*CNA The Liberal

An Independent Weekly: Established 1878

Subscription Rate \$6.00 per year; to United States \$7.00; 15¢ Single copy

Member Audit Bureau of Circulations Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association Published by Richmond Hill Liberal Publishing Co. Division of Burlington Printing Co. Ltd. W. S. COOK, Publisher "Second class mail, registration number 0190"

Thornhill Philanthropy

Most certainly a handsome gift is the \$200,000 library-park legacy recently reported left to the Thornhill community upon the death of an anonymous philanthropist in Florida.

We heartily agree with York Region Administrator Jack Rettie that it is a tremendous, wonderful, marvelous thing for there to be such great citizens among us, taking such an interest in community welfare. There is no greater public need here in Southern York Region right now than that for open parkland and library facilities.

Fortunate indeed are we, for this is the third such act of citizenship within about a year to benefit Southern York. First there was the gift of land upon which Richmond Hill Town was able to build the Bond Lake arena, then there was the gift in Markham of health and welfare centre land used in part for a retarded children's residence, and now a major legacy to Thornhill.

We look forward to the realization of this latest individual kindness to our citizens. We are certain the trustees will receive the highest level of genuine co-operation from the Towns of Vaughan and Markham and any other local authorities wherever it is required.

These three acts of philanthropy have done a great deal to improve the community facilities in Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan since that day more than a year ago when we said the three towns were in dire need of all sorts of amenities because of the local residential explosion. It is evident individual citizens are doing something about the situation. But what about the town councils?

Markham, Vaughan and King Township have all built ice arenas and there have been some other

kitten or a pup, to consider this bylaw can be \$50.

ciate a call at 889-1081 or is very real.

A Pet For Christmas Should Be Family Concern

Canine Control Officer is not considered to be un- construct one on your prop-

considering the gift of a held by a responsible person. office and an officer will be

Christmas Pet, particularly a The penalty for disobeying sent to explain the best way.

the matter carefully. Once The canine control officer any pet owner in every way

the novelty wears off and also warns that allowing they can to keep animals un-

family must want the pet is helpless. Since many rabid with severely.

grateful to be adopted into the one most likely to infect provided.

a kind home. His kennels are the family, it should be kept

located on the Gormley Side- under better control.

scattered improvements. But still, where are our town squares, public gardens, new parks large and small, new sports fields and other public land areas needed to serve the many thousands of new people?

Obviously they aren't in prospect in sufficient quantity. We need more such acts of generosity as these three we have had. Surely there are many more such fine citizens as these, and they will appear in their time. However, the municipalities can hardly deny they have a greater responsibility than they so far have shown.

On that occasion more than a year ago, and perhaps a time or two since, we have said the towns need to assess their present park, recreation and public land resources. They need to further assess what prospects they have in hand for such future resources and compare these findings with what is reasonably required.

Only then will the municipalities know where they are headed, where they fall shortest and how to plan the proper action. We say again our town planners must prepare a parks, recreation and public land blueprint. Such a blueprint would be of untold value as a guide for the town councils, for the public in general, for any future citizen philanthropy and perhaps for the regional council and other levels of government as

We don't have to go any further than neighboring Metro Toronto to see the unhappy result we face if we don't do this planning and if we don't take action before all available open land is gobbled up by urbanization.

Individual citizens are aware and are showing they care. It's time for more leadership from our town councils.

These officers will help

No Christmas Tax Rebates For Residents

In the Spotlight More Than 600 Gifts For Mental Patients

Gifts are still coming in to York County Mental Health Association for psychiatric patients in the region, but many more are needed.

Regional convenor of the Christmas Project, Mrs. Charles Williams, 352 Botsford Street in Newmarket, reports that there are more than 650 names on the gift list this year, names of people who have no relatives or friends to help make their Christmas brighter.

Many of these people have been forgotten by all but the few professionals and volunteers that have been working for years in an effort to restore them to health. They live in "homes for special

care", private homes where the owners have been trained to meet the needs of their guests, to help in the program of rehabilitation.

There are more than 20 such homes in York, homes that were opened for people who no longer need mental hospital care, but have no families to return to. Christmas could be a lonely time for them.

For several weeks people throughout the region have been dropping gifts into bins in various municipalities in the region, and next week a group of volunteers will start wrapping them. The gifts will be distributed at a Christmas Party organized by mental health volunteers.

WALTER LAITE,

WHY NO ELECTION

RESULTS?

Richmond Hill and surround-

Having tried, without any

id Crombie, was also inform-

ed of the successful candi-

dates in Etobicoke, Scarboro,

North York and other more

telephone number, with no

MARGARET O'TOOLE,

475 South Taylor Mills.

Richmond Hill.

Richmond Hill.

Dear Mr. Editor-

In Richmond Hill there are bins in various churches and in Vern Dynes' Jewellery Store in Richmond Heights Centre and in William Lazenby's Allencourt Pharmacy on Markham Road at Bayview Avenue.

The gifts will be collected and taken to Newmarket for wrapping. Local Christmas Gift convener is Mrs. Edith Jones, 110 19th Avenue. If you have a gift for a man or a woman and cannot get out to one of the bin locations, call Mrs. Jones at 884-7686 and she will arrange to have it picked up.

In Stouffville, gifts are being collected at Aiken's Drug Store. Share your Christmas! Remember these forgotten people.

Letters to the Editors

POISON PEN LETTER

Dear Mr. Editor:

I have never in the past attempted to answer anony mous "poison pen letters' because I do not feel the writers of such letters merit any consideration.

Nevertheless, now that the election is over, and the results have been determined, I feel obliged to answer a letter addressed to one of my workers (with a copy to me) from a resident of Ward 4 whom I assume to be a member of the fair sex.

The letter suggests that my campaign, in Ward 4 at Dear Mr. Editor: least, was predicated on: 1. Suggesting that voters

only have one vote for regional councillor. 2. That I have made disparaging remarks concern-

ing one of my opponents. I have checked with the party to whom the original letter was addressed and make the following com-

ment: At no time did I suggest to anyone that they should plump their vote on my behalf; although ironically it our national burdens. would appear that both successful candidates may very competition for housing and well have been the bene- jobs we would only be dis-

ficiaries of this practice. James Ryan cautions people der control unless on a leash erty, call the canine control there is anything illegal or a country to be underpopuin fact unethical in voting lated than undernourished. for one candidate, I merely point out that to suggest that I, or any of the people working for me, suggested this the pet ceases to be a kit- ones dog to roam at will is der control and happy at the

ten or a puppy, in many in- an open invitation to the same time. On the other practice, is a blatant lie. With respect to the allestances the animal is ne- invasion of one's family with hand people who do not, and gation that some of my workglected since its care has be rabies. It is natural for a dog will not, make proper proviers made derogatory comcome a chore. The whole to attack a wild animal that sion for animals will be dealt ments about one of my opponents - the only thing and be willing to look after skunks were found in the A number of people in this which was said and which some of the evidence that is a disgrace. came from me was that one people show at this time. I telephoned CFGM, listed Thornhill area this summer area this summer have acof my opponents politically some from habit and others in the Richmond Hill tele-If you are finally convinc- and only last week a brush quired ponies and do not and actively supported in- from the feeling of their own phone book under a Toronto ed that your family wants a wolf was picked up in that have proper shelters and fapet and its attendant care, same area and is now in cilities for keeping them creased development and hearts. then Mr. Ryan would appre- rabies isolation, that danger through the winter. Again growth in this town, and no My main reason for this reply after the 7:25 news. the canine control officer doubt received support from letter is to object to the bill- After the 8:25 news I was

animals which would be very ing the most popular pet is how these facilities can be point of view. against me because of my this time of year anything ing business hours, which AURORA: At 2:30 on a stand on any issues, of which with a Christmas Scene were not specified. road, just east of Bruces Mr. Ryan also advises dog- recent morning, an emerg- there were many, that is seems to attract the eye of I hope our new mayor, owners to raise chains off ency call to the fire depart- certainly their democratic concerned people. Mr. Ryan welcomes new- the ground and provide an ment reported a bad two-car right, and I gladly accept What kind of commerce is gate this situation and incomers to the Richmond Hill, elevated hook on which to head-on collision at the in- their verdict on my record carried on at this shopping clude it in his changes to Markham and Vaughan area hang it when not in use. This tersection of Wellington in office, but to suggest that plaza? I thought they were be made in the New Year. and wishes to advise them will prevent the possibility of Street West and Dufferin my campaign was based on doing quite well when one that restrictions regarding the chain being frozen into Street. Police, firemen and slurs, innuendos and single compares prices elsewhere, dogs are enforced in the the ice and becoming useless an ambulance responded to vote preference, indicates I but it is too bad when any

in any other way.

As far as the two success- find few are happy about ful regional councillors are this sign. The plaza could for clever freeloaders who concerned I believe we have wished us a Merry try to plunder working taxfought a clean campaign, and Christmas but instead they that the choice was based on are telling us if we shop the issues as the three of us south of Levendale we are saw them, and I wish them not wise. nothing but success in the

future. If anyone wishes to see the anonymous letter, they may do so at their leisure. DONALD PLAXTON, 116 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill.

* * *

OTTAWA SHOULD HALT IMMIGRATION

I commend the federal station CFGM? government for finally restricting immigration until success, both on the evening such time as this country of December 4 and the next can economically absorb new morning from 6:55 am until I had to leave my home after

An influx of immigrants at this stage of our economic decline would only increase the heavy competition for jobs and housing It is hard enough to look after our own without adopting other people that would only add to

If we were to continue the criminating against our own

BEVERLEY DALTON, I listened to two recordings 26 Colborne Street, of Toronto's new mayor, Dav-

Thornhill.

THREE WISE MEN Dear Mr. Editor-

With the spirit of Christ- distant municipalities, but mas surrounding us, we look | not one mention was made of around to see and acmire local candidates. I think this

887-5562. He often has young Because a dog besides be- offers his help in showing people sympathetic to that board put up by Richmond fortunate enough to get a Heights Centre. It cannot be recorded message which in- ereduces reflections To those people who voted called a decoration but at formed me to call back dur- o improves light whoever he is, will investi-

three municipalities in which as a method of control. find nothing. In the mean- think a basic ignorance of business has to resort to he is responsible for canine Doors and gates of kennels time a police car had to be the writer of that letter. such means to get people to should be kept free of snow used as an ambulance at an- I hope she will read my buy from them. The person The main restrictions are and ice so that they will not other collision because the reply which I point out is who came up with this sign

dents of Richmond Hill I

Stealing Welfare

(Hamilton Spectator) Public welfare is more

than a means to survival for people unable, through earn a living; it's a target

The Provincial Police decision to co-ordinate the welfare fraud investigations by 308 South Taylor Mills, victims—the taxpayers who have been robbed and the legitimate welfare recipients who became the unwitting prey of the inevitable back-

Through the efforts of lo-Why are the residents of ing areas not entitled to election information from our lo- caught. Despite the millions cal (?) Richmond Hill radio of dollars and thousands of individual cases processed by welfare agencies, the chances of committing a successful fraud are becoming

slim and growing slimmer. But many lazy and greedy the 8:25 news broadcast, to people still will risk being get the results of the munic caught if the prize outipal elections from CFGM, I weighs the punishment.

am very disillusioned with Those who take criminal what I understood to be the advantage of society's hu-Richmond Hill radio station. mane acts should be treated As a resident of Richmond by a method they can un-Hill, who felt it my duty as derstand. They should be well as privilege to vote in compelled not only to pay the municipal election, I also back the money they have feel that as a taxpayer I taken illegally, plus interest, have a right to hear the re- but to pay a fine substantial I am not suggesting that people, It is much better for sults of my vote and others, enough to teach them that I expected to hear these re- money has to be honestly sults on our local radio sta- earned

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BRADDOCK OPTICAL Richmond Heights Centre Richmond Hill 884-6881

Gloria In Excelsis Deo

By MONA ROBERTSON

A gift of music is in store for music lovers ho will come from many points in Ontario for the Christmas Offering of Carols by the Richmond Hill Ecumenical Choir, Friday and Saturday of this week, December 15 and 16.

Friday night's concert is at Our Lady Queen of the World Roman Catholic Church, Bayview Avenue North. Saturday night the programme will be heard at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Yonge Street South. Both concerts start at 8 pm.

Ed Luka, Hon. B.A. Ed., chairman of arts at Kawartha Parks Secondary, Mississauga Board of Education, is conductor. Mr. Luka told me the choir, which was organized in the fall of 1970, has changed in structure since its first performance at St. Mary's in the spring of 1971.

At that time it was comprised of nine local church choirs and the York Choraleers. And the York Symphony Orchestra accompanied the

This year there are 74 amateurs and five professional singers in the choir . . . from all over no fault of their own, to Richmond Hill, Aurora, Orangeville and Toronto.

Gordon Fleming master teacher of organ, from York County Board of Education Music Division, will accompany the choir, with Mrs. Beth Harwood at the piano. The concert will also include instrumental ensembles by the Richmond Hill Youth Band, directed by Bob Thiel. Mrs. municipal police should Jean Malyon will play . . . that most magical bring useful results to both interpreter of heavenly music . . . the harp.

> (Incidentally, so well known has RHEC become, members of the Canadian Opera Company have asked to take part in its Easter Offering "The Creation".)

We asked Mr. Luka the prerequisites of a cal and provincial police, wel- potential member who wishes to join the Ecufare fraud sharks are being menical Choir. He said, "We strive for two things: (1) Giving pleasure to those who sing and (2) Giving pleasure to those who listen. There should be a minimum of 80 percent attendance at rehearsals." You do not have to be a prima donna to join . . . but you should be able to read

(Continued on Page 23)



FIVE STAR Canada's largest-selling rye whisky.

Blended and bottled by Joseph E. Seagram & Sons Ltd., Waterloo, Ont.

against dogs running at stick and remain open. ambulance was responding not anonymous. I person- wasn't a topnotch swindler large-this means any dog The best method of keep- to the false alarm. This is ally have no wish to repre- because he left out the star. found on any public road or ing a dog happy is on a run- the 14th such alarm handled sent the resident in question Maybe he is anti-Christian. place not attended by a re- ning lead. If you would like by the fire department since politically, professionally, or Speaking to other resisponsible person. A dog further details on how to September.

Landlords won't be playing the role of Santa Claus this month and tenants won't find rebate cheques in their Christ-

mas stockings this year. This is the first year for Ontario's Property Tax Credit Plan introduced in this year's budget under which tenants and property owners claim a tax rebate when they file income tax returns next year.

Some will get more, others will get less but the average payment will be \$71 under the scheme which will cost the province about \$170 million compared to about \$158 million under the previous system.

The amount of the creditand it is a credit and not a cash rebate or one which can be deducted when you pay your municipal taxes-will depend on three things:

• Income.

· Family size. Tax assessment.

The system operates on a very simple formula that you can easily work out.

Homeowners start with a basic credit of \$90 to which they add 10 per cent of the amount of property tax paid and from this total, they deduct one per cent of their taxable income.

Tenants are allowed the same basic credit and then add two per cent of the rent they have paid during 1972 and deduct one per cent of their taxable income. For both owner and tenant,

the maximum credit is \$250 but very few will get it.

Across the board, benefits are reduced, for credits are not allowed on second residences nor can they be claimed by nonresidents. In other words, if you own a cottage and live in it for three months, you can claim for only those three months and must deduct three months from your principal residence claim. You can't have it both ways.

The very low income families will benefit most and those in higher incomes might end up without any tax credit when it comes time to file their returns.

The formula for the tax credit is based on a study conducted in Guelph, the first municipality in Ontario to complete reassessment, but it presents a fairly accurate picture of what Hamilton tenants and owners can expect.

Using the average property tax for each income class in the province, those who earn up to \$2,500 a year will be eligible for a maximum credit of \$122. Those who earn from \$5,500 to under \$6,000, taxed as single will get a credit of \$55 and the credit is scaled upward, depending on the number of depend-

ants. Further up the income ladder, payment in the form of deductions from income tax will be reduced. In the case of the single person who earns between \$9,000 and \$9,499, the credit will be \$15 (\$25 if he has one dependent, \$70 if he has

Under the new system the joint burden of income and property taxes is reduced by seven per cent for those with gross income below \$2,500 and by about two per cent for incomes up to \$5,500 and about one per cent for incomes up to \$10,000.

Under the old system, the tax credit formula was based on \$30 basic rebate, plus 10 per cent of the average residential tax, or a ceiling of 50 per cent of the total municipal tax levy, whichever was the lesser.

This system provided a certain amount of relief for all taxpayers but did not help the lowest level income group on an equitable basis.

Ontario is the first in North America to base its tax credit plan on the ability to pay and it will undoubtedly be copied by other provinces if it proves successful.

Some provinces offer homeowner grants, but Ontario does not consider this system a fair equalizer in a period when the value of money is decreasing. Also, grants are sometimes looked upon as plums, offered to the electorate in an attempt to gain support for the party in power.

Acsoss the land, Saskatchewan

provides a grant with the maximum set at \$78; Alberta has set a maximum of \$75 and Manitoba offers all homeowners a mininum of \$50 while B.C. provides for a grant of \$150 applied against the owner's local

Ontario's first measure for the relief of property taxes was the Basic Shelter Exemption Scheme, introduced in 1968. The present plan closely follows recommendations made after a two year study of the original scheme.

In making its report this week, the Ontario Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs said that analysis of the Guelph study confirmed a number of widely held views about the impact of property tax.

"The residential property tax in Ontario was regressive, particularly at the lower end of the income scale. The burden of property tax fell more heavily on pensioners than on any other group of taxpayers and in the past, provincial relief of property taxes in the form of basic shelter grants only partly offset the regressive nature of the tax.

"The property tax credit plan, by comparison, produces a significant redistribution of tax burdens so that the combined incident of property tax, plus income tax, becomes progressive over the entire spectrum of incomes", the report said.

