

Letters

Reasons must be clear to explain abnormal increases, he claims

It appears that the amount reported previously as overspent in the amount of \$106,790 in 1975 is made up of the two items, Parks and Recreation overspent \$23,136 and the Richmond Hill Library Board expenditures of \$79,654.

We are still waiting for Council to show why the Parks and Recreation budget programs increased 42.6 per cent and 73.5 per cent between 1975 and 1977.

The Treasurer reported revenues in part offset this increase but did not disclose to what extent.

Why is a statement not given showing revenue and expenditures applicable to these budget items rather than contain amounts in a consolidated fashion.

We would like to know where funds are spent and a statement as to the reason for such an expansion of the programs.

It is the taxpayer who foots the bill so reasons for abnormal increases should be clearly put forth.

Council has failed so far to do this.

Treasurer W. Darcy McKeough had advised late in 1975 that we were facing restraints in 1976 yet the council at that time (1) increased substantially the monies to be spent in Parks and Recreation and (2) inflated the Protection budget and Transportation budget resulting in large surpluses in the programs.

Council has not made any comments as to why the Protection and Transportation budgets are not brought into line with the actual expenditure.

The financial statements appear to show under 'actual' expenditures grants of \$294,500 in 1975 and \$320,218 in 1976 made to the Library Board rather than the actual expenditure of those grants.

This appears to be a normal procedure in the presentation of 'actual' expenditures and we feel that the Municipal Act should be amended so that the Library Board total expenditures of all the funds are included since the present method of accounting for these funds is undesirable.

Committee member thanks participants in Santa's parade

Many kind words have been said about the Santa Claus Parade this year and about the committee who took time to run it.

Needless to say we are very pleased that it went so well.

Credit should be given to those in the parade, for, without their participation, there would have been no parade.

For instance, did you know that the Richmond Hill No. 1 Fire Truck wasn't able to move on Wednesday.

Some of the firemen spent all day Thursday looking through auto junk yards for a motor part.

As you noticed, they must have found it.

Thanks, Richmond Hill Fire Department.

This is only one instance of many that we

heard about and possibly a lot we didn't hear about.

All we can say is "Thank You, all parade participants."

Your enthusiasm made it, we hope, an annual affair in our town.

Please keep November 19, 1978 open.

Doug Hinchcliffe
for the Santa Claus Parade Committee

Culture encompasses more than language, this reader states

Although I address my letter to you, it is really addressed to the school board and the Italian community.

In the first place, I find it ridiculous to label Jim Irving's article as "Teachers have enough trouble with English". That is not the point of the article.

We simply do not agree with the teaching of Italian in York County schools, nor with the teaching of any other language, save French.

As a social worker who has made several hundred visits to Italian homes in the past nine years, I am well aware of the fact that all Italian-Canadian children speak Italian first and English as a second language.

I await eagerly the third generation Italian-Canadian citizen as one of the brightest additions to the Canadian mosaic.

But culture encompasses far more than language.

A feeling for family, art, music, cuisine, wine and laughter need not be taught in schools.

It's a process by osmosis. As for the glorious literature, anything worthwhile has long ago been translated (usually several times) and most excellently, into English.

I sincerely hope the York County Board of Education will spend money on exposing our children to the legislature, the courts and the municipal government rather than the formal teaching of a language to children who already speak it.

The Italians have been the artists to the Western World. In fashion and furniture design, as well as the more traditional arts of painting and music, we have enjoyed their talents.

But like every other immigrant to Canada, they have come seeking jobs, better opportunities, tolerance and freely elected government.

Has it not been a fair trade?

Mrs. Ruth Cook,
79 Centre St. West,
Richmond Hill.

ED. NOTE: To clarify one point, the language issue was introduced at the York County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, not the York County Board of Education.



Serve to unite

Virginia Harris of Richmond Hill and Francois Meunier of Montreal share a happy moment during Francois' visit to The Hill which started last Friday. He spent the weekend here with 10 other Montreal area students as part of a Rotary exchange program, involving students between 14 and 18 years of age. One Rotarian noted the club's motto of "Unite to Serve" was reversed in this case as Rotarians "Serve to Unite".

R. Marquis, C.A.,
46 Roosevelt Drive,
Thornhill



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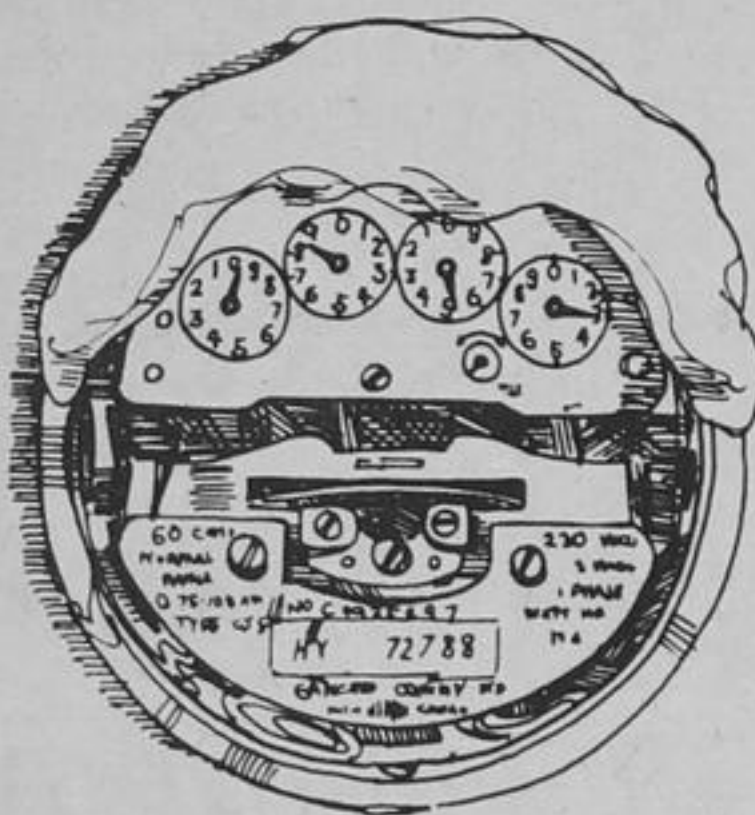
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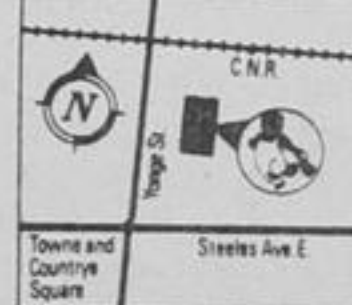
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