

## The next 10 years

Now that we've all had the time to consider the importance of the occasion and reflect upon the spiritual significance of the birth of a king and savior, the inevitable return to the cold, crass and commercial world once again is necessary as we move into another year.

It seems the festive season leaves little in its wake but a morass of bills, over-spent charge cards and a number of those gifts received that must be returned.

Not to mention cold turkey sandwiches.

But the end of Christmas also means we're less than a week away from a new year... and, in this case, a new decade.

What will it be like... the next 10-year span?

Probably the most significant change to the environment will be the opening of Canada's Wonderland at Maple in 1981.

Hopefully, there'll be enough energy to keep it running. Energy, fuel oil and gasoline, will probably be the main topic of discussion early in the 80s.

The battle of community identity will continue, with Thornhill obviously having more problems than Richmond Hill.

Even today, Thornhill's identity is split right down Yonge Street with two municipalities (Markham and Vaughan) sharing the community.

Richmond Hill, meanwhile, should have an easier time

maintaining its image — and, if nothing else, the hydro towers planned to cross its southern boundary should serve to keep the city away from the doos.

Sometime in the 80s we'll probably learn where subway stations will be located in Thornhill and Richmond Hill, and we're betting a few people already know.

Subways, however, probably won't operate in this area this century. Light rail transit may be the answer for immediate transportation problems — and a pox on the group who decided to do away with the radial cars 40 years ago.

It will continue to be expensive to live in Richmond Hill and Thornhill, but consistent and controlled industrial growth should help keep taxes in reasonable check.

Hopefully, we won't become another Mississauga, sprawled over hundreds of square kilometers, with no central identification point.

A Richmond Hill Civic Centre, such as the one proposed at the southwest corner of Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie Drive (complete with a subway station??) would certainly help retain the town's identity.

The Liberal's crystal ball is no clearer than anyone else's, but the 1980s do shape up as being tough but challenging years.

With luck, we'll meet that challenge head on.

Happy New Year.

## Council meetings — best show in town

Regular council meetings in Richmond Hill are turning out to be the best entertainment in town.

Nine members speaking at the same time to the tune of the mayor's gavel, personal insults, "I told you so" remarks, and ridiculous comments complete an editorial cartoon, setting

The need for a procedural bylaw is sure to be an issue in the next election campaign, and not a moment too soon.

Don't forget to take in the show before you vote next year. Council meets the first and third Monday of each month, in council chambers, beginning at 7:45 p.m.

## ENERGY SAVERS

This week's energy saver is a profitable one, both for the Town of Richmond Hill and the person who made the suggestion.

Quarterly, the town offers a prize of \$50 for suggestions which when implemented by the town will save money.

Brian Butterworth from the Fire Department suggested a reduction of lighting in the Fire

Hall's Dispatcher's office.

The maintenance department checked it out with a light probe and found Mr. Butterworth was correct: there was approximately 50 per cent more light than required.

Mr. Butterworth's suggestion saved the town \$22,233 and yielded the \$50 first prize winnings for himself.

— a package of washers for those dripping hot water faucets will save many dollars throughout the New Year.

— pressure cookers save all around: on energy, nutrition and time. A go-along cook book is often included for the uninitiated user.

— buy a timer for the cook who keeps looking in the oven to check doneness and loses a lot of valuable heat in the doing.

— a stocking stuffer

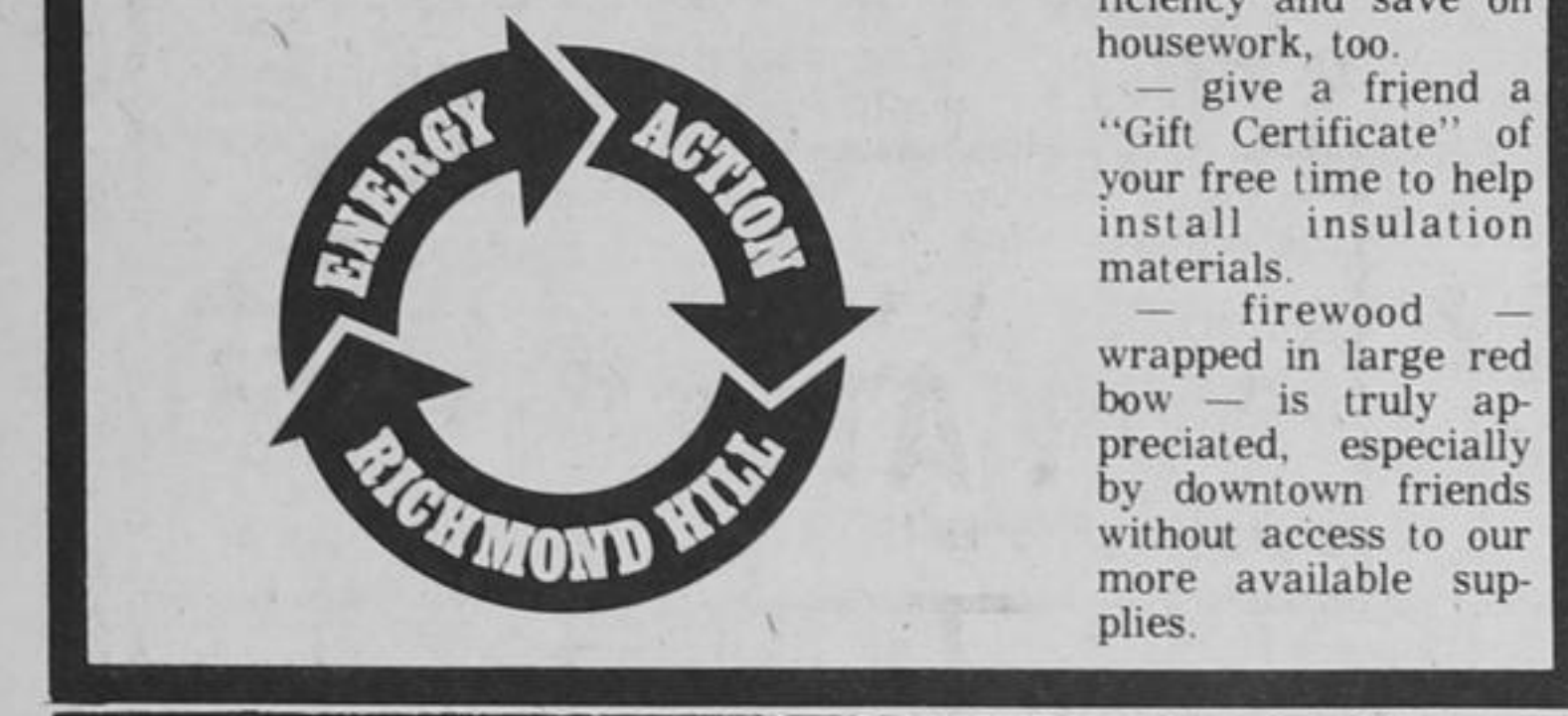
— a large box of cold-water detergent could start a whole new energy-saving trend.

— a package of shiny, new stove burner reflectors will increase energy efficiency and save on housework, too.

— give a friend a "Gift Certificate" of your free time to help install insulation materials.

— firewood — wrapped in large red bow — is truly appreciated, especially by downtown friends without access to our more available supplies.

aerator for the kitchen faucet reduces the flow and hot water waste at the same time.



**Liberal**

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 26

TELEPHONES

Editorial, Display 884-8177  
Classified 884-1105  
Circulation 884-0981  
Toronto customers 881-3373

Subscription rates. By mail \$13.00 per year in Canada \$26.00 per year outside of Canada. By carrier \$1.00 every four weeks. Single copy sales 25 cents. No mail delivery where carrier service exists. Second Class Mail Registration Number 0190.

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Printing & Publishing Ltd.

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Metrospan Community Newspapers publishes The Richmond Hill Thornhill Liberal, The Banner, The Oakville Journal Record, The Halton Consumer, The Mississauga Times, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Etobicoke Consumer, The North York Mirror, The North York Consumer, The Scarborough Mirror, The Scarborough Consumer, The Woodbridge & Vaughan News, The Bolton Enterprise, and The North Star Consumer.



(Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg)

## LIBERAL SPRINKLINGS

### It's the end of a decade

By SHAARON HAY  
Liberal Staff Writer

The end of a decade. It sounds rather ominous — like the third of a lifetime.

There have been some pretty big changes in our world during this decade — mainly in prices and international relations, but health food, junk food and jogging certainly get honorable mention.

The FLQ and Idi Amin got a lot of attention and so did Watergate, the Vietnam war, Richard Nixon and Patey in north news.

In Ontario the CN Tower was erected and in Quebec Rene Levesque came to power.

But in Richmond Hill things haven't changed that drastically.

The population has jumped from 19,577 in 1969 to 35,486 in 1979, which looks pretty impressive, but that was partly because of new boundaries set when regional government came in 1971.

Quite a few new buildings and services came to town in the 70s. Centennial Pool went indoors in 1971, Hillcrest Mall appeared in 1974, the new York Regional Police station and Richvale Community Centre were built in 1975 and the new firehall in '78.

BAIF subdivision, the 400 acres from Weldrick Road south to Carrville Road, was being talked about in council chambers in 1970 and became a reality during this decade.

Industry moving into Richmond Hill made the news in the 70s and moving out also caused a stir, at least many in town were aware of the Presbyterian Manse moved to Pioneer Village in 1978.

Newsy stuff, "Richmond Hill's worst fire ever", Allencourt Bowling league in Feb. of '72, the "abduction" of seven-year old Cheryl Hanson from her home on Bloomington's Sideroad in 1974, and Douglas Sheldrake's allegations against a police in '78 probably had The Liberal reporters in a flap.

The Board of Education and teachers salaries were perennially in the news in this decade, with wage hikes and big headlines throughout the beginning of 1974, "York Region teachers still on strike".

Changes in fashions and life-style that affected us all were reported in The Liberal, including the front page story in November 1970 saying pant-suits had infiltrated the nursing profession and showing a photo of the shapely legs of nurses at York Central Hospital, cloaked in pants.

1977 was not only the year Premier Indira Gandhi was defeated in the Indian election, more important, it was the year speed limits were converted to metric right here in Richmond Hill.

Politically things haven't changed much this decade.

Many of the same names are still in the news, such as Wainwright and Rowe, and not many changes in headlines "Schiller and Hancey clash".

There was an interesting John Roberts, then the Member for York Simcoe, pointed out to his readers, "Inflation is still a problem" and another opinion in December of '71 said, "Welfare destroys incentive". At least opinions haven't changed drastically over the period.

Not a small change in the seventies, all over Canada, was house prices, and Richmond Hill was no exception.

A three bedroom side split with finished recreation room, built in sauna, bath, bar, walk out to patio, paved drive, and only 500 yards to Yonge Street, was going for \$35,000 in July of 1970, by 1975 it was up to \$71,900 and probably \$86,000 in 1979.

In the news throughout the decade, Dynes Jewellers softball team, the Rams, Bond Steel plant relocation, floods in German Mills Creek and the Gormley Bypass for Highway 404.

I wonder if there will be any change in the 80s?

A few proposals which flashed in the pan but never made it to reality, the "domed" stadium for the jail farm, a 132 acre estate development on the west side of Yonge Street opposite the Summit Golf and Country Club, a school of arts in York Region and a modular housing subdivision on 19th Avenue east of Bayview Avenue.

Exit the seventies — happiness to all in the eighties.

## Letter

### After shuffling do we still go in same direction?

It was Saturday night. The light was red. The car stopped, and the doors flew open, and eight teenagers ran circles around the car, leaving back in with a squeal as a bus pulled up alongside.

We used to call it a Chinese fire-drill. It

served no purpose other than shuffling the occupants of the car, and we ended up going in the same direction as we had been.

In Ottawa they call it an election.

We will run in circles, shuffle the cards, and end

## By BOB RICE

### Rice reviews the seventies

I guess you have all had it up to here with page upon written page of highlights of 1979.

This year the papers have even added extra sections to highlight not only the big news of the vanishing year but also of the whole decade.

Well, dear and faithful readers, Rice has noted that many of the more important items have been missed by the biggies and, at the risk of further boring you, I am going to get the record straight.

Without further adoo (or many doos) here is my own list of... MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SILLY SEVENTIES!

1970

June 13th... In Grandpebbles, Alberta, 76-year old Altmann Flumtipper set a new world record as the fastest man on a tractor. Although not originally planned as such, Mr. Flumtipper drove his 1952 Allis-Chalmers at a record speed of 126 miles per hour while covering a distance of only 943 feet!

Altmann expressed great surprise following his record-shattering feat as did his neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Krempel, on whose house the tractor landed after the historic ride over Cooper's Cliff on the south face of Clyde Mountain.

From his hospital bed Mr. Flumtipper told reporters he would repair the roof following his return from a speaking tour in Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

1971

February 21st... Movie history was made today when 8,000 residents of Oak Ridges showed up at the Grand Theatre for the world premiere of the flick... "The Monster That Drank Lake Wilcox".

Lineups formed as early as 7 p.m. for the 7.15 p.m. opening and many carried placards that read... "Monster for an Oscar" and "Lake Wilcox or bust!"

Extra showings of the blockbuster were hastily arranged by manager Peter Dwill and the cards that patrons turned in following each show confirmed earlier predictions by Parrotmount Films executives that they had a hit on their hands.

Clarence Swank, the first person through the turnstile gave his own impression of the movie... "It was really good, especially the scene when the monster drinks every drop from the lake and then wipes out Aurora with one big burp!"

1972

Nothing interesting this year.

1973

August 4th... The tiny hamlet of Klep, Manitoba, is gearing itself for an onslaught of tourists following the announcement yesterday of a major archaeological discovery.

A local septic contractor, while digging a new septic bed for the Klep Arms Hotel, reports that his backhoe hit a large metal object at the five foot level. Barnaby Glass immediately contacted the police chief who immediately contacted the RCMP who immediately contacted Ottawa who immediately contacted The Royal Ontario Museum who immediately contacted King T. Glass.

"There sure was a lot of immediate contact," stated the 40-year-old businessman.

Representatives from the ROM flew into Klep early this morning and have already set up equipment at the site. At noon today a large crowd gathered as the scientists unearthed part of what appeared to be a tin plated sarcophagus and rumors are spreading that it is possible that Glass stumbled across the burial tomb of King Tut.

A press conference has been called for tomorrow morning.

1974

May 25th... The Cunerd liner H.M.S. Queen Bertha paid a goodwill visit to Richmond Hill today. During her stay at the Millpond, residents were allowed on board for a tour of the 22,000 ton cruise ship.

September 7th... Richmond Hill Director of Trade and Tourism, Fred Gulp, met the press today to fill them in on the latest plans to refloat the liner H.M.S. Queen Bertha that got stuck in the mud of the Millpond last year.

"We hope to have her on her way back to England soon," stated Gulp. "The ship is in excellent condition but the crew are getting quite restless and homesick."

1976

March 11th... Services were held yesterday in Port Beer, B.C., for the late Brenda Scroppe, The 52-year-old widow set a new world record March 9 by consuming 34 ten-pound Cohoe Salmon in four minutes and ten seconds! Sixteen fellow workers from the Port Beer Cannery acted as pallbearers.

1977

November 6th... Ottawa announced today that the Federal Import Tax on Malaysian Tree Frogs was being dropped.

1978

April 22nd... The President of the Bundledrop, Nova Scotia, Chamber of Commerce has resigned amid controversy about the design of the new town crest.

Wallace Childerquid stated... "I'll be damned if I'll let my friends make fun of me just because of that idiotic thing!"

On Monday evening the Bundledrop Council voted in favor of adopting the design submitted by Helmut Commerbund which incorporates two squid on a background of rotting kelp.

1979

Joe Who?  
Maggie did what?  
The Opposition did what?  
Pierre will what?  
Joe Who?

AND FINALLY

The ol' Millpond Philosopher said... "Here we go again!"

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