

Tidbits for suckers

By Jim Irving

One thing about living in a democracy is that we are constantly being fed tidbits to show us we are living in one and are being given our full devaluated dollar's worth.

York County board of education, for example, is good at that sort of thing, always quick to give desperate ratepayers a hearing, and rushing up to congratulate them for their presentation afterwards.

The latter bit of decorum they learned after a delegation of parents seeking junior kindergartens in the system, were given a "rude" hearing.

The parents complained loudly in the hallway later on, and the board probably decided there and then that, even if they didn't believe in the cause being presented, they would at least give the appearance of being concerned.

24-page treatise

So they resurrected the matter of junior kindergartens, commissioning a research report on them. The result is a 24-page treatise, offering such enlightenment as this found on page five: "To understand what is possible to offer J. K. students, one has to go beyond the goal statements to the value structures of the two basic approaches. One must determine which approach is more compatible with the community (parents,

teachers, other adults) as it is, or wishes to

"The approaches are known to professional educators as: (1) the behavioralist and (2) the phenomenologist approaches to education.

Laymen will perhaps recognize them under a variety of other names or in terms of specific models. The behavioralist approach is sometimes called the 'direct instruction method.

The phenomenologist approach is known as 'developmental-interactional' or 'cognitive-development' model psychologists.

"Simply put . . . (it) is concerned to develop in the learner such behaviors as have been predetermined by adults regardless of the learner's individual or natural bent. The learning dynamic is external to the student."

Costs ignored

It gets worse as it goes along, sounding more and more as if they were preparing any

children enrolling for a walk on the moon. The report says nothing about costs or facilities. It is more important to discuss such things as "phonology," "syntactic and morphology skills," and then moving quickly on to "visual discrimination, auditory discrimination, kinesthetic and tactile

recognition and perception." Remember when you were in kindergarten,

how you worried about those things? Much more important than whether that girl with the blue eyes laughed at your antics.

But at least the junior kindergarten parents got a little gobbledlygook to munch on while the matter itself gathers dust.

That's more than can be said about a group of parents from Mount Joy in the Old Town of Markham who appeared before the board Monday night for the second time in the past three weeks. They were objecting to the board's decision to move 65 children from Franklin public school to James Robinson school, in order to accommodate 76 students from the over-crowded Reesor Park school. both for practical reasons and for reasons of

Oratorical push-ups

John Butler, spokesman for the group, said Markham Old Town would continue to be the high growth area and suggested next year would be the best time for the board to develop a plan to cope with any develop-

Monday night, the board listened politely, but in the question-and-answer period that followed, seemed more concerned with their own oratorical push-ups than with probing

East Gwillimbury's John Denison, for example, - another trustee who seems to feel he was elected to please the administration

Prepare garden soil now

first and listen to the electorate only when he's gets the signal from above - told Butler's group there were indeed physical hazards in the new school routes.

But they were hardly the concern of the board. Home owners with pools, must fence them in; railway crossings were the concern

Old sucker ball

I don't think the parents disputed that; they weren't there to plead for safety barriers. They were asking the board not to break up the old neighborhood until they could get a better look at what will probably be the overall pattern.

The board would sooner debate the prospect of spending \$45,000 to provide 800 students with a "live-in experience" at a yet-to-bebuilt outdoor education centre at Scanlon Creek, near Bradford.

"I think the ball's in their park now," John Butler optimistically remarked after the meeting meaning the board would now have to take the next step in the matter.

He's right, the ball is in their park. And that's exactly where it's going to stay, enshrined in the board's hall of fame for future generations of trustees to admire with awe as the 1,000, or is it 10,000th strike thrown past yet another ratepayer's group.

A sucker ball, as it's known in that grand. old democratic pastime called baseball.

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common vegetables such salads, help keep aphids would not look out of as carrots, beets, peas, and white flies away from place in a flower garden. lettuce, spinach and tomato plants. radishes can be sown just as soon as the ground can or beets is quite at- flower garden, are also be worked.

"These vegetables and young cabbage, cauliflower and onion plants can usually withstand the unsettled weather of early spring. They actually prefer cool growing conditions."

"With this early start in the vegetable garden, the early sowings can be harvested in time for a second planting. Alternately, tomato or squash plants could be planted for the summer months."

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An early start in the garden of vegetables and clump of marigolds or

R.A. Fleming, Ontario act as a repellent for summer." ministry of agriculture certain insects while Fleming feels

tractive and can set off a attractive.

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petunias while offering a Marigolds planted in harvest of fresh crops each season, says the vegetable garden can vegetables during the

and food horticulturist. nasturtiums, whose carefully cultivated The seeds of several leaves are delicious in tomato or pepper plant Pole beans, planted as a "The foliage of carrots background for an annual

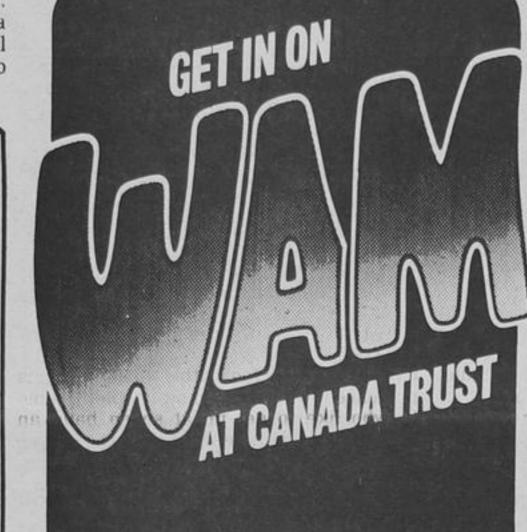
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horticulturist.

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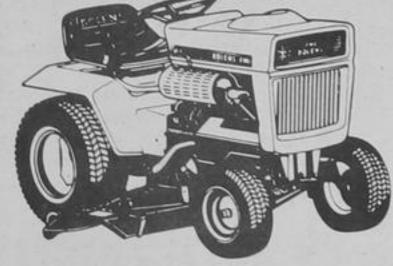
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season, says T.J. Blom, improve water and air phosphorous, potassium, Ontario ministry of movement through the magnesium and pH in the Sandy soils tend to dry Soils that are too acidic "It is important to out quickly and require require the addition of make sure your soil is in the addition of peat moss about five pounds of

good condition before to increase the water- limestone per 100 square To determine the "Late fall or early

Good soil drainage is fertilizer requirements of spring is a good time to



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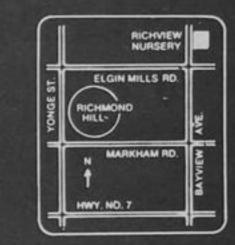
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