



Rare Disease Blinds Hydro Veteran

When adversity strikes many people choose the easy way and give in. They feel sorry for themselves and act as if society owes them a living. Not so John Fraser of Agincourt.

An employee of Ontario Hydro for 26 years, John had served in many of the generating plants and transformer stations in the Niagara Falls area, later at Crowland and at Richview.

In January this year he noticed his vision was failing. Diagnosis was histoplasmosis, a disease of the eye. Although antibiotics

cleared up the problem temporarily, it returned in a non-treatable form and by the summer John was legally blind.

Deciding to make the best of the situation and return to work in some capacity, John suggested he try switchboard work and this request resulted in a training period with Bell Telephone.

Now you will find him in the Markham Area Office at the enquiry desk and handling the switchboard operations, efficiently and cheerfully.

Citizens' Advisory Group To Hold Elections In January

Nominations from the community for officers of the Richmond Hill Citizens Advisory Group on Planning will be received by a nominating committee of Buster Vermeulen (35 Centre Street East), Peter Osmond and David Schiller. They will receive nominations for chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, secretaries recording and corresponding) and publicity, for a one-year term of office. Elections will be held at a public meeting in mid-January.

The group, formed in October, is already very much involved in citizen input to the town's planning process. With increased pressure for development and formulation of official policies, the group believes that the need for effective citizen participation seems increasingly important.

At a meeting of the group's committee held December 5 at 377 Sugar Maple Lane many citizen concerns were discussed. Most of these involved the south end of the town, but the implications and methods of handling them involve the whole town.

Maryvale residents are concerned about proposed development on small floodplain lots. Richvale residents are disappointed that, contrary to their expressed wishes presented to council, new approvals for serviced development in their area seem to be coming which give them little definite hope for sewage facilities.

Many groups are disturbed at varying aspects of the first stage of Phase 2 of the

BAIF development, approved by planning committee of the whole December 3 and scheduled for the December 17 council meeting. The committee commended planning committee for making available to the public the documents and inviting comment at that council meeting, but also authorized a letter pointing out the desirability of more time for public participation.

The rate of growth, actual and proposed, in the town, has accelerated the committee's concern that this be carefully studied as a guideline to all approvals. They hope to discuss this with the planning committee in the New Year.

The committee agreed there should be a mandatory declaration of interests in Richmond Hill by all committee members and executive.

It was also agreed that the group express interest in holding a course in local government under auspices of the Ontario Council on Local Government in the spring. The Aurora Concerned Citizens will be approached to share in this opportunity.

The next committee meeting will be held January 8 at 17 Elizabeth Street North at 8 pm. This will deal primarily with finalizing the aims and purposes of the group and with final organization of the public meeting. The meeting is open to all people who are interested.

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Hydro Suggestions For A Safe And Happy Christmas

For most Canadians a Christmas without tinsel and lights and a tree would be unthinkable.

The tradition of the Christmas Tree and the lights goes back many centuries, originating in Germany, introduced to the British Isles by Queen Victoria's dearly beloved German born husband, Prince Albert, and brought to this continent by a succession of immigrants from both countries.

The origin of the lighted tree is supposed to have been introduced 450 years ago by Martin Luther, founder of the Protestant Christian Church.

Luther is purported to have been so impressed with the bright twinkling stars on a winter's night that he put candles on his Christmas tree to illustrate their splendor to his family.

Even though electric lights have replaced the candles, tree decorations still can be a serious fire hazard, and Robert Price, electrical inspection superintendent in

Ontario Hydro's Central Region has drawn up a list of safety suggestions to ensure a safe and happy holiday.

In view of the energy crisis confronting us this year, Hydro has also suggested that, to conserve energy, Christmas trees and outdoor decorations should be lighted after 7 pm and for a short period of time each night.

Suggested safety precautions are —

- When purchasing decorative lighting sets and electrical appliances be sure they bear the Canadian Standards Association seal of approval. The large "C" enclosing the letters "SA" means that your purchases have passed the severe approval tests of CSA which have been established for your protection.

- Store the tree in a cool place until you put it up.

- Keep in a water-filled container.

- Do not block an exit with the tree.

- Make sure that all ornaments and things like cotton batting, placed at the

base of the tree, are fire-proof and that circuits aren't overloaded with holiday lights.

- Check both indoor and outdoor tree-lighting equipment for frayed wires, cracked or brittle insulation, broken lamp sockets or damaged plugs. Throw away or replace deteriorated lighting sets.

- If a fuse blows, check first for defects in the lighting sets. If the trouble persists, call an electrical contractor for assistance.

- Turn off the lights when you go out or leave the room.

- Never use electric lights on metal Christmas trees and keep metal icicles away from lighting sets.

- Manufacturers' instructions on lighting equipment should be followed carefully. The safety features built into them may be nullified by careless or improper handling.

- Take down the tree as quickly as possible when the season is over and store all lights in a dry place. Out-

door sets should also be put away as the wiring deteriorates quickly from summer sun and heat.

- When you purchase new appliances or electrical toys as gifts, examine each device for the CSA mark of approval.

These few safety tips from Ontario Hydro will assure that you do have a truly "Merry Christmas"

Authentic barn boards were used in the construction of the rambling log and stone McMichael Canadian Collection in Kleinburg. Robert and Signe McMichael spent two years searching for logs from abandoned barns to use in the construction of this 30 room gallery housing 900 works of art. The Collection's uniquely Canadian flavor is an apt home for the works of Canadian artists like the Group of Seven, Emily Carr, David Milne, Clarence Gagnon and J. W. Morrice. The newly-acquired Indian and Eskimo collection gives an added dimension to the Collection.

HAVE A HAPPY AND FIRE-SAFE CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR...

Don't Let It End In Tragedy

It's ironic that Christmas... with all its joy in giving and gifts and good times can also be a time of tragedy. Each year fire kills and maims many Canadians... both young and old.

FIRE HAZARDS INCREASE DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON

Here's advice from the Joint Fire Prevention Publicity Committee of Canada:

- Your evergreen Christmas tree and its decorations are potential fire hazards. They head the list of a sensible family's preparations for a happy holiday.
- Your tree should be fresh. A dry tree readily sheds its needles. Keep your tree outdoors until you are ready to decorate. Indoors, keep the tree standing in water, after cutting off at least an inch from the butt. Replenish the water daily.
- Your electric lighting strings should be checked for frayed cords or short circuits. Buy only CSA approved sets. Use non-inflammable decorations. Disconnect the lights when leaving home or going to bed. Candles, of course, should never be used on your tree.
- Some plastic trees are flammable and may burn violently. Metallic trees conduct electricity and must not be decorated with strings of lights. Use flood lights instead.
- Keep matches out of the reach of little hands.
- Clear wrappings away from the base of the tree as soon as the gifts are opened.
- Set the tree away from the fireplace. Do not block access to the exits.
- Have plenty of large ashtrays for guests who smoke.
- Never leave small children alone or unattended in the home.
- Cookstove fires from oils or grease are an emergency. Smother the flames — a rug — baking soda — never water. If this doesn't do the job, get everybody out and call the Fire Department at 884-1323.

On behalf of the Richmond Hill Fire Department, Chief Robert Kennedy wishes one and all
A SAFE, HAPPY CHRISTMAS SEASON!

AIRPORT INQUIRY COMMISSION

COMMISSION D'ENQUÊTE SUR L'AÉROPORT

TAKE NOTICE that by Order in Council P.C. 1973-3026 dated 5th October, 1973, the Government of Canada established the Airport Inquiry Commission to inquire into and report upon the air transportation needs of the central Ontario market.

The Commission has opened its office at Suite 5401, 54th Floor of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower, Toronto-Dominion Centre, in the City of Toronto. The manner in which the Commission will conduct this Inquiry may be briefly stated as follows:

1. The Government of Canada will file a summary of all relevant factors, with supporting documents, which the Government considered in reaching its decisions that the transportation needs of the central Ontario market require that there be established another International Airport in addition to the existing Toronto International Airport, Malton, and that the location of the new International Airport be at a site near Pickering, Ontario.
2. The Government of Canada documents so filed will be available for inspection by any member of the public at the office of the Commission.
3. All persons, including witnesses for the Government of Canada, who wish to appear before the Commission at any Public Hearing will be required to file at the Commission's office a full written statement of the evidence which they propose to adduce before the Commission. Personnel will be available at the Commission's office to guide members of the public who wish assistance with the preparation of the written statement of their proposed evidence.
4. All written statements of evidence will be available for inspection at the Commission's office by any member of the public in advance of any Public Hearing at which such evidence will be introduced before the Commission.
5. The Commission has established a Practice and Procedure for the orderly conduct of the Inquiry. Copies are available at the Commission's office free of charge or will be mailed to any interested person upon request. This Practice and Procedure has been framed with a view that all persons will have the opportunity before any Public Hearing to know the nature of the evidence that will be submitted to the Commission at each Public Hearing.
6. There will be a public Organizational Meeting before the Public Hearings commence relating to the manner of conducting such Public Hearings. Notice of the time and place of the Organizational Meeting will be given by notice published in newspapers serving the central Ontario market.
7. Public Hearings will take place from time to time and the date and place of each Hearing will be given to the public in advance by notices published in newspapers serving the central Ontario market.

All inquiries and communications with the Commission or Commissioners should be addressed to the Registrar-Administrator at the Commission's office.

Chairman: The Honourable Mr. Justice Hugh F. Gibson
General Counsel: Ralph S. McCreath, Q.C.
Registrar-Administrator: J. W. N. Delorme, Esq.

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