

Tourism promotion important for York

Let's hear it for Michael McDonald, councillor for Georgina, for convincing his fellow Regional members it is time York got off its rear end and did something to promote its own image.

He went through considerable trouble to outline the potential we have for the tourist industry and how a little bit of advertising and promotion could go a long way.

He didn't stress enough the economic importance tourism represents in a region so diverse in cultural and historical richness.

He figures it's high time each municipality did some limited studies on their own, pool the necessary knowledge and produce a concerted effort to draw more people, create more jobs and get more people involved in selling the idea York Region is a good place to visit and explore.

The idea makes sense. Take a look at some of the older towns and villages and you'll see they're steeped in history.

Richmond Hill, Aurora, Markham and Newmarket are only a few of the larger ones.

Take, for example, some of the smaller hamlets and villages — so much could be done to make them special tourist attractions. Historical settings like Thornhill, Unionville, Victoria Square, Kleinburg — are of immense social and cultural value.

But some Regional Councillors would rather procrastinate and obscure that potential by including a tourism addendum in the Region's Transportation Study and paper on Economic Policy.

It's unfortunate Richmond Hill's Gord Rowe would want to stuff an idea as good as this one, at the back of more bureaucratic gobbledeyook.



(Photo by Bruce Hogg)

404 thunders north

By BOB RICE

Terror when Rice started in school

Well gang. . . I guess we survived. As I look around The Liberal offices I see that most of the staff made it through the summer months with the kids at home, more or less unscathed.

As the doors of the institutes of learning opened yesterday, one could hear a singular sigh of relief and things are, generally speaking, getting back to normal.

I am trying to remember my first day at school in Richmond Hill and about the only things that I can recall are scratchy breeches, slicked down hair, Mom's reassuring words and SHEER TERROR!

I believe I walked up the stairs of the school like a condemned murderer going to his fate but, other than these brief flashbacks, the rest of it all is just a blur.

LOOKING BACK

One of the benefits of working for a paper such as The Liberal is the ability to seek out old copies of the paper and with such aid be able to take a look back on your own life.

As a matter of fact, in thumbing through some of the issues of September, 1949, some news of the old town has a few parallels with what is happening today.

The September 1 Liberal carried a story on the front page dealing with the Richmond Hill Public School Board and its decision to discontinue school bus service to the kids attending from outside the town.

It seems that the village and the townships couldn't reach agreement on the issue and the children would have to make it to the school under their own power.

At the same time, Richmond Hill had finalized the wording of a question to be put to a vote by the villagers on whether or not they were in favor of replacing the old radial trams with buses on the Yonge Street route between here and Toronto.

By the way, in case you think that the entire front page was all serious business I should point out that the entire left side of the sheet was devoted to an ad for The Richmond Theatre, which was showing no fewer than five features that week PLUS a featurette AND the news and a cartoon.

The issue of September 8 carried a front page story that I would like to lift the first two paragraphs from:

"Considerable public feeling had been expressed regarding the erection of new Hydro poles on Baker Avenue, Richmond Hill, members of the village council were told at their meeting on September 1, and in consequence Hydro Superintendent L. J. Roy was asked to give an explanation.

"At the conclusion thereof councillors expressed their approval of his actions and in addition, expressed complete confidence in him and in Hydro management."

Sounds familiar. . . eh? The people of Vaughan Township were also facing a possible hardship that week with the report of a truck and bus accident that 'badly stove in' the front of the former vehicle. Unfortunately, this particular truck was the only one used by Vaughan for garbage pickup.

By mid-month the bus service for school children had been restored and the school board reported that enrollment was up by 10 per cent, Hilltop Electric was selling kitchen ranges from \$219.50 to \$350 and Stan Ransom celebrated 20 years of barbering at his shop on Yonge.

KITTEN STORY

One story that caught my eye on the front page of the September 22 issue was about a little kitten that had been born at Elgin Mills. It seems that the tabby came into the world with seven claws on each of the front paws and five on the back ones. It is odd that the item appeared next to a picture of actress Claudette Colbert. . . get it? . . . Claw-dette Col. . . oh forget it!

The month ended with the news that Richmond Hill's population was nearing the 2,000-mark and that the vote on radial vs. buses had gone in favor of the diesel burning dinosaurs.

I guess I also completed my first month at school with some degree of success because, for one reason or another, they allowed me to continue in October.

Wait a minute, I think something else is also coming back to me from that far and distant past.

I see a vision of a cute little redhead with great big freckles and a tooth missing from the top row and. . .

The ol' Millpond Philosopher once said. . . "Look for the silver lining . . . and you'll probably find 'Inspected By Number 33!'"

Letters

Where to get well water

During the referendum on fluoridation some years ago in Richmond Hill, a sufficient number of us found evidence enough of its harmful effects to have it rejected. Subsequent developments have made the case against it even stronger. Considering the risk to health, and considering too the proportion of water that is used for watering lawns, bathing, laundering, washing cars, industrial processing and so on, to fluoridate the water in order to harden the teeth of children from 12-14, when it is better done by putting calcium fluoride tablets in their drinking water, seemed then, and still does seem, a costly absurdity.

However, now that our vote against fluoridation has been rescinded by the cabinet, and our taps run with fluoridated water from Toronto, those who share my views on the dangers of sodium fluoride will be glad to know that the Town has left open one well at Oak Ridges, from which citizens may fill their containers with un-fluoridated water for drinking.

Chapter thanks Liberal

We realize that this is late in coming to you, but nevertheless we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your assistance in the announcement of our General Meeting held on Wednesday, May 2, 1979, at the Richvale Community Centre.

We do apologize for the delay in conveying our thanks but, as you can appreciate, it took some time for us to get back "on track" since the reshuffling of our Executive Members. Thanks again for your assistance in the past.

(Mrs.) Rosa Lym, Secretary, Ontario Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, York Region Chapter, Richmond Hill

If one turns west from Yonge Street on the King City Side Road and turns south on the first road, it leads into a lot on which stand the Library, Firehall, and a red brick building, on whose wall is the tap that supplies well water. I understand that a sign 'Potable Water' is to be placed above it, but this is not yet in place.

I am sure that the Chairman of the Works Committee, which has

Many have tried to stop towers

In answer to Shaaron Hay's question "Does anyone care if hydro towers mess us up?", I would say yes, some of us do care.

We have worked very hard and have gone through all the legitimate channels to get the message through to our servants in Queen's Park.

Our mayor and some members of council have also worked hard.

Much less input has come from Vaughan and Markham.

The secret decision to move the towers from their original northern route has never been explained. Instead we are met with a blank refusal to reconsider the route through the south end of our town.

What is left for the citizen to do?

Children raise \$50 for Muscular Dystrophy

On August 10th we held a Muscular Dystrophy Carnival at 23 Penwick Crescent in Richmond Hill.

We had a lot of fun and raised over \$50.

We would like to thank the following stores for supplying prizes: Simpsons, Leisure World, Stainless Steel Stores,

been responsible for making this provision would appreciate receiving letters from those making use of it. If we are now a minority (and this is not established by any vote) it is important that the Committee knows that we are not ungrateful for their consideration.

Yours faithfully, N. Roy Clifton, Wood Lane, Richmond Hill

As a senior citizen, I feel a great well of frustration and rage that a group of pompous and unfeeling politicians in Queen's Park can make decisions that may be detrimental to our health.

Decisions that most certainly will ruin our environment and devalue the properties in the vicinity of the towers.

The Davis government and his cronies in Ontario Hydro have shown a blatant and arrogant attitude to the concerns of the citizens of Richmond Hill and should be given short shrift in the next election.

In other words, Throw The Rascals Out.

Audrey Dembeck, 28 Garden Avenue, Thornhill.

LIBERAL SPRINKLINGS

Please, let's get back to normal

By STEVE PEARLSTEIN, Liberal News Editor

Though it's not official yet, the traditional end of summer is upon us.

We're all sorry to see, what has been on the average, a good season slip away. However there are some redeeming features of heading into Fall and ultimately — yetch! — winter. One of them is that almost everything can shift back into normal gear.

Take, for example, The Liberal. Yes, that pile of newsprint you either haven't seen all summer long or at best, have found dozens of excuses not to read upon regular Wednesday delivery.

Who me, you say, blushing six shades of magenta. You bet, because the editorial crew here at the paper (especially the writer) can PROVE you haven't been reading our beloved. If you take a look at the last five editions, the reasons are not hard to fall over.

It's not as if we don't admit to some rather obvious mistakes — summer holidays take their toll on manpower here as well as anywhere else. There hasn't been a full staff of writers and-or editors since mid-July, but I'm sure you have your own blues to cry about.

What mistakes? Well, a couple of weeks ago did you see the front page of the Thornhill edition? It contained a light news story about Regional Chairman Bob Forhan and his intransigence over the use of regional roads by movie production companies.

By some quirk of fate, the story was being used on the front and it slipped onto page two. Under a different headline, naturally.

Days were when we would receive at least 10 letters telling us what kind of incompetent

clods we are but I guess we were saved by the summer doldrums.

Good thing the editor happened to be on vacation or else we might not have been around to notice the lack of response from regular readers.

UPSIDE DOWN

There have been other recent gaffes. One that comes to mind was a feature story which appeared on one of the section fronts in last week's paper. Once you find it, take a good look at the accompanying picture: it's upside down.

Of course, these are all honest mistakes — the results of a number of factors not the least of which is human frailty.

The whole point goes back to the change in season. Now that everybody plans to get a little more serious about his daily business, you can help us improve your weekly newspaper by letting us know what is wrong with it. Or what is right with it, for that matter.

To meet the end of producing a better product, The Liberal is currently undergoing a change from standard typewriters and design to electronic editing and makeup. These new machines (called Video Display Terminals or VDT's) can store, edit, add, delete or insert (among a hundred other functions) thousands of characters of information with the touch of a few simple command buttons.

The newspaper and its staff in editorial, advertising and classified departments should be operational with the electronic gadgetry soon.

MOVIE

I couldn't let this column go by without mentioning and giving a few short thoughts on



the movie "Apocalypse Now", by Francis Coppola.

The hype for the film really had me built up and I can't say I was disappointed. The film, I feel, is a masterpiece, in that it has an effect on you not only as you watch it but long after you're out of the theatre. The ending, unfortunately, was almost incongruous for such an excellent theme, but you may like the way Coppola chose to finish it. The point of climax is also debatable.

The cinematography and the sound were probably the best I've ever seen and heard and if you have a chance to see Apocalypse in quadrophonic Dolby sound, do so, because that alone is worth the \$5 admission. I'll be surprised if it doesn't win an Oscar for best sound.

The plot of the movie is much simpler than its \$31 million history of production delays and technical problems. It is about a brilliant army colonel who gets carried away with his newfound power in Cambodia, during the height of the Viet Nam war. He is played by Marlon Brando.

Martin Sheen plays a Special Forces Captain (Willard) whose assignment is to take a long trip up a river (which originates in Viet Nam) catch up with Colonel Kurtz and terminate him with "extreme prejudice". What happens to him along the way is the basis of the movie.

If you don't like bloody, visceral war films, Apocalypse Now is not for you.