

Letters

Progress Club seeks help for big project

Multiple-handicapped deaf children — the deaf-blind, deaf-retarded, disturbed deaf — have long been seriously under-served from the standpoint of community-based remedial and rehabilitative services. But, thanks to the ef-

orts of Rev. Bob Rumball of the Ontario Mission for the Deaf and the 17 branches of the Canadian Progress Club, in Ontario, that situation is changing. On April 5, the Ontario Community Centre for the Deaf on Bayview

Avenue in Toronto will be officially opened. Built at a cost of \$7.3 million, of which approximately half was raised through the fund-raising programs of the Ontario Mission, the new Centre will accommodate 112 individuals on a live-in

care basis and upward of 500 to 1,000 on a daily multi-use-service basis, principally in the areas of children's services, workshop programs, services to the elderly and special events programming. Question. Where does

Richmond Hill's Progress Club come in? Answer — in its role, together with its sister clubs in Ontario, of funding the deficit of the Canadian Progress Centre for Multi-Handicapped Children —

actually a Centre in the Centre — where 22 children and youths from 3-18 years will be accommodated on a full-time basis. The Progress Centre will consist of 13, two-bed dormitories, a two-bed sick bay, a matron's apartment, a reading room, a games room and a television lounge.

Tickets to the baseball game are also available at a reduced rate with the difference going to local Progress Club charities. The ticket campaign has been modelled after a similar campaign, mounted in 1976, that raised \$44,000 for the Ontario Community

Centre for the Deaf and the Tim Horton Memorial Camp for Under-privileged Children. Richmond Hill Progress requests everyone in the community to support this project on behalf of its Centre for Multiple Handicapped Children. More, it invites anyone

who wishes to know more about the Canadian Progress Club and its community service and charitable activities to call Ron Gibbens, President, at 884-8916, after 5 p.m. Bob Higgs, Publicity Director Richmond Hill

Where have the parents gone, teacher wonders

Where have all the parents gone? On Thursday, February 22 at 8 p.m., an open forum called "Let's Talk About Children" was held at Aurora High School. Although this evening was well publicized and invited ALL parents, as well as teachers, to attend, fewer than 40 people appeared. This poor attendance included fewer than eight parents. The remainder of the

audience was made up of teachers (also parents in the system), master teachers, principals and trustees. Who is really concerned about the interests of children? If one were to draw a broad, generalized conclusion as a result of Thursday's event, one might conclude that "some" people in the educational system were concerned, but that it was certainly NOT the

parents. I, as a teacher, have been led to believe that Parent groups in this County, whether they be actively participating or in the formation stages, are VERY concerned about their children's education — about what "those teachers" are or are not doing in their classrooms, and whether their educational dollar is being spent in the best interests of their children. If this is true, where

have all these dedicated people gone? When they were provided with a format that would allow for educational information to be exchanged, dialogue to occur, and specific questions to be asked and answered honestly — where were they? They were not present. I would like to say a very special thank you to those who did attend. I appreciated the op-

portunity to share in your concerns and to have open dialogue with you. Hopefully, others in the future, will follow your excellent example and come forth to contribute something to education rather than to sit at home and criticize everything and everyone connected with this field. After all, YOUR children are the most important people in education today — aren't they? Thank you also to The Liberal for positive and informative coverage of that evening which appeared in the Wednesday, February 28 edition.

Phyllis Cannon, Primary Teacher, O.M. MacKillop School, Richmond Hill

Science Fair "exciting time"

We hope you can print this letter as a credit to the children, principal,

and staff at the Pleasantville Public School.

On Wednesday, February 28, they hosted their school community

at their Science Fair. What an exciting time!

About 100 Science projects were organized and displayed in the gym.

Children proudly guided their parents about, and everyone saw neighbors, old friends, and learned some Science from the youngsters.

The Science displays and studies were the work of children, carefully and individually designed, combining research, organization and creative endeavor.

It seems to us that learning activities of this valuable nature deserve at least equal space with all the gloom and doom of school closing articles that are presented each week.

In our opinion the teaching and motivating of children in their learning, using such positive and pleasant ways, deserves public attention and credit.

Bravo to all at Pleasantville who participated. Good luck to those who proceed on to the regional Science Fair.

Patricia and Nelson McKay, 213 Centre St. West, Richmond Hill

LACAC says thanks for station items

On behalf of the Local Architectural Conservation Authority Committee I would like to thank your paper for the articles you have run on the old Richmond Hill

Station. A generous offer was made by the Richmond Hill Minor Soccer Association to pay for moving the station to another site for use as

their club house. They will also refurbish the building. The offer was accepted by the Parks and Recreation Committee, to whom it was made, and the matter will come to Council for approval at their March 19 meeting.

We hope that your readers who wish to see the station building have a renewed life, and those who support the soccer club, will now help the club in whatever way they can.

An offer was made by Operation Catch-Up for use of the station at the same Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

We are sure that the publicity you have given the matter of finding a suitable use for the station contributed to the efforts made by these two groups.

Thank you. David C.F. Fayle, Chairman, LACAC

Mini-cabinet in Newmarket

Citizens of Richmond Hill concerned about the proposed hydro towers, Highway 407 or any controversial issue in the region will have the opportunity in April to question their cabinet minister.

invited are the Honourable James Auld, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and The Honourable James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications.

York North MLA, Bill Hodgson, has arranged an evening he calls a "Mini-Cabinet Meeting" and social night, inviting 16 ministers and the Premier of Ontario to attend. Included in the group

April 4 at the Newmarket Community Centre these ministers will mingle and answer questions for the people they represent.

"It is a place to come and ask cabinet ministers anything that is on your mind," said Mr. Hodgson.

Carnival accepted by people

Our Winter Carnival has again come and gone for the 11th year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Service Clubs, Companies and individuals who so willingly donated their time and money towards this community project.

Despite the severe cold over the three days, all the activities were completed and the size of the crowds demonstrated, to us, the acceptance of the Carnival by the people of Richmond Hill.

It is only with the continued support of the many people in town, such as yourself, that permits this carnival to continue to grow and be the success it is.

Thank you again. Bill Ruttle, Richmond Hill Winter Carnival Chairman

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