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Solutions For Housing Crisis

Some people like the impersonal living provided by apartment buildings — but to others living in an apartment is like living in a jail with the privilege of carrying the cell key in your pocket. Because of skyrocketing prices of single family homes, townhouses and semis, these latter people see little prospect of ever being able to purchase a home with a little bit of land which they can call their own.

The Comay Report On Housing, prepared for the Ontario Government, expresses deep alarm at this development and urges government at all levels to take action to provide housing at a price that most people can afford. Some of the methods suggested in the report are smaller lots and innovative methods of construction, including homes fabricated in factories and assembled on the site.

In an effort to keep house prices down in their development, BAIF-Cadillac are trying several innovative ideas, including quadraxes on corner lots and townhouses. These are not inexpensive housing, nor are they aesthetically beautiful, although when the landscaping is completed they probably will be much more attractive, but the price is selling them.

The latest proposals, for the first phase of this development under zonings applied by the Township of Vaughan, are stacked townhouses and apartment buildings. The stacked town houses will be two two-storey units one on top of the other with several units grouped in one building. There will be a small yard for the use of people on the ground floor.

But with rising costs of material and labor these townhouses will likely be as expensive as those now completed — or more so. Under the zoning the developers could have built 60 units to the acre but have reduced this number to 49, voluntarily, so the people in the new development will have a little more elbow room and more breathing space.

Richmond Hill Planning Committee has also been sounded out on a proposal by Ward 5 Councillor William Corcoran to develop a modular home park on 19th Avenue. This would be restricted to residents over 16 years of age and should prove attractive to older couples who are finding the care of large properties a burden. The homes brought to the site in two factory-built sections, placed on piers, and attached, would be a pleasant alternative to apartment living, particularly since recreation facilities are an integral part of the plan.

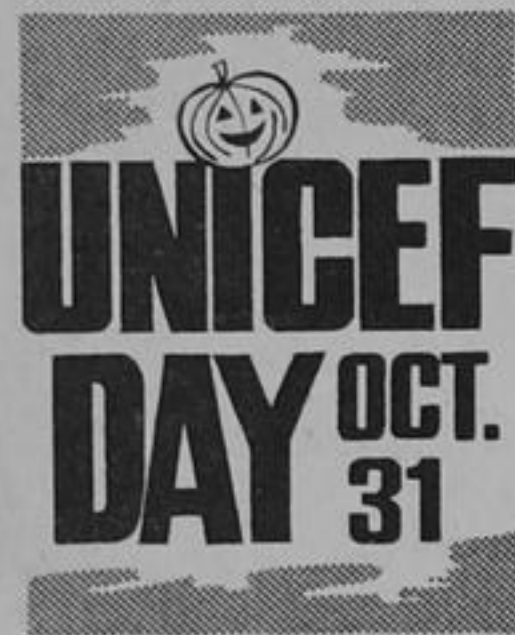
Moreover they could afford them, selling their present home at the current market price and investing the difference to provide for extra luxuries and travel if so desired. Or they might decide to rent or sell their present home to a son or daughter who wants to get out of an apartment.

Many Canadians have been living in similar parks in Florida during the winter months and have found it to be a pleasant way of life.

These are two solutions to the housing crisis which have to be considered by Richmond Hill Council and its planning committee and all concerned citizens.

Be Generous On Hallowe'en

Last year in a single evening, Hallowe'en, Canadian children from British Columbia to Newfoundland, including those in the Northwest Territories, collected \$800,800 for the work of the United Nations Children's Fund. This was more than twice the per capita collection of children in the United States. On Hallowe'en, again this year, the costumed youngsters of your neighborhood will be carrying UNICEF banks in their treat baskets and looking to you to help them equal or excel last year's collection.



They know how important these pennies are in West Africa and in India where severe drought has caused crop failures and food scarcity, as well as in providing long-term programs in health, education, nutrition and family and child welfare in all countries.

For example: One cent can buy enough BCG vaccine to protect one child against tuberculosis, enough vaccine to protect one child against smallpox, pay freight costs on enough donated dried milk to provide five glasses

of liquid milk, pay freight costs on enough donated high-protein CSM (corn-soya-milk blend) to provide four child's servings, buy a pencil or an eraser for a school child.

Five cents can buy enough triple vaccine to protect one child against diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus, enough antibiotic ointment to cure one child of trachoma, enough seed to sow 75 feet of spinach or 750 cabbage plants.

Twenty-five cents can buy a baby chick for an applied nutrition program, or a metal chisel for manual arts training.

\$50 can buy a deep-well hand pump to supply a village with clean water and \$175 can buy 1,000 feet of 1 1/4" galvanized water pipe for a community water supply project. \$2,000 can provide basic equipment and supplies for a rural health unit comprising a main health centre and three sub-centres. \$5,000 can equip a milk collecting and cooling centre for a large dairy and \$30 can buy a hand-operated sewing machine for teaching homecraft in rural women's clubs.

Our children love the fun of Hallowe'en, the most ancient of our holidays, which can be traced back to antiquity. But they are also aware that many children throughout the world never have enough to eat, don't have the proper opportunity to go to school and die at an early age because of poor nutrition and rampant disease. They want to help and ask you to help them. Please have a supply of pennies on hand on the evening of October 31.

Brampton Research Project Nets 270 Tons Of Paper

During the summer the Ministry of the Environment began a research experiment in Brampton, collecting newspapers for recycling, and in 20 weeks picked up 270 tons!

Describing Brampton as a "news-conscious" community, the Ministry estimates that each day the town receives over ten tons of newspapers, including Metro dailies and local publications.

In 1974

New Ont. System Farm Assessment

A new provincial farm assessment system based on land productivity is expected to be introduced in this area in the fall of 1974 for use in 1975 tax calculation.

The system, which has already started in Bruce and Muskoka Counties, will mean that in most parts of Ontario farm assessment will be lower than the property's actual market value.

It is planned as an alternative to the traditional system whereby farms were supposed to be assessed on the basis of their probable sales price. This proved to be a sore point with farmers who found speculators, developers, city hobby farmers and spreading urbanization penetrating farm country

and pushing land values up. A land classification system using 6,000 farm land sales samples from across the province, has been developed by the province to produce set assessment rates per acre. The rate structure reflects variations in soil texture and climatic influences in different regions of Ontario.

Assessors will visit farms, tour the property, and grade it with a pointing system. There are six classes of grading. Provincial officials say that while most farm assessments in Bruce County have increased, they are not as high as the probable sales price of market value level of the property.



(By Ethel Snow and Estelle Barker)

Captain Nathaniel Wallace House

Captain Nathaniel Wallace who emigrated from Ireland, received his captaincy during the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837.

A short time after the war he married Ann Wallace and erected the first Inkerman Hotel in Burwick (Woodbridge), where they raised their family of seven children.

The captain built this charming home on the main street of the village. An inscription on a plaque in the gable of the house reads:

"Burwick — Erected by Captain Wallace, 1873."

The house is built of red brick with patterned buff brick corners. The large verandah is supported by a wrought-iron trellage. The bay window supports a walk-out above with a beautifully patterned wrought-iron railing.

Descendants of the captain still occupy this attractive home.

Letters to the Editors

REMEMBER WHEN YOU WALKED TO SCHOOL!

Dear Mr. Editor—

Anyone who has had the privilege (?) of being a parent of teenagers knows well that the surest road to being tuned out is to begin a sentence with, "When I was your age..."

Therefore it gives me inordinate pleasure to say, when I was of school age I walked two and a half miles to school and two and a half miles back. For five years that was the drill. And thank the dear Lord for it! That exercise has been the basis of my adult well being. And I have felt more and more keenly that we have done our children a disservice by bussing them and chattering them from home to school and whatever activity they pursue besides.

The savings in terms of tax dollars (as you point out) would be substantial, but the real importance of walking, as a daily exercise is not a measurable quantity.

It is my dearest wish, though one which has faint hope of being realized that our children will be put back on their feet — where they belong.

Besides—an added bonus—would be the removal of another TV school commercial which depicts a school bus driver reaching for immediate (bottled and capsulated) relief from the combined and horrendous headache-making potential of our bus-riding darlings.

RUTH COOK,
79 Centre Street West,
Richmond Hill.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Dear Mr. Editor—

I wish to thank all those who took part in making such an outstanding success of the Chamber Players of

Toronto concert at St. Andrew's College on October 12.

Without the help of music lovers in the region I would have been wandering in the wilderness of confusion. There is no doubt that the evening was successful, the cardinal pointer is the behavior of the audience and in the interval between the movements of the music one could hear a pin drop.

We would like to thank Mayor Evelyn Buek of Aurora for her kind words and deeds which I understand is not her invariable habit. Mrs. Teen Chalk of Kingcrafts, Mrs. Beth Harwood of Richmond Hill, Karl Rohovsky of Bloomington Road (I prefer CFRB Sideroad), Dr. Jim Knowles for his enthusiastic support and good advice to me, the ladies of the York Region Symphony, Mrs. Carol Tunkin of Bradford who worked hard with her accustomed enthusiasm, Miss Mae Patterson of Newmarket who wants to join the patrons and help with the deficit which is not large.

This was a new thing for the district and we hope we will do it again. At any rate, those who think that chamber music is a concert given by a few aging and despairing virgins in the palm court of a second rate hotel in a third class seaside resort will have been pleasantly surprised.

And finally, the whole thing could not have been carried out without the wholehearted support of the Head Master Robert Coulter of St. Andrew's College and Mrs. Coulter, we are grateful for the cooperation of the three Cable TV companies in the region and the local weekly press.

RICHARD and FRAN BLUE,
RR 2, Aurora.

WE GET LETTERS — and we want more. If you have a comment on a current event, an anecdote to relate, a grouse to get off your chest, drop us a line.

All letters must bear the writer's name and address, although a pen-name will be used in the paper if requested and at the editor's discretion. The editor reserves the right to cut or publish portions of letters if necessary.

We can't return your letters. Sharpen your pencils — and let's hear from you.

In the Spotlight



By DIANA COOK

Guest Star Nov. 4, Pat Rideout Combines Satisfying Life With Singing

Patricia Rideout is that rare example of a woman who has managed to combine a love for music and a successful singing career with a full and satisfying personal life. When she isn't performing with the Toronto Opera Company or giving concerts of contemporary music, she is busy taking German and French lessons, learning classical guitar, entertaining at her Scarborough home or sailing a 35' yacht on Lake Ontario, with her husband. It's obvious to anyone who's ever met her that she's a person who believes, "so much of the pleasure in life comes from learning." She'll appear at Seneca November 4.

The seventh of eight children, Patricia began singing in her home town of Saint John, New Brunswick. After graduating from high school she spent four years working as a secretary in the daytime to pay for her evening lessons at the Toronto Opera School. Upon completion of her training, she joined up with the Festival Singers, who had just come into being at that time.

"The 15 years I spent with the Singers," says Pat, "were an invaluable experience. During that time I learned the meaning of voice control, the time and place for certain vibratos... but most importantly I was given the chance to work as part of a group or ensemble."

Eventually she left the Festival Singers in order to further develop her career. She loves music of all kinds and has a special talent for acting. This, combined with the fact that she is a contralto, has resulted in her frequently being cast as an older woman, although offstage her lively eyes and petite appearance are far from elderly. But she considers herself a character actress and doesn't mind her title of "Canadian Opera's Professional Old Woman" at all. "I have always enjoyed a special rapport with older people, as well as those in their late teens. They seem to be the two groups of people most honest in their outlook," she says.

Patricia believes singers should always be (Continued on Page 16)

Sunday Retail Selling Threat Grows

Back in 1970 the Law Reform Commission recommended to the Ontario Government that only independently owned retail outlets with three or fewer employees be allowed to open on Sunday and only for a limited time. Last March an ad hoc committee on Sunday retail selling made up of representatives from five major retail stores, the Consumers' Association of Canada, the Retail Hardware Association, the churches and the Lord's Day Alliance, warned the government that, unless Sunday selling is curbed, prices will rise, retail services will deteriorate and workers' lives will be seriously disrupted. The committee called for implementation of the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission.

LEGISLATION EXPECTED

So far the government has not acted and more and more retail markets—about 30 in the Metro area—are opening on the Sabbath. Others are threatening to follow suit. A move to stop the practise is expected when the Legislature opens this fall.

Although some critics charge that the mounting battle against a wide open, commercialized Sunday is a fanatic attempt to force them to go to church, the fight is backed by trade unions, independent store owners, and the Jewish community, as all realize Canadians need a common day for rest, recreation and family occasions which makes for quality of life.

PASSED IN 1906

In fact the Lord's Day Act was passed in 1906, 20 years after the railroad workers of Ontario asked the churches for help in fighting against a seven-day work week. The Act, rather than trying to force Christianity on the whole nation, actually freed more than 80,000 people (about 12% of the work force of the day) from a continuous working pattern. It simply states that no one has to work on Sunday unless their job involves "works of necessity or mercy" and has been truly described as a piece of labor legislation in religious guise.

UNIFORM STORE HOURS

Coupled with the fight against the open Sunday is an effort by the Provincial (PUSH) to have the government set uniform store hours and require stores to close on non-religious holidays such as May 24 and Boxing Day.

A suggestion has been made that stores in holiday areas, such as Grand Bend and Wasaga Beach should not be required to close on Sundays and holidays when these are essential business days for their survival because of their short business season.

The association wants legislation requiring stores to close all holidays and limiting evening shopping to two nights a week.

FORGOTTEN MAN

PUSH claims that the forgotten man is the retail merchant

who can work to the point of exhaustion with the longer hours. The employee is protected by labor laws but the owner is not. The proposed uniform store hours are between 7:30 am and 6 pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturday with closing times at 9:30 pm Thursdays and Fridays.

In opposition to this campaign the National Retailers' Institute based in Toronto has predicted that the proposed limitation of hours would see retail prices rise and thousands of jobs eliminated. Customers want more than two nights a week open, the institute claims, so the province should leave store hours up to municipalities to decide. The institute claims that longer hours result in competition in keeping prices down and thousands of part time jobs.

Several retail associations and 11,000 merchants in this province support PUSH. The National Retailers' Institute represents large merchandisers such as Woolco, Zeller's K-Mart, Tower's and Stedman's.

Since it has been reported reliably that legislation on Sunday selling, statutory holidays and perhaps on weekday hours will be presented in the Ontario Legislature this fall, PUSH suggests that residents of the province let their MPs know their feelings on the matter. In this way the public can have its input into the important legislation.

Things Out Of Joint (Winnipeg Tribune)

These are indeed queer times. The Banff Springs Hotel cannot find staff and there's talk of bringing in help from other countries to run the place.

Vegetable growers in Essex County in Ontario are watching 15,000 acres of field tomatoes ripening and wondering where the workers will come from to harvest the crop. Ottawa is scurrying around in Mexico and the West Indies handing out temporary entry permits and work permits to an estimated 2,500 vegetable-harvest hands.

At the same time, there are 340,000 unemployed men in Canada of whom 85,000 are in the 18-to-24 age group. And unemployment insurance payments so far are \$160 million higher than last year. Obviously, all the tomatoes aren't in the fields ripening.

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TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL Assessment Commissioners' List SCHOOL SUPPORT FOR 1974 TAXES

The Assessment Commissioner's List for the Town of Richmond Hill has been received by me in accordance with Section 23 of the Assessment Act as amended, which shows the school support of every inhabitant who is entitled to direct taxes for school support purposes. The list was posted in my office on October 12th, 1973.

You may examine the list for errors and omissions in my office at the Town Hall, 56 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill during hours 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. Monday to Friday.

The last day for the filing of complaints on the prescribed forms (Form 1) which are available at the Town Hall, for revision of the list is Friday, November 9th, 1973.

L. M. Clement, Clerk
Town of Richmond Hill

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