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.

W. S. COOK, Publisher "Second class mail, registration number 0190"

Division of Burlington Printing Co. Ltd.

#### 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 audiovisual 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 Decem-

ber 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 dupli-

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

There is some justification for the board to want to consolidate its operations, but there doesn't seem to be much justification for the

way its going about it. In the first place, the matter of cost hasn't even been discussed the \$1,700,000 figure was taken from the board's five-year forecast. The board has said merely that it must "determine alternative ways of financing the construction of such a centre." Nothing has been put forward to show whether a new centre is going to be cheaper or dearer to operate in

the long run. The planning itself seems to be more personally ambitious than practical. As Mrs. Coburn pointed out, why the chairman's room? How often will he be there to use it? And why does he need a permanent office anyway? There will always be other empty rooms he can use if he has private business to conduct.

Ditto, the board and meeting rooms scheduled. Why, as Mrs. Coburn asked, can't some of these be duplicated?

But rooms aside, does the board not defeat the whole purpose of the project itself by this bit of illogic stated in its prospectus of the building: " . . . the committee concluded that the objectives of the board would best be served by the consolidation at a single location of the administrative function along with the supporting facilities and services which serve the entire school system.

"It was agreed, however", - and here is where the board climbs back into its ivory tower - "that the management philosophy stated above can best be carried out by retaining the decentralized area offices. These area offices as well as the maintenance shops, by their geographic location and accessibility, can best provide those specific services required by individual schools within each area."

What is that old saw about having your cake, etc.?

The board is probably right about these outside facilities serving best where they are. Then why a new building to consolidate their operation when a good portion of their services will still be elsewhere?

That seems to be much like building a school in one part of town and the gymnasium for it in another part, because that's where the athletes live.

A new administrative building for the Board of Education doesn't seem to serve any real practical purpose now, if half its facilities are still going to be distributed all

over the region. But even if it were all that sound, there are just too many other demands on the taxpayers' money for them to give their blessing to something so grandiose

as the board has in mind. And if the board is wise, it will put away its drawing board for another day.

Right now their plans are coming out too much like doodles.

### 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 fulfilment 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 profitloss statement is.

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

By MONA ROBERTSON

Sounds Of Christmas

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 tempera-

tures, chills, coughs and sneezes. Let's hope 1973

comes up with a preventive for the common

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

sound of music, with its high arched ceiling. The

front of the church is admirable too for the deli-

cately decorated huge Christmas Tree, shining in

ethereal white with Christmas motives. Really

10 are new since the 1971 concert), was in beauti-

ful voice as Mrs. Judith Wales conducted them

through some of the old and many new selections

most pleasing to the audience which filled the

... 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

. . . 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

ary Band and the choir for several beautiful num-

bers. Shelagh Campbell, as program chairman,

added to the warm intimate atmosphere of the

heart this night rejoices" and "Chestnuts roast-

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.

ection in which Mark Crawford's guitar had a

really fine harp-like tone . . . was succeeded by

choir, band and Wendy Meade concluded the

program with the haunting refrain, "O Holy

a carol service in which the audience, choir and

band participated, was enjoyed by old and young

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ing on an open fire" were a joy to hear.

"Silver Bells" sung by the full choir.

Christmas" was indeed due to too much 'brass'.

Long overdue is my salute to the Bayview

St. Matthew's lends itself beautifully to the

The choir of 47 young people (of which only

We have only one criticism (again this year)

This year I sat on the band side of the church.

Ray Barton conducted the Bayview Second-

Miss Wendy Meade's vocal solos, "All my

During intermission I discovered Wendy has

"Angels we have heard on high", a flute sel-

Gordon Fleming was at the organ as the

And to top off an evening of pleasing music,

(veddy much so) cold, and la grippe.

St. Matthew's United Church.

the choir's selections.

evening in general.

Night".

lovely.

What a way to spend Christmas and New

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 resourc-

What is this huge, amorpous, complex force that is gathered under the umbrella designation of 'Private Enterprise'?

It is the large corporation whose decisions alter the fortunes of communities. It is the farmer managing his

enterprise in co-operation with mother nature. 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 thingsthe 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 inventive-

ness 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 make laws under which we must live, and enforce them to maintain order. Governments provide social services for all the people and collect taxes to pay for them.

Governments can create an environment which encourages private enterprise to progress or discourage it to venture.

I Didn't Know That!

(News of the Richmond Hill Public Library System)

governed by the Public Libraries Act, 1966, with amend-

as such, any changes require an act of the provincial

This is a five-member board, composed of the mayor

This is a nine-member board composed of the mayor

council, three members appointed by the board of Educa-

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.

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 mem-

bers of county council but eligible residents of the county.

The latter three have three-year appointments, staggered

ations 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 inde-

- Provincial grants. In 1970 the grant structure was

simplified, and became basically a straight per capita

- 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 antici-

pated 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 pay-

ments for services rendered. The remainder of the cur-

rent revenue will have to come from a local tax levy,

usually set as a mill rate on the assessment of the com-

All library boards, however constituted, are corpor-

The funds for operating the library come from two

so that only one appointment is made each year.

This is a seven-member board composed of the

or reeve and four members appointed annually by the

of Colleges and Universities.

Library Boards -

than 10,000.

municipal council.

- County library boards.

pendant.

Financing -

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.

#### Municipal Boundaries

While complaints, as ex-The organization of public libraries in Ontario is pected, have been heard from the camps of Uxbridge and ments. This is a statute of the province of Ontario, and Pickering Townships, following the release of the regionlegislature. Public libraries are now under the Ministry al government plan for Ontario County, the proposed municipal boundaries, in our There are three different types of library boards. opinion, make sense, how-Each is differently constituted according to the Public ever critical to the future of the Town of Whitchurch-- Boards for municipalities with a population of less | Stouffville.

(Stouffville Tribune)

'roping off' the Airport-Cedarwood section is a wise move. With the kind of development anticipated there. Boards for municipalities with a population of 10,000 it should be looked on as 'a community unto itself' And, should the airport projor reeve and three members appointed by the municipal ect not become a reality, that portion, or part thereof, tion and two members appointed by the separate school board, if any. The appointments by the council and the could go with Uxbridge, with board of education are for three-year terms and are the remainder reverting back to Markham.

is the split between urban and rural Pickering. While the rural south boundary could just as easily been 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

As far as rigid opposition is concerned, we feel Jack Anderson, (Pickering Ward 1), and Uxbridge Councillors, would be well advised to sound out the thinking of their respective residents, before embarking on any course of action that would tear the plan apart.

# Make Sense

For example, the idea of

Just as important, we feel,

of government could cause some controversy, the miles vs. population benefit, will ultimately determine the

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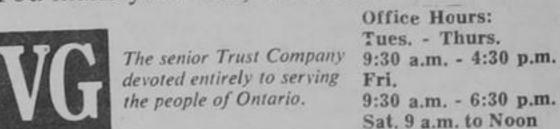


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#### Make Parents Responsible

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.

Ontario did have, at one time, legislation which permitted municipalities to set and enforce a curfew for those under 16 years of age. At nine every evening youngsters under that age were expected to be at home or on their way home. Those caught loitering on the streets or in public places were taken home, parents warned, and

fined if a second infraction occurred. A revival of this legislation would have a great effect on the incidence of vandalism, we believe.

For years Alf Cowling, High Park Conservative representative in the Ontario Legislature advocated the making of parents responsible for the damage their children caused. Although he was supported by many individuals and most law enforcement officers, he made little if any headway.

But the vandalism continues to grow and the cost to public bodies whose money comes from the pockets of the parents who do not know or care where their children are or what they are doing, as well as from the pockets of all other ratepayers, reaches astronomical figures every year.

If you want your taxes to stay within reason, if you believe that parent responsibility for damages will help in controlling the young people and reducing vandalism and like crimes, then let your provincial representative know your feelings. The weight of public opinion could be the deciding factor in getting the legislation necessary to improve existing conditions.

#### Gibson House Show On Berczy Settlement

Markham Township his- the William Berczy settle- Historical Society of Upper recently in an exhibit at Fort implements. York in Toronto. After Jan-

ing models of salt and grist ship. mills and a blacksmith shop The exhibit was put to- area by grants of free land and is a reconstruction of gether by the Mecklenburg to settlers.

tory of the late 1790's and ment through models, pic- Canada. early 1800's has been relived tures, relief maps and farm Berczy was granted 64,000 Berczy was the leader of

The exhibit includes work-

acres of land by Governor John Graves Simcoe of Upuary 15 it will be at the Gibson House. 5168 Yonge Street, in Willowdale.

Berczy was the leader of a band of German settlers from New York State who relocated in Markham Town. couraged development in this

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