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Yard Pools Are Dangerous

The very real and ever-present danger inherent in the private yard swimming or wading pool was underlined in tragic fashion this summer in Markham Town. The recent Unionville inquest revealed the sad consequences of public ignorance about safety standards for yard pools. A toddler drowned in less than three feet of water.

The most frightening thing the inquest revealed was that unsafe yard pools are being installed all the time by unthinking residents unaware of the danger. In Markham Town alone the authorities estimate there are 50 unsafe pools right now, in spite of a regular law enforcement effort. Half of Markham's population is in the Thornhill area so about half of the unsafe pools are probably located there.

Most dangerous is the do-it-yourself homeowner who constructs his own pool or uses a construction kit of a type now widely available from retail outlets. The do-it-yourself builder has no swimming pool construction experience and may be completely unaware of the existence of safety regulations. With the best of intentions he most probably will build a death trap for his own and neighborhood children unless he obtains the necessary guidance from the town bylaw enforcement office.

Nowadays we are all more jealous

of our privacy and resent the invasion of private property by outside influences. Markham Town Council recognized this feeling last year when it turned down a swimming pool bylaw provision making it necessary for residents to have a building permit and safety inspection for pools.

But the inquest jury has recommended such a law be passed. This is a point where privacy has to yield for the public good. It would also be a good idea, as the jury recommends, if the provincial assessor would check for the existence of unknown pools when he calls around each year. We don't know whether or not this will be feasible, but it doesn't seem to present any great difficulties.

However, all these measures won't eliminate the problem unless the public is regularly informed and reminded about swimming pool safety regulations. Every new property owner or manager could unknowingly be the builder of an unsafe pool.

A regular public notice and warning of the yard pool safety bylaw seems to us to be the key to controlling the hazard. And as the inquest jury was told, the most effective aid to enforcement of the safety regulations is a neighbor who keeps an eye on the heedless property owner and informs the town bylaw enforcement officer when the swimming pool fence gate is left unlocked.

Low Cost Housing Difficult

Paul Goyette, former head of the Ontario Housing Corporation, recently charged that "tax-hungry" municipalities are depriving practically all but the top income earners of an opportunity to buy a new house. He also claimed OHC had to "battle" with Scarborough to get the borough to approve houses of 1,000 square feet without a garage so people in the \$8,500 - \$12,000 income bracket could afford them in the Malvern community. The three-bedroom house prices there start at \$15,000, exclusive of land.

Monthly payments for three-to-five bedroom houses, including principal, interest, municipal taxes and land lease (\$29 to \$58 a month), run from a minimum of \$193 a month for a townhouse to \$260 minimum for a detached single-family house on a 50-foot lot.

A simple three-bedroom, garage-less house, at \$15,000 on a fully serviced lot in this area would sell at something over \$30,000. The lot itself with the installations required by the municipality, could run from \$16,000 to \$20,000. Included in the requirements could be, and usually are, the following: installation of water and sewer mains, underground hydro servicing, a paved 28-foot road surface with curbs and gutters and storm sewers, a five percent dedication of land for market value of the land in cash or part, a substantial lot severance fee (which goes toward water and sewage disposal developments, sidewalks at least on one side of each road), land dedication for widening existing roads, and a good sized tree on every lot. All of these cost money and must be recovered by the developer from the purchaser — and each grows costlier as the cost of labor and materials continues to increase.

To all of this cost, the developer adds his profit. That is to be expected in private enterprise.

All of this paints a very gloomy picture for the young couple with children who would like to have a home of their own. Very few will be able to buy a house and will be forced, through economics, to bring up their children in an apartment. Goyette says public opinion could change this situation. He calls on municipalities to cut unnecessary building requirements and some standards of serv-

ices to reduce the price of land. He said the small two-bedroom bungalow is no longer permitted because municipalities are more interested in higher assessment than in helping lower income earners buy a home.

However, there is another side of the picture, which can and has worked a hardship on every municipal taxpayer. Through ignorance, municipal governing bodies in the past allowed development to take place without adequate provision to see that it did not have an adverse effect on established property owners. But the lesson has been learned through experience.

In the past the new developments — without paved roads, storm sewers, sidewalks, etc. — had hardly been fully occupied before drainage and flooding problems arose, demanding the expenditure of large sums of money to find a solution.

Most municipalities have to struggle to keep spending to bare essentials, in order to maintain a reasonable tax rate which their people can pay without undue hardship. Municipal councils have no money available to spend on sidewalks or installing storm sewers and curbs. Most of these require a substantial payment by those affected. That price tag is almost always a deterrent to property owners who would like to see the work done immediately.

The result is that the expense of maintenance of roads and ditches in these areas increases year by year and the improvements are never made.

By insisting that they are done before the first excavation for a house is dug, the municipal authorities see that the cost is borne by those who will benefit directly and that the other ratepayers will not be adversely affected. For the greatest good for the greatest number, we have to agree that every necessary service must be a part of every subdivision agreement.

But this doesn't preclude the possibility that there may be merit in Goyette's assertion. The desire for tax money can be a strong influence. Unnecessarily high standards and services could tend to make every town plan only for those with considerable financial resources while working a hardship on others.



Ontario Honors Memory Author Of "In Flanders' Fields"

On August 29, ceremonies in connection with the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate Lt.-Col. John McCrae, the author of "In Flanders' Fields", were held at his burial place in Wimereux, France. The marker erected by the Archives of Ontario, Ministry of Colleges and Universities, was unveiled by the Premier of Ontario William Davis.

The Royal Canadian Legion; Jean Herlem, Mayor of Wimereux; Perreau-Pradier, Cabinet du Ministre des Anciens Combattants, Paris; Leo Cadieux, Canadian Ambassador to France; Premier Davis; William Cranston, chairman of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Advisory Board of Ontario; Vassallo, Sous-Prefet, Sous-Prefecture de Boulogne and Professor Sydney Wise, member of the Ontario Archeological and Historic Sites Advisory Board.

Letters to the Editors

THREE WISE MEN AND QUEBEC SEPARATION

Dear Mr. Editor:
 It is utter nonsense to suggest that the separation of Quebec from Canada is imminent. According to the separation schedule developed by those in actual control of the French-Canadian situation, 1984 is the earliest date by which this could occur.

This target date of 1984 is based on the schedule developed by the "Three Wise Men" (Trudeau, Marchand, Pelletier) who are entrusted with charting the course of events for Quebec; they are known as the "TMP Movement", after the three founders. Some years ago, these three men concluded that it would be impossible for Quebec to survive as an independent political unit unless vast increased financial resources were available to see her through the initial years of independence.

The Quebecois did not appear to possess the energy or aptitude for business affairs which would generate those financial resources internally and, since Mother France did not appear willing to make the required investment, an alternative means of financing the severance had to be sought. The plan devised is patently simple. Professing to stand for a United Canada, The Three Wise Men will obtain power in Ottawa. A jittery English Canada will be persuaded that the only way to maintain a form of "Dominion From Sea To Sea" lies in massive infusions of funds into the depressed areas of Canada. As a diversionary measure, these funds will be channelled to the Maritimes for a brief initial period; once the control of the plan is completely held by the TMP Movement personnel, the flood gates will be opened to release these funds into Quebec. As one of the members put it, in English which is far superior to my French, I regret to say, "We persuade our friends in H'Ottawa to 'low shall we say, grow dis monee tree. Den we bend it 'over de Quebec bordair an' shake. All hope for our separation depen' on dis tree'".

That is the plan. Obviously, however, its fulfillment would require the terms of three Parliaments—one in which to ob-

tain power and make the plan operational, and two more in which to transfer a significant portion of the wealth of English Canada to Quebec.

The Three Wise Men naturally will be based on expediency. Are they then trying to say that the men who have been, and still are, serving in the volunteer section of the force, have not gained the required experience to have made them priority applicants for the position, or at least given them the right to first refusal.

The other question that comes to my mind is, how would an applicant who is not related to a member of council, but who comes from miles away, with the same experience, have fared in his application for this position? I would say that he would not have got the slightest consideration, because had that been the situation we would, I am sure, have heard that we must give priority to our local taxpayers. I would add, rightly so.

Finally the fact that Mayor Lazenby abstained from voting due to conflict of interest does not in my opinion correct this very unhappy situation.

Ivan Mansbridge, 390 Allgood Street, Richmond Hill.

DO MORE FACTORIES MEAN PROGRESS?

Dear Mr. Editor:
 I would like to comment on your news story (September 14) "Vaughan Looks For New Business Boom" in which the irresponsible attitude of Vaughan Council is once more very evident. Dalton McArthur and Garnet Williams seem to have the vision that each new factory and each new house built in Vaughan are symbols of progress and monuments to their ability. On the other hand, the provincial government is maintaining its present land use, and open space. The present town council seems determined to subvert this plan.

This episode is another example of Vaughan Council's encouraging growth and speculation, while not planning for communities and people.

JAMES CAMERON, 23 Weller Crescent, Maple.

PICKERING INQUIRY

Dear Mr. Editor:
 The federal government's permission for a public inquiry into the Pickering Airport has finally been granted but just in the "nick" of time, as three days following the Federal Transport Minister Donald Jamieson's announced inquiry the federal election date was set. It follows that the "Just Society" must include the democratic process and now the "Just Society" has the democratic touch when it faces the electorate October 30.

Elections may very well be the only reminder to governments that the people have the right to know and the desire to participate in policy-making, where the wise use of our resources are concerned.

Yes, we are badly in need of the inquiry. The summer has blossomed and waned and the

In the Spotlight

By MONA A. ROBERTSON
 Glen Helen Farms

So you're worrying about the rising cost of beef? Well, after a visit I made to Glen Helen Farms, Town of Vaughan, last week, I can tell you this much... The cost of beef is rising... But, it is not the producer who is collecting the money-gain... It is that illusive and hungry "middleman" who is jacking up the cost of beef to the consumer. Cattle breeders face rising costs in production each year. But they are not unfortunately on the receiving end for any increase in the selling-price of their beef on the hoof.



HELEN BAKER

We heard of Glen Helen Farms, where Devon cattle are raised by a lone woman, who has run her own spread for 20 years. Last week we spent a morning on Helen's farm. It was a "blowsy" kind of morning... the sky was slightly lowering in the early part of the day, with clouds scurrying before a stiff breeze. But we were delighted to find that Helen Baker had held up breakfast for her 75-head of Devons until we arrived to see them lined up in the corral.

Helen stationed me on a high rise of land, opposite the feeding station... and proceeded to serve the first course to as orderly, interesting and quiet a group of cattle I've ever seen. Like other visitors to Glen Helen Farms, I voiced my amazement as Helen began dumping 50 pound bags of stale, sliced bread in the feeding troughs. Helen told me, "With only 68 acres of land, for pasture and hay crops, my farm is too small to do anything exciting. Too small to grow any grain, after the hay crop is taken off for winter feeding; so I got the idea it might be possible to do something with bread." Four years ago she began, carefully, feeding it to her herd. The results are noticeably good.

Helen, who is from Pennsylvania Dutch stock (and a first cousin to the maple sugar man, Amos Baker) says, "Wheat is very high in feed value... but you can't feed too much of that alone to cattle. With bread you can't overfeed." She has had the protein content analyzed and found that her "dainty" feedings — of bread, cookies, even doughnuts — provide 16 percent protein to her herd's diet. "Very satisfactory, and promotes weight building," Helen told me.

Wanton Attacks On Schools

(Hamilton Spectator)

Arson in Ontario schools burned a \$1.8 billion hole in the taxpayers' pockets last year, according to an insurance report prepared for the Metropolitan Toronto School Board.

When school vandalism — and arson is only one category of the deliberate destruction inflicted on Ontario schools — reaches those proportions it can no longer be treated as a trifling inconvenience or a minor part of school boards' considerations.

The provincial situation is a fair reflection of the local one, in which school boards have seen damage and insurance costs mount alarmingly.

School boards have come to count broken windows by the hundreds. Break-ins, thefts, arson and willful damage to school equipment and furnishings are almost commonplace.

Instead of relying on more electronic alarm systems — which haven't curbed the wild-fire growth of vandalism — and instead of simply forking over more and more money for repairs and insurance premiums, school trustees might start looking around for some effective defensive measures.

Knowing schools are virtually helpless sitting ducks for every perverted mind that seeks thrills in destruction or somehow feels it's avenging itself upon officialdom by wrecking public property, why aren't the school boards making a deliberate attempt to make the schools less vulnerable?

By opening the buildings for the fullest possible evening, weekend and holiday use by community social and recreational groups, the school boards would be creating populated places which most vandals usually avoid.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

IN THE ESTATE OF Robert Roy Charles

All persons having claims against the Estate of Robert Roy Charles late of the Township of East Gwillimbury, in the Regional Municipality of York, who died on or about the 12th day of November, 1971 are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of October, 1972, after which date the Estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim he shall not then have notice.

DATED at Richmond Hill, this 30th day of August, 1972.

Morton Charles, Administrator of the Estate of Robert Roy Charles by his solicitor, Robert H. Blackburn, of Messrs. Lawlor, LeClair, Stong & Nevins, Barristers & Solicitors, 55 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill, Ontario.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO

NOTICE TO THOMAS MACKENZIE BARTLETT

of the Town of RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO

A Petition for Divorce has been presented by Barbara Ann Bartlett, for divorce and for custody of the infant children of the marriage, and for maintenance and interim maintenance for the petitioner and the infant children and costs and interim costs. You may inspect the Petition at the office of the Registrar of this Court at 145 Queen Street West, Toronto, if you desire to appear or to oppose the Petition, or if you seek other relief, your Answer or Answer and Counterpetition, or your appearance must be delivered in accordance with the Rules of this Court. In default of Appearance or Answer you will not be entitled to notice of any further proceedings. A copy of the Petition and Notice of Petition will be mailed to you on receipt of a written request addressed to the above named Supreme Court Registrar.

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the time allowed for service of the Notice of Petition and Petition for Divorce herein be extended for an additional thirty days following the date of this order.

STUART P. PARKER, Q.C., 50 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Oral French To Begin Year Later In Schools Here

Bilingualism in York County Public Schools will be starting one grade later in 1973.

That was the not-so-unanimous decision of a meeting of the Board of Education last week after debating a resolution of the programs and costs committee, which has just concluded a year-long look into school programs and their relative merits.

By a vote of eight to six, the board agreed to the resolution, which will eliminate the study of Oral French in grade 5 and introduce it in all schools at grade 6, continuing it in grades 7 and 8, effective September 1, 1973.

At present Oral French is taught in some schools in the

area from grade 5 on, while in others it starts at grade 6, 7 or 8.

In its resolution, the committee said the new system would equalize the Oral French program throughout the county and would be in line with the findings of the committee that the most effective use of board money would be in a three-year program starting in grade 6.

"Any reduction in the program would result in a relocation of staff, but there would be an overall increase of staff under this recommendation," the report said. The committee also offered three other alternatives.

The first one called for the elimination of the teaching

of French in grades 5 and 6, where it is now taught, and continued in grades 7 and 8.

This would be the most inexpensive course and would equalize the program across the county, the report said.

The second alternative recommended that the program be continued as it is constituted at present with the added recommendation that the program in grades 5 and 6 be considered as a "pilot project".

Staff would then carry out research on the effectiveness of teaching Oral French in grades 5 and 6, as compared with the teaching of Oral French in grades 7 and 8 only, with a view to seeing which would be the

best grades in which to teach the subject.

The final alternative called for the elimination of the Oral French program by September 1, 1973, and recommended research be carried out this year to determine the effectiveness of the program in grades 7 and 8 only.

Trustee Thomas Johnston of North Gwillimbury expressed doubts as to the benefits of teaching French at all.

"It bothers me that we're putting so much emphasis on French in the public schools," Mr. Johnston said.

"I know we, as good Canadians, should try to get competency in language, but

there's no compulsion on the part of students to study French." Many students in the high schools weren't continuing with it, he said.

Trustee Margaret Coburn of King, a member of the committee, said that was hardly the case in all schools.

Mrs. Merna Colbourne of East Gwillimbury wanted to know if the board's French program "turned them (teachers) off or on."

Mrs. Coburn said the committee hadn't been able to "come up with a totally clear picture on this."

Their research showed that 40 spokesmen were for teaching it at grade 5 or lower, while 15, who opposed it, (Continued on Page 16)

VERY CONCERNED.