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Christmas

Message

By FATHER FRANCIS ROBINSON, PARISH PRIEST
Our Lady Queen of the World Roman Catholic Church

With an energy crisis in many parts of the world lights are being dimmed to conserve power. This leads a person to allow his or her imagination to wander into the realm of darkness and imagine what life would be like without our electric light bulb or candle. Groping our way around we would

candle burning in the window for the wayward son.

The season of Christmas reminds us that Christ is the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Without Him in our lives we stumble over the mysteries of everyday life, we hurt ourselves against the walls of indifference and apathy that surround us, knock people over who get in our way of climbing to the top and end up cursing life in general. When we accept Christ as our Lord and Redeemer, He automatically becomes our Light. He shows us that no cross is too heavy to bear, no trial too severe to withstand. He points out for us all the good things we have in life. He counts our blessings for us. As we kneel at the crib this Christmas of 1973 we say - "Thank You, Christ".

When we accept Christ as our Light, we become a little candle. In our own insignificant way, we can dispel the darkness in the lives of other people. Our visit to the aged puts a smile on their face that once was theirs in the prime of life. When we read to the blind their eyes are lit up by the food for thought we deliver to their minds. When we spend time with the handicapped we are a light to them brighter than the sun. When we give of ourselves to the mentally retarded, their hearts are warmed in that they have a friend.

Thank you, Christ!

Go Looking Elsewhere

It looks like Ontario Hydro head George Gathercole and Premier William Davis better go looking for somewhere else to put the Southern Ontario power grid's new backbone. The people in Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill certainly don't want the big power corridor.

It is evident there's hardly a public body would dare now to try to put the Nanticoke to Pickering electric connection through Woodbridge, Langstaff and Thornlea along the proposed Parkway Belt. There hasn't been such public reaction to anything here since the suggestion was raised a while ago that the Metro boundary might be moved north of Steeles Avenue.

The opposition of the local municipalities, ratepayers and citizens is practically unanimous. Hundreds have turned out at public meetings and have signed opposition petitions against the mere suggestion of the Parkway Belt route. Doubtless we've only seen the tip of an iceberg of opposition which would rise from the depths were there any serious attempt to implement the proposal.

It's quite clear now Ontario Hydro had the right idea in the first place when they determined to keep the 610-foot-wide swath with its rows of 140 to 265-foot-high towers away from major population areas. Hydro Commission officials estimated correctly

what the reaction would be in areas such as Concord, Woodbridge, Thornhill and Markham.

The Government and the Hydro Commission are facing a very difficult dilemma. And time is running out if electric power shortages and blackouts are to be avoided in Southern Ontario during the next decade. If the energy crisis now threatening this continent because of Middle East oil embargoes becomes more than temporary, the new 500,000 volt power corridor may become even much more essential and much more quickly so than expected, too.

The Provincial Government's attempt to resolve the issue by means of the Solandt Commission public inquiry has been an honest effort. The inquiry's consultant Bruce Howlett has undoubtedly done a creditable job of trying to assemble information and work out answers.

But at this moment, at least, the issue seems certain to refuse to yield any clear and simple resolution, regardless of what Dr. Omond Solandt's final conclusions may be. Premier William Davis has the power to intervene. And in this instance again he probably has a problem not unlike that he faced not so long ago with the Spadina expressway plan.

The whole thing is in the Premier's lap, finally.

York U Reading Conference Ready For 850 Delegates

Registration for the seventh annual reading conference at York University in February has already hit the 750 mark, and the organizers anticipate that there will be at least 850 teachers, primarily from Ontario, attending the four-day conference February 20 to 23.

Since its inception when York University was still in its formative stage, the conference has earned the reputation of being one of the best in the country.

Reading '74, they expect, will meet and even surpass the high standards established since the first conference on reading in February, 1968.

The idea was born when a small group of interested educators, led by the Centre of Continuing Education at York, came together to discuss the problems and challenges of teaching reading in the schools.

When the group realized what a monumental task it would be to make their find-

gives them to exchange ideas with their counterpart from other parts of Canada or from foreign countries.

Since reading is such an important part of everyone's everyday life, York expects that the reading conference will be held annually indefinitely. It is intended for all concerned with and involved in the educational process related to reading.

The Reading '74 conference will feature outstanding speakers from England and across Canada. The speakers will lecture on such varied topics as "The Age of Illiteracy" and "Reading: The Easy Way and the Hard Way". The 22 sessional speakers will address smaller groups of delegates on a wide range of topics related to reading.

In addition, 56 small group sessions will be set up to discuss major aspects of reading from the kindergarten to the post-secondary level; two sessions will be conducted in French.

For further information call the Centre of Continuing Education at (416) 667-2502, or write to the centre at York University, 4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario.



(By Ethel Snow and Estelle Barker)

Capner Farm Residence Dates Back To 1862

This beautiful farm home still stands a short distance south of the Village of Kleinburg on Islington Avenue, which was known as the Vaughan Plank Road in the early sixties when the house was built.

It was built in 1862 by Joseph and Charlotte Capner, who emigrated to Canada from Solihull, England, in 1830. The house is constructed of red brick with patterned brick corners, typical of many homes in the middle

of the last century. It originally had a verandah across the front with ornamental treillage. The windows of the upper storey are oval at the top.

The Capners and their descendants; Isaac Devins, followed by his son James Devins, occupied this home for over eighty years, until it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. James Reid in 1942. It is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Murray.

"Six Tales Of Canterbury"

(The technical end of a theatrical production is often overlooked when he is engrossed in the antics of the performers themselves. But the critic has a sharp eye for such things and, in this letter to Liberal Drama Critic Tom Davey, Cleely Thomson, 187 Vaughan Rd., director of the Curtain Club's highly successful production of "Six Tales of Canterbury", points out some of the technical problems encountered in staging a play of the dimensions of Canterbury — Editor.)

Dear Mr. Davey—
Your review of Six Tales

of Canterbury appearing in the December 6 issue of "The Liberal" was much appreciated by the company involved with the production.

For our part we thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of coming to grips with the late 14th Century, its manners, modes and ethics. Donna Jean Arnold of Toronto has chosen the most complete, if the bawdiest, tales from Chaucer's long Canterbury Tales. Like you, we the company, found the meat a bit ripper than we are used to in these days of plastic coating and supermarket distribution. However, Chaucer texts appeared as by magic at the early rehearsals and "if Chaucer says it, we do it".

We eliminated one word.

The satire of Chaucer speaking before the Reformation in England or the great scale of the temporal abuses performed by the underlings in the church hierarchy was beyond our powers of demonstration. However, in rehearsal we came to accept the freedom with which religious matters were fully integrated with secular and indeed seamy matters—religion as a part of the whole.

You will probably also be interested to learn that we chose deliberately the crude pottery earthenware of the period rather than wooden dishes and this led directly to your problem of using imagination for the drinks poured at the Tabard Inn by host Harry Bailey (to give him his 14th Century name)—paper mache does not take too kindly to alcohol (nor do actors on stage). Each and every one of those props was made by our properties department.

I also agree with you that makeup was a problem. We are working with about one third of the light that would normally be required for such a production. (Each lighted position should be covered by at least three lights; most of ours had one. But if we rented more lights there were not enough circuits to let us use them. Money is the basic problem.) Makeup under the heavy amber gels required to give you the audience the warm look of lamplight and fire in the Tabard Inn is difficult as it flattens out makeup. For this play makeup had to be "extended", almost into caricature. For instance the Sumner, according to the Chaucer himself, has a face covered with exzema and boils and white pimples; the Miller's nostrils are black, etc. Look at that group of greedy, grasping, lecherous "pilgrims". Forget the pretty musical comedy Camelot look.

Working with the play was a stretching experience for all of us concerned and we really welcomed your acceptance of our endeavors and your interest in Richmond Hill community theatre.

MARY HONEY BROWN,
160 Essex Avenue,
Richmond Hill.

Don't Kill A Watt

(St. Thomas Times Journal)

The energy crisis needn't mean a blackout of the Christmas spirit this year, heaven forbid. We can all conserve energy and still have a bright holiday season if we take a few tips on how to do it.

For instance, restrict the hours that you light up your Christmas Tree to when you are at home only.

Use miniature lights to save electricity. A normal string of 35 miniature lights consumes only 4.6 watts. A normal string of 15 larger bulbs burns 90 watts, and the large bulbs commonly used outdoors burn over 135 watts.

When trimming your tree, place shiny or reflective ornaments near the lights for a more illuminated look and use tinsel and icicles for added glitter.

Make the tree lighting ceremony something special this year by waiting until Christmas Eve to make it a "happening".

And when you light up your Christmas Tree, lower the other lights in the room. It will look prettier and conserve a great deal of energy.

Letters To The Editor

PAT HART'S BOOK

Dear Mr. Editor—
I am sure many tributes have been sent to our Chief Librarian Mrs. Pat Hart for her book, "Explore Centennial Richmond Hill". I would like to add the following:

On December 9 a dear friend, former Dean of the College of Education, upon reading this book, remarked on "the excellent composition and beautiful English used throughout. Everyone in Richmond Hill should be very interested in the extensive research done for the book and be very proud of a talented librarian."

A note of thanks to Mrs. Pat Hart.

DOROTHY PRICE,
447 Fernleigh Circle N.,
Richmond Hill.



Gleaming, golden stars, in the midnight sky,
What do you see, as the dawn draws nigh?
Do you see a couple, at last, find rest,
For a newborn Babe, in a straw-filled nest?
By the stable's flickering, lantern light,
The wee Baby Jesus, was born, that night;
While Mary and Joseph watched Him, with pride,
Tired cattle and sheep crouched, near His side!
Not far away, a vast heavenly throng
Carolled the good tidings, in joyous song;
Thus, angels, the glad news, to shepherds, did bring;
Those shepherds, then hastened to worship their King!

MARY HONEY BROWN,
160 Essex Avenue,
Richmond Hill.

Suggests Sunday Shopping Legislation Alternatives

Provincial Secretary For Justice George Kerr, M.L.A. Halton, recently tabled in the Legislature a Green Paper on Sunday as a common day of rest and uniform store hours, raising several questions and outlining several alternatives. His announcement contained the statement that he will be touring the province early in the New Year holding public hearings in large and small communities on both inter-related subjects to discuss these alternatives. He also invited all residents of the province to let the government know their feelings on the questions.

The Green Paper notes that The Lord's Day (Canada) Act, federal legislation, makes it unlawful to sell or purchase any goods or real estate on Sunday, carry out any business of a person's ordinary calling, or in connection with such calling; to do work, business or labor for gain or to employ anyone else for this purpose; to provide any performance or public meetings for a price; to engage in or be present at these performances for price or for gain. It provides for provincial laws varying Sunday regulations.

The Lord's Day (Ontario) Act allows municipalities to pass by-

laws permitting public games or sports, exhibitions and moving pictures or theatrical performances, horse races and exhibitions, fairs and trade shows, as long as they begin after 1:30 pm. Other acts regulate other aspects of the one day rest in seven.

The first option is to implement proposals for a more restricted Sunday with the province providing legislative support for a uniform weekly day of rest for as many people as possible. All forms of selling and employment on Sunday would be prohibited except in certain clearly defined situations—humanitarian, emergency, perishable, seasonal, recreational, familial, a convenience, or technical. Scrambled merchandising on Sundays should be regulated.

Where Sunday selling is permitted it would be regulated according to the number of employees, store size, hours, location, rotation system, time of year, etc.

Establishments which would be permitted to engage in essential selling on Sundays are: gasoline stations on a rotation basis,

drugstores on a rotation basis, restaurants, variety, convenience and jug milk stores (maximum three employees, maximum 2,000 square feet), tobacco shops and newsstands, confectionery and candy stores, nurseries, fresh fruit and vegetable stands, souvenir and novelty shops, and antique markets. Limits on hours and seasons would be specified.

Another recommendation is that recreational, entertainment and cultural facilities be permitted with any municipal regulating bylaw based on secular, not religious, reasoning. Tourist area exemptions are also recommended.

Option two provides for establishment of a new provincial statute regarding Sunday selling, separate from The Lord's Day (Canada) Act, and prohibiting all forms of selling on Sunday except for humanitarian, emergency, perishability, seasonal, recreational, familial, convenience and technical with regulations as to number of staff, square footage, hours of operation and licensing. Such establishments would include gasoline stations, drug stores, restaurants, convenience and jug

milk stores, variety shops and newsstands, nurseries, fresh fruit and vegetable stands, souvenir shops, antique markets.

A provincial licensing body would be established to permit exemptions in special areas.

Another option is to proceed under the umbrella of The Lord's Day (Canada) Act, discouraging Sunday work indirectly by extending existing labor legislation and empowering municipalities to enact bylaws to control Sunday retail hours.

And the last suggested option is to establish programs to liberalize present Sunday shopping laws, by altering existing laws to make legal what is now taking place and allowing municipalities complete freedom in establishing Sunday retailing in their own area.

Mr. Kerr stated that on the basis of representations and studies to date, it appears that most residents of Ontario would favor more restricted Sunday shopping rather than a "wide open" Sunday.

The green paper gives five options for establishment of uniform store hours.

In the Spotlight



By DIANA COOK

Students To Visit Greece, Russia During March

Many high school students will have more to look forward to than just the impending spring by the time March (mid-winter break) rolls around this year. Thanks to their teachers, and the board of education they have been given the opportunity to travel abroad with their friends.

A group of approximately 40 students from Richmond Hill High School have been planning an eight day trip to Greece for the past few months. The originators of the idea were English teachers Mrs. Beaupre and Miss Kazianka, both of whom felt that such a trip would be very valuable, as Greek history has had such an impact on our own way of thought.

The students pay their fare of \$348 in three instalments, and this covers all expenses with the exception of five lunches. They are also responsible for obtaining passports, immunization and insurance.

The agenda for the actual stay in Greece, set by the Student Travel Society of Willowdale, combines just the right amount of free leisure time with guided tours and visits.

On the day following their arrival, the students are given an orientation tour of Athens by coach. Among other places, they will see the Acropolis, a building which for centuries, has been an inspiration to the world. It was originally the abode of early kings and their courts, but the Athenians eventually moved to the lower city and left the Acropolis to their gods. They will also be taken to the Parthenon, the Theatre of Dionysus and the Royal Palace.

The following morning, they hear a seminar entitled "Ancient Greece-Mythology and History", lunch with Greek students, and then travel to the Temple of Poseidon on Cape Sounion, a spot famous for its beautiful sunsets.

The next day is donated entirely to the Temple at Delphi, one of the most spectacular sites in Greece. In antiquity it was regarded as "the centre of the world" - to this and its oracle it owes its prestige, which extends far beyond the Greek world. Those who wished to consult the oracle first had to sacrifice an animal. They then waited to hand in their questions, written on a leaden tablet, to the Priestess Pythia, usually a peasant woman of over 50 years.

Another seminar, this time on "Modern Greece" is presented to the students the following morning. They then lunch with Greek students and spend the afternoon doing whatever they wish.

The next morning, the students go on a half day cruise to the island of Aegina, where they climb up a hill, either on donkey or on foot, and view a panorama of the Aegean Sea. On the last day in Greece they can have either a full day at leisure or take a \$14 trip to Epidaurus, the first health resort in history.

At the same time, students from King City, Richmond Hill, Sutton, Bayview and Langstaff Schools will be going to Russia, a country which most of us have heard a great deal about, but never really seen for ourselves.

Half of the ten day stay will be spent in Moscow. "The white walled and golden crowned city". Capital of the empire for centuries, and one of the most important trading and manufacturing centres, Moscow is a storehouse of Russia's past. It contains the Kremlin, a holy spot where the power of the Tsars first received sanction. "There is nothing above Moscow except the Kremlin and nothing above the Kremlin except heaven."

The Russian travel company Intourist will provide many visits and excursions for the students, as well as purchasing advance tickets to the Bolshoi Ballet and the Moscow Circus. Accommodation will be in good hotels, with two to three students to a room. They are advised to take along small supplies of soap and shampoo, as these are still considered luxury items in the USSR. They are also asked to bring token gifts, such as maple leaves, for exchanging gifts is a much followed custom in the Soviet Union.

A Russian March being somewhat colder than in Southern Ontario, students should dress accordingly. Girls are told to bring one good dress for evening theatre visits, and "jeans will be frowned upon, particularly in certain buildings."

The second half of the trip will be spent in Leningrad, the present day capital. It was known as St. Petersburg until 1914 and Petrograd until 1924, and is Russia's second largest city. Sup-

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