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YRP Public Relations

A four-hour course in public relations for members of the York Regional Police was promised by Police Chief Bruce Crawford last week. We agree it is a good idea. It could well be the success of law enforcement depends on how officers deal with the public rather than on the number of court convictions they manage to get.

parents were refused a police escort while on the way to hospital with a profusely bleeding blood-stained child. The child needed 602 stitches for the injuries.

We aren't told exactly what the officer's preoccupation was when he refused to turn his cruiser around and clear the way through traffic. We only know he offered the chief of police no satisfactory excuse and was severely reprimanded.

Certainly it appears he acted with very poor judgment when he didn't immediately provide assistance. The YRP have adopted the slogan "To Serve And Protect" and prominently display it for all to see. If they are going to have this motto taken seriously by the public, there can't be many more unfortunate incidents like this.

In such a case any decent citizen would provide whatever assistance was asked. Surely an even greater duty falls on a policeman. Certainly that public relations course is needed. It will at least be a step in the right direction.

There is evidence this unusual injured-child incident may not be a matter to be viewed in isolation. It was only about eight weeks earlier that elected members of York Region Council had a session with police officials, apparently for the purpose of airing in private an accumulation of complaints and criticisms received from residents.

Even if the public is reacting to the regional reorganization of police only because of a natural human resistance to change, the members of the YRP should be going all out to brighten their human relations image.



At least one member of the force could certainly benefit from such a course, we believe. He is the officer who recently was involved in a now almost notorious incident. This was the case in which frantic Aurora

Most Bicycles Unsafe

One of the greatest hazards a motorist faces is the bicyclist on the highway or neighborhood road. The appearance of a single young cyclist weaving across the road has been known to cause the most experienced driver of a motor vehicle to blanch with fear. The greater the number of cyclists, the greater the fear of a tragic accident resulting in serious injury and even death.

Parents are, we believe, also greatly concerned about the safety of their youngsters out on the roads on their bikes — and the general public shows its concern by tolerating bicycles on sidewalks even though this is illegal.

The present trend to greater use of bicycles by all age groups, whether for ecological reasons or merely as a pleasant pastime, should make us all more aware of the safety factors and should make it imperative for cyclists and parents to take the utmost precautions.

The first step is to see that the bicycle is the right size. The second is to ensure that it is roadworthy and carries all required equipment in operating condition. The local police or Safety Officer Constable Doug Young will inspect bicycles for safety on request.

Many bicycles have been checked during the York Regional Police safety programs in elementary schools, others have been checked at bicycle road-eos sponsored by the Cubs and service clubs. The alarming fact from these inspections is that very few bicycles in use are "safe".

The bicycle fads such as "Mustang" handlebars and the present very popular racing types have built-in dangers, in spite of their popularity. The high handlebars make control of the two-wheeled vehicle difficult — the racer's tires are so narrow that they can drop into the slots in drain gratings, hurling the rider on to the pavement and under the wheels of passing cars.

A further and most important step is that the users of bicycles learn and

observe the rules of the road. They must be discouraged from deliberately tantalizing car drivers by weaving all over the road. This can lead only to disaster and the onus is on the parents to see that this is not practised. If it occurs, loss of bicycle privileges for a time might be the most effective cure.

Night riding is even more dangerous than cycling in the daytime. If you think there's a chance you might be driving your bicycle at night, put a white or amber light on the front and a red reflector on the back.

It seems very few citizens realize it, but in addition to lights for night riding, you must have white reflective material 10 inches long and one inch wide on the front forks. There also must be the same size of red reflector material on the back of the bicycle.



If your local retailer cannot supply you with this reflective material — and by law you must have it to operate a bike at night — you can write to the Ontario Safety League, 409 King Street West, Toronto. Include a self-addressed envelope and 25 cents for each package of reflective tape. Allow one package per bicycle.

A much greater effort is necessary, we feel — by parents, schools, organizations and police — to assure the bicycles on our roads and streets are safe. The present situation is bad. If action isn't taken now, a serious accident may provide a rude awakening.

Council On Children Could Combat Delinquency Explosion

By HAL BLAINE
News Editor

The more the so-called "teenage problem" is discussed, the more it seems to remain the same. Or rather, the more it seems to continue to grow bigger.

And timorous surely, must be the newspaperman who would dare to say he has found the key to curing the plague, or epidemic, or whatever it is which is raging through the teenage population.

Yet an answer, or a part of an answer, turned up the other day which may be worthy of some consideration.

An early identification of the teenage epidemic's symptoms, at least for one area, came about eight years ago from a concerned and alert probation officer in a provincial court house perhaps a thousand miles from Richmond Hill. Commenting to the judge on the problems of dealing with the then problems of teenagers, that probation officer said he felt there seemed to be a strange new malignant influence spreading ever more widely among the teenagers.

That remark set this reporter digging to find out if there were truly something new going on. Police, education, welfare and other such officials agreed there could well be such a malign influence working among the youth. But nobody had their finger on it and nobody had any facts to prove it existed. There was only the intuition of that probation officer.

Next step was to study crime and population statistics to see if there was any obvious teenage crime increase evident. Here something solid turned up. Government statistics showed the rate of increase in teenage crime in that provincial capital was steadily outstripping the rate of teen population increase. This was during the decade from about 1954 to 1964.

Questioned about this statistical evidence, law enforcement and social service

officials had no explanation and knew of no action to be taken or being taken, to combat any behavioral epidemic among teenagers.

At that point the only thing to do was to report the statistical evidence of a serious teenage situation to inform and warn the public. The question of answers to that other provincial court dead end, but such a question stays in the back of the mind watching for answers. No answers were noted during the intervening years. There continued to be an "ad hoc" public awareness of a teenage problem, parents continued to despair, law enforcement officials continued to report growing crime rates and teenagers continued to crowd the courts. There was a new twist contributed by the "drug scene".

Every week in Richmond Hill Provincial Court, as in that other provincial court a thousand miles away, there is still that stream of confused and troubled teenagers. Our York Regional Police Commission each month hears a report of increased incidence of crime, but has to be satisfied with the police chief's assurance that at least the increase is lower than is general elsewhere in North America. Most of the crime is reported to be among the young.

Still it seems that nobody, anywhere, is coming to grips with all this. The trend isn't being stemmed and there appears to be nobody who sees a way to reverse it. It seems as if there is even a lack of serious efforts to study teenage delinquency.

However, at a recent gathering an expert in behavioral science gave an exciting talk and that question of "Why a teenage epidemic?" came off its shelf again. The talker that seemed to be throwing out a flash of light was also a provincial education official specializing in work with problem children, dropouts and non-learners.

Attention was drawn by that speaker to a book just published in 1970 by the

Russell Sage Foundation of New York. This foundation was established over half a century ago "for the improvement of social and living condition in the United States" and "to improve the utilization of social science knowledge".

Here for the first time appeared an experienced expert's identification of our now almost-two-decades-old "teenage epidemic" and the formulation of an approach toward solving the problem. And it seems to "hold some water", being well reasoned, coming from a leading world expert with experience including the US federal "head start" program for under-

privileged under-achievers, and from the outside vantage point of special foundation sponsored studies in Europe and the East.

The ideas put forward aren't all that new and most thinking people here are already aware of the social ills involved. But it is a revelation to read this exposition of the mechanics of this "teenage epidemic" which is apparently confined to the English speaking popu-

lations of North America and Europe.

The cure suggested seems to bore down on finding new ways to involve young children more of the time with older children, teenagers and adults — while involving teenagers more of the time with adults. This is to give them enough of a chance to learn mature behavior. They can't learn it from their peers in age, with whom they spend almost all their time at school and at play.

As usual, a novelist has put his finger on the problem before everyone else, in the recently well known story "Lord Of The Flies".

thinking, the individual family is powerless before the onslaught of the teenage contagion we face. Individual parents need not feel guilty, necessarily, for the failure of their children to reach a higher degree of social maturity. Still, the adult population collectively must shoulder the responsibility for allowing the community structures and social conditions which nourish the "teenage epidemic".

... the family, primarily because of changes in the larger social order beyond its (the family's) control, is no longer in a position to exercise its responsibilities. As for the school—in which the child spends most of his time — it is debarré by tradition, lack of experience, and preoccupation with subject matter, from concerning itself in any major way with the child's development as a person," says Bronfenbrenner in his summary.

"Questions of conduct (in the school) become of legitimate concern only if they 'interfere with the lesson'. The vacuum, moral and emotional, created by this state of affairs is then filled—by default—on the one hand by the television screen with its daily message of commercialism and violence, and on the other by the socially isolated, age-graded peer group, with its impulsive search for thrills and its limited capacities as a humanizing agent."

The author also tabulates and reports how experiments have shown that film violence de-humanizes even adults, without their knowing it.

"It is noteworthy that, of all the countries in which my colleagues and I are working, now numbering half a dozen both in West and East, the only one which exceeds the United States in the willingness of children to engage in antisocial behavior is the nation closest to us in our Anglo-Saxon traditions of individualism. That country is England, the home of the Mods and the Rockers, the Beatles and the

Rolling Stones, and our principal competitor in tabloid sensationalism, juvenile delinquency and violence," writes Bronfenbrenner.

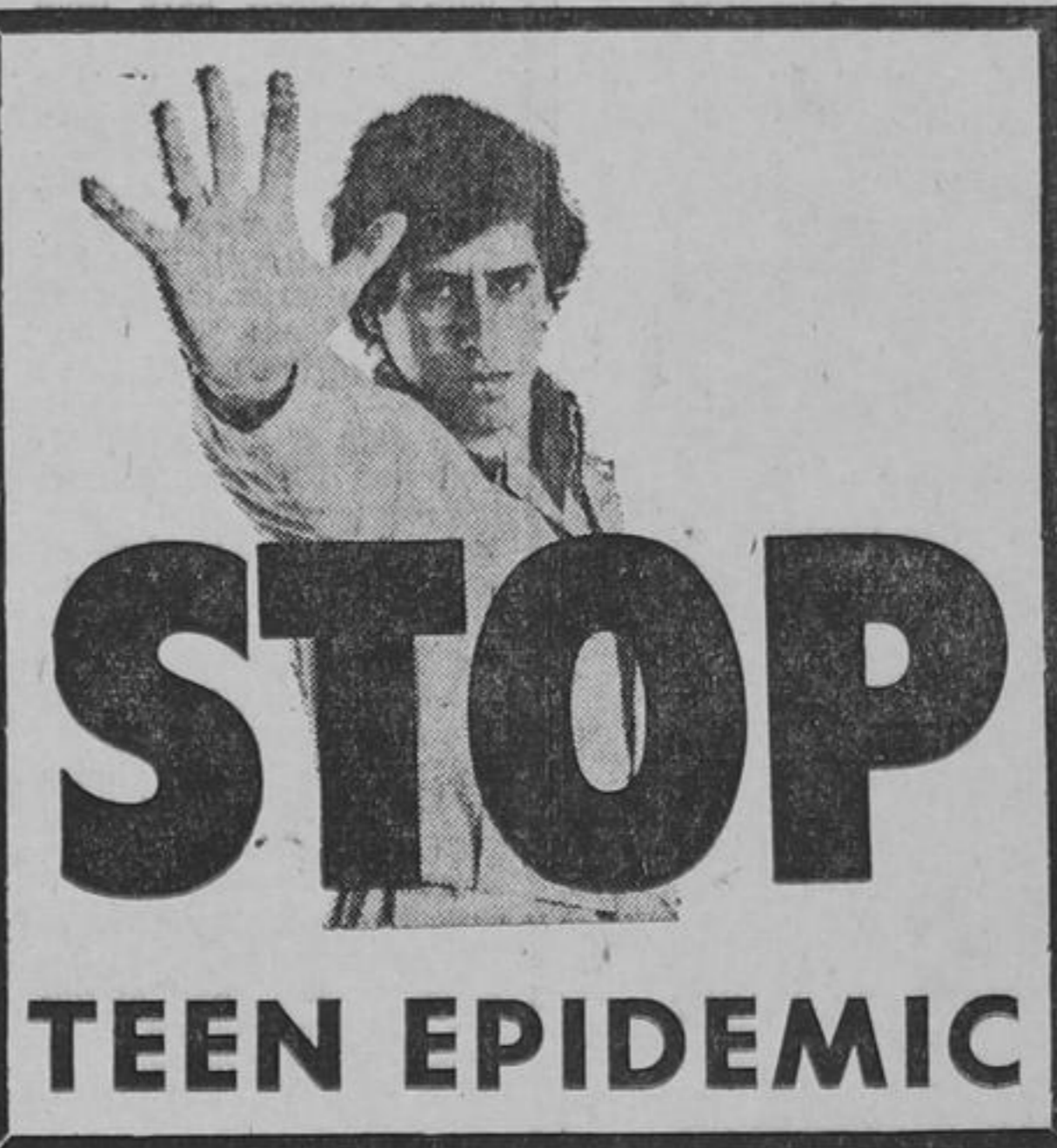
"The difference between England and America in our results isn't great, but it is statistically reliable. England is also the only country in our sample which shows a lower of parental involvement than our own, with both parents—and especially the fathers—showing less affection, offering less companionship and intervening less frequently in the lives of their children."

"In summary, it is our view that the phenomenon of segregation by age and its consequences for human behavior and development, pose problems of the greatest importance for the Western world in general and for American society in particular."

"As we read the evidence, both from our own research and that of others, we cannot escape the conclusion that, if the current trend persists, if the institutions of our society continue to remove parents, other adults and older youth from active participation in the lives of children, and if the resulting vacuum is filled by the age-segregated peer group, we can anticipate increased alienation, indifference, antagonism and violence on the part of the younger generation in all segments of our society — middle class children as well as the disadvantaged."

"From this perspective, the emergence of hippyism appears as the least harmful manifestation of a process which sees its far more destructive and widespread expression in the sharp rise in rates of juvenile delinquency observed in recent years, with a substantial number of the offenders now coming from the 'right side of the tracks', including some of the 'best families in town'."

"Why should age segregation bring social disruption in its wake? The dynamics of the process aren't difficult to see. (Continued on Page 12)



In the Spotlight



By MONA A. ROBERTSON
From: My Mail Bag

It is surprising how many amateur musicians, writers and poets, etc., are to be discovered in York Region. So this week's column is dedicated to a few who have found their way across our desk through the mail bag.

Ilse Thompson, of Maple, who is with CAMMAC (Canadian Amateur Musicians) and whom we had the pleasure of meeting again — after a 10-year lapse from our former affiliation with Vaughan School Board — when we took in a jolly good evening with the Yorkminstrels (who presented Pajama Game at Earl Haig Theatre Auditorium) — is not only the membership secretary for CAMMAC, but also plays the cello with a fine group of musicians who get together from within a 60-mile radius in Southern Ontario.

Ilse informed me later by letter, at my request, that CAMMAC has monthly cantata readings, as well as monthly recorder society meetings, and almost monthly orchestral readings.

"The emphasis is on 'reading' and making music, not on performing it," Ilse informed me, "though generally the standard is quite high, as included in the ranks of choristers are those who enjoy singing for music's sake." Quite a few members sing with large church choirs, as well as being members of other music groups, in and around Toronto.

The Toronto cantata readings generally attract around 100 people, Ilse told me. The recorder society is a very ambitious group of about 50 members, all fairly facile on their instruments and well versed in the repertoire of the recorder as an ensemble instrument. Several CAMMACers live in Richmond Hill and Thornhill as well as in Maple.

Mrs. Thompson said the music centre is the focus of all CAMMAC activities. "Our family have attended regularly for the last eight years. It is essentially our home away from home in the summer, because it includes the whole family. Our children started appreciating music not only at home but at the centre." (Both the Thompson children are now musicians in their own right. We hope to do a column on this family at a later date.)

Toby Shore, former "Liberal" Maple correspondent, mailed us the souvenir program of the National Music Festival, presented recently at the Airport Hilton Hotel. Toby thought we'd be interested in noting the following Richmond Hill boys and girls who took part:

Accordianists: Roy Huettl, Livio Persi, Peter Delgrosso, Marco Forlani, David Purvis, Anita Seiband, Dagmar Petry and Gary Foch. Dagmar and Anita also played an accordian duet at the festival.

In the piano division, James Stones, Lydia Foch, Barbara Fiano and Anton Streissberger acquitted themselves well, too.

The program also notes: "Nothing ever happens unless somebody does something" . . . and it invites young musicians everywhere to take part. Also on the agenda at the 1972 festival was a "Pop Concert", "Cartoon Hour" and "Dance-A-Go-Go".

(Continued on Page 12)

Don Deacon says



Airport Hearing — We're Getting Closer

On July 25 I attended a meeting of Markham Town Council, along with a large number of other interested citizens. Our purpose was simply to discover the views of the town council on the proposed Pickering Airport and to ask for their support in pressing the Government for a public hearing on the whole matter.

I was one of those who addressed the council on the matter and stated that while at the time of the original announcement in March, my first reaction was one of qualified approval of the Government's action. I have since, through contact with various groups, through study of the information supplied by government regarding the need for a new airport and also through my own investigations, come to feel that there is a great deal of conflicting evidence on this matter.

I stated that the only answer I could see was to call for a public hearing about the airport to be held before the Federal Air Transport Committee. I further stated that the people of Canada who after all have to pay for the airport should have a full opportunity to hear evidence for and against its existence. I am glad to say that the

Council of Markham unanimously agreed that sufficient doubt, confusion and unanswered questions have been created with regard to the airport that a public hearing is required before the Air Transport Committee and forwarded a petition to the Government of Canada forthwith.

All of us who attended the meeting were pleased by this response. I believe the Government should accede to this request and I hope other Municipalities in the area will see their way clear to adding of their voices to the general storm of protest — not about the airport itself but about the way it has been proposed.

During the month of August I shall be attending public hearings and meetings in Toronto and New York as a member of the Select Committee on Economic and Cultural Nationalism.

I intend through the medium of this newspaper to keep you apprised of the various developments as they occur.

Please remember that you can obtain information or assistance of me or my office by telephoning any of the following numbers — 965-5806, 884-5837, 832-2555 and 887-5901.

Don Deacon Calls For Revelation All Airport Land Owners Names

Full publication by the federal and provincial governments of the names of all owners of property affected by the Pickering Airport and North Pickering new town proposals has been called for by Don Deacon, Liberal MLA for York Centre.

Mr. Deacon's request came after the revelation that Ontario Attorney General Dalton Bales is part owner of a large tract of land in Markham which will be needed for the proposed development. Mr. Bales has publicly admitted that he stands to make a profit of \$77,000, \$177,000 on the deal, but declared that he had no prior knowledge of the location of the airport or of the satellite city.

"Nobody who knows Mr. Bales would accuse him of any impropriety in this matter," said Deacon, "and I believe he has acted properly throughout." However, Deacon pointed out that the airport and new town development were in direct conflict with the Ontario Government's previously published Toronto-

Centred Region Plan.

"The Ontario Government's complete about-face in the matter of the plan," said Deacon, "leads one to wonder whether some parties might not be profiting unduly from the decision. After all, Ontario is not without previous cases of conflict of interest! The only way to clear the air is for the government to publish a full list of all owners of property whose lands are affected, including the names of those with major interests in any corporate ownership of property, and the dates on which these lands were acquired."

According to Deacon the Town Planning Institute of Canada had condemned the Pickering proposal saying that major airport facilities should not be located close to existing or future urban areas. "Such an extreme change in direction by the government in only a few short years must raise questions in people's minds. Government works best when it previously published Toronto-

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LAND DRAINAGE

By resolution of the Legislature of Ontario a select committee was appointed on June 30, 1972 to examine, study and inquire into the following matters regarding land drainage in Ontario:

- (1) The objectives of land drainage as an agricultural practice and the benefits to be derived from such practice.
- (2) The associated problems of competing land use in the urban fringe and in wetlands, as influenced by land drainage projects.
- (3) The problem of public interest in land use over the drainage of private lands by individuals.
- (4) The prior evaluation of the benefits and costs of a drainage project.
- (5) An evaluation of the petition procedure for initiating a drainage project.
- (6) A review of the construction improvement and maintenance procedures under "The Drainage Act" in achieving the objectives.
- (7) A review of the appeal procedures under "The Drainage Act".
- (8) A review of the financial procedures and assistance under "The Drainage Act" and other drainage programs.
- (9) A study of the costs of land drainage and what influences such costs and how they may be reduced, i.e. engineering costs, etc.
- (10) An evaluation of construction practices in general and erosion and weed control of drainage ditches in detail.
- (11) A review of the administrative practices and methods in carrying out responsibility under "The Drainage Act".

After due study and consideration to recommend such changes in the laws, procedures and processes as in the opinion of the Committee may be necessary and desirable.

The Committee has the intention of visiting all areas in the Province and to hold public hearings on the questions associated with the above terms of reference.

This therefore, is to invite all interested parties, individuals or otherwise, to indicate to the Committee, by (AUGUST 15, 1972) their intention to submit written briefs or their desire to attend the hearings and make oral representations.

The times and places of this invitation will determine the times and places of hearings. A written notice setting out the time and place of the public hearings will be given as soon as possible to all persons who have filed notice of intention to make written or oral submissions.

Lorne Henderson, M.P.P.
Chairman,
Select Committee on Land Drainage
Box 201
Parliament Buildings
Toronto, Ontario.

Vaughan To Finally Consider Housing Development

A proposed subdivision that has been before Vaughan Town Council and its predecessor, the township council off and on for the past three years, will soon have its fate decided.

Following a plea by Robert Watson, lawyer for Valen Holdings Limited, who plan the development on the east side of Kipling Avenue adjoining the old village of Woodbridge, council agreed to put the matter in the hands of the planning department for a decision September 15.

FOR WORKING MAN
Watson told council he had appeared before council July

17, 1969 seeking an amendment that would change the land from agricultural to residential and was still seeking it. The present plan called for 32 semi-detached residential lots, or 64 houses, and at \$28,000 to \$30,000 was "keyed towards the working man."

He said that water and sewers were available and the development would provide immediate assessment for Vaughan and spread the costs of services in the Woodbridge area.

The owners were "frustrated and can't proceed, and I would ask council to make an immediate ruling" on the development, Mr. Watson said.

WOODBRIIDGE BAN

Mayor Garnet Williams told Watson the Official Plan for the area prohibited development south of Highway 7. This had been done to accommodate the Village of Woodbridge, which was against any more building there.

Councillor Gordon Risk said council was no longer bound to that commitment, however, and "we can go any way we want to. Let's get the horse going," he said.

Council then agreed to a recommendation from Councillor David Fraser that the planning committee look into the situation and report back in the fall.