#### Liberal

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Wednesday, October 3, 1979

## Children are needed for annual parade

Parade has been, in terms of participants and spectators, a resounding success.

In terms of children, it's been SO-SO.

parade was revived after being very near death, a group of people worked long and hard to bring a parade to Richmond Hill that include: best Commercial float; would delight everyone.

waste of time, and even if it succeeded through one year, it could never run two in a row.

This year will be the third consecutive season for the parade, mittee that begins its planning and volved in the parade as clowns. preparations when the rest of us are out water-skiing.

facing a recurring problem. How do you get the children involved in the parade?

Since this year's parade is tied directly with children, the committee is hoping that all schools in Richmond Hill will make an extra special effort to enter their floats.

Last year, only three schools out of 15 participated.

But, based on its theme from you.

For the last couple of years, "Christmas is for Children", which the Richmond Hill Santa Claus brings the Year of the Child into play, the committee is optimistic that most schools in Richmond Hill will participate.

Trophies will be awarded for the best Elementary School float Two years ago, when the and the best Secondary School float. That competition should arouse students in The Hill.

Other trophies to be awarded best Non-Commercial float; best The skeptics said it was a Theme float; best Majorettes; and the Mayor's Trophy.

That means a brilliant school float could scoop up to three trophies.

Meanwhile, children who are a tribute to a hard working com- over 11 years of age can get in-

The committee says it needs 200 of them. The clowns will be But the committee is still busy entertaining the crowds and handing out goodies along the parade route.

If you're a youngster interested in any of this, or a teacher who wants a class to build the best float in the world, call Frank Gallant at 884-7005, or Doug Hinchcliffe at 884-3990 for further information.

They'll be delighted to hear

#### **ENERGY SAVERS**

Five sliding glass windows on the south side of the pool area have been closed off to avoid heat loss.

Because this new wall reduces lighting in the pool area the number of lights has been increased from 15 to 36, BUT this will still result in a saving because metal-halide bulbs are in use rather than incandescent bulbs.

'This is a trend in lighting for pools,' said John Pirie, aquatic supervisor for the town, 'and should save us about 20 per cent.'

Lighting in the dressing rooms and foyers has also been changed, this time from incandescent to fluorescent, another promised saving of about 20 per cent, said Mr. Pirie.



#### **YESTERDAYS**

By MARY DAWSON

of a field threshing from to the other. threshing went on until the threshing floor. and after winter had The team was unhit- during the winter. really set in.

If the farmer had not head of the gangway.

was a barn thresher. crop year, the last week sling was released and extending from there to of July we transferred the the sheaves tumbled the machine. heavy wheat crop to the down, the sling being As much distance as barn. I was delegated to retrieved as the little possible from the fram help my 14-year-old male trolley returned it to the As much distance as cousin on the wagon, wagon and both ends of possible from the frame primarily to keep me out another sling were at- building was essential from underfoot, I think, tached. In the meantime because of the danger of a and I did drive the team the team had been spark from the engine's from stook to stook, returned to the top of the smoke stack igniting the although they would gangway. probably have made the This procedure was barn which could be very short trip and the stop repeated over a period of heavy if the grain was

me.

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In my last column I of wood, which stretched months

that had been garnered field to the barn and up would be blown.

ched and stationed at the

mow in the barn. I spent hoisting the sling with its feet of snow over the grain mow.

Since it was an early There one end of the the long leather belt

without any help from two days until the whole infected with rust or crop was in the mow. The smut The same type of flat wagon, slings and horses In a barn threshing the bed farm wagon with high had already been used grain usually was wooden racks was used before I arrived on the deposited in wheel but additional equipment farm to fill the hay mow barrows which were was needed in the shape on the other side of the wheeled away directly of slings of several threshing floor with into the granary, usually strands of rope held in enough hay to feed the accessible from the place and apart by slats stock during the winter threshing floor.

884-8177

884-0981

881-3373

recalled some memories from one end of the wagon When the threshing outfit arrived in late fall, my childhood, but from On these, layer after the threshing machine harvest until bad weather layer, the load was built would be set up on the there were not enough carefully to eliminate any threshing floor with the days to accomplish all the danger of the wagon long metal pipe extending threshing of wheat, oats, tipping as the team of our over the barnyard barley, buckwheat, etc. horses drew it from the where the stack of straw

that season. In fact the earthen gangway to This was used for bedding the animals

Sometimes when the cattle were let out during made his reservation in Then one sling at a time the winter for exercise time for a field threshing was attached to a con- they would nibble at the threshing then the pulling a long rope at- stack would resemble a sheaves of grain had to be tached to this was driven huge yellow mushroom transferred to the grain down the sloping drive, crowned with a couple of

the summer of 1919 on my load to the main beam of When threshing time Uncle Willie's farm in the barn and across that came the steam engine Caradoc Township and he main beam until it was would be located at the foot of the gangway with

straw or the dust in the

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#### So long, old friend

#### LIBERAL **SPRINKLINGS**



By DOREEN LIVINGSTONE Liberal Correspondent

It's back to school time. That's what the signs told us in book stores, and department stores, signalling the end of summer vacation. These signs just added insult to injury to

the thousands of secondary school students in York County because they didn't know if and when they were going back to school.

It may have been a mixed blessing for those lucky vacationers who had no idea what was happening. Unfortunately I was around town; my children were aware as were some of their friends. You could tell by the frequent phone calls asking if we had heard anything

When I arrived home from that fateful York County Board meeting at which the board voted to lock out the teachers, my daughters met me at the door.

You could see the pained look on their faces when I said that the teachers had been locked out; although we had discussed what might happen prior to the meeting and they were aware of the pros and cons.

They would have been pleased if I could have just said "everything's been settled and you can go back to school on Tuesday."

Although students are elated when the last or if he preferred a barn traption and the team straw until by spring the day of school arrives and complain a lot as ·Labor Day approaches, for most of them it's just being one of the crowd.

One of my daughters was wondering if she would ever get to high school. All through Grade 8 she had been looking forward to her first day and now all she could do was read the paper and listen to the news reports on the radio. For once there was a lot of news about York County.

ANXIOUS

The other one, who is in Grade 11, was anxious to return to the friends, teachers and activities she had missed during the summer. They still trooped off to Coles and Grand and Toy to purchase their school supplies along with all the other students "just in case" and were planning what to wear the first day of school "just in case".

The Labor Day weekend to me is a blur of the Jerry Lewis Telethon, listening to radio reports of Hurricane David (That was before Frederick) and news about York County. I often complain that the news media in Metro never reports anything about York County but after that weekend it was beginning to be a bore.

It was decided school lunches would be made in the morning since it was well on into the evening and there was no word. The phones kept ringing, neighbors and friends wondering what the decision would be . . . and finally via telephone we heard the wonderful news; there would be school the next day. We all made a bee-line for our TV set and turned on channel 10 and there was the confirmation on the screen.

School was on and everything seemed normal until the girls arrived home. Even then everything seemed normal. No, they didn't get all their required text books, attendance wasn't taken in all classes but in some first names were asked. As I was listening to a radio report that said homework was not given out my daughters had been spending the past hour doing theirs. The problem was that not all schools had this near normalcy and the parents could only judge by what happened at their children's schools.

MEETING That evening I got word that a hastily arranged meeting had been called so I was not as shocked as perhaps others were when they awoke the next morning to hear the schools had been closed.

Indeed a neighbor had heard part of it on the 7 a.m. news and phoned me in disbelief to find out if it was true.

On my part I phoned around to others, some who had heard the news late the night before and others who were in the midst of sending their kids off to school.

One trustee hopped in a car and alerted all the students in the area who were waiting at school bus stops. And darn it, there sat those school lunches.

Out of every sad tale comes a humorous incident. At one school a male student was surprised to find out his gym teacher was female and even more surprised that he was in an all female gym class. When he complained about this he was told that someone else in his position would have been delighted.

Strikes and lock-outs became familiar words in our daily conversation. When asked to do something one of my daughters laughingly said she had decided to "work to rule" at which point my husband snapped back "then I guess we'll have to lock you out".

They say sometimes a little humor helps relieve the tension and we needed it that week. ROUTINE?

By Thursday night of the "first week of school" we were once again listening to the radio and watching cable TV but at this point I can't remember exactly when we heard the news of ratification; the important thing was that we heard it.

I can't even remember if the lunches were made that night or the next morning but the kids finally went to school with their books and their lunches and this procedure has been repeated every school day since.

Who says routine is boring?

#### By BOB RICE

## The 94 steps to tranquility

As October starts to hurry by, there seems to be a reluctance in the human animal to succumb to the intrusion of winter without some kind of fight.

As a result we try to find things to do to fill the Autumn hours and squeeze every last second of daylight into some form of activity so that winter's dark days are more acceptable.

There is one sanctuary not far from Richmond Hill and I would like to share this place with you. Thornton Bales Conservation Area is located on the Mulock Sideroad just west of Bathurst Street about two and a half miles due west of Newmarket

You may have been to other conservation areas before but I doubt if they can match the rugged beauty and gentle tranquility of this one.

You see, dear reader . . . to be able to enjoy the Bales refuge, you must descend some 94 (others claim 97) dirt and wood steps to the floor of a gully that was ripped open during the retreat of the glaciers.

Once down the steep incline you can follow some of the paths made by your predecessors or strike out on your own towards who-knowswhere.

The carpet on which you walk is soft and comfortable, having been made from the deceased trees and plants of the valley in the unending cycle of life.

At this time of year you may come across a giant puffball or several species of mushrooms as the unique fungi make their last bid for life prior to the coming of the first snowfall. Thornton Bales is also a great place for the

children. Our two girls never get bored with

visiting the area and each trip provides new fun for them as well as healthy exercise. My oldest collects acorns and has found a new hobby by transforming the nuts into little dolls with the aid of some glue, material and

imagination. Our youngest daughter enjoys the freedom to explore and acquires a new walking stick on each trip to Bales in addition to a growing leaf

collection. It is the seclusion, however, that continually attracts us to this small gash in the earth. To be sure your reverie can be interrupted by the sound of jet engines flying high above the forest canopy, but . . all in all . . it provides a few relaxing hours away from telephones, television and those other modern conveniences that make

up much of our lives. Should you decide to drop by this unique place I would like to give you three tips . . . first . . try to get there before mid-afternoon since it is becoming quite popular with the new residents of the north end of The Region; second . . don't bother hauling a big picnic hamper down onto the floor of the valley (there are picnic tables up at the entrance level); and . . most importantly

. take your time when walking through the area because when you are ready to go home . . you still have to go back UP those 94 steps . . puff puff!

The ol' Millpond Philosopher once said . . "A rose by any other name is still a rose . . . and a skunk is also a skunk!



# Letter

#### A simple method to cross border

Ron Wallace, The Liberal

Dear Ron,

description of your dif- anism. ficulties in crossing and Ron (Atkey) and Flora You'll be able to go "Racist". Loudly return crossing the 49th (Macdonald) will be on where you like, when you So get crackin', Ron. parallel (Liberal the welcoming mat, like, in North America; Sprinklings, September backed up by language maybe carry your own

this past 10 years?

cheekbones flattened, your new home. (Mind your eyes slanted, and you don't sink too deep in maybe lose about 60 the red carpet, so cutting kilograms if it makes ((optional)).

hurt either.

black your face, in which choice. case you can skip the weight reduction.

Get pregnant, too. I don't care how.

But, Ron, where you bin dialects, or chet, or machete with you Shakespearian English, You're just not with it. buckets of spending Why don't you get your money, and the keys to pounds (or make that off your mumbled thanks

Joe Clark will greet you A dose of TB and in- in the language of your fectious hepatitis, with a choice (please state) and dash of poverty won't conclude with a brief blessing in the religious Alternatively you might style of (again) your

You will then be ready to become a true Canadian, which is well, I just can't think

comes to me.

teachers expert in argots, little switchblade, hat-

You will then have all what it is for the moment in case some stuffy local the necessary points to be - I've heard it's a law or law enforcement showered with the sweet member of a huddle in a officers gets in your road. blessings of holy muddle - but I'll write Any time you swing I so enjoyed the Canadian humanitari- you later when (if) it your hatchet, always remember to holler

> Sid Britton, 84 Hillview Road Aurora

More letters See
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