## 2 major local election issues

Before the voters give their support to any town, township or region municipal candidate in the Dec. 6 election, they should make sure to get a promise of action on two main municipal issues.

On these two matters the directions taken by municipal governments in the past must be changed to meet new community demands.

The first promise should be to open the way for a large, continuous flow of privately-owned and dense low-rise housing units. These units should range from the cheapest and smallest to those of medium size and price.

The second promise the electors should demand is at least partly related to the first. Candidates should vouch for establishment of a realistic annual mill rate to support a continuing public

Letters

I received, filled in, and returned

Danson's Digest, the questionnaire our

York North MP Barney Danson

I sincerely feel he is honestly seeking

This has merit. However, he should

Sometimes the yes or no answer he

requests, doesn't permit an accurate or

full viewpoint to be given for a specific

It is very easy of course, for Danson's

In fact, however, many questions can

be answered in the affirmative, but

A well worded question will allow the

MP to get the answer he wants. Still the

constituents may agree only in part and

1) "Do you feel wage and price

I would answer that wages are

Oil, gas, hydro, telephone, water, dex.

limited. However, all the necessities of

life have been allowed to go up in price,

taxes, insurance, staple foods, etc. have

should have larger pensions, even if it

comfortable income when you see the

some senior citizen apartment parking

retirement. They sacrificed much as

Now they are being penalized for

uncontrolled by the government.

the result must be qualified.

Here are four examples:

controls are working?"

means higher taxes?"

responsible citizens.

their frugality.

all gone up.

no answers to establish a 'gut feeling' of

supporters or staff to add up the yes and

recently sent out to constituents

listen to what the people say.

Dear editor:

public opinion.

an issue.

must be qualified.

open space land purchase fund.

Filling the first promise should make more housing available for less. This is badly needed in view of today's high cost home purchase and rental situation.

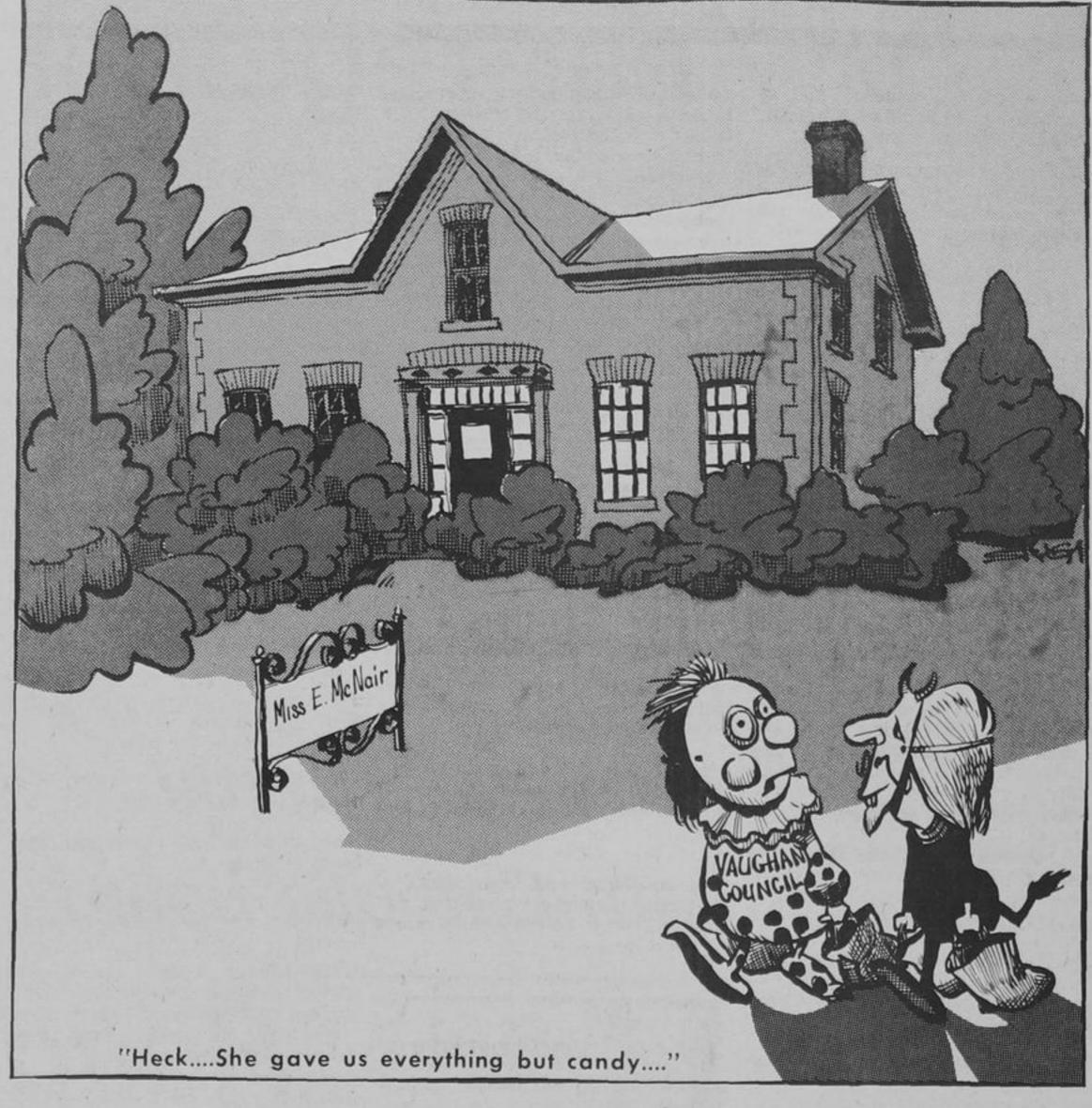
Having lower housing costs will make citizens less desperate to keep taxes down. This will also make them more willing and able to pay for very badly needed open space.

Our municipalities will be doing their share in avoiding wall-to-wall urban development and will be in a better position to get other levels of government to do the same.

In the face of energy limitations, compact neighborhoods are necessary to make public transit practical economical.

MP should listen

# Opinion



### Sadists shoot cats

Dear editor:

We have been greatly disturbed hunting other people's cats. lately at the suffering of our cat.

Apparently sick, he was taken to the veterinary

The veterinary had to remove a foot of gut in which a pellet from a gun was embedded, and where infection had developed.

It was a week before the cat was out of danger. This is to say nothing of the cost of the operation.

There is no guarantee the day after the cat is home, it will not be shot again. I am informed by a reliable source -

a boy - that there are a number of pellet guns in boys' hands in Richmond

ROY CLIFTON 105 Wood Lane Richmond Hill, Ont.

### say no because I'm a taxpayer Planning study money wasted

Dear editor:

In the Oct. 13 edition of The Liberal, there are two items on the first page that make one pause and wonder.

Firstly, a proposed residential development is being refused, even though it contains the most inexpensive type of dwelling, townhouses.

crease. Why do we allow new im-Secondly, a \$10,000 housing study is migrants when our people are unable to being undertaken which will probably "emphasize lower-cost types of We continue to encourage people to housing' remain unemployed by making it more

Either the money is being wasted on the study, or there will be no action

taken when it is completed. One objection raised is that the Official Plan does not permit

development with septic tanks. I would ask, "What Official Plan?" The original Official Plan in Richmond Hill is honored mostly in its

breach.

being rezoned to high density Avenue could be the site of a new town residential, while residential areas are

Other developments are held up because our Official Plan won't be completed till the end of 1977.

rezoned for office buildings.

Hill, and there are some whose hobby is

buck by selling such weapons to in it.

This is an intolerable situation.

municipalities of our size take seven or more years to prepare such a plan.

Finally, there is the statement this development should be held up because large family to be born on the American

of a "future civic center" I take great exception to this, and I father were on a hunting trip. hope other Richmond Hill citizens do

members of council who supported the idea of moving the Town Hall out of the core of the town, I think this would be a grievous error.

Hall should be in the downtown area. If the present building should become too cramped, then the soon-to-be-We have land designated industrial vacated Works Yard on Ruggles hall, on land we the taxpayers already own, with all the open space of the Town Park in front of it.

This would be a much more impressive location than the intersection skills for our children will also be a of a busy highway and regional road

> ERIC GEORGE. Region candidate, 413 N. Taylor Mills Dr., Richmond Hill, Ont

School ostriches can go



lynda's lashes

### Some luckier

By Lynda Nykor

THORNHILL - I guess there isn't one of us so contented with our lot in life we haven't thought about winning one of the big lotteries.

I know I have, and I've got a husband who not only thinks about it but who has, on occasion, threatened to quit his job the day before the winning tickets are drawn.

He's that sure they're going to spell out his number in ping-pong balls.

Neither one of us has ever won so much as a second-hand shoelace, but at a recent family gathering, we thought of a foolproof system.

We're going to let my brother buy the tickets, and whichever number wins, we're going to split the million evenly.

Wins everything

My brother wins everything. And what he doesn't win, somebody just happens to be selling cheap or giving away that very week, just the thing he needed.

He's got a houseful of clocks, radios, campers, watches, objets d'arts and small electric appliances. What he doesn't win, my sister-in-law

Last week he invited us to a dance in Newmarket. He told us how they'd been at a dance the week before and won the door prize. Shortly after we arrived, I got up to

dance with him. We won the spot dance At our table of 10, another couple won

a spot prize, and my brother's best friend and wife won the door prize. In countries in South America, ticket

vendors roam the streets all the time

calling out the numbers they have for When that happens here, he thinks, it'll be the final proof we've lost our If there are people who make a dirty economic mobility, or at least our faith

children, and if there are irresponsible I'm not going to worry about the parents who allow their children to plight of the economy too much, though. have and use such weapons, then surely In a few weeks when you fail to see the time has come to forbid the sale of this column in its regular spot, it'll be because I'm out ordering my new There can be no obvious use to which Lotus, or off on a trip around the world, they can be put but the indulgence of or having a fitting on my mink.

My brother and sister-in-law, of course, will probably just put another notch on the wall, and go out and buy another ticket.

The grand finale of the evening was a draw on a 133-ounce bottle of rye whiskey. You guessed it. Amid groans of "I don't believe it" from other tables, my brother went up to claim his latest

#### She wins too

My sister-in-law doesn't do too badly I wonder how many other either. The year I chaired the Thornhill Art Show I invited them down to see it and she won the door prize. She's Eskimo, and the only one of her

side of the border, when her mother and

That accident of birth means the American government will pay her a While there have been several sum of money every year as part of a settlement with its native populations. So we figure our money is well in-

vested when we hand it over to them to buy lottery tickets. To maintain our identity, the Town My brother-in-law, who's in on the deal, says Canadians are getting to be

more and more like the people he sees in the South American republics he visits several times each year. Hope for hopeless

#### There, the only hope the poor have is

to win one of the many lotteries constantly being held. There's no other way they can work their way to the top of the economic ladder, or even to a comfortable spot part-way up. So he thinks the sudden popularity of

lotteries in this country might be an indication that the rags-to-riches philosophy North Americans used to espouse, is gone.

# Pensions should be based on a means saying, "I sought an answer from the No county teacher playing therapist

2) "Do you believe senior citizens rather than attempt to reflect the

Some should, others appear to have a to stand up for his convictions against

Some seniors frugally saved for their he is a member of Parliament only

number of new cars and campers in on the issue of capital punishment.

Dear editor:

In reply to Trustee Mrs. Chris McMonagle's address to me in The Liberal Oct. 13, I agree teachers should not treat emotional problems. But neither do I believe any teacher

in York County is attempting to play the role of therapist as has been implied in Guidance departments serve an

important function in schools in looking after children with problems. There are two basic types of problems teachers see, developmental problems and psychiatric problems.

The latter, when discovered, are referred to proper authorities in the field. I could recount many stories of the helpful manner good teachers have served as handy, on-the-spot persons in

whom the students could confide and obtain help in situations. Some of these problems may seem trivial to others, but are always imposing to the child who needs immediate and readily obtained help.

Still other problems I know were of met." great magnitude. With the counsel of a well-known and trusted teacher who was able to listen, but not act as a therapist, new lives

were created. been found quickly enough, not been trusted soon enough, to have saved these children in time.

Dramatic, but true. The value of a good guidance teacher cannot be measured in dollars.

Guidance teachers do offer a ready ear and counsel to students, counsel mainly with developmental problems of various degrees of intensity.

David Calder

test and tied into the cost of living in-

3) "Do you think your MP should vote

according to his judgment on an issue,

I admire a man who has the courage

great odds. But I think Danson is wrong

Danson knew the wishes of the

majority of his constituents. He forgot

Pierre Trudeau and not the people,

believed in him and his judgment.

wishes of his constituents?"

need qualified answers

When it comes to Psyche problems, they help these people into the hands of properly trained people and do not try therapy on their own. To imply teachers in York are acting

otherwise is quite unfair and irresponsible. I feel the board was not fully informed about the recent guidance issue

and did not act with discretion. To be stampeded by hysterical public statements is not the sort of action that instills in me the faith and confidence I

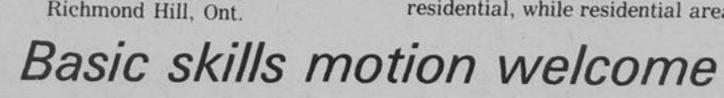
would like to have in my school board. I believe it behooves the board to rethink this matter and to try to make amends to persons it may have af-

One statement that is encouraging, Mrs. McMonagle, is your final one in your letter: "Mr. Lamont, I like and respect most of the teachers I have

This should serve as a very good starting point for reconciliations with those people that may feel threatened. Once again I say I feel we need a board that can show respect, faith and No psychiatrist could probably have sensitivity for each other, for our educational administration, for our

teachers and, yes, especially for our

GRAHAM LAMONT 27 Malaren Rd., Maple. Ont.



Dear editor:

because the majority of his constituents board of education passed a motion Had he stood up to Prime Minister motivation and self-esteem through academic and vocational skills"

I hope this trend toward more basic

By Joy Horton

We do not know the exact truth

Since there are no county-wide

courses of study and no county wide

exams and no recognizable

provincial standards at all, it is only

possible to see how they do on a

That shows our averages in

In G.W. Williams Secondary

School, Aurora, a test of 100 Grade 9

General students showed 56 per cent

required remedial reading. These

are children of average intelligence

or above - not special education

how the teacher, concerned only

with helping the students, was

immediately told by the ad-

ministration that these were

emotional and perceptual problems

and that there was not "concrete

evidence" they had not been taught

She was apparently told that even

though over half the group had failed

the test, that the results were not "in

Afterwards, around the coffee urn,

I was astonished to hear Newmarket

Trustee Craig Cribar tell the

students they were better educated

than ever before and challenge them

the basics in elementary school.

The Liberal newspaper described

relation to some other students all

about whether our York County

students are literate or not.

Canada Standard Test.

across Canada.

students.

perspective"

people and though I support abolition

ment."

enhanced.

migration to Canada?"

toward these services.

profitable not to work.

DAVID CALDER,

290 Iredale Rd.,

find jobs.

fair shake.

made citizens.

bigotted, racist or selfish.

must vote in favor of capital punish-

Then and only then would his stature

as a man and as a statesman, been

4) "Do you favor increased im-

No. My answer isn't because I'm

who's being asked by Danson and the

I'm asked for more each year for

additional welfare, unemployment

insurance, hospital insurance, old age

pension, increased housing grants, etc.

migrants who haven't paid one cent

This all goes to assist new im-

Still our unemployed are on the in-

As a taxpayer, I feel I'm not getting a

We have allowed in draft dodgers,

Heck! They broke the laws of this

country and our government welcomed

them with open arms. They've been

deserters and illegal immigrants.

government to pay through taxes.

I was glad to see the York County trend away from group discussions of (Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie personal and family problems and from Drive) stressing "the achievement of self- other group psychological techniques. AUDREY CHRISTIE

#### 372 Elm Rd.. Stouffville, Ont.

guest

topical column of inion by our readers. no more than 800 words, typed preferably

to prove it in the world. This is unfair

and unjust to both the students and

their teachers. Student humiliation

At the Huron Heights graduation ceremony a group of spring graduates, some of them classmates of my own three sons, described the humiliation of doing poorly on the various literacy tests at the universities they are now attending all over the province.

These are bright young people bright enough to know they've been short-changed and to resent it. They know this is not a reflection on their own school or even York County.

They know the school system in Ontario simply reflects the increasingly permissive way that mendation is for a provincial core society has gone.

years ago to be all things to all History and Physical Education.

people and with this mass education we then threw out compulsory subjects and standards.

"Do your own thing" had apparently caught up with them. Trustees challenged Several weeks ago in The Toronto

Star, Sam Chapman, director of education is quoted as saying university professors were "running off at the mouth" when they spoke of dropping literacy standards. He challenged trustees to prove

"changes were needed before running off and ordering them". So a series of public meetings were called in York County to get the "hard data" on the 3 Rs.

In one secondary school, the teachers were so upset about low literacy in Grade 9 that they volunteered to take more students into their classes to free one teacher for remedial English.

In another, of the nearly 300 Grade 9's registered, the teachers felt that nearly 200 required remedial help. So the classroom teachers know there's a problem and have some suggestions to make.

Teachers aware The Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation published an excellent book, "At What Cost" where the very first recomcurriculum in English, Math, We asked the schools some 20 Science, Geography, Canadian

Next they call for standards of knowledge to be set for secondary school subjects and much stricter options for a diploma. I'm right with them on this! But

I'm afraid we'll have to do even more backtracking to get ahead with

We must guarantee specified standards in language and number in the elementary schools too.

Heads in sand So to stick our heads in the sand

is patently ridiculous. We asked the teachers to look after all the students all the time. We told the students they were free to learn or not at their own pace.

And now we must simply but steadily and in an orderly fashion, begin to reverse the trend.

My motion which passed at the board recently was a small step for us but a giant step for the students.

"We, the York County board of education, want our children to achieve self motivation and therefore self esteem through achievement in academic and vocational skills"

(Mrs. Joy Horton off RR 4, Stouffville, is East Gwillimbury Township trustee with York County board of education. - Editor)