

Vandalism growing — what are solutions?

Vandalism is, or seems to be, on the increase in the areas of Richmond Hill and Thornhill. Why?

The Richmond Hill and Thornhill Ministerial Associations attacked that question last week, using the resources of the York Regional Police and a well-known psychiatrist.

Below is the result of that meeting, outlining the causes and possible solutions to the problem.

Whatever is causing this outbreak in the community may not be known but one fact is emerging — it's expensive.

The author of the article below says that schools are now required

to pay \$5,000 deductible on insurance policies, which costs the taxpayers significantly, especially following the attack on Bayview Secondary School last week when 69 windows were smashed.

The group may have touched on the reasons for vandalism by the youth of the community, and maybe they haven't. An open forum on the subject in the next few weeks may reveal some reasons that haven't occurred to the group. Your thoughts are needed.

In the meantime, read what happened at last week's meeting with the Ministerial Associations.

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By Rev. MORAR MURRAY-HAYES
St. Mathew's United Church

In last week's Liberal, as usual, the York Regional Police Report included several crimes of vandalism and several arrests of juveniles.

This was the concern of the Richmond Hill and Thornhill Ministerial Associations who met jointly last Wednesday to discuss youth and violence.

The act of violence among youth was defined as "rule breaking behavior performed by juveniles aware that they are violating the law and of the nature of their deed".

With the help of guest speakers Constable Robert Cunningham of the York Bureau, York Regional Police; and Dr. John Denison, psychiatrist and school board trustee, the ministers investigated the causes of violence — particularly vandalism — among youth.

CAUSES

Dr. Denison cautioned them that there is no one root cause and that each individual is unique, but the following causes seemed to be common ones: "There's nothing else to do"; aggression against society; "it's fun"; the modification of moral judgment by alcohol and/or drug consumption; peer pressure; crowd behavior; anger which cannot be expressed openly towards another for fear of destroying that person or of retaliation, and so a substitute is sought; poor self-image, relationship problems; social deprivation; lack of consistent love and discipline; lack of consistent moral example; family problems.

SOLUTIONS

What do you do once the problem has occurred?

Both speakers emphasized the absolute necessity of reporting the act to the police and encouraging the youth to make restitution to the victim.

That affirms the youth's sense of responsibility and discourages future involvement.

If parents cover up or "fix" the situation, the youth is liable to lose self-respect.

The Youth Bureau has three main options in treating those up to 16 years of age: the youth may be cautioned and asked to make personal restitution to the victim; the youth may be involved in one of the Bureau's own more structured, community oriented restitution programs; the youth may be put on probation and referred to a professional for counselling.

PREVENTION

In the area of prevention most important is consistent discipline and love and a consistent pattern of ethical behavior in parents.

It is important to recognize the negative aspects of behavior in a son or daughter as well as the positive.

One suggestion for both prevention and cure made by Dr. Denison was for a disciplined, legitimate form of physical activity that both promotes a better self image and channels anger and aggression.

Good security, external lighting and parental involvement in young people's lives and activities were all mentioned as preventatives.

If schools and parents encourage young people to make their feelings known and respond to positive suggestions, youth will feel less alienated from family and institutions and may be less likely to commit acts of violence.

The Youth Bureau functions to prevent violence by conducting educational programs in schools and other community organizations.

The Bureau is limited, however, to a staff of our men, with two on duty at a time. With the increase in violence among youth, one wonders why this area does not have more priority.

It would also be beneficial to see some women officers working for the Bureau. The Youth Bureau works with youth up to 16 years of age. Surely this is the most important time to prevent crime in older adolescents and adults.



(Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg)

By BOB RICE

I don't believe computer story

How do you like that? I leave the country for two weeks and the Editor loses my column.

I hope you didn't fall for that nonsense about the computer not working. I've heard some pretty lame excuses in my day but to blame a poor defenseless computer... how low you have sunk, Mr. Wallace.

I will give our Grand Poobah his due. He could have easily shuffled his mistake under the rug by claiming there wasn't enough space for my column or that there was a mix up at the press but he took his lumps and admitted his error, albeit in a somewhat dubious manner.

However, I can't stay mad at him for long since I have just had the fun of two weeks in the sun in St. Lucia (and the fact that he signs the paycheques).

The big problem with going away for a holiday is getting back into the swing of things when you return.

For 14 leisurely days I ignored both the watch and the calendar. Now I realize that not only is Christmas just three weeks away but, more importantly, this is your last week to enter my Christmas Present Contest.

That's right, oh great and wonderful reader, the deadline for your Christmas Cards to be mailed is Midnight, December Ninth and then... it's all over.

On Wednesday the Twelfth, I'll reach my grubby little paws into the pile of mail that we have received and one of you will be the winner of the Panasonic Portable TV-Radio as a special present from good old Bob.

Please keep in mind that all you have to do is send me a Christmas Card and don't forget to include your name, address and phone number. You can enter as many times as you wish but each entry MUST be mailed separately and keep in mind the December Ninth deadline.

I have even convinced our intrepid photographer Bruce (what's an f stop?) Hogg to take a picture of the lucky person and Ron Wallace has agreed to publish it right here in The Liberal. (I did what??? rw) What more could you ask?

So how about it, folks? Why not dash out right now (unless you are reading this in bed) and grab several cards, write down all the information, say some nice things about me if you want, spoil your tastebuds by licking some stamps and get the cards to your nearest mailbox.

The address to send to is:
**BOB RICE CHRISTMAS PRESENT
THE LIBERAL
BOX 390
RICHMOND HILL, ONT.
L4C 4Y6**

I'll be keeping my toes crossed for you. The ol' Millpond Philosopher once said... "To err is human... to blame a machine is one way of getting off the hook!"

The ol' Newspaper Philosopher (Ron Wallace) once said: "Anyone who takes off for two weeks to lay around the beaches and do nothing deserves to have his column eaten by a computer. Burp."

Letters

Bah, humbug, she says to Baskin & Robbins

With Hillcrest Mall in Richmond Hill staying open late Saturday evenings until Christmas we decided to take the children for a special treat.

Most stores were advertised to be open until 9:30 p.m. a few 10 p.m. so the kids even had an afternoon nap so they could stay up quite late.

Saturday, December 1 was a snowy day and road conditions were not all that good but we still went and we were glad we did.

The three children had so much fun seeing the decorations and going from one toy department to another, while my husband and I played hide and seek trying to purchase a few things without them seeing us. We decided to finish the evening with an ice cream cone each; it's a good idea to END the evening this way as not too many stores really care to welcome three cute but ice-cream-sticky kids.

So, leaving one end of the mall at 9:20 p.m. we walked down to Baskin & Robbins for ice creams.

As the children were choosing their flavors I requested "three cones please", but was told we

were too late; they had closed their cash register.

I pointed out that it had only just turned 25 minutes past and the children were promised an ice cream so could we PLEASE get them.

We were told "No", and that although their own

big clock said we still had four minutes until closing, the sales clerk's watch said 9:30.

So, what do you do in this situation?

We explained to the kids and off we went only to turn and see the sales clerk handing over an ice

cream to her friend with a laugh.

So, Baskin & Robbins, you can keep ALL your flavors, and to Beckers, where we finally bought cones. A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

S. Barnes
Thornhill

No room for humans in transit politics, this reader claims

travelling on the Bayview Bus.

In fact, I learned no passengers may leave the bus south of Highway 7, while proceeding north.

It was highly un-

fortunate for five young women. Walking in the dark is not exactly safe for women.

However, the politics behind GO Transit are the cold hard facts of life.

It's a system controlled by money.

Human beings are mere particles amidst the swirl of boundaries, towns, council meetings and party politics.

Need I say more? Unfortunately, God is not being adhered to amongst the confusion.

God would be concerned about women walking in the dark; especially from Highway 7 to John Street.

Margaret Donovan
366 Browdale Cresc.
Richmond Hill

LIBERAL SPRINKLINGS

They sing in Subway

By STEVE PEARLSTEIN
Liberal News Editor

Thornhill residents Gina and Rick Rae hope to make singing a full time career and to help achieve that goal, they became the first musicians officially licensed to entertain in Toronto's subway stations.

Exposure, the clean kind, is what makes stars out of budding amateurs with any new theatrical or musical talent.

Gina and Rick obviously caught the eye of those judging the TTC minstrels last September, because they became one of the eight holders of the trial licence. So far as known, Toronto subway musicians are the only ones in North America requiring a licence.

The pair play 12-stringed guitars but they maintain their forte is their own vocal arrangements. Most of their music is the "easy listening" type — great for quiet bars and lounges, which is where they hope to land a long-term contract.

Included in their repertoire is a fair amount of the older songs — two-part harmony pieces (for example a style similar to Simon and Garfunkel) that are good to listen to but not really written for dancing.

NAME CHANGE

The Raes, a name which will have to be changed since it coincides with an established group, have appeared on a Rogers Cable TV Special called Community Canada. Don Adams, of Rogers, happened to see their audition and gave them a call. That's what exposure can do.

Classcomm, Cable 10 in Richmond Hill, has offered the couple a weekly half-hour show. Their first appearance on local cable was re-broadcast last Sunday night.

So what's it like strummin' and singin' in the subway?

"Well our licence is for three or four hours per day and it expires in March. We don't plan to stay in the TTC forever," said Rick.

"It still takes some getting used to — it can get a little depressing sometimes but there are also times when it's rewarding," said Gina.

They say the best time to work is usually Friday night. Occasionally, they'll attract three or four people who'll stick around and either listen to or sing along with the music.

There are also times when they prefer not to be in any subway station — when it gets too late and the odd abusive or drunk person might make things a little uncomfortable.

This week, they spent their time at the Dundas stop, outside the Eaton Centre. If one can have a favorite stop, Dundas is theirs.

SOME MUSIC BAD

Before all this licensing business came about, you may recall travelling downtown and zipping by a few of the original "Subway Elvis" musicians. Sometimes what you heard wasn't bad but then others

I remember feeling so sorry for one fellow who thought he was a rival to Gordon Lightfoot, I took out some change and tossed it into his open guitar case. I guess I was pretentious in thinking that would make him stop but unfortunately, the music only got worse. It did help to quicken my pace and get me to my destination a little quicker, though.

"At first, it did feel a little strange keeping our cases open but we began to feel it wasn't the wrong thing to do."

Rick continued: "Physically, it's not an easy job because you're standing there with a guitar that gets pretty heavy after a few hours. We figure people are paying up to \$2 for a 45 rpm record and if they stop to listen to two or three of our songs, 50 or 75 cents doesn't hurt. Believe it or not, most people throw in bills."

Gina met Rick while she was playing at the Jolly Roger in Sutton last February. She actually had an indefinite run and when Rick came along, he was invited to do a two-week guest appearance. They've been together ever since and plan to keep it that way even if their musical career doesn't work out the way they hope.

The two live in a townhouse with Gina's parents on the Carriage Way. They put about four hours of work into their music, including new arrangements, everyday. If they keep plugging, sooner or later they'll be invited onto a network special or to work in an established club. Cash for Life Lottery has already requested their services.

IN KLEINBURG

As of last Friday, the couple was booked into the Happy Mare lounge of the Doctor's House and Livery at Kleinburg. Rick confirmed they have a two-week stand with an option, which means they could be there for a month. They open in Kleinburg February 19.

"Our TTC licence will probably be renewed, but that's not our aim," said Gina. "Right now it's a good part-time job — it helps pay the rent. It's something we have where we can go out almost any night, since most of our jobs aren't long term gigs."

My guess is you'll probably hear more about Gina and Rick. They seem made for each other. When they met, not only did their music and personal lives "click" but so did their names. Gina's stage name was Rae — that happened to be Rick's real surname.

ENERGY SAVERS

Two Richmond Hill farmers, Bruce and Kenneth Payne, made a simple alteration to their propane corn dryer this year which Bruce Payne estimates saved about 30 per cent of fuel costs on this year's harvest.

Mr. Payne said by building

a simple wooden enclosure around three sides of the corn dryer he is able to recycle the hot air which previously escaped into the air.

This warm air is now captured and drawn back to the dryer by the intake fan to be reheated to dry the corn.

Contributions

Contributing funds to Energy Action Richmond Hill to date are the following:

Dow Pharmaceuticals Limited; Joscelyn, Laughlin, Harper, Tory and Associates; Reynolds

Extrusion Company Limited; The Town of Richmond Hill; and Scholastic-Tab Publications Limited.

Firms wishing to contribute to the energy program should do so by

mailing cheque to the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, Box 155, Richmond Hill.

Your contribution will be acknowledged in this column.

Energy Action resource person, Carol McGinnis, sends along her energy-saving Christmas list:

Recycle newspapers as Christmas wrap, using

special sections for special interest gifts. For example, wrap a gift football in the Sports pages. Also interesting are foreign language newspapers for more exotic gifts.

Hot-water bottles are the Number One warmer for cold Canadian feet. Not expensive and guaranteed to evoke gratitude.

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