

**CNA The Liberal**

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(By Ethel Snow and Estelle Barker)

### Stone Mansion Built By Garfield Weston

Willard Garfield Weston, multi-millionaire and bread and biscuit magnate, built this beautiful stone mansion on Lot 19, Concession 7 of Vaughan Township, south of the quaint Village of Kleinburg.

The farm was purchased by the Weston's in the fall of 1929 from John Mackie who carried on a mixed farming operation. The clear spring-fed waters of the East Branch of the Humber River run through this scenic

property consisting of over one hundred acres. The residence was built soon after the land was purchased, and is a beautiful example of a regional style of Georgian architecture.

The Weston's lived here only a short time. It was occupied by the Four Winds Nursing Home before being acquired from the Weston's by the Metro Conservation Authority, who have planned a centre for environmental studies in the area.

### School Systems Should Share Facilities

A suggestion for a solution to the extension of provincial government grants to the grade 13 level for Roman Catholic separate schools was advanced by Norman Cafik, during his recent bid for the Ontario Liberal leadership. He thought that a workable solution would be for public and separate schools to be built on a common piece of land with the schools sharing such facilities as recreation, heating, laboratories and other services but with the curriculums kept separate.

This idea has made headway in this area at the elementary school level. In the Town of Markham, provision has been made for a joint campus type of development of public and separate schools adjacent to the existing Thornlea Secondary School. In the BAF development, the same multiple use is planned for an interior site, with public, separate and secondary schools being joined by a recreation complex and probably a

library. The overall design of this is being developed at the present time by Architect and Planner Raymond Moriyama, who is best known for his work on the Ontario Science Centre. This will ensure that all buildings will be properly located and in harmony with each other, but they will all be planned by individual architects to meet the needs of the various education and civic groups involved.

This is definitely a step in the right direction, but co-operation in other areas could result in savings to taxpayers who support both the public and the Roman Catholic systems, even if there are no changes in the grant structure. Sharing of heating plants, laboratories and other services could result in substantial reductions in the cost of construction of individual schools. The first step has already been taken in York — we will look forward to seeing others becoming a matter of course in the near future.

### An Excellent Decision

We commend Richmond Hill's Council for its recent decision to have modular housing studied as a component part of the town's Official Plan and to hold decision on any applications for this type of housing in abeyance until it is determined how it will fit into the overall plan of the municipality.



HESSE RIMON

The Official Plan being prepared by the planning department under the direction of Planning Director Hesse Rimon is the most important document of this municipality since it will control the development and determine what will happen in the next 20 to 30 years. At the beginning of this year council's planning committee gave top priority to the Official

Plan, but the volume of day to day work in the planning department, dealing with applications which are being presented has become heavier and heavier, it was reported.

In spite of this the planning staff is making headway in the preparation of an Official Plan—studies carried out by students during the summer months and the two studies now underway at Lake Wilcox and in the South Yonge Street Corridor are necessary ground work for the finished product. Aerial mapping now underway in some areas is also an important step.

Nevertheless the burden on planning staff as well as on other members of the town's executive staff has grown to such an extent that Mayor William Lazenby expressed deep concern at a recent council meeting and asked council to help keep the pressure on staff to a minimum.

Modular homes may be part of the answer to providing a mix of housing in the community — that they may permit people to become homeowners at a price they can afford and that they offer a pleasant alternative to apartment dwelling, but all facets of this type of housing must be thoroughly studied so that a definite policy can be established before introducing them into the municipal scene.

### Federal Grants Open New Horizons For Senior Citizens

Federal Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde last week announced that numerous Ottawa grants are being allotted to groups of retired people in the Metro area to help finance special community projects they have undertaken.

The grants, totalling \$64,634, have been given to 15 groups in the area under the government's "New Horizons" program.

Largest grant has gone to Retired Workers For Aged, Lawrence Avenue East, which will receive \$22,011 to operate from an information and community centre, ten teaching seminars for prospective regional leaders, a regular journal, a reference library and a comprehensive out-

reach program.

This group is made up of prominent religious figures of retirement age with concerns and expertise in the field of gerontology who have come together to form an ecumenical institute of aging.

Other grants include \$11,200 to a group of senior citizens in Etobicoke to provide an entertainment "package" to other senior groups, nursing homes, hospitals, clubs and shut-in groups of all ages.

The Willowdale Manor Ladies, 175 Cummer Avenue, are getting \$1,686 to establish a program of social activities, including crafts and recreation.

York Memorial Senior Citizens on Keele Street have

been granted \$1,265 to expand club activities and attract new members.

A news release from the Minister's office states that last fall to provide financial assistance to groups of senior citizens in order that they might undertake activities of their own choice, thereby remaining active and playing a positive role in community betterment.

Objectives of the program are three-fold: to encourage the retired to participate in community life; to provide an opportunity for senior citizens to make use of their knowledge and experience; and to foster friendships and encourage mutual aid among retired persons.

### Letters to the Editors

#### AGAINST FLUORIDATION

Dear Mr. Editor—

I see from the November 29 issue of "The Liberal" that the York Regional Council are contemplating adding fluoride to the water supply.

In the past, the majority of citizens in Richmond Hill voted AGAINST such a measure, but once again this contentious matter is being introduced, and unless the people say quite clearly that it is not wanted the fluoride will go into the water.

If such be the case, will the York Regional Council supply fresh unfluoridated water to the persons who want it, or alternatively pay for the installation of equipment in the individual home to remove this known poisonous substance?

I, for one, have no objection to having fluoride provided out of my taxes for children of school age, provided I can also have a pure water supply provided.

PHYLLIS HAWKES,  
95 Roseview Ave.,  
Richmond Hill.

which we find in the news and editorial columns of "The Liberal".

Please convey our appreciation to all who may be responsible for such a helpful interpretation of our efforts to serve the community.

FRANK FIDLER,  
Executive Director  
Richmond Hill and  
Thornhill Area  
Family Services.

#### '74 Licenses Now On Sale

For the first time Ontario will be issuing a license plate sticker instead of new license plates for 1974 to signify that the vehicle owner has paid his annual registration fee. These go on sale throughout the province December 1 and the local License Issuer William Neal, located on Elgin Mills Road East, reports that he has the stickers on hand and is prepared to serve his customers.

On that date renewal registration for passenger motor vehicles and trailers go on sale. The fees are the same as in 1973: \$23 for a 4-cylinder vehicle; \$32 for 6-cylinder; \$40 for an 8-cylinder car and \$5 for trailers.

No new permit will be issued for renewal—the present permit is to be used for five years.

Another innovation is that motorists will not be required to fill in an application as they have been in the past, but rather need only present their permit with the fee to the issuer. The issuer will then ask the motorist to sign an insurance declaration and will return the multi-year permit on which he has affixed a sticker. He will also provide another sticker the motorist will be required to attach to the plate on the rear of his vehicle.

This new system is similar to those presently in use in 30 other jurisdictions across North America.

### Pioneer Christmas

A simple farm Christmas of the mid-nineteenth Century, with aromas of mince-meat and Christmas Pudding wafting temptingly from the kitchen, will be a feature of the season at North York's Gibson House beginning December 7 and continuing to the end of the month.

The parlor will be decorated with hand-made gifts, ornaments and greenery typical of the years when the house was occupied by David and Elizabeth Gibson after Gibson's return from exile in the U.S. following the abortive rebellion of 1837.

Christmas is also being celebrated from November 30 to December 23 at the Mackenzie House, 82 Bond Street, former home of 1837 Rebel Leader William Lyon Mackenzie who, on his return from exile, became the first Mayor of Toronto.

The house is decorated in the tradition of the 1850's, featuring the "Kissing Bough", the forerunner of the Christmas Tree in England.

A "Charles Dickens" Office.



Surveyor, member of the Legislature of Upper Canada, rebel, and first postmaster of Willowdale, Gibson's original home had been burned by loyalist forces on the night when the rebellion was quashed at Montgomery's Tavern, and his family took refuge in the neighboring home of the local minister.

The house is located at 5172 Yonge Street, directly behind the Willowdale Post

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### Schools Should Set Value System — U. S. Psychologist

To come to grips with the problem of drug abuse by school children, the school system will have to assume a creative role in development of the child's value system.

This was the opinion expressed by Dr. Robert Stoessel, clinical psychologist at Columbus Hospital in New York at the first national comprehensive drug abuse symposium in Miami Beach and reported in the November issue of "The Journal", the monthly publication Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto.

According to Dr. Stoessel the traditional responsibility of the education system has been limited generally to the child's academic and intellectual development, but it now must expand its goals to include the emotional and social development of the child.

Environmental influences are at least as important as the drug itself in the initiation and reinforcement of drug-taking behavior, says Dr. Stoessel. "Most adolescents who start taking drugs are pressured into it by the peer group".

On the other hand, there is clear evidence that children are influenced by the drug-taking behavior of their parents. "Research has shown a definite relationship between the drug taking behavior of the parents and the subsequent drug taking behavior of the children," the psychologist said.

The majority of drug users are found at opposite ends of the socio-economic scale, he told the symposium. Children who have everything given to them grow bored with their world and seek something different through drugs, trying to expand their horizons.

At the other end of the scale, the child in a depressed segment of society, who sees himself as prevented by society from obtaining even the bare necessities of life, may be willing to enter the drug field, either selling or using or both, because he feels cheated by society.

"Adults who developed a strong value system when they were young are able to make exceptions to that value system

when they grow older. They can say, in effect, 'I know what is right and wrong, in general, but this particular situation permits me to make an alteration to those values,'" said Dr. Stoessel.

"But children growing up today, perhaps because of the permissiveness in our society, don't seem to have such a firmly based concept of right and wrong. Thus when they run into a problem in the area of situational ethics, they become extremely confused."

Children need help in establishing value systems to give them the background to enable them to handle situational ethics and exist in society without confusion, Dr. Stoessel maintains. Therefore the schools should take a more active role in the development of the child's system of values.

The classroom teacher must develop an atmosphere in which children can freely exchange opinions about their value systems — why they do the things they are doing, what are the probable consequences of their actions, and so forth — without being either judged or criticized

for their values.

In Ontario this type of program has been in effect in varying degrees of depth for a number of years. Curriculum guides in health, guidance, home economics and family studies are available to all school boards, and both York County Board of Education and York County Roman Catholic School Board have had numerous internal workshops and training programs for staff in these subject areas.

The physical, moral and economic aspects of abuse of drugs and alcohol are stressed in these programs, says the county board's Assistant Superintendent of Planning and Development, Clifford Grant.

The board gives full support to such programs, and recently worked with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in a research study of drug use and abuse, etc. among students in the schools in York.

In the past the board has given its support to community groups in establishing crisis centres for young people in the drug scene, and since the county

boards were formed in 1969

numerous open forums have been held in secondary schools — some during school hours and some in the evening when the public was invited to participate.

A revised and updated set of guidelines in family studies at all levels for teachers has been recently introduced by the Ministry of Education, and Ministry officials will be conducting an internal workshop for teachers in York this month.

The program presented to the students goes beyond the moral and physical implications of abuse of drugs and alcohol, Mr. Grant told "The Liberal". It also emphasizes the cost, pointing out that once addicted, the victim is often driven to other criminal acts, such as shoplifting, to get money to support their addiction.

The increased pressure on the schools to set standards of morals and ethics is a reflection on society, says Mr. Grant. In the past these have been the responsibility of the home and the church. Now the schools are expected to set the standards.