

The Liberal

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Property Standards Bylaw Long Overdue

In order to qualify for certain federal and proposed provincial programs which make funds available for upgrading a municipality's housing stock, that municipality's Official Plan must contain policies on property standards and a property standards bylaw must be passed. Some of the funds provided by the federal government are for the use of the municipality in upgrading its services in problem areas. Under another program money is available to homeowners on a loan basis with a formula for forgiveness of part of the loan.

This summer the Richmond Hill Planning Department has made use of another provincial program to hire Liz Cullen, a graduate of York University in Urban Studies who is going to the University of British Columbia for her Master's Degree, to study a suitable statement of policy for the town's Official Plan as the first step towards the property standards bylaw. Her report was presented to Richmond Hill Planning Committee August 13 and will be going on for consideration by council in committee of the whole. The exact wording of the Official Plan amendment will not be released to the public until that time.

The main purpose of the bylaw is to conserve and rehabilitate the

existing stock of housing and provide a safe and pleasant working environment for the citizens of Richmond Hill, Miss Cullen explained. It will also provide for maintenance of commercial and industrial buildings and generally help the town put forward its best face to its citizens and visitors.

The need for such a bylaw has been realized by some members of council for at least a decade and had one existed in the past many conditions which have disturbed residents of Richmond Hill for long periods could have been cleared up in short order.

The bylaw will be administered by a committee of three citizens, and it is not intended to give them or any other person a license to condemn dwellings which are habitable, but it is intended to encourage owners of properties to keep them in good repair and to improve them if possible.

On the whole, the town's housing stock is good, but there are a few pockets where improvements are desirable — and help is available from senior levels of government to make these improvements possible.

We believe that council should not delay too long in making this help for its citizens possible.



Area Sea Cadet At Camp Cornwallis

Chris Walker of 65 Forest Manor Drive, Willowdale, is one of four cadets selected from RCSCC Patriot to attend Sea Cadet Summer Camp Cornwallis in Nova Scotia.

The training day which starts at 6 am brings sailing, fire and drug abuse lectures, jacksay transfers, parade training, recreational sports or a movie and bedtime at 10 pm. Cadets broaden their knowledge by touring historical sites and other points of interest in Nova Scotia.

Cadet Walker is seen above using a chem-

ical fire extinguisher under the direction of James Harris of the Cornwallis Fire Department.

The summer camp features a two week course. Both further the cadet's own personal development and prepare him to play a larger role in his home corps.

The camp is under the command of Commander Donald McIntyre of Wabush, Labrador, who has been with the cadet movement many years, in many staff positions.

Speed Only One Factor In Highway Accidents

Although excessive speed is a contributing factor in numerous motor vehicle accidents, it is only one of many, so we doubt very much that reducing the maximum speed limit on highways by five miles an hour would have the great beneficial effect that is being claimed. At the present time most drivers are already exceeding the 60 mph speed limit when they have the opportunity. The cost of enforcing a lowered limit would be astronomical.

Indeed, we believe the answer to a reduction in collisions and fatalities lies rather in better driver education and testing. All traffic law violations should be required to be retested on the rules of the road as well as driving skills.

We have all seen many examples of the driver who is not content to travel at the speed of the other traffic on the highway, but cuts in and out of the line, trusting to the other drivers in his own line to tramp on the brakes or at least slacken speed to let him back in again and the oncoming drivers to do the same thing. Every weekend the highway toll is shocking, but it could be many times as great if it were not for the good drivers on the road who give way to the persistently dangerous drivers who insist on taking chances.

The province spends many thousands of dollars each year marking highways for the benefit of motorists. A dotted line down the middle of a two-lane highway indicates that it is safe for a driver to pass the vehicle in front of him if he can see no oncoming traffic. A solid line on the driver's side of the dotted line means that passing is unsafe for him because of limited visibility and when there is a double solid line drivers in both lanes should not try to pass.

On a recent trip we found these cautionary lines were being

completely ignored by countless drivers — and not only by drivers of cars but by drivers of huge transport semis loaded with lumber and steel and in one case by a driver of a tank truck with pup loaded with sulphuric acid, who jockeyed for lead position of a line of traffic with an apparently overloaded lumber transport, travelling east in the westbound lane of a two-lane highway for several miles where there were double solid lines down the centre. There was no accident, but there might well have been and we shuddered to think of what several thousand gallons of sulphuric acid would have done to cars and occupants if it had been spilled.

Tail-gating drivers are another road hazard, who do not allow themselves enough room in which to stop in case the driver in front of them has to put on the brakes. The result is a rear-ender, which may involve only two cars but may cause a chain reaction involving many more. The temptation to close the gap to prevent the in-and-outer from cutting you off sharply is great, but should be resisted, particularly on two-lane highways where there is no place else for you to go but into the car ahead of you.

Then there are the drivers who insist on running a red light, or starting across an intersection before getting the green light — and the greatest offenders are those who insist on drinking before driving.

In all these cases, the law-breaking driver, the taking-a-chance driver, may not be directly involved in an accident, however the number of accidents of which they are the indirect cause are impossible to count but will run into the thousands each year — and many of these will bring death to one or more people.

Letters to the Editors

"HOUSE PARTIES"
 Dear Mr. Editor —
 Recently Police Chief Bruce Crawford announced that crime was increasing in our area. I would like to support his efforts to alert the populace of this area and point directly to a problem which contributes to our growing crime calendar.

This summer there has been an increase in "house parties" in homes where parents have departed for holidays and left their teenage son or daughter in charge of the family household.

These parties have contributed to an increase in the use of stimulants by these young people and has probably been the major opportunity for distribution and use of such drugs.

The disturbing thing, aside

from the drug usage, is the age of the party goers. In most cases they are 15-16-17 years and high school students in grades 10 and 11.

Parents who are planning a summer trip and leaving their teenagers behind are warned that house parties are on the increase. Adult supervision of the home, or neighbour surveillance of your property during the holiday are the surest methods of preventing your home being used for a teenage bash.

The curtailing of unsupervised house parties will go a long way to restricting the growing spread of liquor and drug abuses evident this summer in Richmond Hill.

ROBERT THOMPSON
 173 Trayborn Drive
 Richmond Hill

The Unknown Government

(Kitchener-Waterloo Record)

The Regional Municipality of Waterloo is 19 months old, but it's a mystery to most of the people it governs. And that's despite the welter of words written and aired to explain what it is and what it's been doing.

The reason probably is that it directly touches most of us not at all. Our taps still gush water, our light bulbs still glow and the police cars still patrol our streets.

Most of the issues with which the Region wrestles seem remote to the average citizen although they are or will be of real significance. Take, for example, the proposed regional takeover of municipal roads and the wrangle over the planning powers that would be involved.

Most citizens don't care who controls what roads as long as they are kept plowed and patched. And don't

think that the patching hasn't improved over the decades.

Once upon a time most city streets were something less than velvet smooth. As in the case of the weary householder who wrote city council and gave it a choice: "Either fix the potholes on my street or declare the place a golf course."

NEWMARKET: After 25 years as an optometrist here Dr. W. A. Hurst plans to give up his practice to teach and set up a clinic in the Muskoka area. He expects to leave October 1, and has accepted a position as visiting lecturer at the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago where he will also do research and post graduate work. He plans to set up the clinic in January. He has been actively involved in research into the diagnosis and treatment of children with learning disabilities.

His Message!

Last night, I felt sad and lonely,
 As the evening shadows fall,
 And the firelight's crimson fingers
 Gentle touch the darkening wall!

Many cherished, precious memories
 Flashed across my inward eye,
 And I sensed him, close beside me,
 As he was, in days gone by!

Just a brief, tender message,
 When his eyes gazed into mine;
 But it told me, all is well,
 In that land of love divine!

MARY HONEY BROWN,
 160 Essex Avenue,
 Richmond Hill.

Gormley Driver Faces 3 Charges

A Gormley man last week was arrested and charged with impaired driving, refusing a breathalyzer test and illegal liquor possession.

Thomas Brash, 27, of Lot 2, Concession 4, RR 1, Gormley, was stopped for erratic driving at 8:34 pm Saturday and 10 pints of beer were found, York Regional Police said. Brash was invited to court August 19 on the Criminal Code driving charges and October 18 on the Liquor Control Act charge.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Willis Noble—One Of Canada's Talented Musicians

By VICKERY COOK

Canada, in the past has had a tendency to disregard its own countrymen's talent and instead looked to the south to the mighty nation below characterized by apple pie, George Washington and "The Great American Dream". Much of our talent has reluctantly pulled up stakes and crossed the border to find fame, fortune and recognition, only to be accused later of "desertion", of leaving the country in a time of need. The majority of our entertainment, technological advancements and even our social attitudes can be labelled "made in U.S.A." Canadians often find it hard to believe that Canada could actually possess some talented individuals!

Hopefully, this attitude is gradually fading into the past to be recorded in our archives along with the extinction of the dinosaur.

Toronto is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada and Richmond Hillites appear to be teetering on the edge of either being swallowed up by it or becoming a separate, independent entity. However, this very proximity enables us to take advantage of the many talented

Canadians who are stationed in Toronto with various gifts to offer.

One man who has certainly realized and experienced some of these tremendous opportunities in Toronto is Mr. Willis Noble and his wife Marilyn (nee Wright) of Richmond Hill. Mr. Noble, his wife and two children, John Wesley aged five and April aged two, are presently living on Vaughan Road with Mrs. Noble's mother, Mrs. Barbara Wright, a long-time resident of Richmond Hill.

Mr. Noble lived in Aurora and attended Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School. He continued his education at the University of Toronto. From that university he has his BA and Masters in Music in Performance and Literature at the Faculty of Music, which is quite a feat in itself. Mr. Noble was one of seven out of 150 accepted as a student at the Faculty of Music. The audition for this was terribly rigorous and his acceptance a great surprise for Mr. Noble. The course, explained Mr. Noble, is one which is relatively new and innovative.

While studying at the Uni-

ROCK TALK

By PAUL JONES
 Gallagher & Lyle

After carefully listening to two different albums by a duet called Gallagher and Lyle, I have come to the sad but realistic conclusion that groups don't always make it on fine talent alone. There can be no other conclusion reached after hearing the sounds of Gallagher and Lyle. Although they are known quite well in Great Britain for their superb music, they just haven't made it yet on the North American radio (AM stations but some of the finer FM Stations are giving them serious airplay).

Benny Gallagher and Graham Lyle, natives of Scotland, specialize in popular folk-rock music (a combination of folk with or without soft rock music, accompanied occasionally with the odd touch of country music), with the authority and control matched only before in this category by Simon and Garfunkel. Gallagher and Lyle's control over their vocals and sound is generally soft and relaxed, yet at the same time interwoven to produce a solidly polished, finished production. They increase the versatility of their sound by playing a wide variety of instruments (to mention a few — electric, and acoustic six and twelve string guitars, mandolin, accordion and harmonicas) and by constantly changing the key of their vocals, both in solos and harmonies.

The two Gallagher and Lyle Albums currently out on the market are Willie And The Lapdog (A&M SP-4384) and Seeds (A&M SP-3605). Willie And The Lapdog features 12 different songs loosely knitted together with a theme characterizing the various phases of a man's journey from youth to old age and how he mistreats youth and dwells upon old age; finding that life and music, along with its many passing acquaintances, provides support when everything else fails. As for the music it's hard to pick out songs that are any better than the others on this album, for they're all extremely good. Such an example is Home, a soft song filled with lush acoustic guitar strings and soft, easy going vocal harmonies. In mentioning a few other gems, Give A Boy A Break is a tight country folk song while Jesus Saves Me is a loose gospel folk song which can be considered upbeat folk music.

Seeds (A&M SP-3605), Gallagher and Lyle's latest album is slightly more electric than Willie And The Lapdog and, in a sense, is more of a commercial-type album. It too contains many gems, such as Layna which is a sweet, easy listening, upbeat folk song similar to that of the Beatles style in 1966-7. Another strong love song is, I Believe In You. This song builds up a fine momentum due to the sharp vocal harmonies and playing. With the emphasis on an accordion, soft vocals and biting lyrics, another cut, Remember Then, becomes an unforgettable love song.

Each different cut by Gallagher and Lyle has its own patented sound, and in every case the song comes across strongly. With the talent behind this act, there's no doubt in my mind that Gallagher and Lyle are going to make it on this side of the water. When? That's the question that's puzzled me ever since I heard their first record. (Next week — an unreal interview with Mick Jagger)

Need Site Plan Agreements For Two Industrial Buildings

"A site plan agreement is the only way the municipality can provide any protection for other land owners and residents," Councillor Andy Chateauvert stated at the August 13 meeting of Richmond Hill Council Planning Committee. "The province has recognized that they are most desirable by altering the planning act to recognize site plan agreements. I don't think our demands are unreasonable. There is no way in the world you can proceed without approval of council," he told William McCord, who was applying for waiving of a site plan agreement for an extension of an industrial building on the north side of Centre Street East, east of Pugsley Avenue. The new building would front on Pugsley Avenue.

Mr. McCord told the committee that he had given the town the property to allow for the northerly extension of Pugsley Avenue a few years ago on the condition that he could build on the back part of the lot. He indicated that if the site plan agreement was applied to the whole property he would not be able to live up to his present commitment with existing tenants.

VERY CLEAN
 He said, "The new factory space has to be very clean since it is a very clean operation and the yard will be completely paved. They can't store anything outside. This will clean up half my property. I am willing to enter into a site plan agreement on the new building."

Alexander McLeod of United Flexible, Centre Street East, identified his firm as the tenants of the proposed building, where they will be manufacturing nuclear components for generating stations. "It will be 'white glove' manufacturing," he said. "We have to start shipping in January."

The committee agreed unanimously that the planning department prepare a site plan agreement to be presented at the next council meeting, scheduled for September 9.

SCHOLASTIC TAB
 Robert Berlette applied for a site plan agreement for an addition of some 21,000 square feet to the existing Scholastic Tab Publications building on the southwest corner of Crosby Avenue and Newkirk Road. Almost 100% of the new housing. He explained that his firm handles book clubs for school children and the work load is tied in with the school year, therefore the construction must be timed around those peak periods.

In this case, too, the staff was instructed to prepare a site plan agreement for the next council meeting.

The hope was expressed that council consideration might be expedited by having both considered at a committee of the whole meeting, scheduled for August 19, with the consent of Mayor William Lazenby.

AURORA: A soccer team from Aurora, Colorado, will be here to participate in the annual Labor Day soccer tournament. The American club is bringing 17 players and 10 spectators. Other teams will come from Rochester New York, Sudbury, Toronto and St. Catharines.