



**regional viewpoint**

By Jim Irving

**RICHMOND HILL** — Old school trustees never die, they just gaze wistfully at the current scene and bleed a bit.

Just a bit, mind you, because why give away any of that stuff that seems are made of to something such as York County board of education, when it's more in need of a transplant than a transfusion?

It has the blood, all right, but getting it flowing 375 days a year — that's a clever phrase in the spirit of "giving 110 per cent" — requires a hardier heart than that pumping away for the board the past term.

**Showed great heart**

That's the collective board.

Individually, there were several who showed great heart on numerous occasions — and that's not to be confused with the minor tantrums indulged in by a Markham trustee (still running) when she couldn't get her way — but in the end, they never seemed to have the heart to do anything together, as it were.

Well, that's not completely true. Once they joined hands and decided it really wasn't the business of the schools to see how many times a day Johnny and Jenny had the runs, and killed a survey to that effect. But mostly they left the impression that personalities were more important than problems, and battled accordingly.

**1968 editorial**

So maybe that's why Morlee Kinnee

of Vaughan, a school trustee for 26 years in the area before calling it quits, — while chatting the other day — went back to Oct. 24, 1968 and an editorial in — yes — The Liberal, and suggested that it might have a bearing on it all. And it does.

Written just prior to the election of "the new 18-member" board of education, it pointed out that the latter would be responsible for education from kindergarten to Grade 13, all the way from Steeles Avenue to Lake Simcoe. It then asked that voters "give more attention this year than in the past" to selecting its members.

The system would care for 11,000 secondary school students (now, 16,444); and more than 27,000 (now, 28,204) at the elementary level. By 1981,

the total was expected to hit more than 250,000.

**Biggest employer**

The board would be the county's biggest employer when it started in January, with a total staff of 2,500, (now 3,000) including more than 1,700 teachers employed, (now, 2,227) the equivalent of having every wage earner in the town of Aurora on the payroll.

The budget was expected to be between \$25 and \$30 million (now, \$69 million).

"The new board will need to exercise imagination and perception in choosing from among the wide range of new instructional methods, techniques and services now available to provide an

education for the 21st century," the editorial said.

**Timely today**

Every bit as timely today. Only the figures and the members have changed. But, by being careful in selecting the latter, the voter has some control over the former.

And, despite what you might hear, that, along with reading and writing, is still what the system's all about.

(As for that letter from one **Ror Shephard**, in which he goes over my column of a couple of weeks ago with a fine sleuth-comb and gives me a failing mark, like I say — pardon me — as I say, there's definitely a need to return to the basics. I'm happy to see that he agrees.)



**sharon's sunshine**

By Sharon Brain

**THORNHILL** — Middle age is when you like your own bed best.

There are other indications. Your body isn't the prize it was 10 years ago.

You can't imagine how, or even why, people stay up till three in the morning, much less make it to work next day. But beds are the acid test.

**Bunk bed test**

We're not talking about the bed in the Holiday Inn in the Barbados. When you start preferring your own bed to that, it's not middle age.

That's senility. We're talking about when you go to stay with friends.

They show you to your room. It contains a single bed. The mattress on the floor is for her and the box spring on its stumpy legs is for him.

The two of you look at each other and remember your own comfortable bed at home.

You think of the two fat pillows, the familiar mattress and the eiderdown you just bought.

Without even discussing it, you lop two days off your visit.

That's middle age.

**What it's not**

You are no longer tempted when the host says "It's such a long drive home. Stay the night. You can have the kids'

bunk beds."

That's when you go and get your coat. You know that kids always try to return to the bed from which they have been moved. This migration usually takes place at 5:30 a.m.

You know kids' beds are gritty. You know you'll fall out of the top bunk, or the top bunk will fall down on you.

You know better than to stay. That's middle age.

**Studio couch**

Middle aged people refuse to sleep on studio couches.

A studio couch is a very uncomfortable sofa with three loose cushions that fall off over the ends or

slide down the back the moment you sit down.

Four strong men with determination and an engineer to boss the job can easily convert it into an even more uncomfortable bed that sleeps two midgets for no longer than 15 minutes at a stretch.

A studio couch also boasts its own built in population control device. Any move from one side to the other immediately parts the halves and the aggressor is neatly deposited on the floor.

Cheap, and effective.

No one has ever had to buy a studio couch. There are actually only 10 around.

But people give them away so readily it seems like there are thousands of them.

**Or sofa beds**

Then there are sofa beds.

Have you ever slept on a comfortable one?

Of course not.

People don't want comfortable beds in their living rooms. Those relatives who drop by might decide it is as comfortable as a hotel. That's something no one wants to encourage.

That, of course is the real reason all spare room accommodation is so unaccommodating. It doesn't do to make the guests too comfortable.

Middle aged people know that. They've had guests themselves.

**As for me!**

As for me, I know that never again will I spend the night with 11 other people in a cosy ski chalet built for two.

Never again will I unroll my sleeping bag under someone's dining room table and tell them I'll be perfectly comfortable.

And be telling the truth. If hotel rates keep climbing, I may never spend another night away from home.

That's right. I'm middle aged.



**yesterday's**  
by Mary Dawson

**Thornhill was Dundurn**

**RICHMOND HILL** — Dundurn Castle in Hamilton is being recommended as an interesting spot to visit and should have a particular appeal to residents of Thornhill.

The local story is that its builder, Sir Alan Napier MacNab was also responsible for the building of a saw and a flour mill on John Street in 1820.

There is evidence to support the claim that MacNab also named the settlement Dundurn after his grandfather's home in Scotland.

**Land deal agent**

In 1820 MacNab was a 22-year-old law student in Toronto. It is probable he was acting as agent for a company in various land deals.

At the time he was auctioned to Attorney General D'Arcy Boulton. This

owned considerable acreage in Lot 20, Conc. 1, Markham, the property on which the mills were built.

The mills were registered in the name of Daniel Brooke Jr., a lawyer.

They were operated by his in-laws, the John Playters, senior and junior.

**Vaughan purchase**

In 1823 Henry Boulton, who had an interest in the John Street mills, bought 55 acres, the northeast corner of Lot 30, Conc. 1, Vaughan Township.

The following year the property was transferred to Brooke. He laid out building lots along the Yonge and Centre St. frontages.

MacNab was permitted to name the settlement.

Early purchasers of lots included Robert Wiles, wheelwright; Thomas

Morgan, blacksmith; Benjamin Heyland and Robert Shuter.

Shuter paid 40 pounds for the acre at the corner of Yonge and Centre.

The unregistered plan also included streets named Strachan, Maitland and Hillyard.

The subdivider, Brooke, was recognized in the naming of Brooke Street. It was opened in 1935.

**Became Thornhill**

When the Thornhill post office was established in William Parson's store that became the official name of the community.

Dundurn ceased to be used.

MacNab was born in Newark (Niagara) in 1798 when his father, Lieut. Allan MacNab was jailed for debt.

Later the family moved to York where they fared a little better, but were never well off.

Allan Jr. attended the home district grammar school until 1812 when he shouldered a rifle along with his father.

After the war he studied law and was called to the bar in 1826, establishing a lucrative practice in Hamilton.

He served in the legislative assembly, was knighted for his services in the uprising of 1837 and was appointed an honorary ADC to Queen Victoria.

He made a fortune in banking and refurbish it in 1967 as a centennial project.

**Needed mansion**

Sir Allan decided he needed a mansion as a status symbol which would impress his wealthy friends.

But his Scottish heritage also showed itself as he built the huge home around the nucleus of a much smaller house already standing on the property.

There it still stands today, high on a bluff above the waters of Lake Ontario. It cost the city of Hamilton \$600,000 to

refurbish it in 1967 as a centennial project.

**To find it**

To reach it, drive along the Queen Elizabeth Way and continue along Highway 403.

At York Boulevard you will see the first of several large signs indicating the direction to the castle. Follow them to Highway 2.

The grounds are extensive and there is a roofed shelter where the family may enjoy their lunch.

**Richmond Hill, you've come a long way with DAVE SCHILLER**

*In two years as mayor, he's brought you...*

Open government, by abolishing closed council sessions and secret decision-making. The Schiller administration features open meetings, public participation and recorded voting.

Full accountability, through community meetings, question periods at council meetings and regular reports to the electorate over cable TV.

Controlled growth, through careful attention to long-range planning. It takes time, yes, but it's designed to yielding solid, permanent results in appropriate housing and desirable industries in the right locations — without the disruption or disaster of "boom and bust" development.

New community facilities when and where they've been needed most: community centres in Lake Wilcox and Richvale; a ball diamond and tennis courts at Pearson Park; a fire hall in Oak Ridges-Lake Wilcox — allotment gardens for townspeople; a soccer field at Crosby Park; improvements at the Mill Pond; a ball diamond near Bond Lake Arena; support for the Wright Street Library extension; a new roof and other improvements at the old Town Park arena — among others.

Responsible administration: While government spending has escalated wildly in some jurisdictions, the local government portion of Richmond Hill taxes were held down this year to a scant 4.1 per cent increase.

Who says local government can't be made to work for you?

**On Monday, December 6 RE-ELECT DAVE SCHILLER**

One man can make a difference



CAMPAIGN OFFICE 883-1608

SAVE UP TO 70% TOYERAMA 70% CANADA'S ONLY DISCOUNT TOY CHAIN

**TOY LIQUIDATORS**

"MATTEL" BIG JIM OLYMPIC SKI RUN

SAVE \$12.50 FROM 1975 DEPT. STORE CATALOGUE PRICE OF \$14.44

U.S. OLYMPIC SKI RUN

Scari-fying ski jumps & downhill runs! Boys send Big Jim & his buddies soaring off the starting platform. 25' tall! Ramp stretches over 8 feet, ad justs for runs & jumps. Instructions included, plus two "gold" medals. Boots & skis fit Big Jim, Big Jack, Big Josh, Big Jeff, or Dr. Steel™ action figures.

1st QUALITY GUARANTEED

LIMIT 1-PER CUSTOMER

1975-DEPARTMENT STORE CATALOGUE PRICE \$14.44

**\$194 only** WITH ANY PURCHASE OF '10

WED., THUR., FRI., SAT. ONLY

SAVE 86%

"MATTEL" PEDAL PRETTY DOLL WITH HER OWN BIKE AND WAGON **999**

"PARKER BROS" PLAY-DOH KITCHEN PLAY SET **299** COMPARE ANYWHERE

<b>SCARBORO WAREHOUSE</b> 2457 EGLINTON E. JUST EAST OF KENNEDY RD.	<b>DOWNSVIEW-NORTH YORK</b> 3701 KEELE ST. BETWEEN SHEPPARD & FINCH	<b>SCARBORO</b> DANFORTH RD. and BIRCHMOUNT
<b>WEST-SOUTH</b> DIXIE PLAZA DIXIE RD. AND QUEEN E. HWY.	<b>SCARBORO</b> 1700 EGLINTON E. INSIDE LITTLE DAVID'S BIG IDEAL	<b>DOWNTOWN</b> 143 YONGE ST. BETWEEN RICHMOND & ADELAIDE
<b>WEST</b> KNOB HILL FARMS LANSDOWNE & DUNDAS ST.	<b>ETOBICOKE</b> 5415 DUNDAS ST. W. JUST E. OF HWY. 27 NEXT TO CON. TIME	<b>SOUTH WEST</b> 741 THE QUEENSWAY AT ROYAL YORK RD.
<b>WEST</b> KNOB HILL FARMS LANSDOWNE & DUNDAS ST.	<b>BRAMALEA</b> BRAMALEA CITY CENTRE (INSIDE THE FAMILY FAIR STORE)	<b>RICHMOND HILL</b> 10133 YONGE ST. RICHMOND HILL
		<b>EAST CENTRAL</b> 1630 DANFORTH AVE. INSIDE THE RIO LUMBER
		<b>PICKERING</b> SHERIDAN MALL (INSIDE THE FAMILY FAIR STORE)