

## Markham Town shows the way

Markham Town made a giant leap forward last week with the publication of its comprehensive report on municipal park and recreation needs.

The town is showing to all of York Region the way to achieve an improved quality of life in its communities.

At the same time Markham is leading the way in growth while still able to balance large amounts of badly needed housing with industrial development.

Mayor Anthony Roman and his fellow councillors both past and present are to be most highly commended and congratulated.

Thornhill needs to add six playgrounds, six baseball diamonds, 12 softball diamonds, six major soccer fields, 12 minor soccer fields, 15 tennis courts and an outdoor pool. In addition more land is needed for quiet parks and other less intensive uses.

That's some tall order. But Thornhill-Markham may well be no more deficient in this regard than parts of Richmond Hill, Vaughan, King or other regional municipalities.

Actually, we suspect even worse deficiencies may well exist outside Markham.

Similar parks and recreation studies are badly needed in other local municipalities.

Markham council now needs the full support of a generous and wise citizenry so the recommendations of the study can be fulfilled.

The next step is to budget adequate capital funds for land acquisition and construction each year. Every possible bit of individual philanthropy, co-

operation, community spirit and group fund raising will be needed for some time to come if the needed facilities and parks are to be provided.

Now there is a blueprint and the targets are in view, it's time to get on with the job.

It is significant the report shows the greatest need is in the Thornhill area of Markham. But there also are important gaps in the facilities available to the other parts of the town.

One of the most important things the report will do, in our opinion, is lay to rest the fears and jealousies which have been all too apparent in Old Markham-Unionville recently as the Thornhill area sought to catch up with the rest of the town.

Thornhill has been fortunate to get its new indoor swimming pool and two-arena community centres. But this has only been with the good graces of a majority of council elected from other areas of the town.

The parks and recreation study clearly shows the voters of Old Markham-Unionville that Thornhill is still far behind and has a long way to go before it achieves its fair share.

There will no longer by any validity to the argument Thornhill is getting too much. There will be a better atmosphere and a more co-operative spirit in the town council from now on, we hope and believe.

The municipality now can move ahead quickly with the most worthwhile and beneficial projects.

The most benefit can now more nearly be brought to the most people, which in the end must surely bring the greatest good to the town as a whole.

## We must disagree with you Mr. Chairman Sim

York County Board of Education Chairman Donald Sim, QC, of Markham has taken what we would call a simplistic consumers' view of the marketing of U.S. produced books in Canada in a letter to The Toronto Star last week.

With all due respect to our eminent Markham Queen's Counsel, we would like to differ with him.

Chairman Sim denies U.S. and U.K. manufactured books are being dumped in Canada. He says the situation should be looked at from the consumer standpoint.

Sim asks why the Canadian public should be denied the Penguin paperback of a book by York Region native Farley Mowat at 75 cents, or the U.S. hardcover edition at \$5.75, when the Canadian hardcover edition from McClelland and Stewart costs \$7.95.

He wants to know why we pay \$5.95 for a McClelland and Stewart paperback edition of The Siberians when the book is available in a Penguin edition in the U.S. at \$1.45.

Sim alleges the members of the Canadian book buying public are being made second class citizens. He says the new loophole Coles Book Stores has found through which to import below-cost U.S. book products has existed since 1923.

The local school board chairman chooses to ignore, or is unaware of, the notorious and equally old U.S. book manufacturing provision which has always made it absolutely impossible for Canadian manufactured books to be sold competitively in the U.S.

Surely Chairman Sim should be aware the answer to his questions is and has always been, the same one as to the question why do we have a nation separate and apart from the U.S. and U.K.

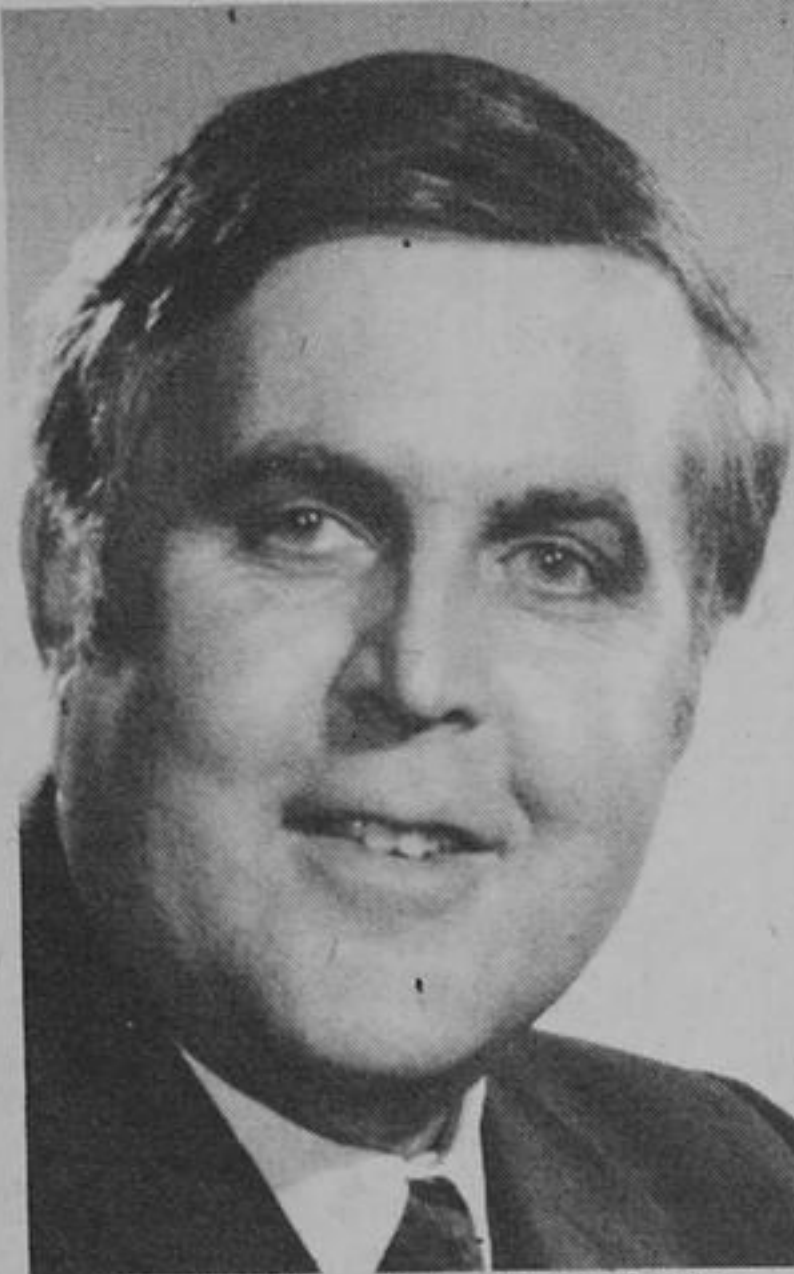
We might agree with the school board chairman if he were talking about nuts and bolts.

But we sure don't agree with him when it comes to the printed word, the key to our cultural and national independence.

It is also interesting to recall what happened when Canada recently tried to do some very discreet disposal of soon-to-rot eggs at extra low prices in the U.S.

Ottawa probably hasn't stopped trembling yet from fear of the sight of that big stick Washington displayed to assure U.S. egg producers they would be amply protected.

It is true Canadian manufactured books are much more expensive than necessary, as Sim maintains.



Donald Sim, QC, of Markham

But that is due to the long history of destruction of our Canadian book manufacturing and marketing industry by more powerful and untethered foreign interests.

Then there is the current probe into U.S. — U.K. book publishing cartels.

We fear for the teaching of our children in the fields of national history and culture as long as such a man as the chairman of the public school board has not made himself more aware of the situation and continues to hold the views he does at this moment.

Returning to The Toronto Star, we see on Saturday Edmonton publisher Mel Hurtig reporting on a national survey conducted by high school teachers and Alberta University political scientist Larry Pratt showing an abysmal student ignorance of Canadian politics, history, and geography.

No doubt literature and all the arts could be added to the list.

In the same newspaper issue a Gallup Poll report showed only 32 percent of Canadians feel the schools are doing a good job of preparing children for their future. That is down 15 percent in five years.

Public School Board Chairman Sim and his fellows, we say, should be thinking some long, long thoughts.



## Viewpoint from the regional desk



BY JIM IRVING

It's spring again, and with a young mother's fancy lightly turning to thoughts of day care centres, the opportunists up in York Region have dusted off their two-year-old study on these particular schools of tot.

And they have turned the study over to the planning and health and social services committees for joint weekend reading.

The study, which was prepared by those two departments, is 70 pages long and contains more charts and figures than the last census.

It also includes numerous paragraphs on the need for such centres, day care survey forms, costs, definitions, summaries of findings and occasional explanatory passages such as the following:

"Throughout this paper the term significant is used in the statistical sense to mean the following: If 95 times out of 100 a relationship between two variables is real then the other five times out of 100, it could have been due to chance, and the relationship is said to be significant at the 5 percent level. If it occurs 99 times out of 100 and is real with the remaining one time out of 100 due to chance, the level of significance is 1 percent. If 99½ times, the level of significance is .5 percent and so forth."

Clear, eh? Sounds like a cross from a chapter from the Kinsey Report and a blurb for Deep Throat.

However, it apparently has great bearing on it all.

No doubt by the time the learned councillors have finished digesting that and similar bits of data, they will be ready to descend on council with a significant recommendation.

And that will be to the effect speedy legislation should be enacted guaranteeing all children born in the region not only freedom of speech ("Ga Ga," or "Goo Goo") and freedom of religion (that is, attendance at morning services only), but also the right to attend the day care centre of their choice from the age of three days on.

There they will be able to mingle with children their same age (although fraternization with the opposite sex will be discouraged) and will also be able to call the teacher, "Mother" during school hours.

A hint there will be limited op-

## Don Deacon says



MLA, YORK CENTRE

The Regional Council of York is currently sorting out its budget priorities for 1975. It is trying to determine whether more funds or less funds should be spent on roads or health and social services, on police or on planning.

That is not a simple matter because 90c out of every dollar received at the municipal level from Queen's Park is subject to some condition being met (the federal government places conditions on 50c out of every dollar provided the province).

So in sorting out priorities,

position to providing the centres was given at the planning committee where the report was presented.

Those in attendance seemed to suggest it was just a matter of when, and not why.

"Where are we going to get the money from?" asked Councillor Bob Adams of Markham.

Then resorting to the jargon of the schoolyard — or maybe of the centres — he added, "Let's face it, we're into day care."

Mayor Bob Forhan of Newmarket, a man given to arm-waving outbursts of rhetoric on most matters, but who keeps his hands in his pockets when discussing money, was also resigned.

"If there are sufficient requests from the other municipalities, I don't see how the region can turn them back," he said.

Mayor Evelyn Buck of Aurora left a little ray of hope for area taxpayers. There was nothing to stop local citizens from setting up their own centres and going after a subsidy, she said.

Closer to home, the Hill's Lois Hancey suggested a recommendation be made pronto for council to adopt the report.

Just what would council be adopting? What kind of facts did the study bring out?

To begin with, it brought out what I feel anyway, was a strained attempt to bring a kind of glow to the term "day care."

In its definition, which was borrowed from the Canadian Council on Social Development, it said — after presenting the usual remarks about "family-oriented service" et al — that, "day care must be seen as not limited to support for the working mother but an opportunity for all children to benefit from an environment that will enhance their development."

That would be very commendable if these kids had nowhere else to go.

But more and more they are the products of young, healthy, handsome parents, both of whom now work because it's a short life and 35 or 40 is much to late to try to fulfil that urge you always had to drive a moving van, or to be practice goalie for the Maple Leafs.

Even though Nature had left one of you anyway, better equipped to stay

home and help provide that "environment that will enhance their development," offered by the day care services and now demanded by their clients.

Home, if I may be permitted an ancient bit of meandering here, would still seem to be the logical place to bring up kids.

However, that was only one definition. As in all things truly Canadian, no report or study, or play or football team is really authentic without first being cleared south of the border.

So the regional report naturally included a definition from the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, which said in part: "... it (day care) offers these children individual attention and affection; it enriches these children's daily lives, helping to realize his potential."

Syntax aside, isn't it rather sad that "his" potential anymore has to be realized away from home? Because in the philosophy of the day, the only way a child can possibly be raised is on two salaries.

Just as the schools say more and more money is needed to turn out

happy students, the parents say more and more money is needed to raise happy children.

Or maybe it's just needed to sustain that mood of merriment these happy students apparently bring home from school each day.

Whatever it is, it means mother has now joined father as part of the work force. She stands on her feet all day on the stone floor of some department store, selling waxed flowers and exchanging small talk with her fellow employees about the problem of raising kids and how the government should provide more day care facilities, because she wants her child to have the very best.

Well the government — in this case, the region — shouldn't, in my not-so-humble opinion, provide day care centres, anymore than it should provide baby sitting services in the evening when the proud parents step out to a movie.

Or when they go down the street for a session of bridge at one of the neighbour's.

Or on those nights when they head over to the community centre to take in a lecture on the need for more day care facilities in the area.

## Richmond Hill should beware of large low-rent housing complexes

Dear Editor:

With regard to the Ontario Housing general manager's response in your paper last week to my letter of January 29 in which he claims I am blatantly biased, I agree.

He also claims my facts are inaccurate; and strongly indicates I opposed subsidized housing for the aged. To this charge, I answer he is absolutely wrong, I support it wholeheartedly.

The fact that he claims I am biased against Ontario Housing indicates he is also biased.

His bias is natural, the more Ontario Housing he can sell, the more important he becomes. Mr. J.B.S. Rose's dream probably would come true if everybody lived in Ontario Housing.

This, of course, is the way civil servants are promoted to higher-paying positions.

The problem is, who will pay the bill?

My bias is based on the fact I bought a home in North York near the Fairview Mall, and after eight years of residency had the Ontario Housing move in next door to me.

Our neighbors organized to try to stop it — but to no avail.

The OHC indicated the property belonged to them and it was basically none of our (including local government) business who was going to live there. End of case.

I had considerable difficulty selling my home due to OHC as neighbors and sold at low price to escape from the area.

With regard to what it's like living next door to large complexes of Ontario Housing, don't take my word for it. Visit some in North-

York where they have had bad experiences.

Also you don't find many old people living in these units.

Mr. Rose's job of promoting Ontario Housing is much easier if people are unsuspecting and don't write letters to newspapers to give them bad publicity.

I believe a housing complex was cancelled a while ago, when OHC tried to locate next door to a North York politician.

I appreciate the opportunity your newspaper has afforded me to express my opinion on this subject which I feel is very important to Richmond Hill and we should beware before it's too late.

CHARLES HILTON,  
20 Brightway Crescent,  
Richmond Hill, Ontario.

## Citizens' Advisory Group says its thanks

Dear Editor:

At the annual meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Group held last month at the Consumers Gas "Blue Flame Room" a motion was passed, with unanimous consent, thanking The Liberal—in particular reporter Mary Dawson—for the good coverage of CAG activities and of municipal affairs relating to the planning process.

We hope you will be able to continue informing citizens of what goes on in their municipality that will affect the way of life.

In this way town council will be provided with views from a more informed public and the community in general will benefit.

DAVID FAYLE,  
Past chairman (CAG),  
17 Elizabeth St. N.,  
Richmond Hill, Ont.

## York Region day care study dusted off for committees

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## Library hours

The shape of the new addition to the Richmond Hill main public library building on Wright Street is taking shape. It is a fine thing, and most welcome.

Soon the new space will be going into use and the town will have a much needed expansion of service.

At this time of re-organization it might be a good idea to consider an expansion of the open hours of the library, thus making the facilities even more useful.

The library is now closed two days a week. Elsewhere it has been proven to be Sunday that is one of the most popular library days of the week, a day on which the Richmond Hill library is closed.

With proper arrangements for staff hours, of course, operation of the library six or seven days a week might be tried to great advantage.

## What are our priorities?

toward improving the roads and cutting out the preventive health programme.

That is why I believe the province should lump together all the grants in its own budget which are made to local councils and divide the total amount between the municipalities on some equitable basis, such as assessment per capita.

It should then pay out the grant money in a lump sum to each municipality, leaving it up to the locally elected councillors to sort out the priorities.

Annual evaluation

An evaluation published annually by the province, of the road standards, the health standards, and the quality of the other programmes under regional and local government control, would soon highlight areas in which particular municipalities are deficient.

In my view, our roads are generally very good in York Region. There are few traffic jams, except on the weekends when all the cars in Metro seem to head north or south.

Hopefully, the con-

struction of Highway 404 will soon relieve the worst of the problem east of Yonge Street.

Transit lacking

However, we don't have a good public transportation system, although it is slowly improving.

Most of us feel the \$10 million road programme could be drastically cut back to save our attractive country roads and hamlets from further destruction by the highway bulldozers.

The funds could be used either to cut back on taxes or to improve other areas of local government respon-

sibility where the need is much more apparent.

And yet, because of the conditional grants from the province, the regional council will probably approve a \$10 million road budget which is subject to a 70 percent provincial grant support.

They will tend to cut back heavily on Day Care and Family Life Centres, where the provincial grants are much lower, or do not apply.

It is the wrong way to set our priorities.