

# SCHOOL DAZE



By John MacRae

## From The Womb To The Tomb

I wrote some suggestions to parents a while back indicating what they should look for when visiting their child's kindergarten. I said that if your child was relaxed, happy and involved that you had no worries. I think that I must qualify that statement. You see I've done some reading and thinking and as my wife can testify, the only time I become confused is when I try to think. But I persevered and I hope the following comments might cause some of you to think.

It all began with mothers working. Private nursery schools sprang up to meet the need of these mothers to have some place to put the kids. Some of these "schools" were being run in private homes in a converted room behind the basement furnace. Mothers were desperate and as long as the kids were kept in out of the rain they paid their money and shut their mouths. Fortunately the Provincial Government got into the act and began licensing these day-care centres and nursery schools. Their standards were very high and many of the worst operations were closed down. Parents of these evicted children were forced to look elsewhere. Since the government set the regulations which closed some day care centres, the parents began to demand that the government supply alternative accommodation. The government has always been better at telling you how to do it rather than doing it themselves. They did see, though, a golden opportunity to place the responsibility for pre-school care on someone else's shoulders. The legislators authorized boards of education to open classes for three and four year olds. They also provided sufficient grants so that these boards would be encouraged to jump into pre-school care. Of course regular classrooms would not meet the criteria demanded of private nursery schools so these requirements were dropped.

School boards have not been required to meet pupil-teacher ratio of private nursery schools either — the cost would be prohibitive. (In private nursery schools they demand a trained teacher and two other adults for 15 children. Some boards are running junior kindergartens with 20 children and one teacher).

In any case that's how boards of education got into pre-school or junior kindergarten education. Late last spring the Toronto Boards instructed their staff to accept three and four year olds in September. There were a few dissenting voices but anything so obviously good for the people had to go through. Now that the dust and the din has subsided these dissenting voices are growing stronger.

These radicals are amassing a formidable amount of evidence to support the view that probably the worst thing you should subject a child to is school. Dr. Blatz of the Toronto Institute of Child Study used to say 30 years ago that every school should have an inscription over the door reading "Despair ye all who enter here." No one listened to him because he wasn't able to support such a wild statement with acceptable statistical proof. Such statistical data is beginning to appear.

The United States Federal Department of Education spent millions on "Operation Headstart", a programme for pre-schoolers in disadvantaged areas. They finally quit because research failed to find any significant gains or advantages.

Comparisons have been made between children who started school at age five and those who didn't start until seven. After four months of schooling those who have been attending since they were five can't be distinguished from those who've only been attending for four months. Doctors are beginning to discover that children's eyes and ears are not well enough developed to benefit from reading instruction 'til they are at least seven years of age; in fact they suggest that harm may be done by visual and auditory discrimination is begun too early. And to top it off there has been shown that there is a correlation between social-emotional adjustment and the age at which a child starts school — the younger they start the more likely they'll be unstable.

Which just goes to prove that maybe a warm secure family can do the best job of teaching young children. Perhaps the government should consider paying parents to keep their kids home rather than paying school boards to bus them off to junior and senior kindergartens.

## Mayor Looks At Past, Future

(Continued from page 1)

hall in the northern section of town, recreation facilities in Ozark Park, an arena for Richvale in 1974, a railway overpass on Markham Road and more sanitary disposal facilities.

He reported that the OHC had recommended building a further 43 senior citizen units and 35 family housing units. At the request of council OHC has agreed the third senior building on the property on Dufferin Lane should house at least 70 units and construction will begin shortly.

Dealing with the events of Centennial Year, Mayor Lazenby announced that he has entered the Lions-sponsored Beard Growing Contest. He noted that St. John's Anglican Church will be celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

Each member of council was then given the opportunity to introduce his or her guests and say a few words.

Councillor Andy Chateaufort was released from hospital for a few hours to attend the inaugural. He is recuperating from recent major surgery. Clerk Russell Lynett,

who has served the municipality in that capacity for almost 36 years and who retires later this year, was unable to be present because of illness. Mr. Lynett is only the third man to have served as clerk of the municipality in its 100 years, Mayor Lazenby noted.

**FIRST BYLAW**  
A bylaw to permit the borrowing of \$4,700,000 was passed by council as its first official act. Mayor Lazenby explained that this is the total amount the town may borrow during the year, but does not expect to and never has borrowed the full amount.

The mayor quoted from a report of a meeting held in 1857 to discuss incorporation which closed with the words, "The proceedings having been brought to a close the committee adjourned to the Richmond Hill Hotel, and proceeded immediately to the duties assigned them."

The 1973 inaugural proceedings being completed, members of council, heads of departments and their guests adjourned to the Summit Golf and Country Club and proceeded immediately to the duties assigned them.



Fire of unknown origin swept through the Pine Grove Market, Campbell Avenue in the Pine Grove area of Vaughan last week, causing more than \$4,000 damage.

Besides wiping out the shop, the fire destroyed two apartments in the building. The fire occurred about 9 pm January 4. The building is owned by William Cornish of the Pine Grove area.

## Building Complete Write-Off In Mid Evening Vaughan Fire

More than \$4,000 damage was done in a fire at Pine Grove Market, one of two major fires in the Town of Vaughan last week.

The fire started about 9 pm January 5 and destroyed

a shop and two apartments before it was brought under control by Vaughan Fire Department. It was not known what started it.

Owner of the building is William Cornish of the Pine

Grove area. Vaughan and Woodbridge Fire were also called to put out a fire at Weston Products, Highway 7, Wood-

bridge. The fire occurred in the

northwest corner of the building between 11:30 and 12 midnight, January 6.

Neither the cause of the fire nor the amount of damage done were known.

## Snowmobile Races Anger Markham

Markham Mayor Anthony Roman got the message about the unpopularity of snowmobile racing in the Old Town of Markham park recently the hard way.

"I guess I must have gotten at least 60 phone calls the day after the races took place," he said.

The races being the controversial ones staged at the Markham Agricultural Society Fairgrounds.

They had been held to more-or-less test the reaction of area residents.

The reaction was vocal. Markham Council had received complaints over plans to stage the races prior to the New Year but had been powerless to do anything about them due to the lack of any bylaw prohibiting races.

"We were powerless to do anything because the agricultural society had approved the races and our noise bylaw is only in force from 9 pm to 6 am," said Roman.

It was a different story after the phone calls started pouring in.

Roman met with the town clerk and solicitor to prepare a bylaw banning organized racing in the municipality and it was high on the agenda last week at the initial meeting for 1973 of the new council.

It passed unanimously! "Of course," said Mr. Roman, "the bylaw won't be official until it's approved by the Ministry of Transport and Communications which might take a few weeks."

Roman noted that the noise caused by the races was particularly loud due to the "modified type of machines used. It was also quite foggy at the time and this seemed to make the noise factor an even greater one."

He concluded by stating: "You could say the people spoke out loud and clear on this issue. We all got the message."

Enter the new bylaw.

## Spray Irrigation Project Keeps York Councillors In Big Muddle

The council that sprays together doesn't necessarily stay together.

At least that's the way it appeared at the final meeting of 1972 of York Regional Council December 28 as members debated long and lustily over a planning committee recommendation on spray irrigation in the Holland Landing area, that only asked that the area be considered and didn't commit it to the project as the councillors seemed to feel.

Or as former Councillor Donald Plaxton of Richmond Hill put it afterwards, "It must be some reflection on this council that it spends 40 minutes on a resolution that my colleague says makes no sense."

Mr. Plaxton was referring to Georgina Councillor Robert Pollock's remarks

that the resolution was inaccurate in stating that the planning committee recommends to council that the Holland Landing area be considered.

The project, as outlined in a report of the engineering committee, based on a joint report of the latter and the planning committee, said that some 46 communities had been evaluated as potential sites requiring sewage treatment facilities on the basis of existing sanitary conditions, growth rates, long and short term solutions, and availability of alternative methods of treatment either now or within a reasonable period.

After an assessment of all potential sites was made, a detailed analysis of present sewage and water supply conditions was carried out in

two communities, the report stated.

It said that a final recommendation could not be made at this time because the retention period necessary had not been resolved between the region and the Ministry of the Environment.

The report said that the retention period depended upon climatic conditions, freezing cycles, the size of the retention lagoon varying with the length of the retention period.

However, in a report of the planning committee, chaired by Vaughan Mayor Garnet Williams, it recommended that the Holland Landing area "on the basis of information available to the planning committee, is being considered for spray irrigation."

A motion by Mayor Dick Illingworth of Aurora that both reports be tabled, was lost.

The planning committee should stick with planning and not sewers, was Mr. Illingworth's comment. Council should keep any options open until it received the information it needed from the Ministry of the Environment.

"We're not in a position to say Holland Landing's the place," Mr. Illingworth said.

Both Mayor Williams and Councillor James Jongeneel of Markham pointed out that the recommendation said that Holland Landing was only being considered for the project.

"You're more naive than I thought you were," said Mayor Illingworth.

Said Mayor Gwilym Rollings of East Gwillimbury, "All we ask is that the resolution be adopted. I see no reason why it can't. If any problems arise, they can easily be taken care of."

Councillor Ray Twinney of Newmarket said that he found it hard to agree with the planning committee until it got more information.

being done for everybody who had sewage problems, why was it even being done?" was the way Newmarket Mayor Robert Forhan assessed the situation.

"Sooner or later, council was going to have to decide where to carry it out," said Mayor Anthony Roman of Markham.

Councillor Plaxton said that the report was "simply reflecting the opinion of staff at this time."

Councillor Pollock's motion that the wording of the original resolution be changed from "recommends to council" to "wishes to notify council" that the Holland Landing area is being considered, was carried, as was the amended motion.

**STOUFFVILLE:** The local fire brigade responded to 92 calls in 1972 — 69 of these were in the town, seven in Markham, 13 in Uxbridge Township, two in Pickering Township and one in Richmond Hill. Revenue earned totalled \$12,480 and the brigade donated \$160 to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

**STOUFFVILLE:** Rather than utilizing the Blooming Road as a bypass route around Stouffville, council will press for construction of an alternate artery to the south, linking Highway 48 with Concession 10, with feeder roads leading on to Main Street.

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## Imaginative York Projects Win Federal Grant Support

Three new Local Initiative Programs in the York Region have been approved by Ottawa according to Barney Danson MP, York North. They include—

Helpmate Information, located in the basement of the Richmond Hill Public Library, 884-2727. This local source of information is sponsored by the town's social planning council and is spearheaded by Rev. George Young and Mrs. Margaret Southwell.

Three people are employed to provide information and a referral service for the town and vicinity. The federal contribution will be \$9,126.

Other goals of the project is identifying gaps in community service and bringing individuals and organizations together to meet the needs of the community. It will also be training volunteers to operate the service and fill gaps in it. The projects will provide Richmond Hill with a central information service and with a means of identifying areas that need attention.

John Baumnard, RR 2 King, is leading a project sponsored jointly by the United and Anglican Churches of Canada which will restore small local churches in the area. Five laborers and tradesmen will be employed in the work and the project will receive a grant of \$15,054.

Another \$15,603 will be forthcoming for work on Woodlands Trail Camp near Ballantrae. This project which will improve camping facilities is sponsored by the Boy Scouts of Canada Greater Toronto Region.

Work will be clearing trees and brush to provide more space in two Scout camps, renovating sleeping accommodation in three villages, improving quarters for young children, clearing a firebreak on the north property line and widening roads for moving equipment through the camps.

An enriching program through art, language development, music, physical development, science and creative play will be the result of a LIP grant in the South Thornhill area. Imaginative and dedicated parents will operate the Parkview Pre-School at Henderson Avenue Public School. The program will employ six people in a pre-school program for children three to five years old.

The driving forces are Mrs. Karen Zech and Mrs. Leona FeDuke of 85 Henderson Avenue.

Emergency Flight  
**Victim Said "Fair"**

A Vaughan resident, who was rushed to Toronto General Hospital last week by Canadian Forces helicopter from Huntsville, was reported to be in "fair condition" Wednesday by hospital authorities.

George Moore, 49, of the Concord area, suffered acute internal bleeding while visiting in Huntsville, and because of the severity of his condition was unable to be moved by road transportation.

As a result, a call was put into the Armed Forces base at Ottawa, which sent out a Voyager helicopter from 450 Squadron.

According to an Armed Forces spokesman, the helicopter left Huntsville at 3:55 pm Tuesday and arrived at Toronto Sick Children's Hospital at 4:55 pm, where a receiving team from Toronto General Hospital was waiting to remove Mr. Moore to the neighboring hospital.

## County Schools

### Marvin Hunter Board Chairman

Marvin Hunter of King Township, who served last year as vice-president of York County Board of Education, was named chairman Monday night at the inaugural meeting of the board.

Mr. Hunter, who was nominated by Trustee Warren Baillie of Richmond Hill, was unopposed in his election.

Seconding the nomination for Mr. Hunter was Trustee Margaret Coburn of King.

Also unopposed in the election for Vice-Chairman was Trustee Merna Colbourne of Mount Albert, who was nominated by Trustee Morley Kinnee of Vaughan.

Seconding the nomination was Trustee Mariane Gillan of Sutton.

A lifetime resident of King Township, Mr. Hunter was a member of Aurora District High Board from 1954 to 1968, and chairman from 1966 to 1967. During that time he represented the board on the interim school organization committee.

Last year, besides being vice-chairman, he served as chairman of the committee on programs and costs.

He has also served as secretary-treasurer of the former SS 4 in King Township from 1940 to 1964.

Mr. Hunter, a general insurance agent, is married, with two children.

Mrs. Colbourne was a trustee of the Markham Village Public School Board for six years, serving two years as chairman.

As a member of the York County Board, she served as chairman of the communications committee and a member of the liaison committee.

A mother of three, Mrs. Colbourne was a resident of Markham for 12 years, where she was active in church and community organizations.

**COMING EVENTS**  
JANUARY 15, MONDAY, 8 pm — Family euchre, Our Lady Queen of the World Church, Bayview and Crosby Avenues. Admission \$1.25

THE FILM "Civilization", in series, will be shown in the Richmond Hill Public Library every Monday at 8 pm commencing January 15, 1973, until April 9. For more information please call 884-9288. clw28

60TH Wedding Anniversary "Open House" to honour Mr. and Mrs. Ed Robson of King City, at Teston United Church, Saturday, January 20, 1973, 1:30 pm to 5 pm. Everyone welcome. No gifts please. e2w28

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