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Short Shrift For Day Care

With the whole populous staggering under ever-increasing tax burdens, it is admirable that the province should be searching for ways of making that burden less onerous, but why is it always the health, education and social services that get clobbered first?

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The effect of the tight lid on spending on education has been very evident in the unrest that has plagued our school system. Family service and family life centres continue to provide vitally important services to individuals and families in distress, hanging on by the skin of their teeth, thanks to the dedication of volunteers, community supporters and staff composed of incorrigible optimists.

Now it is the day care centres, havens of security for the most vulnerable segment of the population, the very young and helpless, that are about to feel the crunch. Staff-child ratios are to be increased, volunteers encouraged to establish their own centres with no qualified staff, and no formal qualifications required for staff in after-school programs for six to nine-year-olds.

In a statement published by Provincial Secretary For Social Development Margaret Birch in June, the Minister pointed out that this would have the effect of increasing capacity in existing centres from 30 to 50 percent above present registration and would encourage parents to make their own choice as to the kind of care each child should receive.

First the ratios: increasing the number of children under 18 months to four from three and one-third per staff member might not be too bad. Hopefully the very young would spend a lot of time sleeping. But consider the escalation up the lines, increasing the ratio from eight to 12 children to one adult for the two to four-yearolds, and from 11 to 16 children for the five year olds!

If this proposal had come from a man, we might understand it, but Mrs. Birch is a mother. No doubt she is an exceptional woman. She would not be where she is if she were not. And she may have exceptional children. But to the average person, no matter how well trained, how well qualified, these numbers are staggering, and the professionals have come out loud and clear in their opposition to the proposed changes. Even operators of private centres, who stand to benefit financially from the change, are opposed to it.

But Mrs. Birch is not suggesting that all day care personnel be qualified. She proposed that only the supervisor need be a professional, that more parents and volunteers become involved in day care programs. Such staff, she says, should be competent and experienced, but what are the criteria for competence and ex-

perience? Many co-operative nursery schools operate quite effectively with the assistance of volunteer mothers who give half a day two or three times a month, but how can a full-time day care centre operate with a staff largely or wholely composed of volunteers? Where will these volunteers come from? Mrs. Birch says that a day care centre operated solely by

volunteers, charging no fee, will not be under government control. So where could such centres operate? Obviously only in areas where mothers do not really need to earn their daily bread, where they can give their time gratis at their own convenience.

Operators of licensed publicly sponsored day care centres have come out in opposition to the use of volunteers in large numbers. They welcome volunteers as helpers, but feel the children will be short changed if they have to depend upon too many untrained people for care, pointing out that day care is not just baby-sitting, it is an educational experience that can only be adequately met by qualified personnel.

As sociologists, psychologists, bargain hunters and rush-hour traffic victims well know, crowding has an adverse affect on behavior patterns of even the most mature and civilized. So what can we expect of children? In an overcrowded schoolroom the aggressively inclined become more aggressive, seeking attention. The shy become withdrawn. What, then, of the tots in day care, the most sensitive of creatures, in these early and very important years of their lives if they are denied the close relationships with individual adults that they crave and desperately need?

It is commendable that priorities are being given to handicapped children, children of low income families who might have to resort to welfare if day care were not available, and to centres that may be established in unoccupied school rooms, churches, and other facilities available in the community. The Ministry has made almost \$1 million in grants available to groups serving handicapped children and to parentparticipating day nurseries, and no one is suggesting that day care should be provided free. To the best of our knowledge it never has been in Ontario. People are willing to pay, and have been paying, according to their means.

It is also commendable that nonprofit organizations wishing to expand or establish day care programs will be eligibile for capital assistance grants, but it is frightening to contemplate the quality of care that could result if these facilities are overcrowded and understaffed. It was just such conditions that prompted the province to tighten its regulations regarding day care in the first

As Mrs. Birch points out, changes in our society, the growing participation by women in the labor force, make is necessary to expand day care services in the province, but let us not go back into the dark ages of the 50s and before when overworked and underpaid people with little or no formal training herded children in and out of whatever facilities were available.

It would be helpful if Mrs. Birch would make public the findings of the task force that worked for two years to assess and determine day care facilities and needs. We might then be better able to assess the merits of the proposals she is now making for day care in the future.

Be Prepared For All Emergencies

Be prepared — the motto of the Boy Scouts — has a message for everyone of us.

In times of emergency, telephone numbers which at other times are quite easy to find, become elusive and hide themselves in the columns of fine print of the telephone directory. Aware of this the Bell Telephone Company has provided space inside the front cover of the directory where each subscriber may list such emergency numbers as the fire department, police depart-

ment, hospital and doctor. On receipt of a new directory, the first thing every subscriber should do is to list these numbers so that they are easily read in the spaces provided - and in good large, legible numbers that can be read at a glance. If you have a personal phone directory, put them in the front of it also.

Better still, type or write them legibly on a piece of paper which has contact glue backing and attach to the phone in the hollow between the two cradles or on the base. They will then be right there for your use if you need them and we hope you never do.

This simple precautionary step will save confusion at a time when, because an emergency has arisen, you are not thinking as clearly as you would normally and insure that the help you need arrives with the least possible delay.



For the fourth consecutive year, the Ford Motor Company of Canada has helped provide employment for young people by lending trucks to the province for use in its SWEEP Conservation Summer Job Program. About 1,500 are a part of this year's SWEEP (Students Working in an Environmental Enhancement Program), working in the 38 conservation areas across Ontario, cleaning up picnic sites, roadsides and shorelines, building new picnic sites, nature trails and working on conservation studies, information and educational programs.

Early in June Ford turned over 140 white vans and pick-ups with a retail value of almost \$700,000 for use in transporting crews, equipment and materials throughout the large areas administered by the various conservation authorities. Symbolic keys were turned over to Premier William Davis (left) by President Roy Bennett of Ford Canada. Looking on is Dennis Trimbell, Minister Without Portfolio, who is responsible for the Youth Secretariat. The money saved by having loan of the trucks allowed SWEEP Conservation to hire an additional 200 young people, said Mr. Trimble. The entire Ontario Experience '74 program will provide close to 7,400 young people in fields ranging from the environment and social services to education and recreation.

Ford Trucks Help Provide Summer Jobs For Youth

tion authorities in the pro- Experience and SWEEP are tariat points out, could not vehicle sales manager for ough triplex wire in stock for business. vince's student employment employment opportunities be undertaken without the Ford. program has made 1,400 and incentives, plus develop- co-operation of Ford of jobs available to youth this ment of programs that pro- Canada which has lent the summer, working on a vari- vide a constructive service project a number of trucks ety of projects from mid- to communities involved. | since 1971 for the SWEEP June to early September. In SWEEP the work vari- program.

5,400 secondary school stu- rities. Basically, however, it This year a total of 140 dents have helped to clean consists of such tasks as the trucks are on loan: 70 halfup the province each sum- general clean-up of road- ton pickups, 30 vans and 40 mer under the auspices of sides, stream banks and un- one-and-one-half-ton stake

and co-ordinated through ground equipment. Much of Resources for Southern Onthe Ministry of Natural Resources' Conservation Authorities Branch, Queen's Park, became part of Experience '73, the collective name for all student programs administered by the province's youth secretari-

Commenting on the con- EXPENDITURE CEILINGS ATION of the expenditure servation authorities' in- Dear Mr. Editor of our young people, both tario's conservation authori- ceilings." ties are to be commended worthwhile program."

Since 1971 more than es under the various autho-

38 conservation authorities in another painting play- Deputy Minister of Natural Rhymin' Columbia PC 32855. Boxer, El Condor Pasa, Dun-

volvement, Minister of Na- I would like to correct the the board should now take tural Resources Leo Bernier last sentence in your front full responsibility for its said, "The fact that so many page news story of July 17, decisions on expenditures, "School Costs Bump Expen- and should only be controllboys and girls, have been diture Ceilings". "Lone dis- ed by the provincial governinvolved in SWEEP since senter" - to the report of ment at the grant level. its inception three years the special committee on Your reporter usually reago shows an enthusiastic ceilings and weighting fac- ports fairly, and I am sure interest in improving the tors - "was Trustee Mar- he simply didn't catch my environment which I hope garet Coburn who said she statement. will continue to grow with couldn't support the reeach succeeding year. On- moval of the expenditure

On the contrary, I dissenfor contributing to this ted because I do not at this time support the CONTINU-

ceilings because I believe

MARGARET COBURN, King Trustee, York County Board of Education,

Schomberg.

Participation of conserva- The purpose behind both this work, the youth secre- tario, from David Welch, utilities commission has en- to be a viable and important

the opposite due to the fine

the next year.

The Live Rhymin' Simon

By PAUL JONES

Projects SWEEP, short for official dumps to reconstrucks. The vehicles were Since Paul Simon has taken School Yard, Mother And audience. Sometimes, too, Students Working in an Ev- truction of pioneer villages picked up at an official pre- a solo career, he has had Child Reunion, Loves Me nironment Enhanced Pro- and the initial development sentation in Ford's central three albums released. These Like A Rock, Bridge Over of new conservation areas. office building in Oakville are Paul Simon (1972), There Troubled Water, The Sound sides, a ship yard is not Last year Project SWEEP, In one area students have June 7. They were accepted Goes Rhymin' Simon (1973), Of Silence, American Tune, always the safest of places implemented by Ontario's been demolishing a house, by William Foster, Assistant and his latest release, Live Jesus Is The Answer, The for the uninitiated.

> Rhymin' is a live album can and Homeward Bound, which was recorded, in parts, On the songs, The Boxer, from Paul's performances at Duncan and El Condor Pasa launching. The difficulty is Carnegie Hall and Notre Paul Simon is backed up by that they do not know where Dame University. Unlike most Urubamba, a South American or when to go. live albums which generally band, which gives to these and up being disasters due the same sound they were to poor engineering, Live popular for on the original available at information bur-Rhymin' is to the contrary, recordings. While most live albums have sound (of instruments and and in leaving the crowds' Troubled Waters and Sounds cannot be fixed in advance. cheers and applause to a dull Of Silence, Paul is backed Sometimes, too, there must

on this album are America, mean his having more suc-

Me And Julio Down By The cess in the future.

at the end of each song, it's new feeling. hard to believe that the songs are being recorded live, Live Rhymin' is another Scotia. and not in the confines of a fine album for Paul Simon and it's his third successful The 12 songs which appear album which will surely

In The SWORD Program More than 1,200 students lake survey of Lake Onta-

159 Students Are Active

for students.

with offices at 10,670 Yonge

Street, Richmond Hill 152

ing to manage and develop

natural resources in addi-

tion to the normal summer

student requirements of the

Ministry of Natural Resour-

valuable to the Ministry.

SWORD students perform

are employed this summer rio. in the Province of Ontario Students are also employin a program called SWORD, ed in the program at Sibor more precisely, Students balds' Point Provincial Park Working On Resource De- on a fuel wood study. Others velopment, one of a number | are at work in the Caledon of summer programs crea- area doing an environmented by the provincial gov- tal cleanup of the Credit ernment to provide interest- Forks and others are working, meaningful and pro- ing in the Vivian Forset, ductive summer employment | Still others are employed in clerical work in the of-In the Central Region, fice in Richmond Hill.

students are at work help- Ever See a Boat Launched?

(Halifax Chronicle-Herald) There are few occasions more exciting than the launching of a newly-built boat. The festive mood of the flags

a very important and active and bunting, the solemnity of function and their contributions and endeavors are very the christening and the suspenseful moments as the Some of the students in craft begins to move down this area are working out the ways combine to give the of the Maple District Office observer a feeling of rare on Dufferin Street and are exhilaration. conducting a survey of pits It is the sort of thing which

and quarries as far north happens quite frequently in as Bradford. Others are Nova Scotia, especially at this making a dam survey, still time of year when the boatothers are doing a survey yards are completing their of Lake Simcoe and others winter's work in time for a are busy on a stream and new season of sailing. Trim lined yachts, as well as the BRADFORD: This town will stalwart Cape Island boats of not be affected by the wire the fishermen, are being shortage which has stopped launched in numbers which installation of new electrical would surprise one if the service to cottage owners in total were known.

the area by Ontario Hydro, Wooden ships, built in the unless the owners can supply yards which are to be found their own wire to connect the all around our coast by craftsbuilding to power lines. The men using skills practiced for suspension has been caused generations, are still much in by a world-wide shortage of demand. Nova Scotia's boat triplex wire. The local public building industry continues

An unfortunate feature of

the matter is that so few persons ever have an opportunity to witness a launching. People who work on a boat, and their families, the owner and a group of immediate friends and individuals living in the neighborhood, usually are the when space is limited. Be-

Nevertheless, there are people in the province and guests from beyond our borders who would like to see a

Perhaps in the list of coming events which are eaus and elsewhere some On the songs, Mother And mention might be made of Child Reunion, Loves Me planned boat launchings. It Like A Rock, Bridge Over is realized that often dates roar, Live Rhymin' is quite up by the Jessy Dixon Sing- be last minute changes. But ers. Their pop-gospel style of some effort is indicated. A engineering of Phil Ramone. Singing seems to strengthen launching is part of life by Until the applause is heard at the same time gives it a one could be a highlight of many a person's visit to Nova

> JOB HUNTING? The best place to start looking is where the best jobs are offered . . . Liberal Classified!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

AH Suburbia ... What Has Become Of Ye?

BY VICKERY COOK

Society appears to have new problems and crises arising daily, as our bureaucracy becomes more bureaucratic, our pollution more concentrated, and inflation continues to escalate. The past's unshaking faith in its church, government, country, and even its fellow man is no longer so unshaking. Many consider our values and moral standards to be degenerating drastically and a few varied extremists predict the world's eventual self-destruction.

From what appears to be society's desire to revert to 'the good ol' days', arises fashions from the Thirties and Forties along with the music and the romantic movies, all of which invariably ended with everything turning out well, - "living happily ever after", with the villain receiving just punishment or at best 'seeing the light', and the hero 'getting his man' and the girl he loves.

Cities, not unlike Toronto, are continually expanding their borders, swallowing up the once small towns. Developers buy and sell up land and builders seem to cram as many homes on a lot as possible-we all bear witness to that. Suburbia is filled with homes where the architecture of one home is not unlike its neighbor's and its design is geared toward the economy of space, rather than what's pleasing to the eye.

Many people take Sunday jaunts to the country in their 'economy car' and stare and marvel out the window at the familiar Ontario farms and generally red-brick farmhouses with the sometimes white gingerbreading and large verandas.

Well, the developers haven't gotten hold of all the land around Richmond Hill, for on Bayview Avenue, just north of Elgin Mills Road East, are located several homes and farms situated on large acreages of land. One of these farms, in particular, has a fascinating history, as the farm basically, still stands as it did over one hundred

years ago. The farm is the home of Mrs. Robert Campbell and her three children, Sharon, Bob and Pat. (and five cats).

PAST OWNERS

The land was originally bought by Jacob Heise in 1840 and approximately ten years later, in 1850, he built the farmhouse and the barn on the land. Several people owned the farm before the Campbell family acquired it, and many of those names are unknown, but one family that is talked of still is the Hoad Family. These owners are particularly remembered for the fire that occurred while they were there. Charlie Hoad, a son in the family, was at home alone one evening while his father was helping a neighbor with chores of some sort. The fire started in the barn and totally destroyed it except for the stone foundation which is still standing today. Eight horses and all of their cattle perished and the bones were thrown in a gravel pit which is located just north of the barn. The barn was rebuilt and has weathered all other storms very well right up to the present day.

The Campbell Family bought the farm in April, 1924, and has owned it ever since. The farm has been actively farmed by the same family until ten years ago when Mr. Robert Campbell died. The cattle (dairy cows) were sold at that time and 65 acres rented out to neighbors for farming purposes. Their orchard, however, is still producing MacIntosh and Spy apples as Bob tends to them each year along with 20 to 30 chickens in the barn. Mrs. Campbell farms half an acre of vegetable garden where a patch of sweet corn is growing this year under the watchful eye of Bob.

The house itself is extremely well kept and literally filled with antiques. A feeling of stepping into the past is felt as you walk up the stone pathway, canopied with trees, to the side door and into the cool, quiet home that has that pleasantly old atmosphere and that lovely smell which is apparent in all farmhouses of this nature. The

screen door is shut and each step made is subdued and is heard in other parts of the house as a quiet murmur. Mrs. Campbell commented on the fact that she rarely ever goes to Black Creek Pioneer Village without feeling right at home.

The fireplace, the high ceiling and the thick, substantial walls are all there. Mrs. Campbell has resurrected many of the antiques from their attic, most of which the family uses every day to eat on or sit in or merely admire. There's an old rocking chair in the corner of one room and two washstands in another and solid bed posts and frames in the bedrooms. The walls in the dining room, which was originally the kitchen, are all pine. The dining room table is large and also made of pine and was bought from the Hart House library several years ago. Mrs. Campbell's mother-in-law, when living there herself, realized that someone had blocked in the fireplace at one point, apparently because it had become obsolete with the invention of the iron stove and moreover created an unwanted draught. On realizing this, the blockade was quickly removed and behind was found a red-brick fireplace with the original wrought-iron pot-hanging-rod still attached. Later Mr. Campbell found (in the gravel pit) the original wrought-iron pot and posts all of which have been retrieved from the gravel pit and returned to their former surroundings to create a rather rustic and certainly decorative picture. The basement or cellar is an

example of the original definition of a cellar instead of being a modern extension of the living space. It has an earthen floor and is superb for the storing of vegetables.

FARLEY MOWAT There are two attic rooms

where Bill, Mrs. Campbell's brother-in-law, had a secluded hideaway as a child. He and his friend, now the well-known Canadian author, Farley Mowat, used to play there for long periods of time. Scraps of poems and verses, written by Farley,

were once regularly found in the hideaway by the other children. Mr. Campbell had two brothers and three sisters, all of whom attended Richmond Hill High School. The six children received their public school education in a small, one-room school house on the third Concession where Sharon, Bob and Pat attended as well. For Sharon and Bob, the two eldest, it was still a one-room school house with eight grades when they were there, but by the time Pat started, additions had been built on. All three attended Bayview Secondary School for their high school education.

The Campbell house was built from individually made bricks from a pink clay found in the Don Valley.

Through the years there have been only a few alterations in the house architecturally. Some of the Campbell ancestors replaced all but two of the paned windows with solid glass ones in order to make cleaning easier. The hired men's bedrooms which are located on the main floor were changed. One was transformed into a study and the other, adjoining the pantry, was made into the new kitchen with the wall separating the pantry and the second hired man's bedroom, removed, to allow more kitchen area. The original kitchen area became a spacious dining room. In one corner of the present dining room is a little groove or hollow in the floor where a rocking chair sat for years, ever to leave its mark. In another corner of the same room was found an area that was rather greasy and buttery. This was discovered to be the place where a cream separating machine was located and the substance, through the years, penetrated the woodwork in that

At one time, Mrs. Campbell has been told, there was a veranda surrounding three sides of the house-now it is only on one side of the house with a balcony on the front, adjacent to Mrs. Campbell's second floor bedroom that looks out onto the

beautiful, rolling hills of farmland, still unharmed by suburbia, Other than those few changes, the home is unaltered.

Upstairs is a spacious hall with an old, distinguished painting of yet another Robert Campbell of three generations ago.

In the dining room stands a one hundred year-old cradle where Mrs. Campbell's aunts and uncles (by marriage) were rocked, not to mention her own children as well.

In the winter the home consumes quite a lot of oil-more than the average home, with the occasional snowed-in driveway. This is more serious than one might imagine as their laneway is a quarter of a mile long. This occurs only periodically however, as large evergreens line both sides of the laneway, 15 feet from the edge on each side and act as a screen or shield from blowing snow.

The Campbell's are great naturalists and conservationists and even have a bird that visits them regularly. The bird is a cardinal and seems to be infatuated with its own reflection as it repeatedly taps its beak against the window. Not only this, but they have deer as neighbors in their backyard.

All of the Campbell's enjoy and appreciate their nineteenth Century home, secluded in what can still be classified as rural Richmond Hill. A visitor realizes immediately the bareness and lack of character encompassing so many of our stainless steel, made-to-order, economy-sized homes, for which we pay phenomenal prices. Then his imagination, begins to wander perhaps rather idealistically, reconstructing a day in the life of a nineteenth or even twentieth Century farmer occupying the Campbell homestead and wishing he could have experienced such a simple but, at the same time, hard-working life, where televisions weren't blaring, cars weren't polluting and where mature trees and greenery were not something of a rarity.