

# Thornhill and District News

"The Liberal" is always pleased to publish items of interest contributed by its readers in the Thornhill area. Please call Miss Margaret Govan, 14 Deanbank Drive, 889-5372

## Socially Speaking In Thornhill

### Flower, Fruit, Vegetable Show

The horticultural society holds its annual flower, fruit and vegetable show Saturday and Sunday in the North Thornhill Community Centre (Heintzman House), Baythorn Drive and Royal Orchard Boulevard. There will be competitive classes, decorative designs and displays. The show is open to the public free of charge on Saturday from 3:30 - 9 pm and on Sunday from 1 to 5 pm.

Refreshments will be available both days. The customary sale of plants, garden produce, etc. will be held. Everyone is most cordially invited to attend. **A & P Store Opening**

The A&P (WEO) Store at the shopping centre at Bayview Avenue and Romfield Circuit, was opened Tuesday of last week. The manager was most pleased with the attendance on the opening day and the number of people who have visited. The store is very roomy, with wide aisles, much easier for shopping cart traffic!

It has other features too. For example there is a large delicatessen centre with most attractive looking foods. Its situation among the many townhouses at that location will make it most convenient for the residents. And judging by this week's sales, the residents are

making use of it. **Of Interest**

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Watt of London, England, recently paid a most enjoyable month-long visit to their daughter and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Finch of Arnold Avenue. Whilst here they were delighted to reestablish contact with friends they met on previous visits, as well as to make some new friends. Some of the local residents who entertained them were the Bernard Lawrences of Thornridge Drive, Mrs. Pat Fransi of Arnold Avenue and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spafford also of Arnold Avenue. One of the highlights was a "Watt" tea party with hostess Mrs. Edith Watt (Mrs. Spafford's mother) and attended by other Watts or former Watts. These included Mrs. Harry Spafford and Mrs. Ron Spafford (also a former Miss Watt) and Mrs. Wilfred Lennox, another Watt, and of course Mrs. Finch and her parents! Mrs. Helen Penny also attended although she was a Miss Wynn.

Mr. and Mrs. Watt returned to London with a great fondness for Thornhill and its residents. **Dr. Elizabeth Govan, Deanbank Drive, has just reported on a bus trip to Brisbane in Northern Australia. It was a two-day affair from Sydney,**

with a night in a very pleasant hotel. The bus driver was also the guide, took them down to the Pacific every so often to see and hear and smell the rolling surf.

On the other side the mountains were always in sight. On the land lying between pine-apple, bananas, and sugar cane are grown. There are also stretches of sand which have only recently been found to be full of minerals. Dairy and cattle farming and horse ranches were there too.

It is spring there now and the trees and flowering plants are all starting to flower again. Some of the towns are holding flower festivals. Strange and exotic birds are to be seen everywhere.

Before the sugar cane is cut, the dead leaves are burned off to clear out the rats and dangerous snakes. The guide informed his passengers that it

is the burning which produces the brown sugar!

The cane is taken down the rivers or in flat cars on the railway to points where the sap is removed. The stalks make good fertilizer. The sap then is transported to the refineries.

The shore areas are very popular summer resorts. Surfers' Paradise is the name of one such place. But the water is too cold at this time of year.

Dr. Govan was driven by friends to the rain forest while she was at Brisbane. It rained but the leaves were so thick that the water never reached them. There were beautiful views right out to the sea.

They also visited an orchid grower's greenhouses. He had hundreds of orchids of many, many varieties. Some keep their bloom from two to six months.

She is making the return trip by an inland route through the mountains.

## Historically Ontario Main Artery Traffic Now Avoids Yonge Street

By MARGARET GOVAN  
Thornhill Correspondent  
Do you avoid Yonge Street on your way to Toronto these days? I do. In fact it has not even been mentioned on the traffic broadcast as far as I have heard, for a long, long time.

It seems Yonge Street has had so many ups and downs during its life of 175 years or thereabouts, and yet it is Yonge Street which opened up the north.

Two hundred years ago there were only Indian trails, and these trails followed the rivers, but not the Don. The clay soil in the vicinity of the Don River was just impossible in wet weather. (Have you ever tried to make a garden with that clay for a base, or inadvertently stepped into a puddle? The Indians were wise.) They travelled from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe, either following the Humber River or the Rouge.

The Indians preferred to use canoes naturally, but neither river was navigable. And if they went by foot they could cut off many paddling miles between Lake Ontario and their villages which lay to the south of the present day Midland. Besides walking the 28 miles, the distance of the portage via the Humber to the Holland River did not bother them.

**SIMCOE WANTED ROAD**  
Lieutenant - Governor Simcoe tried it once and decided that a road from York (Toronto) to Lake Simcoe was a necessity. He wanted one further away from the border . . . the War of Independence was still in everybody's mind . . . and also it would make the fur trade route much easier.

Simcoe started his road by having a survey made. It took the road up hill and down dale. Then he offered the land on both sides to respectable settlers. One stipulation was that the settlers would clear the roadway and maintain it.

In spite of the settlers agreeing to do so, it didn't work out as he planned. There were the Crown lands and the clergy reserves and the land belonging to absentee owners. None of it was being looked after. Farmers would clear to the middle of the road if forced to, but left

the other side in its uncleared state. One way and another Yonge Street was in a bad way. The North West Company, the great rivals of the Hudson Bay Company, agreed with Simcoe that Yonge Street would be a great saving of time, and time meant money even in those days. They gave large sums of money to assist in the clearing and soldiers were sent in to do the work. Eventually they had made a road which was able to take huge drays carrying batiaux over the portage to the Holland River. What a trip that must have been!

**LANGSTAFF TOLL GATE**  
People travelling from Thornhill south still preferred a horse to ride or their own two feet. Sometimes it was necessary to use a wagon and hay made up somewhat for a lack of springs. However roads improved and so did wagons. There were some toll gates. There was one a Langstaff and one at Yorkville. (She also remembered that people had to get out of their carriages at Hogg's Hollow Hill and walk up the incline!)

A railway was built. The train stopped at Concord to service Thornhill. I expect that it was this railway that made Lake Simcoe's shores the fashionable summer resort country. Ferries and boats took the travellers from the station to the various areas. Carriages (not horseless ones) were very much in evidence. They too were being improved all the time.

**YONGE STAGECOACH**  
Also there was a stagecoach up Yonge Street. It gave good service and lasted for many years.

The next step was the radial. I remember that, and many others do, for it functioned until 1930. It followed Yonge Street exactly, being built beside it, until it turned east to service the small places along Lake Simcoe.

Cars and buses do the transporting now. What will be the next step? The subway will only run as far as Finch Avenue. I expect that somebody will come up with a new invention completely changing our old modes of travelling. They'd better get to work on it. We need it right now!

## September Bus Trip To Huntsville Visits Innisfil, Holland Landing

By MARGARET GOVAN

My work took me up to Huntsville constantly. In the old days I went by train and enjoyed the trip immensely. Lately I drove myself, but one September someone had taken me down to Thornhill, and so the bus was the answer for the return journey.

"You'll have to be on the alert. The driver doesn't always notice passengers," I was warned.

So I was on the alert and had no difficulty in flagging down the bus. It was a local as far as Barrie where we would change to the express: Toronto to Timmins.

The local trip was most interesting: into Newmarket, into Holland Landing, into Innisfil. I had always wondered about Innisfil, and never seemed to have the time to turn off. On this journey I saw it. There was very little to see.

**BARRIE BUS FULL**  
At Barrie we were expected to eat lunch, and were given almost an hour to do so. When we went in search of the Timmins bus we learned it already had its quota of passengers and the 11 of us who were going further north could not be accommodated.

"Don't you worry: we'll get another bus to take you to Orillia," we were assured. The officials were as good as their word. Eleven of us were soon

ratting round in a large, elderly bus.

We learned about each other quickly. One middle aged couple were on their very first journey to the mainland—they came from Newfoundland. They had had a delightful holiday with a married son. Now they were going to visit a brother in the north.

**DESTINATION GARAGE**  
"We have to leave the bus at a garage before we reach Timmins," they told us. "We do hope the driver knows it—of course we don't."

We explained that drivers were most knowledgeable, and we shared their chocolates.

The other bus was still full when it left Orillia, so we followed it to Gravenhurst. This time there was room for all of us, and we transferred into a very modern, comfortable vehicle.

**DRIVER WAS LOST**  
It was not until we reached the outskirts of Bracebridge that the driver announced for all to hear: "This is my first trip on this route. I'm an experienced bus driver but Sudbury is my regular trip. I know I am to go to an Ezzo Service Station which is the bus stop. Is there anybody here from Bracebridge who knows where it is?"

There was no one there from Bracebridge. We visited three Ezzo Service Stations before we reached the right one!

**HUNTSVILLE HOTEL**  
The same request came at Huntsville. This time I was able to do the honors and to steer him round a block to the entrance of the Empress Hotel.

I left the bus and started north up Main Street. Three blocks further north I met the Timmins bus travelling south.

I have wondered ever since just where the two Newfoundlanders eventually left the bus!

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## Council Grants \$200 Adams Pushes Vote For Senior Citizens

Thornhill and District Senior Citizens Club will get a \$200 grant from Markham Town Council thanks to the persistence of one councillor and despite the change of heart of another councillor.

The appeal by the club for assistance in club outings and to help provide Christmas dinners, was originally turned down by the finance committee.

However, at the Tuesday of last week meeting of council, Thornhill Councillor Bob Adams insisted the matter not be dropped without a proper hearing. "Grants are handed out regularly to hockey players and plowmen, among others. It's about time we helped out these folks," he

said.

Councillor Murray Henderson, who approved of the request when it first came before council earlier in July, objected this time. He said that, unless council was prepared to give grants to all the senior citizens' groups in the area, the Thornhill request should be turned down until it could be further investigated.

Mayor Tony Roman felt the request should be made at the regional level, while Councillor Keith Kennedy suggested that it go through proper channels.

A subsequent vote, insisted on by Councillor Adams, resulted in four in favor, two against and one abstention.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

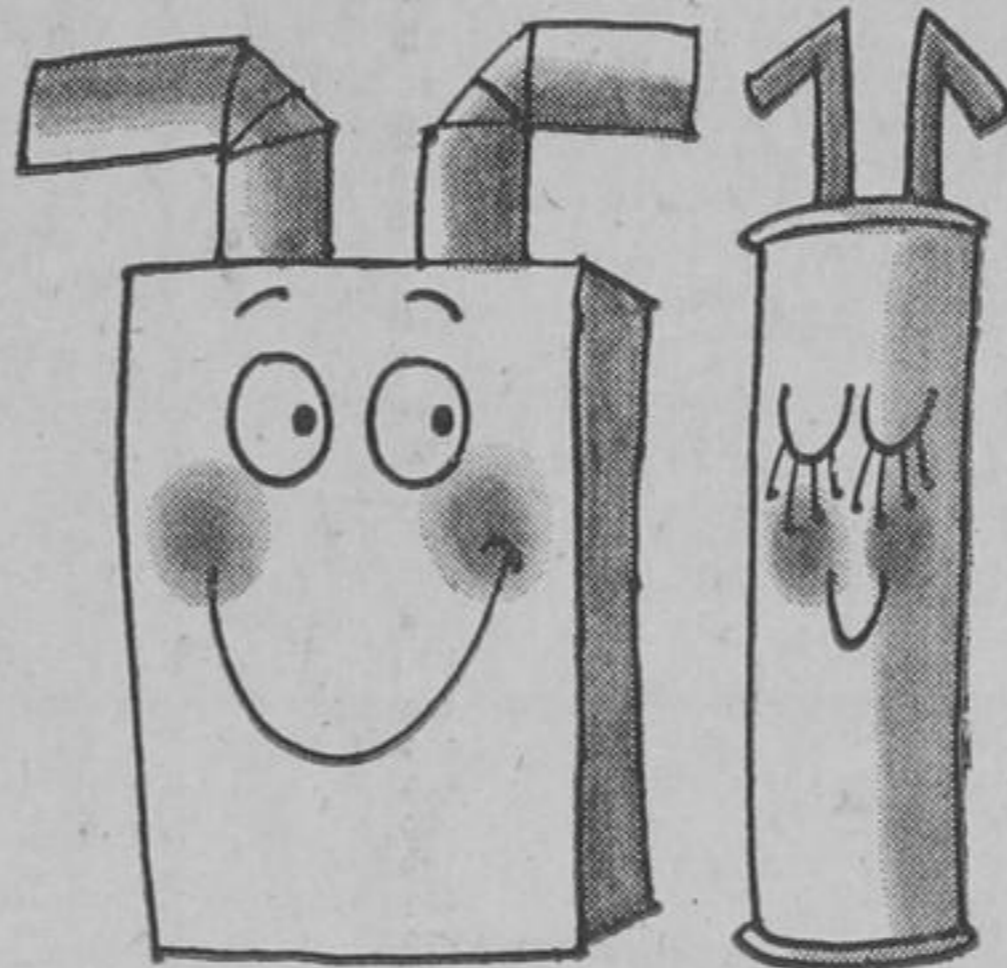
## Ah, C'mon, It's Not So Bad

The swimming season is just about over and it's been a poor one at that, with attendance at Thornhill Swimming Pool down some 25 percent from last year. However, cloudy skies or no, good weather, or bad, exhibitions and other activities, there'll always be somebody in the pool.

In this case, having much of it to themselves are Lise Berjeron of St. George, Quebec, and 2 1/2-year-old Barbara Meltz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Meltz, 39 Romfield Circuit. Lise is spending the summer with the Meltz family in Thornhill, and although she was anxious to get in the water on this particular day, her young friend was less enthusiastic.

However, she wasn't alone during the summer. Except for the first couple of weeks after the pool opened May 24, there were few days the pool was really crowded. There was also another 20 days in which inclement weather closed it altogether. The annual swimming meet was held Saturday, and Labor Day will see the last of the swimming for another season.

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