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Bishop's Cross

Markham should consider an appeal

The approval of townhouses in Bishop's Cross by the Ontario Municipal Board means that one owner has been let off the hook so that 194 more will suffer.
The Ontario Municipal Board, to the surprise of no one except Markham council, accepted the argument that the town's plan for an industrial development on 20 acres bounded by John Street, Highway 404, Don Mills Road, and Canadian National's Toronto bypass, was an attempt to freeze the property so it could not be developed for many years to come.
While the board conceded that not everyone had the same tolerance for noise, and could put up with living beside the railway tracks, the proposed residential development was still the best possible use for the land.
It relied heavily, as the board always does, on the evidence of the only expert on noise who was a witness for the developers.
One wonders why, given the number of trains rumbling through Markham, and the number of complaints from residents near the very same track, Markham did not retain its own expert on acoustics long ago.
This particular board hearing could be seen coming a mile away. There was plenty of time to prepare, but the town seems to have acted as usual, as if in a crisis. They dumped the whole thing on their town solicitor, hoping that he could get them off the hook. Or perhaps they underestimated the skill of the opposition.
If councillors feel as strongly as they seem to, that this site will be a poor place for people to live, they owe it to those people, as well as to the overtaxed police and social service agencies of York Region, who get stuck with the problems the town creates, to seriously consider an appeal.
They should also be demanding to know why the Region of York, which will get stuck with the police problems and the social services problems if this development is as bad as they think it is going to be, put up such a half-hearted attempt to stop it.

What you can find in a picture frame

Ruth Bishop of Richmond Hill and Thornhill Area Family Services was kind enough to submit a photo of an early Yonge Street building to us, but she unknowingly submitted a lot more than that.
When we removed the photo from its frame, we found a newspaper clipping pasted to its back.
Above it, someone had written "our first newspaper, its prospectus, and address."
Below, the clipping said: "York Ridings Gazette and Richmond Hill Advertiser".
The motto read: "With or without offence to friends or foes, I sketch your world exactly as it goes" and it was attributed to Byron. That was followed by the address and date: "Richmond Hill, Friday, June 12, 1857."
That was amazing enough, but there's more.
Holding the photo in its frame was a piece of harmless looking cardboard, which turned out to be a membership certificate to the International Association of Lions Clubs.
The new member was Albert R. Hill of the Richmond Hills Lions Club, and it was dated December 1942.
We'd love to hear from anyone with further information about the document.



yesterday
By MARY DAWSON

Shocking figures led to first health service

Out of 1316 children inspected by a nurse-doctor team in the early part of 1929, only 35 were found to be without apparent physical defects. This was the startling news presented in a report by the team on a demonstration conducted by the Ontario Department of Health in Richmond Hill, Markham Village and Markham Township.
Three hundred of the children came from Richmond Hill, 900 from Markham Township and 116 from Markham Village. Population of the municipalities at the time were Richmond Hill 1170, Markham Township 4,975 and Markham Village 945.
Besides visits to schools the team also visited 302 homes, giving instruction in health care and examining pre-school children.
Topping the list were 999 cases of defective teeth, 742 cases of abnormal tonsils, 366 cases of defective nasal breathing, 208 cases of defective vision and 70 cases of defective hearing. One tuberculosis suspect was identified as well as five children with cardiac disease and one with an orthopedic problem. Suffering from malnutrition were 207 children. All of these were referred to family physicians and dentists.
The team also sent home from school several suspected cases of measles and scarlet fever and their contacts and one case of pediculosis (head lice). Nine children were taken to clinics at the Sick Children's Hospital for assessment.
By the end of the school year 261 corrections had been undertaken with parents of other children promising to have the corrections done during the school summer holidays.
Convinced of the success of a public health nurse program the department advised that it be continued and offered to contribute \$500 to the estimated cost of \$2,000. It was suggested that the balance be split with Richmond Hill paying \$400, Markham Township \$800 and Markham Village \$300.
Although the boards of health of all three municipalities recommended that the service be continued, councils deliberated for some months with Richmond Hill holding a plebiscite to determine the wishes of voters.
The service was finally approved and continued to look after the health of children in the area until the York County Health Unit was formed about 1960.



(Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg)

Walking in the rain

By BOB RICE

Behind the supermarket scenes

CONFIDENTIAL MEMO
To: All Super Shopper Shafter Supermarkets Managers
From: Number ONE
Re: Recent Inspections

ITEM 1 - SHOPPING CARTS
As noted on recent inspections several stores have been complaining about condition of shopping carts. Not enough stores have been mixing the big carts with the little ones and this must be corrected immediately. It is important that the shopper must find large and small carts stuck together in the hope that they will resort to using the large ones which separate from the jammed aisle much easier.
N.B. Our supplier has assured us that a new supply of square wheels for the smaller carts will be shipped in the very near future.

ITEM 2 - PRODUCE
Stores 11, 26, 33, 59, 73, 102 and 231 are to be congratulated for their produce displays. Store 59 in particular is a shining example to other outlets of how to properly merchandise these items. The red lighting over the tomato section was cleverly hidden by some hanging plants which were priced higher than others so as not to sell too quickly.
The plastic bags on the celery were reversed in a manner that the lettering covered the withered ends of the product and the sign above the Spanish Onions was written so that the price of '59 cents' dominated the viewing area with only the smallest space possible left for the marking 'per pound'.
Store 102 receives honorable mention for the clever way that the more expensive navel oranges were constantly sprayed with a fine mist while the cheaper ones were allowed to wither under an excellently placed hot lamp and therefore discourage mass buying.

ITEM 3 - CANNED GOODS
It has been noticed that many of you have not followed the directive from this office issued on 2-17-79 re: placement of canned goods.
Extensive surveys have confirmed that our average shopper is a housewife in her mid-thirties, her husband earns an average of \$22,000 per year, there are two and one quarter children in the family, he drives a 1979 Ford LTD and she has a rusty '65 Pontiac and the average height is five feet-two and a half inches.
It was for this reason that we spent a considerable sum of money last fall and increased the height of our shelves from six feet-eight inches to seven feet-seven inches.
As per the aforementioned memo, store managers were to ensure that all cheaper lines of canned goods would be placed on the higher shelves and the more expensive brands (with a larger markup) were to be placed at eye level or below. I trust that I will not have to bring this matter to your attention again.

ITEM 4 - DAIRY SECTION
I wish to congratulate Fred Simpfert of Store 37 for his ingenuity re: placement of milk products. Fred has boosted his total milk profit by changing the location of the 2 per cent and Homo each week and has therefore upped his lagging Homo sales. Each Monday he reverses the position of these items at opposite ends of the cooler and by the time the shopper realizes the mistake she is already home stocking the fridge. Good work Fred... how about the rest of you.

ITEM 5 - MEAT SECTION
I am more than pleased with all of you and the way that you have been handling the recent increase in the price of beef. While I realize that, sooner or later, someone will catch us up on always blaming the farmer etc. etc., the way you have been able to inflate the price of pork and poultry to a level of public acceptance is to be commended.
I would like to mention Store 82 in particular for cleverly placing the price label over the word 'Utility Grade' on all of the chickens sold in the last week and a half. Keep it up guys... we at the Head Office have big plans for you.

SUMMARY
As a result of individual initiative and some very special effort, I am pleased to report that our first quarter profits are almost double those of the same time last year.

I have heard that some of the staff have been stumbling about not being able to keep food on the table and I trust that the managers and divisional reps have taken steps to remind these people that the next contract is not due for another two years and that we are aware of their problems.
The clogging of the express desk (I trust that all of you have now narrowed these down to one per store) has had a beneficial effect on sales with most shoppers continuing to load their carts while waiting for a space in the lineups and, in most cases, they exceed the '8 items or less' limit and therefore purchase more to justify their time spent in the main checkouts.
One last item to be dealt with and that is... complaints. Some of you have been taking half an hour for your lunch and the complaints have had to wait during this time. I would suggest that you all increase your lunch time to two hours... then maybe they will give up trying to reach you completely and we will not be bothered in future with this time-consuming nonsense.
Yours Truly
No.1 - No.78694
The ol' Millpond Philosopher once said... "Time means nothing to the person who isn't in a hurry!"

LIBERAL SPRINKLINGS

'Good Roads' THE convention

By LARRY JOHNSTON
Liberal News Editor
There is one assignment I have always wanted.

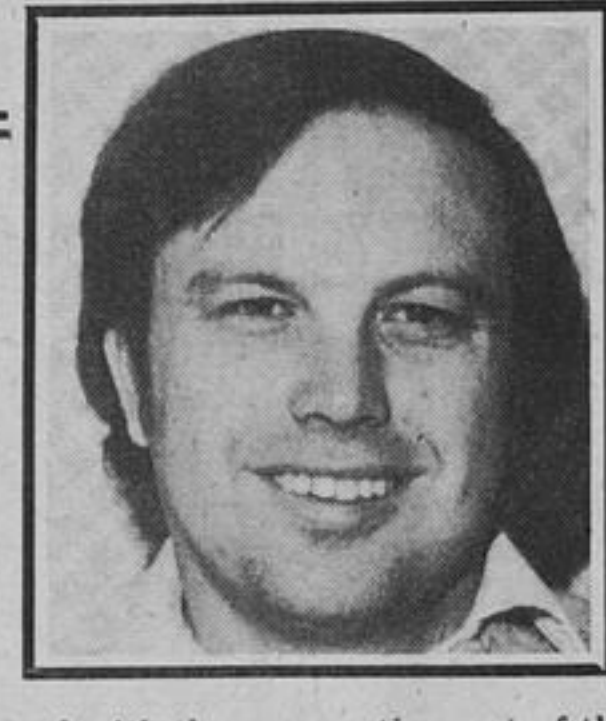
No, it isn't to go to the Riviera in search of Margaret Trudeau, or even to Florida to look for signs of violence in the Blue Jays training camp, or even (sorry, Tony) to become the first Liberal correspondent in Peking.
All I really want to do is cover the annual convention of the Ontario Good Roads Association. It took place this year, so far as anyone can remember, in the second last week in February.
Thousands of municipal politicians from all over the province descended on the capital. Their presence, as usual, attracted engineering consultants, and heavy equipment manufacturers and even got provincial cabinet ministers out of their lairs.
The question is why? What is it that makes Good Roads THE convention for municipal politicians.
Most county councils authorize their entire roads committee to attend the convention, and more surprising, most members actually show up. Former East Gwillimbury Mayor Gladys Rolling reports

everyone on her council except her used to go. Garnet Williams was there this year for Vaughan.
Nor is the Region of York immune. It rents a suite on your behalf.

\$1,200 BUDGET
Richmond Hill also rents a suite, but for just two days of the four-day convention and it also sponsors a luncheon. The town's budget is \$1,200 for the event, a lot less than it used to be, according to treasurer Bill Rice. It is a chance to meet the people with whom the town does business, he explained.
Markham councillors attended a Sunday night reception given by their favorite consultant.

My curiosity in the affair was first aroused in 1972 when I discovered that 30 members of Leeds and Grenville Counties Council attended at the taxpayers' expense.
What is the big attraction? Is it that whole row of hospitality suites, as one councillor explained, where they serve hors d'oeuvres? (At least, I think he said hors d'oeuvres.)
Is it the chance to have most of the benefits of a vacation without ever leaving the hotel?
Is it the chance to hear Bill Davis make a speech?
Or is it, most of all, a chance to have one's faith restored in the great God Car.

The convention is conservative, (both with a small and a large C) in flavor. Its dogma is that good roads are the backbone of Ontario, and that if we don't go on building them, the economy will come to a faltering halt.
With the construction-development industry number one, and the automobile industry number two, it is not a difficult doctrine to preach. The Good Roads convention is the perfect forum for anyone who wants to preach it.
Just last year, delegates were reassured that you only have to get three people into your car, and it is more effective, from the point of view of energy conservation, than running a municipal bus system.
There
This is a self-fulfilling prophecy, of course. Bus systems will continue to be inefficient, so long as MTC is handing them out to whoever asks for them, at conventions or elsewhere, instead of to the few large cities in the province who need them.
It is fortunate that rural municipalities are not interested in bus systems (except for schools). The average reeve will go home happy in the knowledge that his 50, 60 or 80 per cent subsidy on gravel will continue for another year.



And with the convention out of the way, spring cannot be far behind.
FOOTNOTE
Those who are afraid that a few years in politics may stop their climb up the business ladder, might be interested in the case of William H. Somerville, who was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Metropolitan Trust Company March 21.
He already holds the same position with Victoria and Grey Trust and is president of the holding company which controls them both. They have combined assets of close to \$3 billion.
Mr. Somerville, when he was assistant general manager with V. and G., was a hard-working member of Stratford city council circa 1970. When he was put on the finance committee (get this, Markham) taxes were CUT.
Needless to say, he would not have been caught dead at a Good Roads convention. In fact, in 1971, council went out of its way to say that no one be authorized to attend the convention.

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