

Joy, misery mixed in counselling cases

RICHMOND HILL — "The best marriages," says Dr. Frank Fidler, "are those in which each person actually encourages the individuality of the other."
"You get depressed sometimes, with marriages so bound by self-interest. Even a family that's only committed to itself... well, it's like a cancer in society. The same holds true of any organization."
During an interview his modest Yonge Street office, Fidler, a doctor of divinity and director of the Richmond Hill and Thornhill Area Family Services, spoke freely of the joys and the despair involved in family counselling.



Dr. Frank Fidler
.....director of Family Services

"I saw one woman helping another on the street," he relates. "The woman being helped was an aged woman. She had an expression of such anger and antipathy... what's happened in that life? The first thing a stranger is impressed with is shocking, repulsive actually."

"Yet," he smiled, "I find beautiful people in very unlikely places."

Fidler then related a story of a 91-year-old friend and former librarian who decided to undergo surgery for cataracts.

"On the way to the hospital, she mused 'if it doesn't work out for me, maybe some doctor will learn something'."

Fidler said this kind of attitude "keeps you going in an occupation otherwise so self-destructive, tying-in with so much misery."

Officially retired
For the past 4½ years Fidler has been working with couples, single adults and adolescents with the Family Service. Though he is officially retired and working for salary only on a part-time basis, Fidler and his staff of two counsellors, five counsellors-in-training "and a beautiful group of volunteers" are all generous with their time.

They are involved both in consultations, "where the situation has reached a crisis point and is apt to destroy" and in preventative education. "We couldn't be in a counselling service if we didn't feel there is always a possibility of change," said Fidler.

"The question is, once the objectives have been realized, are people willing to pay the price."

"There are no easy and quick answers. Each individual is seen as a functioning person. We try to decide the best way their strengths can be used to reduce their weaknesses."

"I'm open to share whatever wisdom, whatever insight I've picked up. I'm not all-wise. I'm not going to force it on anybody."

Needs more money
The group gets

financial support from clubs, individuals and various local councils, but "we really had to go to the region," Fidler said.

Two years ago the Family Services received \$32,000 through York Region. One year ago this amount had been reduced to \$26,000 and this year, according to Fidler, the grant has been cut to \$16,000.

"The work load is increasing," he said. "There's a great number of people waiting to be seen but we can't see them."

The Richmond Hill and Thornhill Area Family Services is one of the projects being supported by the new York Region United Way, which hopes to raise \$250,000 for a variety of similar people-oriented services.

More funds for schools

TORONTO — An extra \$165 million in provincial grants will be paid to Ontario school boards next year, bringing the total Ontario grant to \$1.88 billion.

The money represents about 87 per cent of the budget of the ministry of education.

Elementary and secondary per pupil grant ceilings for 1977, rates of grant and other information needed by the boards to calculate their budget was released to the boards on Oct. 1.

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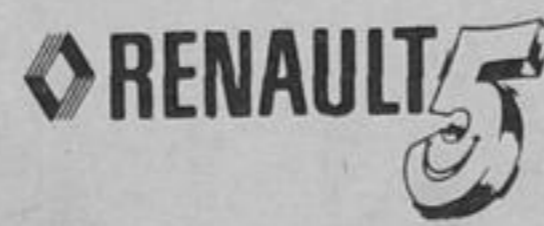
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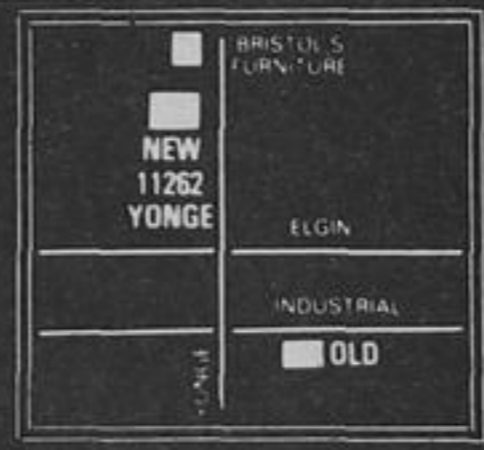


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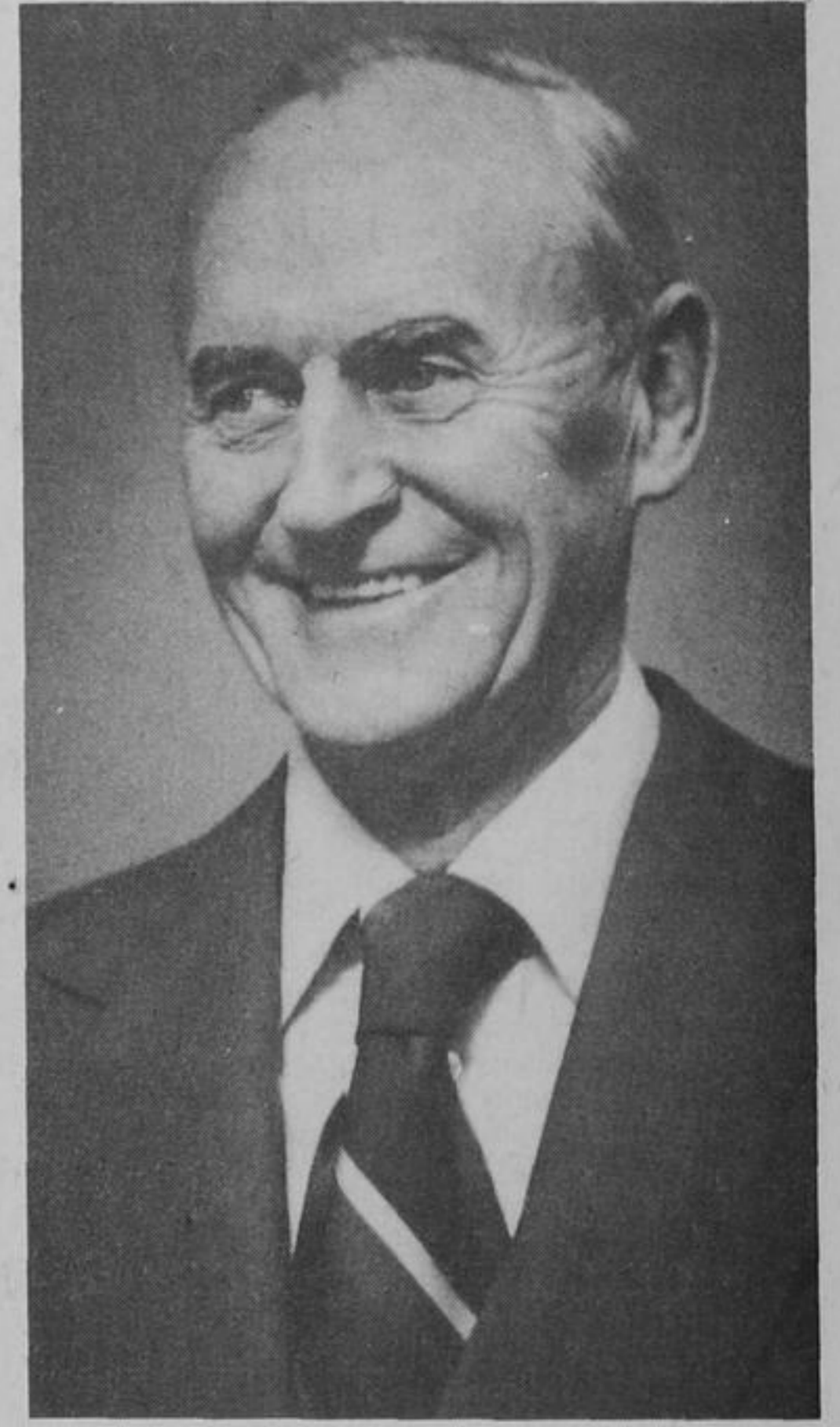
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Alma Walker



Hi Lawrie

Last week two of the regions best known public figures announced they are jointly seeking regional council seats to represent the Town of Markham. They are running together because they know this is the time for experienced and sensitive leadership at the regional level. They know that the answer to our future lies in co-operation and not confrontation.

Hi Lawrie and Alma Walker will work together for the region. They will bring to bear on the regional council over 31 years of combined experience in municipal government; and this at a time when experience is at a premium.

Hi Lawrie and Alma Walker will work for all the people. They will continue to provide leadership that is sensitive to people and not institutions, sensitive to our future needs, not just today's desires.

"Our town and our region is under tremendous pressure to change—to grow, and to develop. We view this with alarm, and are wary of any change in the name of progress that sacrifices those qualities that are Markham's history."

Alma Walker/Hi Lawrie.

For regional council we ask you to support experienced and sensitive leadership. We ask you to support Alma Walker and Hi Lawrie. We need them both.

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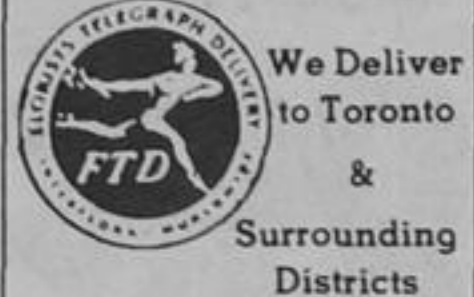
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