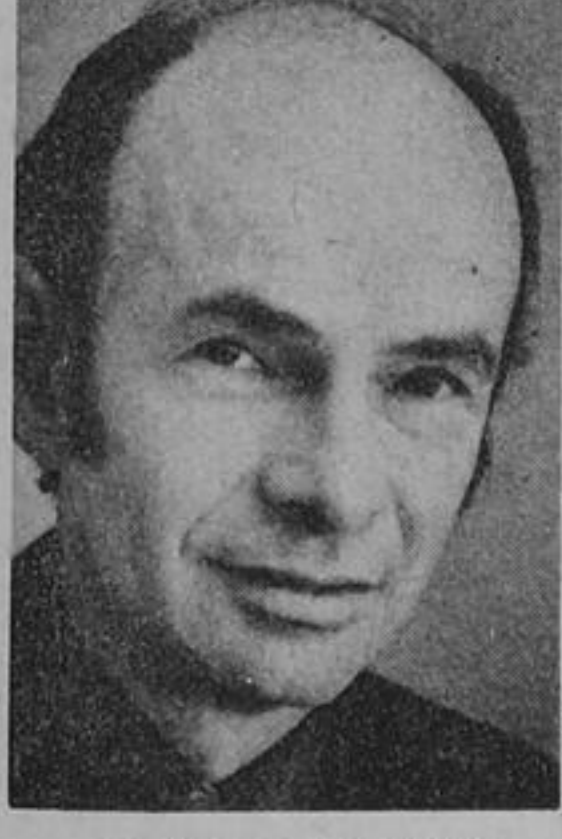


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Thornhill Ratepayers Need Fluoride Answers

The South Thornhill Ratepayers' Association is quite right in its insistence upon further public involvement in the question of choosing to fluoridate the Markham Town water supply. Chairman Jack Galbraith and his executive committee were certainly correct in their recent repeat request to the local municipal council.



JACK GALBRAITH

The ratepayers should have been given a public information meeting on the question when they requested it early last year. Undoubtedly the ratepayer association feels there are enough citizens interested in the issue to warrant the holding of a public meeting. So long as this is so the town council should be prepared to open the lines of communication.

The dental and health authorities made their plea for fluoridation before the council a year ago. They were able then to convince

the council, by a large majority. The fluoridation issue has an explosive history. Often there has been a tendency for more heat than light to be generated on the question.

But on the other hand any public health measure of this kind directly affects each and every citizen. So the ratepayers have a right to hear a responsible explanation like the one already presented to council.

Of course participation in a public panel discussion will require a further extra effort by the dental, medical and public health people. But on the other hand, failure to put forth this effort is likely to be adversely interpreted by the ratepayers and generate opposition.

At the same time the question is probably larger than a local one. Fluoridation is a responsibility of the new regional municipality and as yet the York Region municipal corporation has no legislative authority to act. Nobody yet knows whether the regional council could, or would, decide to fluoridate the water it supplies to any one local town or neighborhood. It may have to be a decision taken for the region as a whole.

So the town council's failure to comply with the ratepayer request for involvement doesn't appear likely to have any very serious consequences in the long run. There is still plenty of time for study, provision of information, meetings and argument. But the ratepayers shouldn't be kept waiting unnecessarily.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

First 1974 Baby At YCH

The first New Year baby born at York Central Hospital arrived at 12:20 am Thursday, the third day of 1974. Newborn Adam Lee Hook, eight pounds, is shown with his mother Mrs. Phyllis Hook of 5775 Yonge Street, Willowdale. Unimpressed with the picture taking proceedings, baby Adam snoozed right through it all. He is the great nephew of this newspaper's Crestwood Road area local news correspondent. The parents Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hook are former Thornhill residents. The grandparents are Mrs. Olive St. John of Centre Street, Thornhill and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hook of 65 Arnold Avenue, Thornhill. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hook of 26 Elizabeth Street, Thornhill are great grandparents.

Daylight Saving Time Decision Is Left To Municipalities

Hurray, for Canadian independence! Another battle has been won by the Ontario Cabinet's decision not to follow the United States into year-round daylight saving.

CHANGED MIND
 Ontario Treasurer John White, who originally was one of the strongest proponents of the year-round daylight saving proposal, changed his mind last week. Public reaction, while light, raised enough questions to make him reconsider.

Strongest advocate of the proposal was Industry and Tourism Minister Claude Bennett, who wanted the move for commercial reasons. The proposal was made in response to requests from several industries, which claimed they would be seriously affected if they were out of step with parent firms or associates in the U.S.A.

Other economic factors cited were transportation, television scheduling, time tables and uniformity of stock exchange hours in New York and Toronto.

FEW PROBLEMS
 However, it was learned that Air Canada felt few scheduling problems would be experienced if Ontario remained on standard time for the rest of the winter.

Gray Coach, major connector bus line to the US would merely advise passengers to leave earlier for US connections.

The CBC receives all its programs taped or else shows are pre-recorded and can be replayed in Canada at any time.

The Toronto Stock Exchange could open at 9 am, rather than 10 am to remain in step with American exchanges and would experience no problems with the American DST.

CONCERN FELT
 The National Farmer Union protested to Premier William Davis by telegram January 2 against making daylight time mandatory in all municipalities. The farmers claimed the change to daylight time would be only to accommo-

date the money market between here and New York City, but it would be made at the expense and inconvenience of a majority of Ontario residents. The group also noted that thousands of school children would be forced to board school buses and travel over often treacherous roads in the early morning darkness.

The telegram suggested that if certain businesses found it more convenient to be in the same time as their parent companies in the US, they could solve their problem "by changing their office hours to correspond and thus accommodate their so-called needs without disrupting thousands of residents of rural Ontario."

Concern about the school children boarding buses as early as seven o'clock in the morning on roads in the north end of the Region of York, where bears and wolves have been reported on occasion, was expressed by Business Administrator Percy Laframboise of the York County Separate School Board to "The Liberal" in mid-December.

OPPOSITION
 Strongest opposition to the move has come from the parents of rural school children. They were very worried about their children having to catch school buses in morning darkness.

Energy Minister Darcy McKeough has stated that Ontario's energy saving would be minimal. Federal Energy Minister Donald Macdonald said the move to year-round DST would result in greater consumption of home heating

oil. People would get up at the coldest time of the day—the hour before dawn—and turn the thermostats up.

TRIED IN BRITAIN
 Year-round DST was adopted in Britain in 1968 and abandoned in 1971 as unworkable. Chief among the arguments which led to the latter decision was the safety of children and workers leaving home in the dark to go to schools and jobs. During the three-year experiment, some children were killed going to school on dark mornings and a government report confirmed there was greater danger in children going to school in the dark. But the same report also found that accidents in the late afternoon, when the children were returning home, were down considerably.

DAYS GETTING LONGER
 Since the sun has begun its return trip from the south the days are lengthening—it rises a little earlier every morning and sets a little later every night. Therefore any saving or extra use of fuel would be spread over only a very few weeks.

U.S.A. ADOPTS
 The U.S.A. went on daylight saving Sunday with the White House claiming that shifting an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening could reduce demands on electricity and heating by as much as three percent, mostly in the northern states. The Americans also claim the move could save as much as 150,000 barrels of oil a day, "will mean only a minimum of inconvenience and will involve equal participation by all."

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 884-4601

New health insurance office serves district residents

A new Ontario Health Insurance Plan office is now open to serve residents, physicians, and practitioners in the following Counties:

Dufferin	Peel
Halton	Simcoe
Muskoka	York (excluding Metropolitan Toronto)
Ontario	

The new Mississauga District Office is located on the fifth floor, UNIVAC Building, 55 City Centre Drive, Mississauga.

Mailing address:
 P.O. Box 7020
 Mississauga
 L5A 3M1

Telephone:
 (416) 275-2730

Office hours:
 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Monday to Friday

In the Spotlight

A Credible Leader
 (Hamilton Spectator)

What is it about the Queen's Christmas Day Message that prods millions of Commonwealth citizens to pause during hectic holiday celebrations and listen?

The message could so easily career along on an imperial route, slop over into sentimentality, trot an old-fashioned course or float high and out of touch.

But the Queen writes the speech herself, summoning her depth of experience in world affairs and her strong senses of duty and compassion to avoid words that would ring false.

When the Queen speaks about her family, she reaches both those who possess and cherish close family life and those who hunger for that warmth and support.

When she mentions the Commonwealth and how membership in it has "a subtle influence on the relations between its leaders" she speaks from 20 years of personal acquaintance with those leaders and the events they shape.

She speaks to a world wounded by discrimination, hunger, terrorism, greed, war, self interest, torture and injustice. Many so-called world statesmen have been revealed as corrupt and shallow, guilty of sins from deceit to murder.

Cynical 20th Century humans recognize in the Queen, Queen of Canada, leader of the Commonwealth and titular head of the Church of England, a person worthy of respect.

When she says "real happiness... comes from serving and thinking of others", her listeners know she sets the same high standard for herself.

"We are constantly being told that we live in a changing world and that we need to adapt to changing conditions. But this is only part of the truth and I am sure that all parents seeing their children getting married are reminded of the continuity of human life."

As a living bearer of British tradition, a keen student of history and a person who has seen more of the world than most of us ever will, the Queen reminds us that mankind has suffered before and survived.

Her words are simple, at a time when our ears are battered by new jargon, flowery phrases that mean nothing and the manipulations of image makers.

"I believe that Christmas should remind us that the qualities of the human spirit are more important than material gain. Christ taught love and charity and that we should show humanity and compassion at all times and in all situations."

In the last days of 1973, no empty chauvinism or mere custom could have commanded such a large audience for the Queen's Christmas Message. She shows leadership, she is credible, she gives hope.

SEE OUR WANT ADS.
 A classified ad in "The Liberal" is a good way to turn out-grown or unneeded items into cash. It's easy to order your ad. Just phone 884-1105-6 for direct-line FOR FAST RESULTS.

"The Hobbique" Offers Unique Handcrafted Goods

Two months ago, Nancy Madeiros opened her own shop in the Richmond Heights Centre. Like a lot of people, she had for a long time questioned working in an office when her real interests lay elsewhere, and finally decided to do something about it.

The Hobbique is essentially an arts and crafts store, carrying a wide variety of hand made goods. There are, for example, macrame wallhangings, metal sculptures, wool and embroidery thread, cushions and hand woven cloth. Elgin Court cards and post cards also available, are very popular.

According to Nancy, local residents come into the shop, and often, as the result of a conversation, offer to bring in some of their own crafts which she readily accepts. "One woman brought in some hand knitted children's clothes, another glass figurines... it just sort of snowballs."

Perhaps the most consistently popular items in the store are the inexpensive beads, which come in all sizes and shapes. "Some people make their living selling candy or cigarettes. I make mine selling beads."

So far business has been great, according to Nancy, but better than that, she really enjoys meeting and talking with her customers. "I've learned a lot from them."

In selecting what to buy, she goes by her own taste, some of her favorite items being wooden toys that "really bring out the kids' imaginations," and jewellery by Rafael that "men like as much as women." Crocheted jewellery, and bracelets out of braided string, rope and satin are also available.

Although the shop is very small, Nancy is planning on holding arts and craft classes there in the future. The class sizes will of course be limited, and the teachers will be local artists. A painting class, designed for beginners who need guidance in what to paint and in what medium, will be taught by Ann Lamure. It will be held twice a week from 7 - 9:30 for a period of four weeks at a cost of \$15. Classes in crocheting and macrame will probably be scheduled for later on in the year.

Shops such as Nancy's, which specialize in unique handcrafted goods, are especially valuable in an age of mass manufacturing, when it is difficult to find original creations in a bright setting and for a reasonable cost.

Winter Night

The moonlight falls upon the cloth of white That covers rolling fields and tree and hill; A watchdog's voice disturbs the quiet night, Another answers and then all is still. The frozen fronds bend down along the creek, The snowy owl has ceased his eerie call; The stately hemlocks crown the distant peak As night has wrapped the valley in its shawl. A lonely farmhouse sheds a beacon light Wherein a troubled one may lie awake Not knowing that the lovely face of night Might for an instant sooth a sorrow's ache, As winter bends above the sleeping land, And paints a picture with a Master Hand.

ROBERT D. LITTLE,
 54 Arnold Street,
 Richmond Hill.

It Was A Great Year

Now we can look back on the busiest and most active year in Richmond Hill's history with pride and pleasure. As the citizens of this town celebrated its 100th birthday throughout the year, a spirit of community interest was born, nourished and grew to a point never before seen in the municipality.

It is our hope that this community spirit will continue throughout the coming years, so that every citizen is aware that they live in a most progressive town and will help to develop it to its fullest potential. We trust that this burst of enthusiasm, co-operation and participation is not to be confined to special years and that we do not have to wait another hundred years to see it again.

There are many people who deserve the heartfelt thanks of every citizen — starting with Mayor William Lazenby, who gave leadership to the municipality throughout the strenuous year, at the sacrifice of countless hours of time. He received the solid backing of other members of council and his selection of citizens for the Centennial Committee proved indeed to be a wise one.

May we on behalf of all Richmond Hillites say thank you to Chairman Robert Warner and his hard-working, imaginative and innovative committee who planned and carried out the many events of the year. Of course, the major highlight of the year's activities

was the old-home week in June with its parade, the best ever in this community, the dances, the "Concert In The Park", church services, etc.

At the CNE, Richmond Hill Day was a smashing success which brought the town much favorable publicity.

Thanks are also due to the service clubs for their many contributions, the firefighters, the churches, the musical groups, the schools, the senior citizens and hundreds of individual citizens for their efforts to make 1973 a memorable year. They succeeded beyond their wildest dreams.

A special thank you is also due Chief Librarian Patricia Hart, who served on the Centennial Committee, and preserved for future generations the history of Richmond Hill, through two books (the second to be released in the near future). The first named and located most of the more than a century old buildings in the town, so that interested persons could do their own historic tours.

Also to be thanked is the Loyal True Blue and Orange Home whose generosity will provide a passive style park to be enjoyed for many years by the residents of Richmond Hill.

If we keep the spirit which made 1973 outstanding our forecast is that Richmond Hill will be the best town in Ontario in the future.

Aurora Players Hit With Barefoot

By TOM DAVEY
 Liberal's Drama Critic

Theatre patrons from the Hill who braved the cold and snow last week to attend Theatre Aurora's "Barefoot In The Park" were suitably rewarded. In a word, the comedy was magnificent.

Unlike Richmond Hill Curtain Club which boasts its own well-equipped theatre, Aurora actors have to make do with borrowed premises in St. Andrew's College. While the college offers a nice locale and the auditorium is very good, it is hard on any amateur group to work under this handicap. Difficulties often arise in set construction, lighting and decoration which are not present in club owned premises.

Moreover, Aurora's small population base of some 12,000 is a further handicap. It is just as hard to make sets and costumes and rehearse for a three-day run as it is for longer runs, which, incidentally, are usually more profitable.

Following the law of diminishing returns, the three-day run also means the actors get

less experience on stage than their theatrical colleagues on the Hill.

But Theatre Aurora overcame these inherent hazards to produce a hilariously funny show which kept the audience in stitches.

Audrey Rowlands, the director, is well known to Hill theatregoers as she has directed and acted in Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill.

Her cast of only six players manipulates Neil Simon's brilliant dialogue to deft advantage. Julie Wood gives a great performance as the scatter-brained Corrie Bratter, a newlywed who rashly rents a sixth floor apartment with more enthusiasm than forethought.

Her husband, beautifully played by Gord Ness, tosses off a series of wickedly witty quips as the couple stagger from misfortune to calamity.

Frank Steele plays the roguish and aging lothario who charms the bride's mother out of her middle class inhibitions at a price we can only guess at. Both he and the mother, played by Ethel Codd, give convincing

portrayals in a situation which could easily have lapsed into a theatrical cliché.

Like the director, Mr. Steele is well known in the Hill for his character roles in local plays.

Ralph McKim, as the telephone man, and Phil Knibs, as the delivery man, get a surprising amount of laughter for the short time they are on stage. But then, it is a theatrical dictum that there are no small parts — only small actors.

This show proves that Aurora has a strong theatrical pulse which towns twice its size might envy.

Meanwhile Richmond Hill Curtain Club is rehearsing hard for its next play "Everything In The Garden" by Edward Albee.

Watch out for a major effort in this play as it is the club's entry in the Central Ontario Drama Awards Festival. Traditionally the Curtain Club has fared well in this awards program and the play, the director and the cast have been selected with the awards in mind. The play runs February 1-16.

Start college in January

Got your Grade 12? Or perhaps you're a mature student 19 or over? Either way, you can start college on **January 14** at Seneca's King Campus. Check this list of challenging programs:

Business Administration	4 or 6 Semesters
Secretary—Executive, Legal, or Medical	4 Semesters
Food and Beverage Control	4 Semesters
Recreation Facilities Management	4 Semesters
Underwater Skills	2 Semesters
Early Childhood Education	4 Semesters

Part-time courses in English and Communications, Liberal Studies and Visual Arts are also available. For further information on all programs, contact the Campus Registrar at 884-9901, Ext. 244/245

Seneca's Finch Campus is also offering January admission in many day diploma programs. For information call 491-5050, Ext. 397

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