

# CNA The Liberal



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## A Word Of Caution

Walter Pitman, a former teacher at Langstaff Secondary School, has cautioned teachers not to ask to share power with school boards until they are willing to share their classroom authority with parents and their local neighbors.

His warning came during a speech and panel discussion session February 19 on teachers and the impact of politics on education at a professional development day for Toronto elementary teachers.

Mr. Wilkinson himself was criticized by Toronto Board of Education Chairman Mrs. Fiona Nelson for not consulting his members over proposed legislation to govern teacher bargaining.

We agree with Mr. Pitman that the teachers are heading towards future difficulties. Not only parents but the students themselves (who after all are the ones most directly affected by policy and curriculum changes) may well insist on sharing classroom authority — and if it is denied them follow the teachers' example by striking.

It is also interesting to note that high school teachers in Peel County have broken off contract talks with that county's board of education because the board refuses to talk about anything beyond wages. The negotiations were being carried out by District 10 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.

## School Board Shows Willingness

With most of the school news these days being centred around the teachers versus trustees controversy, it was a welcome change to see in a recent report of the York County Board of Education meeting, an item which, although small, spoke volumes.

The item was as follows: Despite a budget of \$10,000 for such things, York County Board of Education last year spent only \$2,545 on conventions and \$751 on workshops. . . . Largest sum spent by a trustee was \$489.85.

Can this be the same big bad board that the teachers claim has denied services to both teachers and students only in its zeal to stay within government-imposed spending ceilings? A board which indulged itself at the expense of others?

The \$7,455 saved by the board probably doesn't sound like much, and really isn't much in an overall budget of \$43,000,000.

But in this era of gimme, gimme, while in the background can be heard the never-ending "I demand my rights" chorus, the board members would have been

quite justified in indulging their rights by taking in all of the many conventions available to them. Instead they restricted themselves to a few and in doing so put the whole matter of budgets and spending in the proper perspective.

The point is that, although the saving may be small, the example presented is a big one. It shows a willingness to compromise, a willingness to see that it's really not all that important to spend every cent that's coming to you when the gain in other ways may not be all that great.

Compromise, of course, is a dirty word anymore, the teachers especially seeming to feel any kind of compromise demeans them.

It's impossible to do anything else. Compromises on both sides are necessary, and lest anyone feels that means losing a little face, let them heed the words of the Danish poet, Piet Hein:

The noble art of losing face  
May someday save the human race  
And turn into eternal merit  
What lesser minds would call disgrace.

## 100-Year-Old School Seeks Former Grads

Anybody from this area attend Winchester Public School in Toronto sometime or other during the past 100 years?

If you did, then you're invited to attend the school's centennial celebrations October 24 to 26, with a special grads' day being held on the 26th.

part in the festivities, contact either Jim Wilkinson, principal, Winchester Public School, 15 Prospect Street, Toronto, or Mrs. Betty Lomax, 41 Wild Cherry Lane, Thornhill.

If you're an alumnus of the old school and wish to take

# Citizen Advocacy Volunteers Help Victims Of Despondency, Loneliness And Despair

By MARGARET LADE

What is loneliness, despondency, despair? To most of us these are passing emotions. We all have our "downs". But there are some among us, impaired or handicapped citizens, to whom this is the pattern of life, and that is why a Citizen Advocacy program has been established in the Region of York.

What is Citizen Advocacy? It is a program through which competent volunteer citizens work in one-to-one relationships with those who need help in order to realize their full potential and rights as both citizens and human beings.

Beneficiaries are the mentally retarded, physically handicapped, emotionally disturbed, shut-ins and others in need of a helping hand. Some of these are former inmates of criminal institutions, some are young children.

The program is well established in parts of the United States and has been operating in New Brunswick for more than a year under sponsorship of the association for the mentally retarded.

Citizen Advocacy has set up an office in Richmond Hill with the initial stages being financed by a Federal LIP grant, but the volunteer board of directors and three full-time staff expect that it will be an on-going service for all the Region of York.

Since the Citizen Advocacy office opened in a small room

in Richmond Hill United January 7 a number of potential "protoges" (as their clients are called) have been referred to them — a young man with limited abilities who needs a mature "advocate" to help him get established in the work-day world, a boy who was developing undesirable behavior patterns, a middle-aged woman who has been nearly four years in a senior citizens' home and wants to get out, a paraplegic still in his teens, a former patient of a psychiatric hospital who needs help in adjusting to a normal life style.

The small staff, headed by Jon Hall, has found advocates for some of these people and others like them, but not all, and calls are coming in daily for help.

For Hall, who has a degree in economics from the London (England) School of Economics and has been involved in various lines of business, his new job had meant a drop in income, finds his workdays, which often start at 8:30 am and end at 11:30 pm, challenging and rewarding. He is constantly in touch with social agencies such as family service, mental health, mentally retarded, interviews volunteers and speaks at innumerable meetings of service clubs, church groups and others who would like to become involved in the work of Citizen Advocacy.

There has been a lot of spade work done, too, said Hall in an interview, making sure that

there will be professionals on call and enlisting support of existing agencies and services such as the social planning council in "spreading the word" that they are there and need to get the word around.

"We need people who can take the initiative, work on their own as advocates," said Hall. On the other hand, the central office and professionals in all areas of social and family services are at the other end of the telephone if the advocate feels the problems are getting out of hand. There may be cases where more than one advocate is needed, where the individual or family needs help in physical, emotional, economic crises.

Debbly Saloman, a graduate in psychology from York University, who with her husband lives on the university campus at Steeles Avenue and Keele Street, is concentrating her efforts in pairing up advocates and protoges in the southern part of the region. She has specialized in abnormal psychology and since the age of 14 had worked with handicapped people, first as a volunteer then as a professional.

Norah Love lives in Newmarket and concentrates her efforts in the northern part of the region. Orientation courses out of Seneca College's King Campus have helped in acquainting staff and volunteers with problems of suffering from epilepsy, cerebral palsy and other afflictions

that make life difficult in ways that the average person often does not comprehend.

The back up of resource people who can speak with authority helps to familiarize volunteers with needs related to specific handicaps and help protoges to lead a fulfilling style of life.

"Everyone needs a good one-to-one relationship with someone," says Ms. Love. "Other services provide professional help, group aid, counselling. We help the individual with everyday problems that keep him from growing."

In the training process, the volunteers can decide what sort of person they think they can work with, she explained. Some may feel they have something to contribute to the mentally retarded, others to the emotionally disturbed, and others to the shut-in or senior citizen who simply needs a friendly visitor, someone to read to him, to write letters or run errands.

The Citizen Advocacy volunteer board of directors combine a wide range of experience and expertise in many fields. Debbie Andrews works weekends at High Point home for the mentally retarded in Markham. Rev. Peter Dill is associated with the National Institute for the Mentally Retarded at York University. Winona Macdonald, the board's treasurer, is secretary of Richmond Hill Social Planning Council. Stuart MacMillan is a

psychiatric counsellor and social worker with York Central Mental Health Service.

Rosemary Miller is administrator of Union Villa Home for Senior Citizens. Donald Mole is on the mental health board for York County Mental Health Centre in Newmarket. Ann Whittingham is a member of the York Central Association for the Mentally Retarded, and Pat Hengen is a Richmond Hill lawyer. Board chairman is Rev. Fred Miller of Unionville.

From their few weeks of operation, Hall gleaned a few typical case histories (if anything can be typical about basic human physical and emotional needs). For example:

Mary is 55 years old and has been living in a home for senior citizens for nearly four years. She has appealed for help to find her somewhere else to live. Mary considers her present home to be a hospital and is lonely and unhappy. She would like a friend, someone who would take a personal interest in her life and help her to improve her situation.

Mary has a brother and sister living in the Toronto area, but neither of them wishes to have anything to do with her. Mary appears to be "normal" but there are indications of some emotional instability. An advocate is urgently required for Mary before she gives up hope.

Elizabeth, 26 years old, spent

BRADFORD: The number of wolf bounties paid in West Gwillimbury Township has jumped from a normal two or three a year to 10 since December 1. The \$15 township bounty and the \$25 Simcoe County bounty has been claimed by nine men and there has been a number of claims for sheep and chickens killed or worried. The township has paid out \$11,302 for these claims in the last five years.



## In the Spotlight

By DIANA COOK  
Role Of Clergy In Community Is Expanding

The role of the clergy in community affairs has expanded greatly over the years, extending its range of activities to deal with the changing times. One example of this trend is "The Lost And Found Department", a jazz group composed of eight Presbyterian Ministers from in or nearby Metro.

Rev. Terry Samuel of Thornhill Presbyterian, who plays an accordion and "any other instrument in the band", says that the message which the group is trying to convey is one of love, and the joy of life in Christ. Its repertoire includes both secular and religious songs, from pop hits and folk ballads to old time hymns. The ministers have played so far at a number of churches and schools, where they were enthusiastically received.

Mr. Samuel, who received a degree in music education from the University of Toronto, before

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## Opportunity For Stamp Collectors

Stamp Collecting is a universal hobby. Most youngsters at some time or another take an interest in collecting stamps of Canada and/or foreign countries and many people continue this interest into adulthood and become very knowledgeable about the countries which issued their stamps.

Collectors of British stamps have many new issues to add to their collections with the Royal Wedding (two stamps), five stamps

portraying the verses of "Good King Wenceslas, a special Christmas air letter featuring a collage of traditional Christmas emblems, and a new 3 1/2p letter card. The British Post Office has issued the collector's pack of stamps shown above, containing all special issues 1973. Canadian collectors can obtain the pack through the BPO Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH1 1AB.

## Letters to the Editor

### TEACHERS OUT FOR REVENGE

Dear Mr. Editor— We appreciate your facility to address this letter to the teachers of York Region.

The strike drags on, and will apparently now not end till mid-winter break. In the meantime the students drift, and are forced to use the impractical tutorial systems now being offered by the strikers.

Where has the professionalism of teaching gone? Historically the teaching profession got everything that they wanted and the taxpayer could buy, until recently, when provincial government finally cried "enough" to their demands. It became obvious that the level or capacity of teaching had not risen with the expense.

Now we see a real power struggle between the trustees and the teachers — a real confrontation on who is going to control the system. The teachers appear to have become political activists out for revenge, rather than the people trained at public expense to teach the young of our community.

Now with the news blackout on the negotiations we have the teachers out delivering letters of explanation. How can we as parents in this community respect this kind of conduct and attitude?

We also worry about the teachers impressing their own stands upon the students as to the strike thereby confusing the children all the more.

Do not forget that the York County Board is an elected body and represents the majority of the taxpayers in the negotiating room with the teachers.

If you are as concerned as we are, please call your trustee — John Honsberger at 889-3118 and your teachers federation at 923-7341 and tell them. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Please, please the well is dry on the straw is on the camel's back.

Is it not better to have a few too many students being taught by a teacher than no students being taught at all?

On Behalf Of The Children  
A Group Of Concerned Thornhill Parents.  
MRS. E. CORK,  
154 Baythorn Drive,  
Thornhill.

### MRS. HANCEY—COUNCIL'S WATCH DOG

Dear Mr. Editor— Regarding your news story "Hancey Fails To Get Appeal Of Naughton Drive Severance"—February 14 issue. It seems incredible to me that the Richmond Hill Commit-

tee of Adjustment and then majority of the planning committee of council would even consider this in contrast of existing zoning by laws.

I think there is a good case for smaller lots in certain areas (especially with the concurrence of residents in the area). However it should be done by way of change of zoning. An opportunity to do so will be with the forthcoming Official Plan for the new town. The effect of this major variation, which is arbitrary by way of Committee of Adjustment, is that some may get a severance approved while others may not. If this is allowed the zoning bylaws are useless.

Mrs. Hancey is to be commended for her watch dog policies. There seems to be tendency to bulldoze these things through without going through proper procedures.

RAY CROWTHER,  
71 Oxford Street,  
Richmond Hill.

### AS A STUDENT SEES IT

Dear Mr. Editor —

I am a grade 13 student hoping to go to university next year. I am becoming increasingly alarmed by the teacher situation and the effect it is going to have on the grade 13 students.

There has been a lot of loose talk about the possibility of these students losing their year. I have been amazed at the seemingly flippant attitude shown towards their problem.

There is the problem of universities discriminating against students from York County. Since there are no departmental examinations, the universities may well presume that we don't have the class hours and especially in competitive situations it will be hard for them to accept our applications.

There have been various suggestions of solutions for this problem of class hours. One was to extend the end of the school year to compensate. The problem with that is that we have to compete for summer jobs to pay our way through university and nobody hires in July.

Another suggestion has been to lengthen the school day with classes from 8 am to 5 pm. This doesn't take into consideration the fact that concentration powers will be low as it is and to lengthen the school day will make catching up impossible.

Night classes have also been suggested, but a lot of grade 13 students have jobs at night.

Therefore, in summary, no matter how the dispute is settled, we, the students, and particularly the grade 13 students, are the real losers. It is painfully ironic that while two groups whose job and public duty it is to educate us are fighting it out, it is the product of their labors which will absorb the net damage from this fight.

May the two parties remember this — there is a writ which can be issued by a higher court, called the Writ of Mandamus, which orders a public official to do his or her duty. To disobey this writ will invoke the wrath of the courts. I think it is a fair statement to say that they weren't doing their duty to their particular office. May both parties continue this course of action at their peril.

What I am really getting at is this — that the teachers must get back soon or the situation will become unbearable for both students and parents.

MALCOLM JARDINE,  
President Students Council,  
Richmond Hill High School.

## To The Staff At York Central Hospital

The Don Head woods are grey and green  
With drifted snow piled up between.  
As tired eyes look out, the rays  
Of sun have set tree-tops ablaze.  
A test with needles, pills and such,  
To your surprise don't hurt too much.  
There comes a day when you are led  
Down to the room that patients dread,  
And as you're lying horizontal,  
Attacks are made both aft and frontal,  
But doctor's skill and doctor's cheer  
Find you surprised that you're still here.  
The pleasant nurses' skilful care  
Is rendered with a splendid flair.  
Ten pretty nurses in a row  
Can set a corridor aglow.  
And so to all this gallant crew  
We lift our glass, *Merci beaucoup!*

ROBERT D. LITTLE  
York Central Hospital  
February 10, 1974.  
(Mr. Little is now home.)

David now has an advocate who will act for him in trying to find suitable accommodation which he can afford and hopefully will speak for him to explain his lateness for work. This is an advocacy role which will meet immediate problems, the relationship may develop into something enduring, but this is something for the two people to work out.

Phillip is 11 years old and was showing some resentment to his family and was developing undesirable behavior patterns. He was not returning home at scheduled times, was withdrawn with adults and complaints had been made that he was bullying younger children especially girls. School work had deteriorated severely during the previous 6 months and there was some evidence that Phillip had been stealing.

An advocate was found for Phillip, a tall willow blonde grade 13 student, Christina, aged 18. Christina managed to win Phillip's confidence and during a three month period they became firm friends. Christina is now at community college and away from home, but is regularly in touch with her protege Phillip.

As for Phillip, he is receiving glowing reports from school and he has become more open and acting as young boys are supposed to. This advocacy role would appear to have met some

copy before it goes to press. Michael also has a speech impediment as the result of muscular atrophy whilst he was unconscious for several weeks after the car accident. Speech therapy has brought Michael to the stage where he can be easily understood, but the listener must be extremely patient as the words come slowly and are hard for Michael to form. The man working next to Michael in his office has not been known to speak for at least 6 years. Michael must have continual practice in speech to help a steady recovery.

An advocate was found who spends time talking with Michael, but perhaps more significantly saw the necessity for Michael to have a different working companion. This has been arranged with the social workers and now perhaps more talking than work gets done, but after all this is supposed to be rehabilitation.

David has a grade 4 education, 22 years of age, lives in Markham. He has just obtained work in Richmond Hill with a steel company. His employer is aware that David is mildly retarded, but he is capable of doing the required work. David has a problem with transportation so he has to get to work by 7:00 am and there are no buses from Markham to Richmond Hill and hitchhiking has already proved to be unreliable, for David has been late twice.

Michael is a paraplegic, having been badly injured in a car accident 18 months ago. Michael writes for a living and has been placed in a rehabilitation workshop where they make greeting cards. His job is to compose the messages and proof read the