

The Liberal

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You Dirty Dog

The earth and the sky didn't exactly collide at last week's Richmond Hill Town Council meeting when second and third readings were given to an amending bylaw which prohibits dogs from municipal parks for all practical purposes. But a shudder must have surely run through the mind of all dog-lovers. Not to mention the dogs.

The "dog" part of the bylaw was only one of a number pertaining to the parks but it was enough to cause Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe to run a hand through his ample shock of pepper-and-salt hair with something like shock.

This particular clause in the amending bylaw respecting town parks said to wit:

No one can "Lead, carry or take any animal including dogs and cats into a town park unless it is an entry in a pet show or training school being held in the park. Any animal found in a town park shall be deemed to have been taken there by the owner or the person having custody thereof."

What startled Councillor Rowe was the realization that an owner wouldn't be allowed to even take his dog through a park on leash. Something of a dastardly turn of affairs.

Someone should test this bylaw immediately. One is doubtful whether it would hold up under any Canadian Bill of Rights investigation.

So, hats off to Councillor Rowe. After all, someone has to speak up for those dirty dogs. In the meanwhile, sir, keep your dog far away from town parks. There's plenty of lawn elsewhere to keep any respectable dog in a reasonably happy frame of mind. Just keep him off mine.

the other end of is a bit much. Surely, the odd incident may occur but is this justification enough to make a blanket, sweeping rejection of all dogs? We think not. This smacks of one of those infamous Borough of Etobicoke bylaws of recent years. You know the kind. You can't take a bath unless decently clothed. Something like that.

How many times have you seen a stately old man taking his pekinese dog (also stately looking) through one of Richmond Hill's fine parks on a breeze-kissed night. Something that causes one to pause and try to capture the moment. Now he may bump into a policeman.

Come to think of it. From the appearance of Richmond Hill parks after a large gathering of people it might not be a bad idea. There's not a dog around that can create as much mess (sort of) as your average stroller through the park.

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Metro - Regional Traffic Crisis Is Imminent

The recently released Metro Toronto Transportation Plan Review points clearly to a number of the factors which are going to strongly influence the fate of this southern York Region area. The municipal planners and concerned citizens who want to guide our community development to the best goals might well take a good look at this new report. It predicts a Toronto commuter traffic crisis over the next seven years.

The Metro configuration on our York Region's southern boundary has tended to develop along the Lake Ontario shore from east to west in a band roughly controlled in width by the distance sewage would flow south into the lake unaided through a pipe by force of gravity. The distance of development from the lake, however, is much wider in the vicinity of Woodbridge than it is to the east at Markham-Pickering.

So there is a build-up of development pressure, especially in southern Markham and also in Vaughan. Metro growth now is contained by the long-established Steeles Avenue boundary which especially to the west is close to the line at which sewage could no longer be drained off to the south.

But Steeles Avenue's alignment gets much closer to the lake to the east. Now the huge multi-million-dollar sewer and water scheme up the Rouge River Valley into Pickering-Markham and across to Richmond Hill and Vaughan Towns is almost an accomplished fact. It will be the pin that pricks the development bubble and releases the deluge northward. The province recognizes this fact in plunking down a satellite town plan on land taken from Pickering-Markham. This will create a large new municipality in the Region of Durham on the Rouge River drainage scheme. Plans are steadily going ahead and were recently shown to Markham Town Council.

The Metro Toronto Transportation Plan Review outlines the commuter traffic and road communication pressures now being felt and soon to come. It shows transportation forces now strongly press for urban development in the Highway 7 corridor from Woodbridge through Concord, Langstaff and Thornhill largely vacant lands from Vaughan across Markham to Pickering.

The review shows exploding development to the east of Metro in Mississauga is going to choke traffic facilities connecting that

area to Toronto. And it says the thousands of future new Metro workers must look to the north to our area for residential space during the next seven years. The review predicts a traffic crisis which will exert a tremendous pressure on this area. It has the potential force behind it to steam roller over local dreams, hopes, considerations and plans. It would take our fate out of our hands.

The review contradicts the province's Toronto-Centred Region Plan which generally would seem to protect the indigenous interests of this area. The report says the TCR Plan has already grossly underestimated the number of jobs being created in the Toronto downtown core and the number of commuters to come from outside Metro. It says the TCR Plan might better be scrapped or violated, than upheld.

This endangers the TCR Plan upon which until now it appeared Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill could rely to contain Metro's northward growth. The review says it makes better transportation sense to intensely develop the Highway 7 corridor from Woodbridge to Markham. This is because of the new availability of highways and sewers, along with the large scale private assembly of land for development that has taken place in the ribbon across north of Steeles Avenue.

A delightful and welcome harbinger seen in the review is the prediction that there will soon be an end to the creation of new Metro jobs that draw increasing numbers of commuters from this area. Also welcome is the conclusion that the main solution to the immediate commuter traffic crisis will necessarily be a big switch to public transit of various kinds.

The review indicates job creating industry and commerce after 1981 will have to be located outside the present Metro configuration to be accessible to workers and find land sites. It is a bright prospect for the local municipal economies to see tax base broadening commerce and industry being drawn or driven to local industrial parks.

Even now, forward looking employers would be well-advised to be seeking industrial and commercial development sites in this area where housing, water, and sewer services are soon to be plentiful. The local municipal planners should be preparing to welcome them.



Gerry Diver Musical Director

Gerry Diver of Willowdale, an active member of the local Curtain Club, just recently musically directed the Red Barn theatre's production, "Berlin to Broadway". A great success, the show may be touring throughout Canada and the United States as Gerry contemplates other such offers as a result of her recent success.

For more details on this story, read "Spotlight".

ROCK TALK

By PAUL JONES
Grease

For those who didn't already know, Grease is a rock and roll musical which brings back the life style of teenagers in the 1950's. It was in that era that guys had short hair, greased back to ducktails. They wore leather jackets, turned up their shirt sleeves up. The girls in this era wore their boyfriends' jackets, teased their hair, pierced their ears and wore bobby socks long skirts and crinolines.

The 1950's was actually a special era for teenagers and the play, Grease, presents it well. Instead of worrying about such things as the A-bomb, inflation and pollution, the teenagers then worried about such trite things as "who was going to be at the Friday night sock-hop" or "will the old custom car make it to the drive-in Saturday night?"

And now that the musical play, Grease, has finished its successful run at the Royal Alex, the record, Grease (of the original Broadway cast), is all that is left for Torontonians and fellow northerners, to remember the play by.

The album, Grease (MGM 15E-34 OC), is surprisingly refreshing, considering that it brings back the music of the 50's. For, unlike the simple, repetitive and overplayed music (of the 50's) that many have heard in the past three or four years (by Sha Na Na and other such

groups formed or brought back from the past), the music from Grease is easy to take and is all part of a story which makes the songs worthwhile listening to.

The story, lyrics and music were written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, while the musical supervision and orchestrations were provided by Michael Leonard. The consistency of clear tone and high quality in the vocals (provided by, to mention a few, Adrienne Barbeau, Barry Bostwick, Carole Demas, Tim Meyers and Alan Paul) makes Grease (MGM) an excellent album.

The strongest feature of the album is that it almost has you wishing you were part of it, or at least part of the 1950's where life seems less complicated. But either way, Grease is an album which deserves to be in anyone's record collection.

STOUFFVILLE: After three years of operation the Stouffville Toronto CNR commuter service hauls up to 200 passengers daily it is reported. The system started with one 90-passenger unit and now has three. It leaves Stouffville at 7:10 am and arrives in Toronto at 8:05. The return trips leave Toronto at 5:20 and arrive here at 6:15. A group in Lindsay and Uxbridge are asking to have the service extended to those municipalities.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Housewife By Day - Star By Night.....

BY VICKERY COOK

This is perhaps a slightly exaggerated, but nevertheless, apt description of an exceedingly talented lady living in the midst of quiet suburbia just south of Richmond Hill. She is Mrs. Geraldine (Gerry) Diver of 383 Hilywood Avenue in Willowdale.

Mrs. Diver has had a remarkable and colorful career in the entertainment business. Musically, she is extremely talented, completing her first musical at the age of 12. By the age of 14 Mrs. Diver had her own radio program in Massachusetts and for two years wrote her own continuity for it. The program was concerned with musical appreciation, with drama on radio taking on another part of her career. She has directed choirs, played for an orchestra in Palm Beach, Florida, taught voice on the side and sang for the Robert Shaw Chorale in New York. (Mrs. Diver, personally, has formally studied music for two and a half to three years.) She also played in a symphony in New Haven, Connecticut. Editing films, accompanying musical directors and playing for cabarets, acting in such shows as the CBC's "Police Surgeon" and doing four star bits in movies in California, not to mention a few commercials, are all included in Gerry Diver's extensive range of experience.

Mrs. Diver, on top of all this, trained to be a physio-therapist in order that she might not be financially dependent on show business and subsequently not leave herself open to be classified as "a starving, young entertainer." As a physio-therapist she was in charge of a clinic with her job terminating for the summer months. This was most convenient as this enabled her to take part in summer stock. This took Gerry to such places as New York, Massachusetts, Palm Beach, Florida, and

a number of New England states.

Mrs. Diver attributes her lack of disillusionment with the theatre to her independence of it. Her participation in the entertainment field is merely, "a labor of love." The only real portion of her business with which Mrs. Diver is disheartened is with the commercial industry and the atmosphere surrounding it. She said that they're like cattle calls, where aspiring actors at the same time, suffering actors of all ages attend in the continuing hope that they will be "discovered." She is a strong supporter of Canada Council grants and advocates that they should be more extensive and should have been started long ago. An actor, and his colleagues, should be subsidized.

"BERLIN TO BROADWAY"
 Gerry Diver's position as musical director of the Red Barn theatre's production "Berlin to Broadway" by Kurt Weill, just ended as did the play. From all accounts it was a great success with the possibility of it going on tour in Canada and the United States.

McKenzie Porter of the Toronto Star had great praise for "Berlin to Broadway" and Mrs. Diver. An excerpt from the review follows:
 "Few songs are more difficult to play and sing than Weill's. The scores are stippled with sharps and flats, the melodies arise unpredictably from groupings of closely cluttered notes, and the themes depend for success on the assumption that only artists of outstanding sensitivity and accomplishment will dare to tackle them."
 "If he were alive today Kurt Weill would not be disappointed with the Red Barn production's musical director, conductor and first piano player Geraldine Diver."

Letters to the Editors

SUNDAY DAY OF REST

Dear Mr. Editor—

Your story in the July 10 issue of "The Liberal" entitled "Day of Rest Needed for Human Reasons" which mentions that the Ontario Government published a Green Paper on Sunday as a common day of rest has brought deep concern where your article stated: "One group responding to this request is composed of the 20 bishops of the Catholic Conference of Ontario who are pressing firmly for the retention of Sunday as a common day of rest." "They understand that any new provincial legislation would be secular, not religious."

If this is so why not any day? Why use the religious rest day passed by Constantine the Great in Rome A.D. 321? Is Constantine more powerful than God? His law rules the world today, where is God's law when He created the world and left us an example of resting from all his work on the seventh day? Speaking of Sunday as a common day of rest, the bishops said, "It would be reckless and disruptive to cast aside this heritage of the western world lightly." My question is, hasn't it been reckless and disruptive to cast aside the greater heritage given to man directly from God Himself at creation when by example God rested on the seventh day, God blessed the seventh day, and God sanctified the seventh day, Genesis 2:2-3.

Every Easter the Christian Church identifies the Lord's Day, Luke 23:54-56; Luke 24:1—"And that day was the preparation" and the Sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with Him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and now His body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment. Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared and certain others with them."

Christ left this earth giving authority to His apostles to carry on His teachings but never anywhere in the Bible has he given authority to the church or apostles to change His laws or teachings. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill". Matthew 5:17. If Sunday as a rest day would be passed by legislation as secular not religious, and the bishops have no other motive why are they pressing firmly for Sunday? The book of Daniel is being fulfilled right here in this respect according to the bible but only those who read it will know.

I do respect the laws of this government. I do hope that legislation will pass laws that will not affect those who are now very law abiding.

On the preparation day

Jesus was crucified, the 6th day of the week, at Easter time we call it Good Friday. Jesus rested in the tomb the sabbath day according to the commandments. This being the 7th day of the week. The following day Jesus arose, we call this day Easter Sunday. There can be no doubt to bible readers that the seventh day sabbath is the day set aside by God as the day when all secular work should cease as He said in His commandments and did by his example of rest at the end of his six days of work at creation.

In the seventh paragraph of "Day of Rest Needed For Human Reasons" one reason given for Sunday as a day of rest was: "a measure of freedom and serenity". Where would be the freedom and serenity for those who observe such day of rest on a different day because of bible teachings? Wouldn't such people be forced to obey legislation otherwise tried by the law and convicted as common criminals? Therefore, I can only conclude that such a law would be damaging to a set of religious people.

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P. BORSOS,
 74 Langstaff Road,
 Thornhill.

School Report Shows Regression Moral Reasoning Power Children

An unanticipated regression in moral reasoning power the older they get, has been shown by two groups of public schools students in the region, York County Board of Education reported recently.

Warning that its report was inconclusive, the board said the students regressed from a stage where they could put themselves into somebody else's shoes when tested in grade 7, to a lower ego-centred stage in grade 8 testing.

This latter stage is usually associated with groups of children from 5 to 7 years old, whereas most grade 8 students are about 13.

The board report suggested several reasons for the drop in moral reasoning

power among the grade 8 students.

It said that age 13 might be a time of transition and adolescent confusion, when a greater self interest comes into play.

Also, such outside factors as Watergate, may have influenced the children, because of its increasing revelations of moral breakdown in high places.

NEWMARKET: Property taxes on most average homes of Newmarket public school supporters will decrease \$10.90 this year, and will drop a substantial \$47.58 on the average homes of Roman Catholic school supporters. An average home is taken as assessed at \$20,000.

Pep Up Your Summer - Be A Volunteer

"Summertime and the living is easy"—We sometimes forget that everyone is not on vacation. In fact many people need your help as a volunteer if they are going to enjoy summer at all. Some very exciting programs just can't function without volunteers to help carry them out.

For example, a recreational program for inner city children emphasizing outdoor education and recreation is being held at several centres in and just outside Metro. Minimum age for this program is 18, although anyone who is younger and has a special skill to offer will be considered. Volunteers are needed as drivers, swimming supervisors, drama technicians and so on. The program operates seven days a week — evenings too. If you have an hour to spare — and no doubt a valuable skill to offer call the Volunteer

Centre-North York at 222-2551 and find out a little more about this program.

Many of our senior citizens do very well on their own. However it can be difficult to get out to shop — or to see a friend; and some are terribly lonely. Just a little time once a week could make such a difference to one of the wonderful people — who, after all, have made our world the exciting place it is today.

Summer is the best time of the year for so many of us, but sometimes we find ourselves just a little bored. Too much sun, too much tennis, too many barbecues. . . . Come on — get involved and share your time!

An hour or a day, indoors or out, with people of any age — whatever "turns YOU on". Just call the Volunteer Centre-North York, you can find the right spot for you. YOU'LL FEEL RICHER FOR IT.

The centre at 145 Sheppard Avenue East, 222-2551, is open 9 am to 8 pm Monday, Tuesday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

Speed Limits On Highways

(Kingston Whig-Standard)

In an effort to conserve petroleum products some parts of the United States recently imposed speed limits as low as 55 miles an hour. Since then there has been time to assess the results. Apart from economy in fuel usage, the investigators report that most drivers seem quite pleased with the lower speed limit. It is also being claimed that the death rate on highways subject to the lower speed limit has dropped dramatically.

Always sensitive to the more dramatic aspects of American experience, the Ontario Government has been impressed by these facts. Queen's Park has announced that its own research into the relationship between speed and traffic deaths will be completed this month. The Minister of Transportation and Communications John Rhodes, has noted that "New York has reported a dramatic reduction in fatal accidents. But they're not able to say positively whether it's the result of the lower speed limits or whether fewer miles are being driven by fewer cars."

Highway 401 is one of the main objects of the plans of the Ontario Government, along with 427. On these highways the 70 mile-an-hour limit prevails. When the limit was raised in October, 1968 from 60 to 70 miles an hour these columns observed that "The trouble with the modern automobile is that it can travel very fast without making any fuss about it." This means that most drivers who "are simply not qualified to drive a high-powered car at the speeds which prevail on our super-highways" don't know the dangers they face.

Whatever the arguments concerning whether it is really speed that results in the most accidents, there can surely be no doubt that reducing the limits, at least on our super highways, would be wise and beneficial in the long run.

GEORGE SINCLAIR

Ex "Liberal" Writer Dies In 89th Year

Still remembered for the council news and articles he wrote for "The Liberal" in the late 1940's, John George Sinclair passed away July 10, just three days before his 89th birthday, at York County Hospital, Newmarket, following a brief illness.

Publisher of "The Liberal" during George Sinclair's term of employment here was the late Jack Smith.

From here he moved to Aurora where he and his wife, Blanche, lived to the present. He worked for a time for the Aurora "Banner", then the Newmarket "Era and Express".

In 1962 and 1963 Mr. Sinclair served on Aurora Council under Mayor Keith Nisbet — an experience he enjoyed greatly.

Born in Embleton near Newcastle, England, he attended Oxford University and was author of a number of books published in England in the 1920's. He was concerned with prevailing social injustices and the main theme of his writing centred around the appalling coal mining conditions and abuses pertaining to industrial insurance practices.

He is survived by his wife and only son, Russell, and his wife, Eleanor, of Thornhill.

SHARON: Senior citizen in East Gwillimbury are responding very slowly to a recent questionnaire sent out by the Ontario Housing Authority to determine the need. It is estimated there are about 500 seniors in the municipality. A similar survey five years ago showed no enough interest or need for senior citizen housing but council has received several petitions asking for them in the past few years.

COMMUNITY THEATRE

Both the Diver's consider community theatre, like our local Curtain Club, an important element in any town. Mrs. Diver commented on the abundance of theatres in England and of the high quality and standards of each, in not only classical plays but also in experimental ones.

There is so much one can learn via community theatre. It is where future talent is being cultivated and enriched in preparation for greater productions. Such organizations should be given the support of the town itself.

Gordon and Gerry Diver are both active members in the Curtain Club. Gordon directed "Candida" and "Billy Liar" and Gerry, "Halfway Up a Tree". Mrs. Diver is scheduled to direct

"The Gingerbread Lady," by Neil Simon in the coming year at the Curtain Club.

Considering the Diver's avid interest in the theatre, Gordon and Gerry met rather appropriately. This meeting was when they were both involved in the production, "The Lady's Not For Burning," by Christopher Fry.

Gordon Diver was born in Montreal and Gerry in the State of Massachusetts.

In Gerry's opinion, contemporary music and musicals for the most part, are overrated and sometimes virtually tuneless. She commented on how rarely she leaves a theatre, humming a tune from its production, or even remembering it. Gerry is, however, delighted with the nostalgia cycle that we are experiencing now and the reversion to the sounds of the big bands. She and her husband both agree that this nostalgia is merely "filling in a gap." They predict a synthesis—a synthesis of the music of the Thirties and Forties and that of contemporary music to create something modern, unique and melodic.

They explain that it's not a rejection of the new, it's a rejection of poor music.

Gerry Diver finds the theatre world in Toronto exciting. "It's bursting out at the seams!" It's what New York was thirty years ago. Toronto is a thrilling place to be.

Gerry and Gordon Diver are certainly a very talented couple whose interest in the theatre is invariably to the audience's benefit. Mrs. Diver anticipates an exciting and action filled year as her enthusiasm and love for music and the stage generates and almost "spills over" to capture the attention of all who meet her and fill them with the same kind of excitement, and delight. Her enthusiasm is almost "bursting out at the seams!"