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"A Happy New Year"

Rev. Bernard Barrett, St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill

We begin 1973 with a world not much different from the one with which we began 1972. In spite of another trip to the moon and lots of elections (and promises) we see many aspects of unrest and disease in the world — a war going on in Vietnam — people suffering from want of love, meaning, shelter, work, peace, or food — and many people increasingly disillusioned by our social, politically and educational systems.

We could, therefore, begin 1973 with a profound sense of pessimism. This is especially true when there is an apparent resurgence of the power of those who have a privileged status and are determined to maintain it at all costs.

Looking at the situation from a Biblical perspective the following could be suggested as an alternate approach to the new year.

First there would be an acceptance of the fact that man manages to "foul up" in some way or other most anything he undertakes. If we could get away from a "utopian" approach to our world in our local politics or anything else we would be starting from a much more realistic base.

Then there would be the proclamation of HOPE for man and his world in so far as man acknowledges his need of what Christians call "grace". This is the supportive-creative activity of God which enables real change to take place in men and situations but which is often blocked by man's prideful unwillingness to accept help. Such a hopeful approach is vastly different from the superficial optimism which is so often expressed around us.

The coupling of the realism mentioned above (which has usually been called original sin) with the openness to grace allows for an approach to the new year which could be summed up as one of renewal.

Our institutions (educational, social, medical, governmental, etc.), our social groupings, and ourselves need such an approach. The awareness of sin and grace allows for a dynamic development of our human situation and would be an adequate foundation on which to build a Happier New Year because it would be dealing with the quality of life in all its aspects.

Tough Road For Trustees

The Region of York's biggest business will have eight new people on its 20-member board of directors in 1973, and since the operations of this business affect just about every person in the region through taxes and rents, it is very important that the board maintain a very high standard of performance, economy and efficiency.

This business is the York County Board of Education which had an operating budget of more than \$39.6 million in 1972 and employs about 2,600 people including teachers, caretakers, office staff in the schools and other board offices.

After attending and reporting on innumerable meetings of the board we are wondering if these eight new trustees have any idea just how much work and responsibility they have let themselves in for in seeking and winning a place on the board for the next two years.

To begin with, only one of the candidates who ran in the December 4 municipal elections attended more than one meeting of the board before election day, and that candidate was not elected.

Since their elections, however, the new trustees have been supplied with mountains of paper — reports of various committees and department heads, and along with all other trustees they will receive a full agenda, including reports on the Thursday preceding the regular Monday night meetings of the board. Our advice to them is, "Take a quick course in speed-reading. You will need it if you are to read and digest all the reports that are coming your way in the next 24 months."

These materials are delivered by board courier to make sure trustees will have time to study each page of the agenda, and if necessary, contact other trustees or staff prior to the meeting. Nothing

throws a spanner into the smooth workings of a school board, (or municipal council) like the inane questions of a member who has not done his homework, who arrives unprepared and involves the board in endless hours of quibbling about matters that have been clearly spelled out in the agenda.

The trustees are also urged to attend the three-day orientation conference for new trustees which will take place early in Metro in January under sponsorship of the Ontario Trustees Council. Those who have attended in the past have found it very helpful in equipping them for the task that lies ahead.

As well as informed trustees, the board will need a strong chairman to keep the business on the track. (Present Board Chairman Ross Jolliffe of Vaughan has given notice that he will not be a candidate for chairman in January). This is a question the 12 seasoned members of the board should ponder carefully before the inaugural meeting January 8.

The newcomers to the board will find a sympathetic collaborator in Education Director Sam Chapman who was recently appointed to the board of governors of York University. He is all too keenly aware of the problems confronting a new member of an on-going operation.

York County Board's new trustees are Rev. Craig Cribar of Newmarket, Norman Weller of Aurora, Donald Sim, Donald Cousins and Mrs. Doreen Quirk of Markham, Douglas Allen of Richmond Hill, John McMurray from Whitechurch-Stouffville and Roman Catholic Representative John Ranowski. We wish them good luck, and from our seat behind the press table, we hope they will not be in for too much burning of the after-midnight oil.



Mazo de la Roche Was Native Of Newmarket

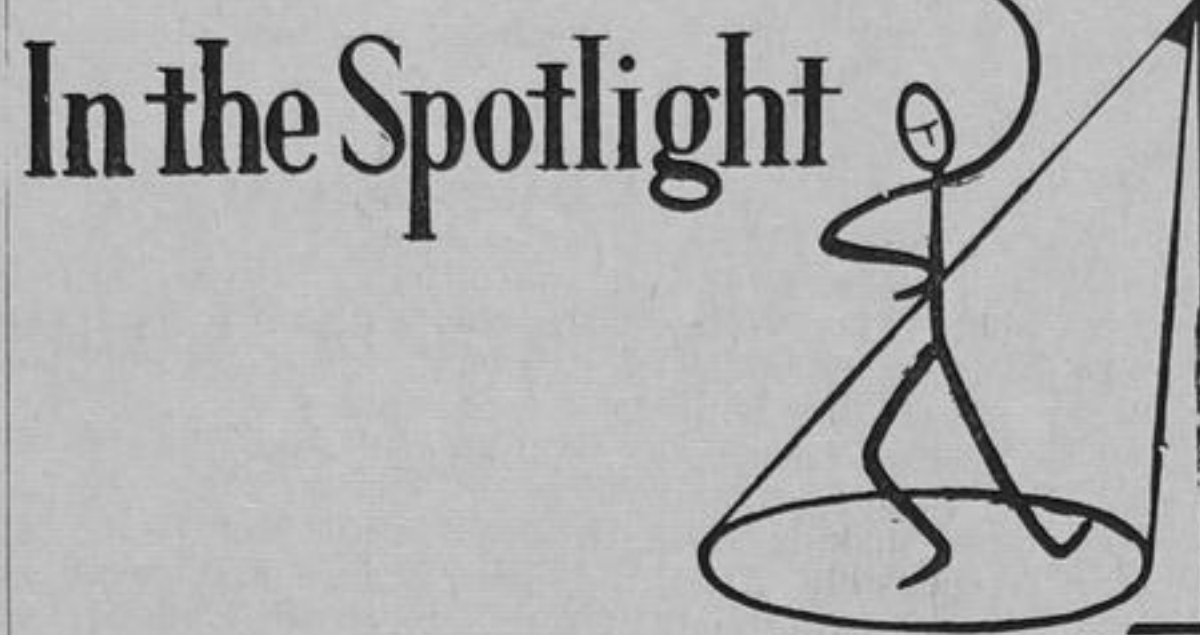
On November 10, an historical plaque honoring Mazo de la Roche was unveiled at Wesley Brooks Conservation Park, Newmarket. This plaque is one of a series being erected throughout the province by the Historical and Museums Branch, Archives of Ontario.

Shown (left to right) after the ceremony are — Canon James Rhodes, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Newmarket; Mrs. David Reese, Toronto, adopted daughter of Mazo de la Roche; Dr. J. M. S. Careless, representing the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board; John Van Krieken, a student at

Newmarket High School who gave an account of Mazo de la Roche's life and Mayor Bob Forhan of Newmarket.

Mazo de la Roche, creator of the Whiteoaks of Jalna series was one of Canada's most internationally famous writers. Daughter of William and Alberta Roche she was born at Newmarket. The famed writer added the "de la" to her surname when she started writing in 1902.

She died in 1961 and is buried at St. George's Churchyard in Sutton.



In the Spotlight

By MONA ROBERTSON
Ring Out The Old!

So many events took place during the final days of 1972, I have just room for capsule reports in my final column for this year.

First, I'd like to make special mention of a lovely card received . . . One produced by the training centre, Local Association For The Retarded, Richmond Hill. Drawn by Trainees Margo, Virginia, Belle and Mildred it illustrates a group of happy people and a one-man band. Happy Noel to all at the centre and the school too.

"The students of grades 7 and 8, Lillian M. McConaghy, spent a happy and rewarding afternoon visiting the residents of the Villa Nursing Home. As one student remarked, 'You'll never know the true meaning of Christmas until you do something for someone else.' The group performed playlets, sang folk songs, served cookies and refreshments — made by the girls themselves — then strolled around to all the rooms singing Christmas Carols, bringing joy and happiness to the whole Villa.

A highlight of the visit was helping one resident celebrate her 93rd birthday. It was just marvelous seeing all the happy smiling people and it made the girls' Christmas very special and happy indeed." (Our thanks to Linda Robinson, grade 8, reporting for L. M. McConaghy.)

Congratulations, bouquets and accolades — to the Richmond Hill Curtain Club for their premiere performance in their delightfully intimate — but beautiful — new theatre on Elgin Mills Road West. Following the final curtain of East (Continued on Page 12)

Letters to the Editors

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Dear Mr. Editor—
Thanks to Miss Geraldine Ferrar for the fine review of the Ecumenical Choir concerts found in your December 21 issue.
Her recognition of the importance of accompaniment was very much appreciated, since this aspect of musical

SNOW PLOWING

Dear Mr. Editor:
I am curious to know why the town would spend whatever amount it cost to build a sidewalk and then NOT keep it ploughed for pedestrian traffic. After all, isn't that what the sidewalk was built for in the first place? It was three days ago that it snowed and people are still having to walk down the road amongst the cars on one of the busiest streets in town.

GORDON FLEMING,
177 Parkston Court,
Richmond Hill.

ONE WHO WORKS ON
CENTRE STREET EAST

Two U.S. Textbooks Approved For York

"The Moral Ambiguity of America", a series of 12 lectures on the CBC by the late American Writer Paul Goodman, will be one of three new textbooks to be used in York high schools next year. The book, along with "Slaughterhouse Five" by Karl Vonnegut Jr., and "The Informed Heart" by Bruno Bettelheim, was approved for use by a meeting of York County Board of Education December 18.

In the first book, a staff report said that Goodman "describes the ambiguous priorities of America: poverty, life, liberty and the pursuit of loneliness in place of happiness."

Vonnegut's book is said to interweave fantasy and fact in an effort to relate the "destruction of war to the perplexities of peace".

"The Informed Heart" is a "voluminous exposition of human behaviour under environmental stress."

In it Bettelheim writes about his observations and conclusions of human behaviour in the concentration camps of Germany.

Recommend \$100 Million Cut In School Building Costs

The Ministry of Education's recent press release, which includes a committee recommendation that money available for school construction be reduced from \$59 million a year to \$50 million is not all bad news for residents of York.

The recommendation was in the second interim report tabled in the Legislature by a special committee on the costs of education appointed in 1971 to examine all facets of the costs of education in Ontario.

In his press release, Education Minister Thomas Wells says he doubts that the reduction in the amount of money available for school construction will be as severe as that recommended in the committee report.

"Enough money will be allotted to ensure that essential new school requirements are met", said Mr. Wells.

The report also recommends that public and Roman Catholic school boards jointly plan accommodation needs, a move announced by Mr. Wells in a policy statement in November. For the past two years, the Ministry "has been reviewing with particular care" every school building proposal which has been submitted, said Mr. Wells.

The report also recommended that minimum standards for school sites be established by the Ministry, and that, where-

ever possible, school sites be developed jointly with other municipal agencies, such as parks departments, to insure that the best needs of the area may be served.

Another recommendation called for the Ministry to provide grants for 100 percent of actual construction costs eligible for grants, rather than the present 90 percent, and that no portion of capital cost for swimming pools or other facilities built under agreement with local municipalities be borne by the school board.

The Ministry should pay 100 percent of the annual repayment of principal and interest on debentures issued by school boards for approved new construction after January 1, 1974, said the committee report.

Some of these recommendations will require further analysis in order to assess their feasibility and ramifications, said Mr. Wells.

The report is one of several interim reports to be produced by the seven-member committee headed by Mississauga Businessman Thomas McEwan. It was appointed by the Ministry to examine all facets of the costs of education in Ontario.

At the request of the Ministry, York County Board of Education's Superintendent of Planning and Development,

Stephen Baesalmasi, was loaned to the province in 1971 to serve on this committee. The board agreed to share Mr. Baesalmasi with the province for a period of about 18 months. He has been spending 80 percent of his working hours on work associated with the committee and 20 percent with his own department in the Region of York.

York County Board of Education Director Sam Chapman agrees with Mr. Wells that there are "big reasons why it would be very difficult" for the province to cut more than \$100 million from its allotment for school construction.

Mr. Chapman welcomes the recommendation that the Ministry provide grants for 100 percent of construction costs eligible for grants rather than the 90 percent presently allowed.

Such a proviso, he told "The Liberal" would spread the cost of new construction over the whole province, easing the burden on rapidly developing areas. These recommendations, said Mr. Chapman, appears to be designed with developing communities in mind.

At present, he pointed out, communities where there is little room for further growth, which already have adequate facilities for education, are paying for the schools in new subdivisions sprouting up around

them. If the Ministry pays 100 percent of the annual repayments of principal and interest on debentures issued by school boards for construction of these new schools, said Mr. Chapman, it will eliminate this kind of inequity in the future.

In the past decade, he said debenture costs have placed a heavy burden on boards in rapidly developing areas such as the Boroughs of Etobicoke and North York, and the Region of York is now finding itself in the same boat.

Despite restrictions placed on population growth north of Metro, said Mr. Chapman, it is not inconceivable that there could be a big upsurge of building in York after January 1, 1974, when the committee recommends the province assume greater responsibility for the cost of new school construction.

In the matter of sharing with the Roman Catholic Board, Mr. Chapman reiterated an earlier statement, that the boards in the Region of York have for several years shared many services and facilities.

Each board, he said, will have to look very carefully at the nature of existing accommodation and share space in existing schools if either board finds itself short of pupil space while the other board has unused

space in the same community.

The York County Board, said Mr. Chapman will continue to place elementary school pupils in secondary schools where there is overcrowding in one school and vacant space in another.

Commenting on the recommendation that school sites be designed to meet the needs of the community, the education director pointed out that many new school sites purchased by the board are not up to the recommended size because they are adjacent to municipal parks, providing open space that meets the standards set by the local board and by the province.

Nor is the committee recommendation that facilities such as swimming pools be financed by the municipality rather than by the school board a new idea to the county board. The Town of Markham is paying for the swimming pool in the addition to Thornlea Secondary School in Thornhill—the only school pool in the region. Costs of operation will be shared on an hours-of-use basis by the school board and the municipality.

Most significant, said Mr. Chapman is the recommendation that the province assume full responsibility for repayment of principal and interest on debentures. This, he said, would be to the advantage of the municipal taxpayer.

Some Housing Answers

(Etobicoke Guardian)

"There are a lot of people around here knocking high-rise apartments, but they don't seem to have any alternatives."

You keep hearing people, political candidates, saying things like this.

Or they say: "Don't forget, you've got to put the people somewhere."

This editorial is about alternatives. It's about a few of the somewheres we could give people to live other than the 12 storeys above the ground.

Something to think about though, it's going to take more than just readjustment on the part of the developers to change the whole pattern of development. The ratepayers' groups are going to have to give up a little too.

Most important, we're going to have to forget the old idea that a quality residential area must have housing lot frontages of 100 feet.

What's needed in Etobicoke and across Metro is a good house built on a 30 or even 25-foot lot.

Designing a house to go on this kind of lot wouldn't be all that difficult, in fact there are probably more than a few architects who already have drawings or at least ideas ready in the event something like this comes about.

The problem rests with the municipal councils and planning boards and the ratepayers' groups representing the already entrenched homeowners.

It rests with the inability of these groups, for the most part to see that houses can be built on narrow lots and still be an asset to the community and in many cases an improvement.

The way to stop the surge of high-rise is to provide an alternate source of housing that people can afford, and preferably one they can afford to own.

The cost of land makes the traditional idea of single family dwellings on one or two levels spread out on a 100-foot lot obsolete.

But it doesn't make it impossible to build a house the average working man can still afford.

Narrow lots and in some cases town houses are the way we can beat the need for apartments and give people a decent place to live, where they can have some privacy and their own backyard.

So, you see, there is a way out, all that's necessary is for people to co-operate.

The Richmond Hill Centennial '73 Committee
in co-operation with the
Mayor and Council of the
Town of Richmond Hill
extends a cordial invitation to
The Citizens of Richmond Hill
and their Families
to attend a ceremony
To ignite the Centennial '73
Flame to Officially Commence
Richmond Hill's Centennial Year
William C. Lazenby, Mayor M. Robert Warner, Chairman
Russell J. Lynett, Clerk

FRONT ENTRANCE
RICHMOND HILL MUNICIPAL OFFICES
56 YONGE ST. N. 11:30 P.M.
RICHMOND HILL, ONT. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 1972

The Mayor and Council of
The Town of Richmond Hill
extend a cordial invitation to
The Citizens of Richmond Hill
and their Families
to attend the
Mayor's
New Year's Levee
Come and meet the new Council Members and
and their families

William C. Lazenby, Mayor Elect Russell J. Lynett, Clerk
Council Chamber
Richmond Hill Municipal Offices
56 Yonge Street North 2-5 P.M.
Richmond Hill, Ontario Monday, January 1st, 1973