

# CNA The Liberal



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## A Backward Step

For the past three years it has been a policy of Richmond Hill Town Council and its planning committee to seek a site plan agreement with all industrial, commercial and multiple housing developers. Such agreements set forth the areas of responsibility of the town and the developer in providing services, and also the landscaping requirements with the view of keeping new buildings as aesthetically attractive as possible. The developer is required to post bonds to ensure satisfactory completion of these works. The agreement also stipulates that the building may not be occupied until finished to the satisfaction of the town.

The site plan agreement includes the requirements of all departments of the town — engineering, planning, fire, water, etc. The circulation to all these people is a time-consuming process in some cases but is necessary to protect

the interests of the town and ALL its ratepayers.

Recently a motion by Councillor David Stephenson to do away with the site plan agreements in certain cases when so-called Triple "A" companies are involved received the support of the majority at a planning committee meeting but council decision was deferred and it was sent back to the planning committee for further study.

There have now been two meetings of that committee and the subject has not been on the agenda. We trust that it has been shelved and will not receive any further consideration, since it would be a great backward step. All applicants, whether an individual, a small company or a big company must be treated alike, as all are ratepayers, and members of council are elected to represent all ratepayers and to protect the interests of the majority.

## Family Services Role In Community

There seems to be no escape from the pressures of modern living, no place to hide, no place to run to — not even for the Indians and Eskimos of our farthest north. Insecurity seems to be the name of the game. For many the fear is what tomorrow may bring, changed jobs, unanticipated moves in residence, schools, neighbors. For others it is the deadly monotony of today. Today is like yesterday and tomorrow is sure to be like today. The rat race, the squirrel cage, and no time, no retreat, nowhere to turn to unscramble the whole incidious mess.

As a result more and more people are turning to professional counselling services, such as the Richmond Hill and Thornhill Family Services for help with marital, family and personal problems. And the family services are responding by initiating educational programs as preventive therapy. The response at the opening session of a series of seven meetings on "Marriage and Parenting in the '70's" is a fair indication that they are launching a very popular and important service.

A surprising feature of the first session, October 23, on "Open Marriage — the Style For The '70's" was the large number of young people, many of them students, in the audience of 135. Also significant was the difficulty the chairman, Counsellor Mary Sue McCarthy of the family services agency, had in reassembling the meeting following the break for small group discussion, and the reluctance with which the audience agreed to adjourn at the end of the evening. They still had so much to talk about, so many questions left unanswered.

The next session, "Handling Marital Conflict" is scheduled for November 27 in Richmond Hill United Church main Hall, and information and tickets are avail-

able at the family services office, 25A Yonge Street North, telephone 884-8231.

Following sessions cover many related subjects, and the agency is to be congratulated on initiating the service, and the community as a whole, service clubs, volunteer directors and helpers must surely feel that their efforts in getting and helping to keep the agency going have been well spent.

The regional council, too, is entitled to share some of the posies for approving a grant of \$70,000, to subsidize the four family services in the region. When it brought in its budget, the region agreed to make this contribution toward the salaries of staff at family services centres in Georgina, Newmarket, Markham and Richmond Hill.

Money for rentals and other expenses must come from the community, the churches, service clubs, individuals, fees charged to clients, etc.

Evidence of the need is indicated most dramatically by the oldest of the four agencies, Markham Family Life Centre, which has had a 500 percent increase in people receiving counselling in five years of operation. And as in Richmond Hill, it also offers a variety of educational programs designed to assist people of all ages in planning lives that will not become so overwhelmed by stress and unhappiness that they are obliged to turn to professional counselling services.

These lecture series, buzz sessions and workshops have assisted thousands, but the counselling load at all four agencies graphically indicates that there is little danger of them working themselves out of business. There are always people with problems that seem to them at the time to be insurmountable.

## Conservation Grant For Newmarket Park

Recently North York MLA William Hodgson announced approval of a provincial grant of \$9,975 to the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority for the Wesley Brooks Memorial Conservation Area. This is 31 acres in the Town of Newmarket, located on the Holland River with a frontage of 314 feet on Water Street.

The authority proposes to acquire an additional 1.1 acres on the west side of the present area, the last piece of privately-owned land along the west side of the Holland River Valley bet-

ween Water Street and the Mulock Sideroad. This will give the authority control over an additional 380 feet of riverbank and permit greater diversity of activities within the conservation area.

### PROVINCIAL GRANTS

Approval has also been given for a provincial grant of \$37,272 for the acquisition of flood plain valley lands by the same conservation authority. The Holland River bisects the 26.13-acre in Newmarket, purchase of which initiates a program of flood plain acquisition between that town and Aurora.

Initially the area will see only limited development for picnic use. Later nature trails and limited interpretive facilities will be added.

A stream bank stabilization project on the Schomberg River of Schomberg will bring a provincial grant of \$3,750. The bank is badly eroded and a house at the top of the slope is in danger of slipping into the river. A gabion retaining wall will be built on a 90 foot section of streambank.

## DEAR MR. EDITOR

# Arrogant Town Council Favors Developers, Speculators — Crack

Dear Mr. Editor—

For the past several weeks you have published letters criticizing some of the actions — or lack of action — of the current Richmond Hill Town Council. I have been waiting and waiting for a reply from at least one of them, but so far they are maintaining what I'm sure they must think is dignified silence.

On October 25 you published a report about the meeting of 60 or so residents concerned with social planning and it was interesting to note that only three members of council were concerned enough to attend — and indeed to take part in the discussion. These two points, coupled with a personal experience I have had with our council convinces me that apart from a couple of councillors the rest just don't care. In my opinion,

they are not a "people" council. They are a self-centred arrogant council who seem to have ears only for developers and land speculators.

If you would allow me the space I would like to let your readers know what happened in a case that involved me personally.

A few months ago two stores were erected on the west side of Yonge between Oxford Street and Elgin Mills Road West. (The fact that they turned out to be garish, over-lighted, over-signed "Bargain" type issues is not material to the issue but is worthy of mention because it indicates the type of main street our council appear to encourage). A week or so before these two stores were completed, we received a pro-forma letter in the mail indicating that Lazenby and Company had passed a

bylaw amending the zone of that area from commercial to shopping centre (and in order to accommodate the developer presumably, they had lowered such bylaw requirements as maximum coverage, minimum side yard, etc.)

This quite important change was rushed through all three readings at one council sitting — and my guess is that they disposed of the whole thing in less than an hour.

Not only was this matter handled with almost inordinate haste, but no advance notice was given that such a zone change was going to be discussed. However, we did receive a notice after the fact telling us that we could write in and object — which we did, or we could write in and approve — would anybody other than the council and developer

approve? In summary form, our objections to another shopping plaza are these:

- A fairly recent study (for which I believe the Town paid good tax money) stated that the town did not require any additional stores at this time.
- There are already far too many empty stores on Yonge Street — probably numbering more than 20.
- With the erection of over 100 new stores in South Richmond Hill, the taxpayers cannot possibly benefit by another plaza at Yonge and Elgin Mills. (The question here is who will gain?)
- With the chaotic traffic conditions currently existing on Yonge Street, the addition of any more uncontrolled entrances and exits is utter folly, totally unnecessary, and indeed a potential traffic hazard. It is

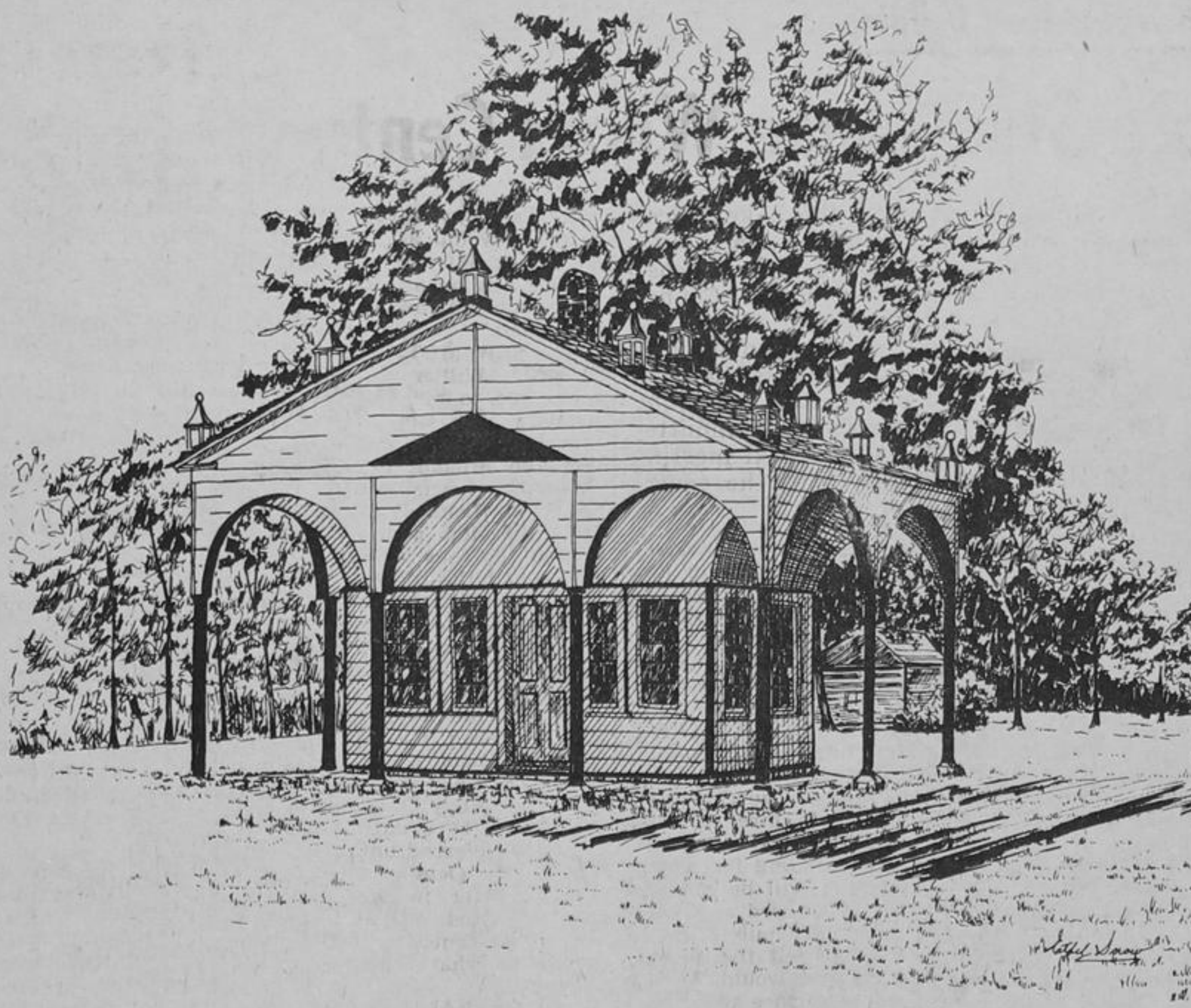
interesting to note that between Levedale Road and Elgin Mills Road, there are no less than 24 entrances and exits on the west side of Yonge Street and the Developers and Council want to add a couple more!

We believed these points would be sufficient to make the council take a second look at their hasty zone change. We believe that our own (Ward 4) councillor would take a few minutes out from his very busy construction company to discuss the matter with us. We believed that we would be notified if and when the matter came before council. We should have known better. All we got was a somewhat rude letter telling us that the majority of town council felt that our objections were not well taken. They did not say "not well enough taken". They did not say "were not sufficient

to merit reversal of the bylaw". They did not say "we're sorry but we did not consider, etc." They did not thank us for our concern and they did not explain why they wanted the additional stores. What rudeness and what arrogance. And this from a bunch of people who week after week keep demonstrating their almost total inability to govern anything.

I would like to thank you for reading this far and if I would ask is that any of your readers who think that the council is high-handed to put a kind interpretation on their actions to remember this next year when election time comes around. Richmond Hill simply cannot afford another council like this.

GERRY CRACK,  
19 Leonard Street,  
Richmond Hill.



(By Ethel Snow and Estelle Barker)

## David Wilson's Study At Sharon Temple

For almost a century and a half, the three-tiered Temple of the Children of Peace, and Study of its founder, have stood as a memorial to a pioneer religious sect of early days. David Wilson of Irish parentage, emigrated to Canada and settled on a 200 acre tract of land which he received from the Crown, now part of the Village of Sharon.

The construction of the temple and study was begun in 1812 and completed about 1819.

A sketch of the study shows a small attractive building 8' x 16' with an arched colonnade and many small narrow windows. It was here that David Wilson penned his many writings pertaining to the religious teachings of the sect he founded. The Study remained with furnishings and writings intact for many years after his death in 1866.

The Sharon Temple Museum is maintained by the York Pioneer and Historical Society.

## Winter's Herald

Today I sensed a breath of early snow,  
So slyly hidden 'midst the falling rain,  
And here and there a flake would drop below,  
But instantly she changed herself again.

She fools me not — I've seen the drooping corn,  
The brown and gold tipped leaves touched by her hand.  
Her early call some chill November morn,  
Will stamp upon the leaves autumnal brand.

Then trumpeting from out a surly cloud,  
She'll lay her pure white down upon the limbs  
Of trees — so fleetly then does she enshroud,  
That they are victims of her cunning whims.

And yet I see much beauty in the Fall,  
As change on change unfolds before my eyes.  
I know ere long she'll blow a herald call  
Announcing winter through the snowy skies.

LES LAWRENCE,  
Blythwood Apts.,  
Richmond Hill.

## Letters to the Editors

### "Y" TAG DAY

Dear Mr. Editor — As part of it's annual fund raising campaign, the YWCA serving Richmond Hill and surrounding districts held a Tag Day, October 19 and 20. Shoppers from all areas of greater Richmond Hill responded to the "Y's" appeal for help.

This public support of a voluntary organization is appreciated by the board of directors and the many volunteers of the YWCA.

A special thanks to the girls and boys who were our "Y" taggers. MRS. MAUREEN MCGRAW, Campaign Chairman

AURORA: House of Braemar Furniture Limited, it is reported, has been looking at a site in the planned south end industrial park. Council hopes to make an announcement regarding tenants in the park before the end of this year.

## Short Of Energy

A crisis now has come to pass; It seems we're short of oil and gas; A change in mode of life is due, With signs of cooler times in view. The oil that comes from far Iraq The Arabs now are holding back; We must economize, be thrifty, And keep our speeding down to fifty, Turn off the lights, the thermo down, And walk where e'er we can in town. This change in life requires pluck, (We can't leave everything to luck) And so that we may ready be We'll now conserve OUR energy!

ROBERT D. LITTLE,  
54 Arnold Crescent,  
Richmond Hill



The earliest, Daniel Stong's first house built in 1816, is representative of Pennsylvania German life. A small evergreen, simply decorated with dyed fleece and apples, is found in the kitchen with practical homemade gifts — warm mittens, socks and small toys — beneath the tree. Here visitors see demonstrations of open hearth cooking which was simple and inexpensive.

The second Daniel Stong house built in 1832, reflects the improved prosperity of the family. Members of the Evangelic Church, they didn't believe in frivolity. The holiday celebration was still a family affair. The traditional tree has been more richly decorated with fancy cut cookies and garlands of popcorn and cranberries. To the list of homemade gifts have been added dolls made of corn husks along with the token gifts bought at the local emporium. In place of Christmas stockings, plates were filled with fruits, nuts

and cookies and set out on Christmas Eve for the children. At Half Way House, on the dining room table, bowls of nuts and fruits and a kissing ball in the hall recalls the welcome extended to travellers.

The Roman Catholic background of Donald Flynn is reflected in the small home-made nativity scene and the lighted candle in the parlor window. Inexpensive toys were purchased for the family children from the general store along with embroidery wool for the lady of the house.

Burwick House, with its lavish swags of evergreen and berries, indicate the British background and prosperity of the family. Gifts were less practical and in some cases quite elegant and

NEWMARKET — Seventeen social service agencies have already indicated they want to be part of a York Region United Appeal, George Newman told council recently. Council shelved his request for a \$500 grant until it finds out if the region is backing it financially.

## In the Spotlight



By DIANA COOK

## 162 Years Of Community Service By Temperanceville United Church

A small, red brick building situated on the King Side Road and Bathurst Street, the Temperanceville United Church is one of many rural community churches to be found throughout this region. The congregation itself dates back 162 years, while the present building, which is the third on the location, is 87 years old.

Like its counterparts, Temperanceville United provides not only a place of worship, but a great many valuable services and entertaining functions as well. For example, every season a clothing drive is organized by the United Church Women. A former minister, Reverend Earl Stotesbury, is now living in a Saugheen Indian Reserve in Southampton, and it is for these Indians that the clothing is collected. People are informed about the drives, which last for about one month, through the pulpit by the present minister, Reverend Arthur Thomson, or by means of the church newsletter.

The UCW then sort and wrap all the garments in labelled bundles. The last drive was such a success that the stationwagon which transports the clothes to the reserve was laden down to its utmost capacity. The Indians appreciate the contributions very much and frequently write letters of thanks.

Inexpensive home-cooked meals are also provided for the public by the UCW. They have become very well noted for the quality of their cooking. Each year they hold a Turkey Supper, Strawberry Festival and Irish Supper, and all the money made from tickets goes into church funds. It was money raised by the UCW which made possible a recent addition to the church to provide washrooms.

Male church members do their share by painting both the inside and the outside of the building, thereby saving money that would normally be spent in hiring costly labor.

And a Couples Club has been in operation for over a year. The couples, who number around 30, pay one dollar a month to cover the cost of refreshments, etc., but haven't found the need to raise funds as yet. They play cards and other games, and are even considering putting on a play in the future. Another pastime is the orchestra which consists of, among other things, a piano, violin, saxophone and organ. The group just recently entertained at a Halloween Party at the Vandorf Hall, where there was square dancing and costumes were compulsory.

The UCW itself consists of three groups, each having their own executive. There is an evening division for mothers with young children or daytime jobs and an afternoon division, both of which meet monthly. An overall executive that meets three or four times a year.

The ladies vote in a new overall executive every two years. As well as a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, there are various committees which decide such things as who is responsible to make what for the dinners. Over 300 tickets were sold to the last Turkey Supper held in October. It takes a bit of organization to prepare the food in such large quantities.

According to UCW President Mrs. Everett Phillips, "We do a lot of good for the community, and it's really rewarding work. The men couldn't really manage without us ladies."

## RICHVALE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

"Face-Off Dance"  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16th, 8:30 - 1:00  
RICHMOND HILL LIONS HALL  
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PRIZES - PRIZES - PRIZES  
\$7.00 PER COUPLE  
FOR TICKETS PHONE 889-2386

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