retiring to Don Mills.

The Stephensons have two sons, Donald and Lawrence and seven grandchildren, who reside on adjoining farms near Everett, north of Alliston.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson are members of Victoria Square United Church and Mr. Stephenson is a member of the Victoria Square and District Lions Club.

His fellow Lions join with friends, neighbors and relatives in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson on this happy event and in wishing them many more years of happiness and community service.

## Don Head Farms Foreman Fatally Hurt

### Maple Sideroad Accidents Kill 2

Accidents on Major Mackenzie Drive (formerly Maple Road) in Vaughan Town killed an elderly Vaughan resident and a 14-year-old Downsview boy last week.

Charged with criminal negligence causing death and failing a breathalyzer test is Keswick driver Leonard Millard, 56, of 20 South Park Road, according to York Region Police.

Millard was arrested after an eastbound 1972 model Chevrolet automobile fatally injured a pedestrian at about 6 pm on Tuesday of last week on Major Mackenzie Drive east of Dufferin Street.

**DIED IN HOSPITAL**

Pedestrian William Waller, 68, an employee of nearby Don Head Farms, RR 2, Maple, died four hours later at York Central Hospital. At Don Head Farms for 27 years, Waller was foreman of outside workers there for a long time.

Police said the accident took place in clear, dry daylight conditions. Millard appeared in Richmond Hill Provincial Court on Thursday of last week and was remanded until April to set a trial date.

Waller is survived by a brother Albert of 9740 Bathurst Street, Vaughan and two sisters in Birmingham, England, Florence (Mrs. William Lloyd) and Miss Maude Waller.

The funeral was Friday afternoon from Marshall Funeral Home, 126 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill with interment at Maple Cemetery.

The other Major Mackenzie Drive death last week took place at Sick Children's Hospital in Metro on Wednesday, nearly three weeks after a March 4 two-car collision at Jane Street between Maple and

## COMING EVENTS

- APRIL 2, SUNDAY 10-6 — Antique, show and sale, Lions Hall, 106 Centre Street East, Richmond Hill. Furniture, china, glass, silver, jewellery, brass, pictures, Bargains galore. Sale held first Sunday every month. Donation to Leukemia Fund. clw40
- APRIL 6, THURSDAY 8 pm — In Thornhill United Church, Dudley Avenue the third annual meeting of the Richmond Hill and Thornhill Area Family Services. The public is warmly invited to meet the new Executive Director and four of the counselling staff. clw40
- APRIL 8, SATURDAY — Rummage sale, 1-3 pm at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Sponsored by CWL. c5w37
- APRIL 8th, SATURDAY — Rummage sale, 10 am to 1 pm, at Senior Citizen's Day Centre, Legion Court. \*2w40
- APRIL 8, SATURDAY — Rummage sale 10-12 noon at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Maple. clw40
- APRIL 8, SATURDAY — Rummage Sale 10-12 noon — At St. Gabriel's Anglican Church, Bayview and Crosby Avenues, good used clothing, white elephant, remnant tables. c2w40

## Family Life Centre Extend Correspondence Deadline Amendment To Zoning Bylaw

(Continued From Page 1)

ferred to groups of interested individuals and churches which in the past have helped support these services.

The proposed co-ordinated operating policy would hold local units responsible for developing their own programs in conjunction with representatives of the region. Directors and other staff would be employees of the region and would be hired and dismissed by the region, being responsible to the commissioner of the department of health and social services. Fees paid by clients would be paid into the region and taken into account in payment of subsidy.

Under the integrated program, the director of family services would become director of family and youth services. These services would also be co-ordinated in use of counselling interns to augment staff. Boards of directors for family and youth services would be integrated.

In bringing in revised estimates the other week, however, the health and social services committee struck out the family life services and cut its allotment for youth aid. Original estimate for youth aid centres was \$20,000. Revised estimate was for \$6,825.

The citizen observers at the meeting last week came prepared with submissions to council in support of regional financing of the family and youth services. There were representatives from the Richmond Hill - Thornhill Family Service Centre, Markham Family Life Centre, Richmond Hill Youth Aid Centre, Newmarket Youth Aid Centre, 3C Council, Richmond Hill Social Planning Council, the Ministerial Associations of Newmarket, Aurora, Richmond Hill, Thornhill and Markham, as well as some who described themselves as "interested citizens."

In a letter to the committee, Rev. George Young of Emmanuel Anglican Church, Richvale, president of Richmond Hill Social Planning Council, said the Youth Aid Centre has recently hired a director, Mrs. Natalie LaRoche and the centre is carrying on an extensive program in conjunction with mental health services, school guidance departments and other groups. It is, said Young, making a real and valid contribution in the field of preventive medicine.

The recently appointed director of the Richmond Hill - Thornhill Family Services, Dr. Frank Fidler, told "The Liberal" the demand for counselling is growing by leaps and bounds since he moved into his office in Richmond Hill United Church February 1. In one day, he said, there were five requests for counselling. There are about 40 people counselled each week on marital, family and individual problems and plans are underway for a group counselling program.

**RICHMOND HILL LIONS CLUB**  
**BINGO**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 3**  
**LIONS HALL**  
 106 Centre St. East  
**STARTING TIME — 8 P.M.**  
 Early Birds 7:40 p.m.  
 20 REGULAR GAMES — 3 SPECIAL GAMES  
**JACKPOT \$500 - 52 No.'s**

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If you are a wholesaler, retailer, or supplier of services, you will have received a census questionnaire to complete. Please fill it in and mail it back promptly.

When the Census of Merchandising and Service Businesses has been taken, we will be able to produce a clear picture of national trends in these fields, so you can see exactly where you fit in.

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Your individual information will continue to be held in strictest confidence, as required by law. We won't publish figures in cases where there are fewer than three firms in a given category, so no one will be able to identify your specific results.

The Merchandising and Service Division of Statistics Canada is taking this census to produce accurate, up-to-date information to help in your business planning. To do this, it needs your up-to-date results. The breadth and thoroughness of the census is what makes it so important to so many people in business and government alike.

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REGULAR VALUE \$3.29 Yd.	MILL OUTLET PRICE	<b>\$2.00</b> Yd.
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**CORRECTION:** This item was incorrectly described and priced in last week's ad. We are deeply sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

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