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Detoxification Centres Essential

We agree wholeheartedly with former Regional Councillor Donald Plaxton that the provincial government has been remiss in its obligation where the establishment of detoxification centres in the Region of York is concerned.

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Plaxton served the Town of Richmond Hill for 11 years, as councillor, deputy reeve, reeve and finally regional councillor. In the two years since the advent of regional government, he tried determinedly but unsuccessfully to persuade the region and the province that there is a need for a local jail for persons serving short terms and for those awaiting trial,



DONALD PLAXTON

arguing that it would be in the best interests of both the guilty and innocent to be close to their homes, their communities and their legal advisors rather than being incarcerated, as at present, in the outdated, over-crowded and often understaffed Don Jail in Metro.

He had hopes, too, until the final meeting of regional council for 1972 (December 28) that the council and the province would be more receptive to his arguments for the need for detoxification centres in York.

Mr. Plaxton had succeeded in persuading the health and social services committee chaired by Mayor George Burrows of Georgina, but at its December 28 meeting the committee recommendation that plans to establish detoxification centres in York Region be abandoned for the present.

The committee had earlier explored the possibility of detoxification centres in nursing homes. However, under the Liquor Control Act, nursing homes are ruled out, a detoxification centre meaning a hospital.

Our interpretation of a detoxification centre is a place where drunks can be taken as an alternative to jail, to be "dried out" under medical supervision and given some psychiatric counselling. It is then up to the individual to

decide whether or not he has a problem and wishes to seek treatment for alcoholism.

It is a matter of record that many people jailed as drunk have died in their cells, victims of diabetes, bronchial ailments, brain tumors or other causes.

And just recently a young man loaded with alcohol and second went to a Scarborough Hospital demanding treatment. Because of his obnoxious behavior police were called and he was hauled off to jail. He tried to hang himself in his cell, was cut down by police and taken back to the same hospital where he was once again rejected and returned to jail.

In court his mother testified to his chronic alcoholism, drug addiction and wild outbursts of violence, begging for psychiatric help for her son, and showing scars to prove that she and a younger son had been frequently attacked by the prisoner.

The Presiding Judge Frederick McMahon refused to accept crown counsel's recommendation based on a doctor's report that the youth was drunk and a few weeks in jail would do him good. The judge remanded him in custody for mental examination and directed that the examining doctor appear with the prisoner at the next hearing of the case.

With the current shortage of active treatment hospital beds and the freeze on future construction, the assistant administrator of the hospital in question can hardly be blamed for protesting that "hospitals are for sick people, not abusive drunks".

And letters received by the regional committee from York County and York Central Hospitals indicating they were too crowded to undertake detoxification centres at present came as no surprise to the council or to Mr. Plaxton.

Just a few years ago public concern was focussed primarily on drug abuse, but those in the forefront of addiction research have confirmed that, even among the young, alcohol is still the number one "drug of choice" for addicts from 16 to 96, that for the sake of the future mental and physical health of our nation, priority must be given to further attempts to understand and treat this plague that has reached epidemic proportions in the swinging 70's.

Mr. Plaxton put it very mildly when he said it was a "matter of disappointment" to him that there has been no change in the manner of dealing with those who are picked up as drunk (occasionally or chronically) in the Region of York. We hope that he will not abandon his crusade, and that his successors on the regional council will continue to press for changes in legislation that will make it possible to set up detoxification centres in York.

Sunday No Longer A Day Of Rest

"An outstanding citizen" is how Historian Doris FitzGerald described David James in a "Window On The Past" feature article which appeared in this paper on January 4. She went on to say that he was "a good farmer who worked zealously for his church and for the district as a whole."

Born May 14, 1843, Mr. James' 80 years spanned the days from pioneer life when grain was sown by hand and oxen were used for heavy work on the farm to the age of agricultural mechanization. His Christian service began in 1867 as a Sunday school teacher and he held this position more than 49 years as well as serving as superintendent for 30 years, and in other positions of responsibility in the Thornhill Methodist Church. He also served 10 years as deputy-reeve and reeve of Markham Township.

Throughout his life he expressed aversion to Sunday work or recreation, cards, tobacco, sponging on people for meals, rich foods, fashionable dress and rented pews, reflecting the teachings of his parents and grandfather. The Sabbath was kept as a day for rest and worship. His mother would not permit her boys to whistle, play games, write letters, shave or black boots on Sunday and there were no big dinners. Cooking was done on Saturday which was also the day for the weekly bath for all members of the family.

How times have changed! Nowadays the restrictions on Sabbath activities have almost entirely disappeared. Sunday is a big day for organized sports, more and more retail outlets are open seven days a week and Sunday, rather than being a special day set aside for worship and rest, has become one of the busiest days of the seven.

To our eyes the restrictions of a mid-nineteenth century Sabbath appear too harsh — when the program of the day included a two-hour church session, an equal time spent on Sunday school and reading was restricted to the Bible, Sunday school literature and Pilgrim's Progress. But today's open Sunday appears to us to be too open. We decry the return to a seven-day work week, throwing into discard the day of rest for which countless generations struggled, without even considering the religious implications.

Sunday sports for youngsters cuts out their and their parents' attendance at church activities. Open stores which must be staffed also deprive staff members of the opportunity to attend a church service. It must be recognized that the churches have played an important part in our development and must continue to play a part in developing moral and ethical standards which will keep this land one of humane objectives, and a willingness to be "keepers" of our brothers throughout the world.

Multiple Tax Forms Promise Utter Confusion

The Federal Department of National Revenue expects to mail the 1972 tax forms, with a separate form for the new Ontario property tax credit and a 28-page guide, to all Canadian taxpayers in the near future. Last day for filing is April 30 for individuals.

The new tax form will be simpler than the 11 foot ones proposed last year, but will be much more complicated than those of the past decade or so.

Most people (four out of every five taxpayers) have used a simple two-page form for filing income tax reports. This will be replaced by a more complicated four-page form, along with individual pages which must be used if certain deductions, such as child care costs, are claimed.

It is forecast that this new form will lead to more tax return errors than have been customary since the first income tax was levied in Canada in 1917.

This year everyone will use the same form. The guide accompanying the 1972 form says "At first glance, it may appear more difficult than before, but by taking one step at a time, you should not have any problems."

Anticipating confusion on the part of the public, however, the department will conduct a big publicity campaign to educate taxpayers. "Stripped of all its mystery, a tax form is simply a piece of paper on which you do four basic things," the guide book says. "These are to identify yourself, list your income,

reduce your income by subtracting deductions that may be made and calculate the tax money that must be paid." Sounds simple enough doesn't it? But it can prove much more complicated than it sounds.

The normal personal data, such as name, marital status, social insurance number, and occupation, which has always been required, will be entered on the first page. On this page you will also calculate how much tax you have to pay. If your taxable income is up to \$12,000, the federal and Ontario taxes will be pre-calculated on another page.

Now come the deductions. From the total tax payable, deduct the Ontario property tax credit—calculated on a separate form. Also deduct taxes already deducted from pay cheques and overpayments on the Canadian Pension Plan or unemployment insurance. Now you will know if you owe the federal government more money, have a rebate coming, or break even.

Now for the second page. You list income from employment (including salaries, wages, tips and manpower training allowances) and deduct 3% of this amount up to \$150 as a new employment expense deduction. To the "net employment earnings", the figure that results, you add any money obtained as unemployment insurance benefit in 1972.

Other sources of income, such as pensions, dividends, interest

from bonds and bank savings, capital gains or rents, must also be listed. Interest on a bank account or bond, or a dividend from a taxable Canadian corporation must be entered on a separate form, known as Schedule 4, which is to be attached to the new standard form. Anyone who buys or sells assets—stocks, bonds, property, etc., at a profit must fill out Schedule 2 to calculate capital gains and losses.

Still on the second page you will list deductions. Standard deductions include Canada Pension contributions, unemployment insurance premiums and company pension plan payments—listed on the T4 slip you receive from your employer(s).

Other deductions include union dues, tuition fees, moving costs (over 25 miles) to change jobs, child care expenses for working parents and carrying charges for money borrowed to make investments or to manage investments.

Union dues, professional fees, university tuition fees simply require receipts. But child care expenses must be listed on still another form, Schedule 5. Although receipts do not have to be provided, the guide says they must be retained for examination on request. Working mothers or fathers who are single, separated, widowed or divorced or whose wife is in a firm or confined to an institution are eligible to claim child care expenses as deductions.

The moving expenses for those changing jobs or for uni-

versity students who moved to take up permanent or summer employment must be listed on a special form—T1-M—obtained from a district taxation office to be claimed as a deduction.

If you borrow money to make an investment or buy savings bonds through a payroll deduction scheme, you can deduct the interest charges. If you keep bonds and stocks in a safety deposit box, you can deduct that cost as well as any payments for investment advice and investment management.

Space is provided for the standard medical and charitable donation deduction of \$100. If you claim more than this amount, backed up by receipts, you must fill out Schedule 3.

Basic personal exemptions are listed on Page 4. These are \$1,500 for the single person, a married man may also claim \$1,350 for a non-working wife and \$300 for each child 16 and under.

Then we come to the Ontario property tax credit, which is calculated on still another form.

Property owners will calculate 10% of the property tax, while tenants take 2% of their rent for the year and add this to a basic \$90 credit. From this each taxpayer deducts 1% of the taxable income to arrive at the amount you may deduct from your income tax. The maximum deduction, or credit, is \$250.

If you find the new forms difficult to comprehend or run up against any problem in filling them out, call the Toronto federal tax office at 869-1500.

Food And Dogs At King Seneca

Lectures on buying, raising and breeding a dog, exercising and basic genetics will be given as part of the winter '73 part time program at Seneca College's King Campus on Dufferin Street north of the King Sherwood. This course on thoroughbred dogs as a hobby or profession will introduce participants to the evolution and socialization of the dog. Following this Level 1 program, students can proceed to Level 2 and 3.

This course is offered Thursday nights beginning February 8. Further information can be obtained by calling 884-9901.

FOOD PREPARATION
FOOD buffets, fancy desserts, German dishes, cooking as an art, commercial quantity food preparation and international wines are special part time programs which will be available at Seneca's King Campus beginning in February. Each class will meet one evening a week from 7 to 10 for 14 weeks. Although the fee for these are somewhat higher than average it includes all cooking materials.

A credit subject entitled, "Current Issues In Nutrition" will also be available. It will deal with vitamin supplements, nutrient requirements, food additives, special diets for special problems among other topics. Instructor is Barbara Musten, research assistant in the University of Toronto's Department of Nutrition.

Further information about these programs can be obtained by calling 884-9901.

Peace Signs

Many adults complain, They see this sign too much, Well let the younger speak, About their feeling and touch.

Well they don't really see, Our complete point of view, This sign stands for peace, It's simple and it's true.

This sign stands for peace, The little lines inside, Stand for witches and dragons feet, And the youngster pride.

PAULINE BIRD, Age 12, 238 Demaine Crescent, Richmond Hill.

It Happened In Richmond Hill

Editor's Note—The following article which appeared in Richmond Hill's first newspapers in 1857 deals with an unsuccessful attempt at incorporation. According to other records, although the population was sufficient for a village, the large proposed acreage, from Markham Road to Elgin Mills Road between the Mill Pond and the CNR Railway, made the density too thin. In the second attempt, which was successful in 1873, the acreage was reduced substantially. The story is of particular interest in this, the town's Centennial Year—Editor.

Hill and immediate neighborhood, are contributing on the aggregate, upwards of Two Hundred Pounds annually to the Townships of Markham and Vaughan, without receiving adequate benefit therefrom; and conceiving that the Village of Richmond Hill would be benefited if incorporated, be it therefore resolved:

1st, That the necessary steps be taken to apply to His Excellency the Governor in Council, to incorporate this village, under the style and title of the Village of Richmond Hill.—Carried.

2nd, Moved by Mr. J. K. Falconbridge, and seconded

York Ridings' Gazette Richmond Hill, October 30, 1857 Incorporation of Richmond Hill

On Wednesday evening last a large and influential meeting of the inhabitants of Richmond Hill was held in the court room, to consider the propriety of taking immediate steps to have the village incorporated. The room was densely filled, and with the exception of two or three dissentients, the audience evinced a lively interest in the proceedings. Amos Wright, Esq., M.P., was called to the chair, and M. Teffy, Esq., appointed secretary. The chairman introduced the subject to the meeting in a brief and pointed address. He said that when the question was agitated some four years ago the law required that any village desiring to be incorporated should contain at least 1000 inhabitants. By a late Act, however, that number had been reduced to 750, and with the increase of population since that period, the desired object was now undoubtedly within their grasp. The following resolutions were then submitted, and advocated with much force by the gentlemen whose names are attached thereto.

Moved by George P. Dickson, Esq., seconded by D. Bridgford, Esq., WHEREAS, the inhabitants of Richmond

by Mr. John Arnold, that a notice be inserted in the York Ridings' Gazette for one month, with a view to the incorporation of this Village, as directed by the Statute 67. Vic 20, passed 10th June, 1857.—Carried.

3rd, Moved by Mr. A. Law, seconded by D. Bridgeford, Esq., that the limits of the incorporation of this village be from Lots No. 43 to 52, both inclusive, on each side of Yonge Street, extending to the 2nd Concession of the Townships of Markham and Vaughan.—Carried Unanimously.

4th, Moved by G. P. Dickson, Esq., seconded by D. Bridgeford, Esq., that in order to carry out the views of this meeting, a committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, viz:—Messrs. Dickson, Bridgeford, Wright, Trudgeon, Law, Warren and Teffy, be appointed for that purpose.

The proceedings having been brought to a close the committee adjourned to the Richmond Hill Hotel, and proceeded immediately to the duties assigned them. Subsequent meetings have been held and we are gratified to inform our readers that the matter is proceeding with due rapidity.

Trudeau Needs More Money Keep Jobless Fund Afloat

In a television interview Thursday night, the minority Liberal Government House Leader Allan McEachen, Cape Breton Highlands-Canso, stated that amongst the top priority items to be considered by the House of Commons will be legislation concerning unemployment insurance. The Cabinet Minister referred to this as "sackcloth and ashes" legislation.

Most urgently needed is legislation which will enable the Trudeau Government to replenish the exhausted coffers of the Unemployment Insurance Fund. It will seek to increase the \$800 million ceiling for federal contributions to unemployment insurance payments.

That figure, it is believed, will be surpassed easily in fiscal 1972 (up to March 31) with the latest estimates of the total jobless figures being \$1,879 million for the year. Trudeau has had to seek extra cash twice in the past three months to keep paying UIC benefits.

When the Commons is not in session a special Governor-General's warrant is required. One of these was obtained in October for \$234 million and another for \$200 million in the last week of December.

Unemployment is expected to be high during January, February and March because of weather conditions and still more money will be needed to keep the cheques going out.

The second piece of legislation will attempt to correct the numerous abuses of the unemployment insurance legislation, uncovered last year. Complete reformation, it is estimated, will knock 75,000 people off the lists of those receiving unemployment, 50,000 of those being Maritimers.

Earlier in the week Paul Hellyer, Progressive Conservative member representing Toronto Trinity, charged that there are often more people drawing unemployment insurance benefits than there are people listed as being out of work. He wanted an explanation of how this could be.

He related his question to last month's figures, but Labor Minister John Munro said these figures are not yet available. Mr. Hellyer told newsmen that in the first six months of 1972 there was only one month when the number of unemployed exceeded the number of persons drawing benefits. Sometimes, he said, the difference was as high as 140,000.

In the Spotlight



By MONA ROBERTSON

Saga Of An Iron Door Knocker

Gerry Diver, publicist for the Richmond Hill Curtain Club tells me, that on the night of February 16, at 8:30, when the red velvet curtains in the new theatre (at Elgin Mills East and Newkirk Roads) part — observant first-nighters will see "a most unusual iron knocker on the front door of the set." And thereby hangs a very interesting story.

This hand-cast door knocker will have made a most incredible journey — encompassing thousands of miles and many years — to grace the set of "Billy Liar", the Curtain Club's 1973 entry in the Central Ontario Drama League Drama Festival.

The knocker began its voyage in Eilean Dubh — the Black Isle — in the Highlands of Scotland . . . where it hung upon the front door of the ancestral home of the Ian Urquharts of Cromarty "a distant relative of Sir Thomas Urquhart, the famous translator of Rabelais."

Ian, the eldest of six Urquhart children, was said to be a stubborn, rebellious youth of 17 (when the story begins), whose temperament clashed noisily and frequently with that of his equally stubborn and fiery-tempered father. Legend has it that Ian was ordered from the house after a particularly stormy encounter with his sire . . . and that his last act of defiance was to use an axe, to hack the knocker off the front door! As he left home, with a few personal possessions . . . money slipped to him by his adoring mother . . . the knocker went with him. He never returned. The year was 1808.

After a few years of aimless wandering, Upper Canada's new frontiers beckoned. Ian and the knocker started off on an uncomfortable, long passage across the cold Atlantic, to the shores of Quebec City.

Ian was a good sailor, which served him well, for he no sooner disembarked, than he was climbing aboard another vessel for the next leg of his journey — up the St. Lawrence River to Montreal — thence to York (Toronto), by canoe and portage.

It was ten years since he had left his Scottish home. Upper Canada was gripped in the ordeal of the War of 1812. Its impact on Ian is reflected in a letter to his mother, ". . . all is gloomy — all is war and misery — some women are suffering for bread, as their husbands are on the lines and they and their children have no money nor credit, nor can they get any work to do . . ."

Depressed by what he saw, and "as soon as (was) prudent", Ian departed on the last lap of his journey — the voyageur route through the Great Lakes — into northern Ontario. He passed through "awesome wildernesses" by canoe, portages; through storms and rapids. And at last arrived at the flourishing Northwest Company's trading post, Fort William, Thunder Bay.

Happily he found a vocation here. And soon progressed to an administrative post with the iron knocker placed upon the door of his office. (Continued on Page 16)

Letters to the Editors

NO PENSIONS REGIONAL POLITICIANS

Dear Mr. Editor: A concerned citizens group invites you to join them in supporting the stand Aurora's Town Council has taken to try to quash the retroactive pension bylaw passed by our regional council for themselves.

In a letter to York Regional Council, we, the citizens of Aurora stated —

"We are strongly against you, voting for yourselves, any pension, retroactive or not, especially during the last month of office (December 1972) when you had ceased to be responsible to the electorate."

Aurora's Mayor Illingworth says, quote — "I am against a pension plan for members of council at both the local and regional level, as I do not feel that the elected office is a full time responsibility, and that some other type of employment is a requirement and that this normally provides a pension plan."

A prominent newspaper columnist's stinging remarks were — "The greatest loss of all is in accountability of the regional council to the people of this region. I hope never again to see such a blatant and shameful display of self-seeking greed as has been demonstrated by the 1971-72 regional council."

Think about it for a moment. What did your regional representative vote; for or against the pension? Perhaps YOU have even MORE reason to be concerned.

By taking a stand, Aurora's Council has become the vehicle for the people to communicate and voice their opinion of the bylaw. Through people power, we can put enough pressure on the regional government to make them reconsider their position.

Citizens, ratepayers groups, taxpayers, join us in voicing your opinion by writing to:

Garfield Wright, Chairman of York Region, (and all members of council), Municipality of York, Box 147, Newmarket, Ontario.

MR. AND MRS. P. BERTHIAUME, MR. AND MRS. K. FOWLER, Co-ordinators, South Aurora Citizens.

Enjoy a prepaid vacation

Enjoy a carefree, prepaid vacation and save money, too! Each pay day put a portion of your vacation money into a V and G special savings account that will pay you five percent interest. Draw this fund out at vacation time. The generous interest your money will have earned for you is your bonus for thinking ahead. Start your prepaid vacation fund today . . . at Victoria and Grey.

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