

# Mother finds daughter difficult subject

By Doreen Livingstone

Watching her on the stage playing Rosie in German Mills public school's recent production of Bye Bye Birdie, brought to mind her early years. She had lots of practice projecting, for she came into this world screaming and continued to do so for the next two years. I must hastily add this took place only at night. During the day when she had an audience of one or more she was as good as gold, happily gurgling away. Little did she care that her parents walked around

with suitcases under their eyes, from lack of sleep. As long as she was in public view she was happy and calm, but put her in her own crib and watch out! It's a miracle that, after all the trouble she gave us, we even thought about having another two, but fortunately for us, compared to her they were angels. Bethany was born and spent her first 7½ months in Glasgow, Scotland. When we were ready to return to Canada we considered leaving her there, but had a change of heart.

Because it was a long flight back to Canada, and with the change of time and motion of the plane, we thought she would sleep during most of the trip. Not her. Remember, there were lots of people on the plane; a captive audience!

She was wide awake for 24 hours. When we reached Malton Airport on that hot, muggy day, we were herded into a tiny, airless office where we sat for what seemed like hours. Although we were cranky and tired, she was good as gold. Finally my husband and I could stand it no longer, and wanted some attention. But how? The obvious answer. We pinched Bethany and she started to scream. In less than five minutes we had cleared immigration.

She always wanted to be an actress. From the time she was old enough to walk, whenever we took her to a musical, there was always an empty seat next to us. Bethany could be found dancing and singing in the aisle.

My first interview with her kindergarten teacher proved to be a bit embarrassing. We were outside the classroom talking, when all of a sudden we heard a commotion inside the class. The teacher hurried in and came out all smiles. Apparently Bethany was up in front of her classmates entertaining them.

A running joke in our family is that when Bethany becomes a star, the whole family is invited to Hollywood to swim in her pool. In fact when you look

through our family album there is a picture of the budding "star" at the age of five, wearing dark glasses clutching a long cigarette holder.

During the few times she appeared in school productions one person could be heard above all others . . . my daughter the actress.

When it was announced that the school was planning to cast for Bye Bye Birdie, Bethany spent several weeks, along with other grade seven and eight students, trying out for a part. Under the direction of teacher Barbara Asher, each student was thoroughly tested. Finally the magic day came and she rushed home to say that she had been chosen for the part of Rosie.

I saw very little of my daughter during the next few months. We had to organize our plans around some of her rehearsals when they came at awkward hours. Soon she spent most of her free time walking around the house with a script in her hand, acting out scenes.

When the evening of the first performance arrived, I can tell you that the mother, sitting out in the audience, was more nervous than the daughter who was standing on the stage. I have never spent a more exhausting evening. Every word she uttered used all my energy.

What does the future hold for my daughter now that she has experienced her first leading role? If there isn't a Hollywood swimming pool in her horoscope she can always become a scientist. That's her second choice.

"How can I write about the school play when my daughter is the star?" Doreen asked. With Mother's Day coming on, we suggested she write about how a proud mother feels. The story tells us more about the daughter than the mother, but then that's the way mothers are.—Editor



Bethany and Doreen Livingstone . . . make-up tip for budding actress

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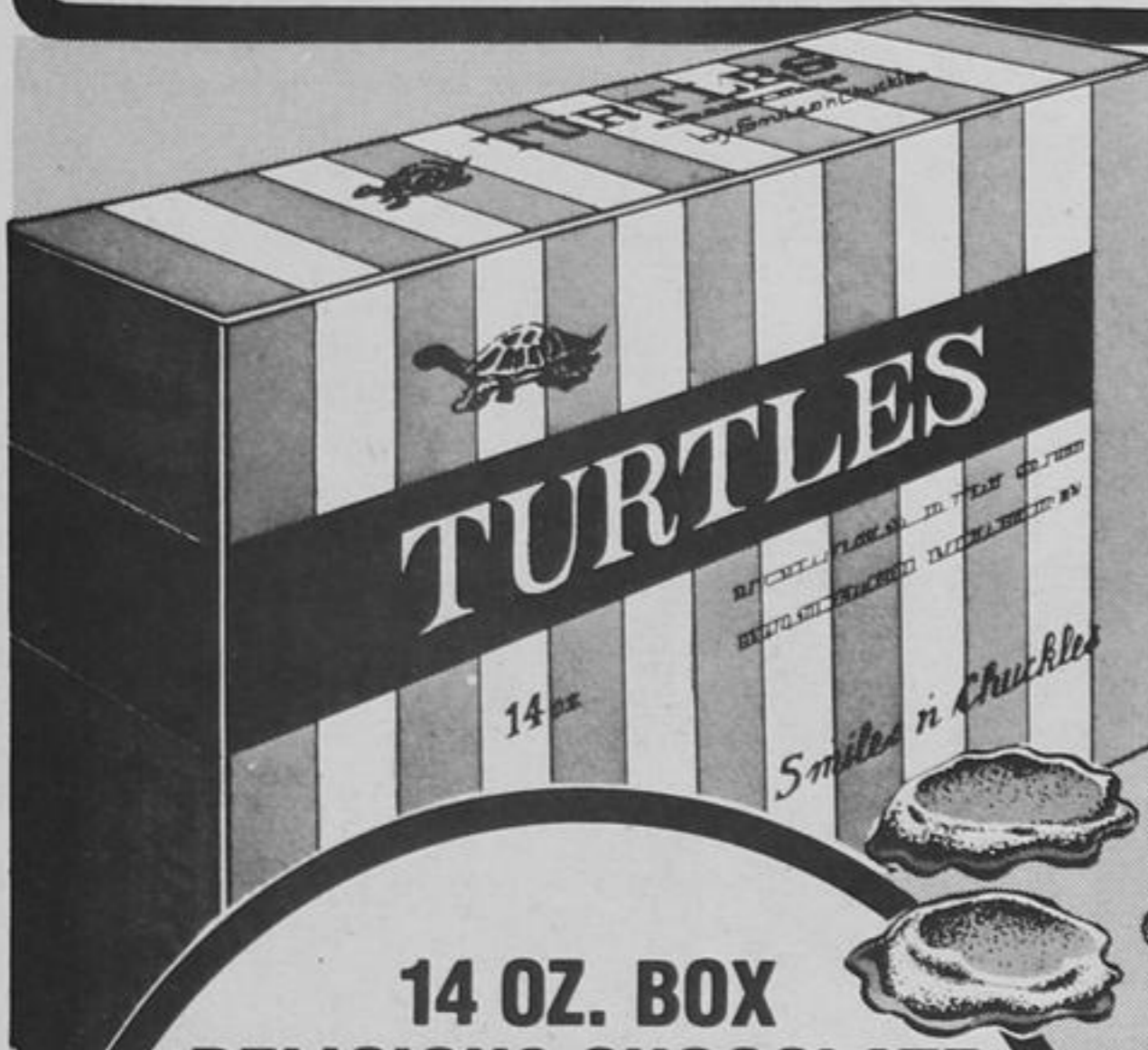
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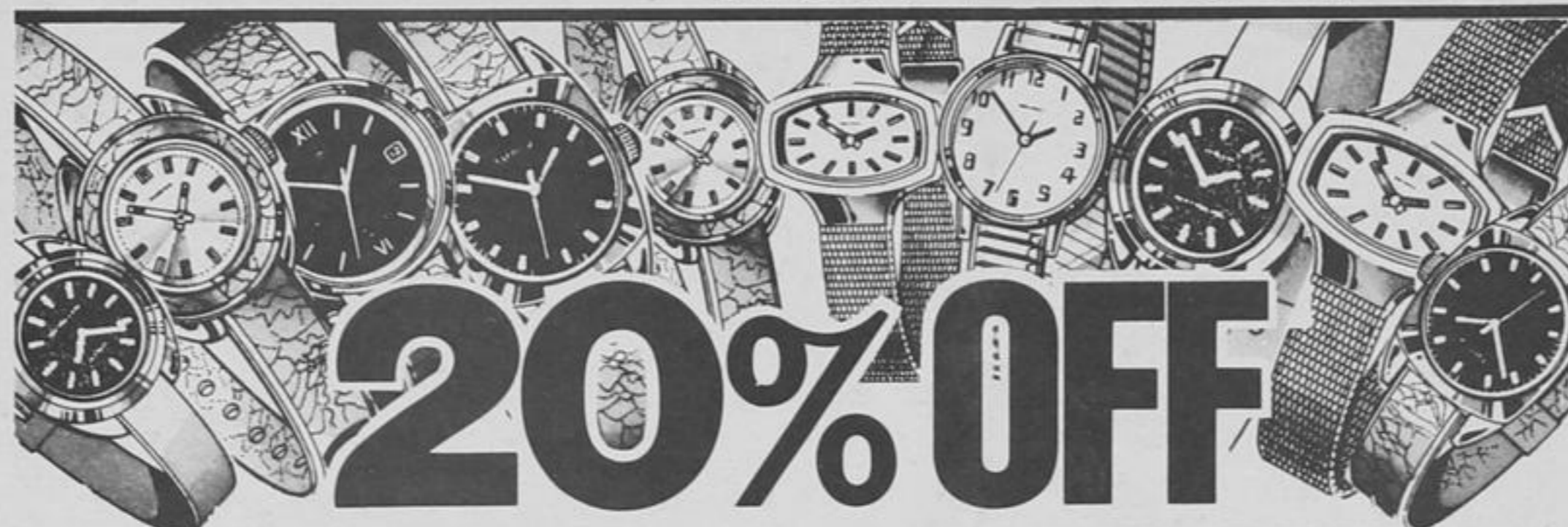
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## Editor takes exception

Richmond Hill council Monday night defended its decision to examine all school board budget proposals.

This in response to a letter from a Newmarket resident, Robert Martin.

Mr. Martin wrote he was dismayed to learn of council's meddling decision in requesting both York Region school boards submit line item budgets to the municipality for examination and possible submission to the electorate.

"I'm that electorate, at least a small part of it," he wrote.

"And I'm perfectly capable of telephoning my three local public school trustees if I'm not happy about the way they are spending my tax dollars."

"Despite this, it is definitely not your role to strongarm an elected body that operates parallel to yours."

"A council that's perfect can assist other elected bodies in achieving perfection," concluded Mr. Martin.

"From the minutes they submitted," countered Councillor Andy Chateauvert, "it looks like they're playing games of in and out."

"Members seem to be moving in and out in order to avoid voting on some of the issues . . . or maybe they're just tired," he said.

"When they do present it to us, it's a bumble." Chateauvert reminded listeners it used to be common practice for school boards to present budgets to council.

## Another council on health horizon

A District Health Council may be on the horizon for York Region.

A committee is being formed to review existing regional and municipal policies and gather background information.

It will be taking comments from agencies, various levels of government and the public at large.

A health and social services department report submitted last week called the development of a formal health and social planning mechanism in York Region "timely".

It predicted modification and expansion of existing health and social services.

To date, the report notes, such planning has been done "on an individual basis"; focusing on a particular target group, a particular geographic area, or a specific project.

"While such planning is important and fruitful, it does not deal with the long term, broader needs of the community."

"The district health council concept," says the report, "is being widely adopted as the most readily available, expedient health planning mechanism available at the present time."

The committee is expected to present its findings Oct. 20.

## Steamers get lease

The Richmond Hill Live Steamers club has been awarded a 10-year, \$1 a year lease on land at the Loyal True Blue and Orange Home, provided the home agrees.

The club, comprised of 15 Richmond Hill and York Region residents, will be responsible for all improvements, signs, and security on the site.

Public rides will take place at least three times a year, at 25 cents a ride. The proceeds will go to charity.

Club membership will be open to all area residents.

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