

## Save manse gifts welcome

It wasn't quite expected so soon, but last week's offer by this newspaper to help with communications for a Save the Old Presbyterian Manse Fund brought a \$5 first cheque from a long-time resident. Her letter appears on this page.

Now the fund is really started, local historical society spokesman David Fayle says contributions are welcome and receipts can be issued for income tax purposes.

The target amount for moving the manse to Pioneer Village has been set for preliminary purposes at \$5,000. Firm estimates haven't been compiled.

All the details haven't been settled as to what is to be done. Perhaps if the Save the Manse Fund grew large enough, there might be some chance of saving it somewhere in Richmond Hill.

Architect Napier Simpson Jr., in a Guest Spot column also on this page, favors keeping the manse in Richmond Hill if possible.

Anyone wishing to show support now for the fund can send donations to this address: Richmond Hill Historical Society (Manse Fund), C-O The Liberal, PO Box 390, Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 4Y6.



"...passed right over this good tire...says he's looking for innuendos..."



lynda's lashes

## No growth will mean no work

By Lynda Nykor

I'm still surprised at how few ripples the provincial election is causing here in our York Region pond.

But maybe I shouldn't be. In fact, the more I think of it, the more I'm convinced any agitation from this area is five or 10 years down the road.

Look at it this way: The suburbs (and the region is largely suburban or getting that way), tend to consist of upwardly mobile people.

Most of them own their homes, have jobs with some seniority and security, have a car or two, broadloom, Spanish furniture and from one to five dependent children.

### Education first

They also tend to have certain expectations for those children.

They'd like them to finish high school and get some kind of post-secondary education.

Education is intensely important in the suburbs.

You can tell that just from reading this newspaper on a semi-regular basis.

The articles and news stories that draw the greatest response from readers are those that deal with the schools.

Public pressure in this region has led to a top-dollar brand of schooling that's constantly being analyzed, studied, changed, improved and queried.

In a few years the one to five children, many of whom are now finishing high school, will be coming out of the universities and colleges.

### Jobless youth

There aren't going to be jobs for them.

This is already happening, of course, but the full effects aren't being felt in the region yet.

Much of it's still too new. But when it does, a lot of people are going to be looking for answers.

They'll have spent years paying the mortgage on a life-style that allowed Johnny to go to college where he worked hard and got a Ph.D.

So how come he's still unemployed? The kind of stop-gap measures the politicians are proposing aren't the answers they'll be satisfied with.

Barney Danson for instance has just set up a program, with the suitably inscrutable name of "Katimavik," for young people 17 to 22 years of age.

I have a feeling that after Johnny's cleaned rivers and looked at forest fires for Barney for a year the problem will still be there.

The universities and colleges won't be culpable.

They may have promised an intellectual rose garden but they've never claimed to be an employment agency.

The high schools won't be blamed — after all, if Johnny got to college they must have been doing a good job.

### Blame politicians

The politicians will get the lash with the wet noodle.

And in a way, the politicians are no more to blame than the suburbanites themselves.

A no-growth philosophy is conventional wisdom these days. It's what the people want.

And no-growth means no jobs.

It may take 15 or 20 years before people realize the politicians just took the line of least resistance by also espousing this way of thinking.

In the meantime, Johnny's been unemployed for some years and he's wondering out loud.

He wants to know why he can't have the house, the job, the cars, the broadloom, the Spanish furniture and the one to five dependent children.

That's why there won't be quiet elections in middle-class places, a few years from now.

## Letters

### Swim day needs aid

Dear editor: June 4 and 5 the Richmond Hill Aquatic Club holds its annual Invitational Swim Meet at the Centennial Pool, Crosby and Newkirk Rd. This is a Canadian Amateur Swimming Association sanctioned event drawing competitive swim clubs from all over Ontario. Last year over 1,500 swimmers competed.

To date the club has financed this event from swimmers' registration fees and the sale of refreshments at the meet. Over the two-day competition 182 medals at a cost of approximately \$2.50 each are distributed.

To help defray the cost of this year's medals we are asking the business firms of Richmond Hill, King City and Aurora to financially assist us.

In return, the 1977 Invitational Swim Meet Program will list all sponsors and patrons.

During the next three weeks businesses will be contacted personally

### Recommendation missed by jury

Dear editor: Concerning the inquest into the death of Mrs. Celestine Paxton.

It was revealed that telephone calls by laymen to the emergency department of York Central Hospital advising of the imminent arrival of a patient requiring immediate treatment do not receive the same attention as those placed by physicians or ambulance attendants.

The reason given was "lay people often exaggerate the situation or fail to arrive."

Surely the percentage of such instances must be very small.

I should like to make a recommendation overlooked by the jury... one which would cost nothing to implement.

I suggest all calls received by the emergency department, regardless of their source, be given the same priority, and treated with the same urgency.

In this case it was more expedient to rush the patient the two and three-quarter minute distance by private car than to await the arrival of an ambulance.

I would like to point out cases such as this do not wait for an opportune time to occur, and a doctor is not always within telephone reach.

Had the hospital made the necessary preparations in anticipation of this patient's arrival — knowing she was suffering an acute attack of asthma — it could well have proven the difference between life and death.

That the few who call "wolf" should jeopardize the lives of the many who do not is certainly food for thought.

MARIE MEISNER, 30 Cobblestone Drive, Thornhill, Ont.



Marie Meisner... believe emergencies

## \$5 is to save manse

Dear editor: Hail to the editor and shame to Richmond Hill.

Why do our townsfolk not realize that in sacrificing the Old Manse they are crumbling a bit more of our heritage and adding another ho-hum to the dreariness of our soul?

Richmond Hill once had as pretty a main street as any village in Ontario. What a pity for us that Napier Simpson chose Thornhill, rather than us.

But then it would seem Richmond Hillians aren't, in general, endowed with the seeing eye. There are none so blind as those who will not see.

For what I saw and remember I stand accused, convicted and blessed.

We had chestnut trees with candles, and maples which shed a path of glory in October rain. Where is the unique bit of architecture which served as the Anglican Rectory where Rev. Mr. Battersby served our town?

Before his occupancy my uncle Edward Barker resided there and my mother remembered sitting on the curb outside his front door wriggling her bare toes in the silky dust as the drays trotted by to the mill.

Where is the beloved little red brick Catholic Church with its dignified manse? (Father Keane's housekeeper fed me rich fruit cake there, which I

Where is the bakery? Where is Commander Carr's house with its beautiful interior and all its handmade brick? (Some rest in my patio.)

Where is the opulent Wright home which stood at the corner of Richmond Street, its garden a tangled enchantment to every child in town? What happened to Miss Lizzie Glover's?

Where is the Sanderson residence and the Switzer Conservatory? Where the Rustic Inn and George Glenn's drug store and the Moody House? Where Reeve Johnny Greene's Taylor Shop and Lander Glass' Meat Market and home?

Does anyone remember Lillian McConaghy's cottage? I do.

Many towns smaller than ours have visitors' centres from which is dispensed all kinds of local information. (Consult the yellow pages.)

Wouldn't it be worthwhile to preserve The Manse and spend the paltry — yes "paltry" — amount necessary to set it once more upon a firm foundation, give it a roof and a washroom and a purpose, retaining it for ourselves?

Mr. Editor, you rolled the spitball. It pleases me to throw it. Enclosed with my delinquent subscription cheque is another for \$5.

How many Liberal subscribers do we have, Mr. Blaine? Five dollars from each would surely make a fine beginning for the retention of our Manse.

Because it is ours, it doesn't belong merely to one segment of our populace, one creed.

If you are able to set this little spitball a-rolling, I believe it would lead to wonderful things. Impractical?



Dorothy Lowe shame on Hill

Possibly. So was the Crystal Palace, the Eiffel Tower and that other old thing in Pisa.

No place to put it? How about the new park land south of the Orange Home? On that property (which I always think of as the Fahey Estate) was another splendid mansion surrounded by very tall, very old pines.

Please, let's have a go at it lad. Thank you for good editorials. Thank you for a fine newspaper.

(MRS.) DOROTHY LOWE, 31 Aubrey Ave., Oak Ridges, Ont.

## Yonge needs Old Manse

By Napier Simpson, Jr.

This past week, as consultant architect for Black Creek Pioneer Village, I inspected the old Presbyterian Manse on Yonge Street in Richmond Hill, to pass judgment on its suitability for the Pioneer Village.

Black Creek some years ago acquired the old Fisherville Presbyterian Church, and since then on the list of wanted buildings, has been looking for a suitable house for a manse.

With reluctance, I find I will approve of the Richmond Hill Manse, for while it is a rather dull uninspired structure, it was built as a manse and fits the period of the church (1853).

My hesitance over this building is in connection with Richmond Hill and its heritage.

The house has considerably more historic value on the present site, and as such makes a contribution to Richmond Hill's character.

Richmond Hill has character and individuality, and in recent years its council has sought to protect this through zoning.



The guest spot

A topical column of opinion by our readers. Submissions should be no more than 800 words, typed preferably.

Yonge Street may be a collection of run down structures, but if one by one they are all to be moved away, the protection zoning is for naught.

In time the townscape will resemble Yonge St. in Willowdale—all new.

The public today seems to want our heritage preserved. With the Ontario Heritage Act, main streets like Richmond Hill's can be spared.

Not so in past years, when Col. Moody's house came up for grabs and was considered by the Conservation Authority for Black Creek.

It was rejected as being of no value once taken from the Richmond Hill site. Sadly it was not spared—again a loss for Richmond Hill.

### More responsibility

It is all too easy to condemn our old structures. We must look to established organizations such as a Presbyterian to be more responsible.

The old Manse could be recycled on its site to provide part of the building that congregation requires.

Were they to do this, the Ontario Heritage Foundation would no doubt assist. Coupling that with the local funds last week's editorial suggested, the Presbyterians could find this preservation economically to their advantage.

Presbyterians must not be singled out as the only culprit against heritage—the Anglicans did the same thing last year in Thornhill in selling the Rectory to the Humane Society so that bouy could worry about it.

There are sparks of hope. 10039 Yonge Street, an old house across from the Manse, has been purchased by Lawrence A. Kelly Assoc. Ltd., to be

preserved and used as offices.

This surely is the proper implementation of the zoning for the protection of Yonge Street.

### Hill loses more

What Black Creek gains is less than what Richmond Hill loses. We might just as well stop talking heritage in Richmond Hill and get on with development.

As far as Black Creek is concerned, good buildings do turn up which can be taken without destroying a street or a community.

The Rev. Mr. Jenkins, first Presbyterian minister of Richmond Hill, built a superb house north of Unionville. It sits on a farm. How I wish Black Creek was acquiring it.

Not only was it a manse, but it is an excellent piece of architecture. Its relocation would not upset a heritage area such as Yonge Street in Richmond Hill.

(Mr. Simpson is a Thornhill architect well known for his interest in historic buildings in southern York Region. Editor)

## regional viewpoint

## DeVita should appeal

It's not known yet whether Vince DeVita of King will appeal the judgment handed down against him in his application against Trustee Margaret Coburn of York County board of education, but a layman's look at it would suggest he go ahead.

DeVita, who ran unsuccessfully against both Coburn and fellow King Trustee Dorothy Zajac in the December elections, had charged Coburn with having a conflict of interest. The charge was based on the fact that she was a member of the board's salary negotiating committee, while her husband was a member of the teaching staff at Huron Heights secondary school. Coburn resigned from the committee after the application was placed.

DeVita said he didn't want the King trustee voting on the board's \$74 million budget.

Lest his action be considered "sour grapes," he said he wanted it known he was doing it because of "the other 165 or so people" in similar positions either directly or indirectly on school boards in Ontario.

### Judge cavalier

In handing down his reasons for dismissing the application, with costs to DeVita, County Court Judge Harry Waisberg seems to have done it while reading his newspaper at the same time. In fact, he seems cavalier at various stages.

For example, he dismisses the salaries paid to the secondary teachers as only a "small part" of the budget. He doesn't mention that they make up some \$25 million of it.

But no matter how much of the budget they form, they should hardly be

dismissed so summarily, as if they weren't even pertinent to the action in the first place.

Judge Waisberg mentions that Coburn was present when the 1977 budget was adopted, taking part in discussions and voting for its adoption. She had "an obligation to participate" in its adoption, he said.

### Already decided

He, said, too, that although she didn't disclose her interest, he could understand that. It was already well known that her husband was a teacher employed by the board and her vote in favor would have no effect on the indirect pecuniary interest in a contract with the board, which her husband had as a school teacher.

"The amount had already been determined," Judge Waisberg said. It has? Well, then somebody had

better tell the members of the salary negotiating committees, because they're still meeting regularly to thrash out the matter.

The judge also cites another case, in which the respondents were charged with having a conflict of interest, because they were members of a municipal council, as well as employees of the school board.

### Details lacking

Judge Waisberg fails to give anymore details, however, and leaves it all hanging there with the notation: "The savings provisions were not applied in the circumstances of that case."

In other words, they were guilty. If there's a parallel, it's not mentioned. The judge also jumps to, what I feel is a very presumptuous conclusion, in assessing the costs against DeVita.

Says Waisberg: "... I take into consideration that the applicant expected a seat on the board if his application had been successful. He must, therefore, pay the costs of the application, which has been dismissed."

Where did he get the grounds for that statement? Was it something one could conclude just from reading the application?

If it were that easy, he would do well to ponder Mrs. Coburn's statement when she resigned from the salary negotiating committee.

"It has become apparent to me," Mrs. Coburn said, "the two teacher-board negotiating teams are not structured sufficiently independently to permit me to participate, and I would therefore ask to be replaced as a team member."

If that doesn't say conflict of interest, what does?