

THE LIBERAL classifieds 884-1105 - 1106



Kinsmen Club's new executive

All ready for another year of activity is the Kinsmen Club of Richmond Hill, with a new executive taking over the reins October 3 at the regular meeting in the Richvale Lions Hall on Spruce Avenue.

Guiding the club for the coming year will be the men pictured above: standing (left to right) Vice-President Bob Elliott, Treasurer Fred Willan and Vice-President Fred Stasiuk; sitting (same order) President Maurice Smith and Registrar Roger McCalmont. (Photo by the Studio That Comes to Your Home)

Queen's Park Report

William Hodgson M.L.A.
York North

Ont. drug benefit plan

The Ontario Drug Benefit Plan is a new programme which was implemented on September 1 of this year. Through this plan a great many people on limited budgets will receive the essential medication they require free of charge. In addition, patients who are maintained on costly drug therapy will be able to remain at home rather than in an institution.

It is estimated 548,000 people across the province will be serviced by this new programme. Since the establishment of the plan, the great majority of practitioners in both pharmacy and medicine have pledged their support.

The Ontario Pharmacy Association believes that almost 100 percent of all dispensing pharmacies in the province have signed Participation Agreements. Since the establishment of the programme, I have received a number of questions from constituents in York North. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some of the misunderstandings and difficulties which have evolved.

Drug Cards
You will have received drug cards in September for the months of September, October, November and December. You will also be sent cards in January which will cover your prescription needs for January, February, March and April. After April, you will receive monthly cheque stubs.

Combination Drugs
Many drugs which contain two or more ingredients are not on the approved list. The Ministry of Health has advised these combination drugs do not have as great a therapeutic value as single

certificates for you until the end of the month and will fill in any additional prescriptions you receive during that month. If you move, or wish to change pharmacies in the middle of a month, you are perfectly entitled to do so and still be covered by the plan. Simply re-claim your drug card from the pharmacist and take it with you to your new one.

The quality and price of all the drugs listed under the plan have been standardized. In this way, value is ensured for both the recipient and the taxpayer. You will probably not be able to get the exact same brand of drug you have been accustomed to. This does not mean, however, that you will be receiving medication of inferior quality. If the drug you need is listed in the PARCOST Comparative Drug Index as interchangeable, then you will receive the brand which has the lowest price.

For example, in the PARCOST Index, there are eight brands of penicillin listed. These brands range in price from \$2.50 to \$11.10 for 100 tablets. After extensive testing all eight brands of Penicillin were judged to be of the same quality and therapeutic value. Therefore, the Ontario Ministry of Health will reimburse your pharmacist for the lowest priced brand listed.

After this time the patient must return to his physician for re-assessment. This feature is designed to protect the patient from continuing indefinitely on a long-term course of treatment without consulting his doctor.

preparation drugs. However, the individual ingredients in combination drugs may be taken separately under directions from your doctor.

Some essential non-prescription drugs will be provided under the Ontario Drug Benefit Plan. These drugs, such as insulin and iron preparations will be made available when prescribed by your doctor. Such pharmaceutical products as toothpaste, mouthwash, band-aids, etc., will not be covered under the programme.

The wide open coverage which was previously provided by some municipal drug plans would not be economically possible on a provincial scale. The Ontario Drug Benefit Plan has attempted to concentrate spending on those drugs which are required to meet the essential needs for health care. In this way a great many more people will benefit.

You may only receive a one-month supply of your prescription at one time. Each prescription requires the signature of the prescriber. Therefore, be sure to remind your doctor or dentist when he issues your prescription that you are entitled to the Drug Benefit. Drugs prescribed through the programme will be valid for no more than three months' supply.

After this time the patient must return to his physician for re-assessment. This feature is designed to protect the patient from continuing indefinitely on a long-term course of treatment without consulting his doctor.

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Maple sugar making course
People who own or have access to sugar bushes can start now to prepare for spring, to learn how to make their own maple syrup.
Starting next week, Seneca College is offering a one-night-a-week course in maple sugaring, taking advantage of its unique environment of 696 acres which includes bush.
The eight session this fall will introduce students to the history of maple syrup making, tapping, boiling equipment, quality control and packaging.
On Saturday During the winter there will be two Saturday sessions so that students can experience first-hand the processes involved in tapping and sugaring-off.
Instructor for all sessions will be E.B. Witmer of Blonor Farm near Grand Valley.
For further information on this and other part-time programs at Seneca King call 884-9901 or 895-1581.
The college is located on Dufferin Street north of King Sideroad.

School clerks \$1,000 more
A raise of about \$1,000, retroactive to January 1, was approved by York County clerical workers and their union, Local 1734 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, last week.
The agreement, which runs for 2 1/2 years, was approved by a 74 percent majority.
Nick Vollebregt, president of the union, said the clerical staff will get a second raise of about 20 percent in June, 1975.
Minimum wage for the York workers, which is now on a par with Peel Regional Board of Education, is \$4,660, compared with \$3,660 a year formerly.
The York level will be higher than Peel's by June.

Sanitary Sewer Replacement
Replacement of existing sanitary sewers in four locations in Richmond Hill will cost \$95,000. Council passed the bylaw necessary to permit borrowing that amount on debentures payable over five years October 10.
The areas concerned are: Pugsley Avenue, approximately 900 feet of 15 inch sanitary sewer; Centre Street, approximately 620 feet of 12 inch; Leisure Lane, approximately 250 feet of eight inch; and Crosby Avenue, approximately 250 feet of 15 inch.



Richvale minor ball awards

Richvale Bantam Rose Trailers were the league champions this year in their division of the York Minor Softball League in which they competed against teams from Thornhill, Maple, Oak Ridges, Victoria Square and Nobleton. This was the first year for the league and the first year of competition for the Rose Trailers.
Members of the championship team are seen

above. Front row (left to right) Pat Tomasso, Doug Haviko, Robert Haehnel and Eric Hanalainen. Middle row (same order) Alan Ablett, Richard Mills, Bill Logush, Gary Tripp and Harry Ablett. Back row (same order) Sponsor Roy Cave, Coach Ralph Sawyer, Chris Nicolaou, Harold Levy, Captain Paul Gregoire and Assistant Coach Les Curtin.