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Drawing Board Mania

What is there about the business of education that those who administer it just can't seem to resist getting down to the old drawing board at every opportunity and whacking out a quick set of plans for a new building?

For years it was schools that the educators threw up like filling stations, but that pastime has had to be abandoned of late with the introduction of stern edicts from the provincial government curtailing education costs.

The boards have had to co-operate and they have, finding accommodation in existing schools with each new subdivision, and coming up with long-range projections that will allow them to make way for the expected flow of students.

Evidence of this is found regularly at York County Board of Education meetings, where the board constantly rules against school sites in proposed subdivisions, making do instead with the accommodation at hand.

Nobody seems to be unduly suffering as a result of this new austerity, made workable by the co-operation and over all acceptance by the school boards. And their attitude has helped to bring the business of education into a sane perspective again.

Now, however, there's an indication that being good, straight citizens is beginning to pale for the York County educators. With schools out of the picture, they've hit upon something else, to wit: an administrative building for the educators themselves.

Right now the board has its headquarters in a former school, some 90 years of age, which it feels is not adequate for the business of administering the 98 schools under its jurisdiction and the 44,300 students enrolled in them.

It also has four area offices, with two in Newmarket, and one each in Aurora and Richmond Hill.

Back-up services, such as guidance and psychological, an audio-visual centre, organizational development unit, maintenance shops, a central workshop, plus surplus supplies are located in rented space and old schools throughout the region.

The board feels it could best do its job by bringing most of these facilities together under one roof, a roof incidentally that would cover 42,000 square feet of space, would include an office for the chairman and would cost about \$1,700,000.

"That's the one (chairman's office) that really gets me," Trustee Margaret Coburn of King, commented when the special committee on administration facilities presented its report at the December 11 meeting.

Mrs. Coburn also wondered why some of the meeting rooms, which had been suggested as part of the new building, couldn't be duplicated.

She said she felt it was a "rotten time" to be building and the staff must justify its plans.

Make Parents Responsible

A recent news release from Camden, New Jersey, reports that that city has passed a new municipal law that makes parents responsible for a wide range of their children's criminal violations.

Under terms of the statute, which is now in effect, parents are chargeable if their offspring are found guilty of mugging, vandalism, breaking and entering, loitering, illegal drinking or curfew violations.

Parents of offending children could be jailed for as long as 90 days and given a \$500 fine, according to the new law.

School boards, parks officials and merchants, particularly, would welcome such a law in this province, where existing legislation does not provide such penalty for the parent or permit a municipality to pass a bylaw to that effect.

Gibson House Show On Berczy Settlement

Markham Township history of the late 1790's and early 1800's has been revived recently in an exhibit at Fort York in Toronto. After January 15 it will be at the Gibson House, 5168 Yonge Street, in Willowdale.

The exhibit includes working models of salt and grist mills and a blacksmith shop and is a reconstruction of the William Berczy settlement through models, pictures, relief maps and farm implements.

Berczy was the leader of a band of German settlers from New York State who relocated in Markham Township. The exhibit was put together by the Mecklenburg Historical Society of Upper Canada.

Enterprise, Investment Give Living Standard

The following description of private enterprise has been taken from an address delivered by Douglas Fisher at a recent Voice In Government Conference on Public Participation held at the Holiday Inn in Rexdale, sponsored by the Central Ontario Regional Development Council.

In North America as in the rest of the Western World, private enterprise and investment has permitted us to obtain a very high standard of living, permitting human initiative and individual fulfillment through the profit motive—profit is not a dirty word—it's the lubrication that makes our society work.

In Canada all government expenditures as reflected in the gross national product reported in the Financial Post, is climbing close to 38%. It must not be allowed to increase, for governments do not spend our money with the same discretion that private sector people do. Governments and their employees do not know what a profit-loss statement is.

What does the Ontario Design For Development say about private enterprise?

Here in Ontario "the fundamental aims of Design For Development are to enhance the quality of life and economic opportunity for the people of Ontario, to encourage private enterprise to prosper within a healthy and balanced community, to improve the effectiveness of provincial services and to conserve our national resources."

It is the neighbor who runs the corner grocery store. It is the financial house that lends money to build residential subdivisions, office towers or to purchase a new washing machine.

Private enterprise is the driving force that invents things—the telephone, the clothes drier, synthetic materials, the transistor radio, television and the paper clip "to enhance the equality of life."

It is the product of the human desire to do things better, to build something, to create something, to harness inventiveness and vitality.

Private enterprise is the fundamental characteristic of our Canadian economy—the freedom to risk money, time and knowledge, in competition with others, in a venture that will bring the satisfaction of success or the experience of failure.

It is the entity within our society which provides gainful and meaningful employment to millions.

Private enterprise is the strength within our community that, within the environment created by governments, can turn Design For Development of our province into reality.

We in society created governments to do those things, collectively, for all citizens, that we cannot do individually, in local affairs, provincial affairs and Canadian affairs.

Governments and private enterprise are partners in the endeavor for orderly economic growth. It is logical that they know what each other is doing. The conversation must be meaningful—not two forces meeting to discuss differences, but two forces combining to achieve a common objective.

There is nothing really new in this concept—private enterprise and governments have been talking in a variety of ways ever since our economic system started.

In recent decades, however, a new voice has been added to the dialogue—the direct voice of the citizen—an urgent plea to be heard before the decisions are made.

This is the age of protest, of questioning, of individual involvement.

No longer will the public quietly let private enterprise do as it likes, if those acts are considered detrimental to the majority of citizens.

Learning the feelings of citizens, whether corporate or individual, and reacting to them before the decisions are made, is a relatively new experience for democratic governments throughout the world.

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Municipal Boundaries Make Sense

(Stouffville Tribune)

While complaints, as expected, have been heard from the camps of Uxbridge and Pickering Townships, following the release of the regional government plan for Ontario County, the proposed municipal boundaries, in our opinion, make sense, however critical to the future of the Town of Whitechurch-Stouffville.

For example, the idea of "roping off" the Airport-Cedarwood section is a wise move. With the kind of development anticipated there, it should be looked on as a community unto itself.

And, should the airport project not become a reality, that portion, or part thereof, could go with Uxbridge, with the remainder reverting back to Markham.

Just as important, we feel, is the split between urban and rural Pickering. While the rural south boundary could just as easily be drawn at Highway 7 as Concession 7, there's no doubt that communities like Claremont and Mount Zion will feel more "at home" in the "north", than in the urban oriented "south".

Uxbridge Township and town have always looked on each other as country-town "cousins", and while the seat of government could cause some controversy, the miles vs. population benefit, will ultimately determine the site.

I Didn't Know That!

(News of the Richmond Hill Public Library System)

The organization of public libraries in Ontario is governed by the Public Libraries Act, 1966, with amendments. This is a statute of the province of Ontario, and as such, any changes require an act of the provincial legislature. Public libraries are now under the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Library Boards — There are three different types of library boards. Each is differently constituted according to the Public Libraries Act.
— Boards for municipalities with a population of less than 10,000.

This is a five-member board, composed of the mayor or reeve and four members appointed annually by the municipal council.
— Boards for municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more.

This is a nine-member board composed of the mayor or reeve and three members appointed by the municipal council, three members appointed by the board of Education and two members appointed by the separate school board, if any. The appointments by the council and the board of education are for three-year terms and are staggered so that only one appointment is made by each body each year. The separate school board appoints for a two-year term with one appointment made each year.

County library boards. This is a seven-member board composed of the warden of the county and six members appointed by county council. Three of the six appointees are members of the county council and the other three are not members of county council but eligible residents of the county. The latter three have three-year appointments, staggered so that only one appointment is made each year.

All library boards, however constituted, are corporations with powers to own property and manage the affairs of the library. The library board does not have tax-raising power, but other than that it is quite independent.

Financing — The funds for operating the library come from two main sources.
— Provincial grants. In 1970 the grant structure was simplified, and became basically a straight per capita amount.

The local levy. The annual budget of the library board is presented to the council of the local municipality. It sets out the revenues and expenditures which are anticipated for the coming year. The estimated provincial grant forms part of the anticipated income, along with other sources of incomes such as fees, fines and payments for services rendered. The remainder of the current revenue will have to come from a local tax levy, usually set as a mill rate on the assessment of the community.

A third source of financing, which is greatly appreciated, is by private benefactors, and enables the library to finance titles or projects ideally desired by the library.

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In the Spotlight

By MONA ROBERTSON

Sounds Of Christmas

What a way to spend Christmas and New Year's ... home abed with that ole 'flu! Seems as if every family was hit ... and hit hard over the holiday season. My sympathy to all my fellow invalids who have fought rising temperatures, chills, coughs and sneezes. Let's hope 1973 comes up with a preventive for the common (veddy much so) cold, and la grippe.

Long overdue is my salute to the Bayview Secondary School Band and the Pleasantville Choir for their pre-Christmas treat to hundreds of (then) happy people ... with their second annual presentation of "Sounds of Christmas" at St. Matthew's United Church.

St. Matthew's lends itself beautifully to the sound of music, with its high arched ceiling. The front of the church is admirable too for the delicately decorated huge Christmas Tree, shining in ethereal white with Christmas motives. Really lovely.

The choir of 47 young people (of which only 10 are new since the 1971 concert), was in beautiful voice as Mrs. Judith Wales conducted them through some of the old and many new selections most pleasing to the audience which filled the church hall.

We have only one criticism (again this year) ... and that is that the band, which is terrific and notably perfect in meter, tone and rhythm ... is still just a little too 'heavy' for some of the choir's selections.

This year I sat on the band side of the church. ... But after querying one or two listeners from the other side of the hall, I realized the lack of 'tone' from the choir, particularly in "Calypso Christmas" was indeed due to too much 'brass'.

Ray Barton conducted the Bayview Secondary Band and the choir for several beautiful numbers. Shelagh Campbell, as program chairman, added to the warm intimate atmosphere of the evening in general.

Miss Wendy Meade's vocal solos, "All my heart this night rejoices" and "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire" were a joy to hear. During intermission I discovered Wendy has a natural, untrained voice ... hard to believe, it has such a rich fully-developed tone ... but she intends to study music with a teacher some day.

"Angels we have heard on high", a flute selection in which Mark Crawford's guitar had a really fine harp-like tone ... was succeeded by "Silver Bells" sung by the full choir.

Gordon Fleming was at the organ as the choir, band and Wendy Meade concluded the program with the haunting refrain, "O Holy Night".

And to top off an evening of pleasing music, a carol service in which the audience, choir and band participated, was enjoyed by old and young alike.

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