

THE TRIBUNE, STOUFFVILLE, ONT., JUNE 23, 1949

TREE CONSERVATION BYLAW

A lot of wishful ideas have gone out in the newspapers about the proposed "Tree Conservation Bylaw" for the County of York, up for discussion at the present session of County Council.

The Newmarket Era and other weeklies are praising the step taken, and are of the opinion that it should have been taken years ago. We agree with our contemporaries that the bylaw should have been enacted years ago, but the law empowering counties to pass such bylaws is only two years old. Of course, years ago public opinion would not have allowed its passage.

However this tree conservation bylaw will not do much to preserve trees in the County of York. There are few stands of bush left. Swamp lands in the northern part of the county will not be affected if the owner wished to cut, since the farmer would have rights in those swamps that should not be interfered with, and there is no water problem in any case.

All the bylaw can do when enacted is to prevent the cutting of trees under six inches in circumference at four feet from the ground. Thus, no farmer would be denied the right to cut timber on his lands, but he might be prevented from holding a wood sale to cut the smaller trees after the timber is gone.

After all, should the farmer be prevented from reaping his harvest by selling his own trees? If the County of York wishes to preserve these small trees it might be more fair to require the county to purchase the land on which they are growing. Then again the farmer may not want to part with his lands, and thus you have a problem.

Tree Conservation is difficult to enact if it is to be fair to all parties. There are other forms of conservation that the farmer might argue should be enacted. For instance, suppose the size and number of newspapers were limited as a conservation of pulpwood, then the papers would feel an injustice was being done the newspapers.

In any case, if the trees are to be preserved for the benefit of all, then all should share in the loss to the farmer, but there is no legislation to cover this point.

The editor of The Tribune, as chairman of the York County Reforestation Committee for four years, shared in inducing the government to create enabling legislation for this tree conservation measure, but the Department of Forests and Mines found it most difficult to formulate a law that would do justice to all parties. What they have permitted the counties to pass may be of much greater benefit in more outlying counties, but the day of selling wood lots in the County of York where preservation is badly needed is about over.

Historic Sibbald's Church at Lake Simcoe, 110 yrs old

Linking the days of Bishop Strachan with the atomic age, the 110th anniversary of the Sibbald Memorial Church near Jackson's Point will be celebrated late this summer. The church—originally St. George's Church of England—perpetuates the memory of Susan Sibbald, who lies in an iron-railed enclosure upon that part of the church ground ceded from the property of her Canadian Home, Eildon Hall.

The life of Susan Sibbald and the deeds of her children may, some day, form the theme of a great Canadian historical novel. Her memories fill a volume of more than 500 pages.

Susan Sibbald was the fifth daughter of Thomas Mein, Eildon Hall, Roxburghshire, Scotland. She was born Nov. 29, 1783. Her father was wealthy, with a London house and some acquaintances at the court of George III. William Owen of the Royal Academy, painted the Sibbald sisters, and his works still hang on the walls of Eildon Hall in Georgina Township on Lake Simcoe.

In 1807, Susan Sibbald married Lt. Col. William Sibbald of H.M. 15th Regiment of Foot. To them were born nine sons and two daughters. Eight of the sons held commissions in the fighting services of the Crown.

Now, Col. Sibbald had served with John Colborne at Malta. Colborne later became Lord Seaton, Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada. Colborne and John Graves Simcoe recommended to Col. Sibbald that he send two of his sons to Canada to learn farming. In 1833, William and Charles Sibbald left for Orillia. The territory around Lake Simcoe had been rapidly developed since the war of 1812.

The two young men found comfortable quarters at a tavern, and applied themselves to farming. But when they wrote home, the news that they were living in a tavern filled their parents with horror. Mrs. Sibbald was determined to deliver her sons from a life of (presumed) dissipation. Her husband being in ill health, she sailed at once for Canada, accompanied by her son, Archibald.

Arriving at Orillia, she was embarrassed but relieved to find William and Charles living anything but an idle and prodigal life. So she decided to see something of the country before returning to Scotland. She made a voyage around the lake on the pioneer steamer. Near Jackson's Point, she saw Major Raines' estate. Nothing would content her until she had bought it.

Initial enterprise in building St. George's, the original church near Eildon Hall, had been taken by John Mills Jackson, who had bought a homestead at Jackson's Point. But the work of building was not begun until May, 1838. And much of the initiative—and funds—came from Susan Sibbald.

A tiny log chapel was finally completed, and after strenuous efforts the parish obtained a clergyman in the person of Rev. John Gibson. Meantime, in high indignation, Susan Sibbald had lived through the Mackenzie Rebellion. She was a close friend of Bishop Strachan and of Admiral Baldwin.

Her pride in and loyalty to the Crown were such that she once made pungent comment on a proposal to take British soldiers out of the scarlet jackets that made them such conspicuous targets. She said: "I trust I may not live to see the day when British soldiers so far forget their honor as to endeavor to make themselves inconspicuous to the enemy."

In 1856, Capt. Thomas Sibbald, her son, retired from the Royal Navy after a lengthy and gallant service which had terminated with action in the Crimean War. He came to Canada, and became the proprietor of Eildon Hall. His mother died in 1866, and was buried in the churchyard. Ten years later, the retired sea captain began construction of the present church as a memorial to his mother. Nearly all of the work was done under his direct and knowing supervision.

Currently, Sibbald Memorial Church is in the process of renovation under the direction of the rector, Rev. W. I. D. Smith. Eildon Hall, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Seale and their family, with its priceless collection of mementous of Sibbald service in every quarter of the globe, may have to be sold in settlement of the family estates.

Senior representative of the family in Georgina is J. D. Sibbald of "The Briars," one of the family homesteads. Well and popularly known as Jack Sibbald, he has carried on the family tradition of energy and leadership. He is reeve

Ontario Schools Close With Traffic Safety Lesson

As part of Ontario's continuing program to reduce traffic accident losses, the Dept. of Highways and the Dept. of Education have again joined forces in a special child safety drive.

Timed for the closing of schools through-out the Province, the campaign consists of:

(a) A special bulletin to some 26,000 inspectors, teachers and principals.

(b) A Carry-home Safety message from the Honourable George H. Doucett for each of Ontario's 700,000 school children.

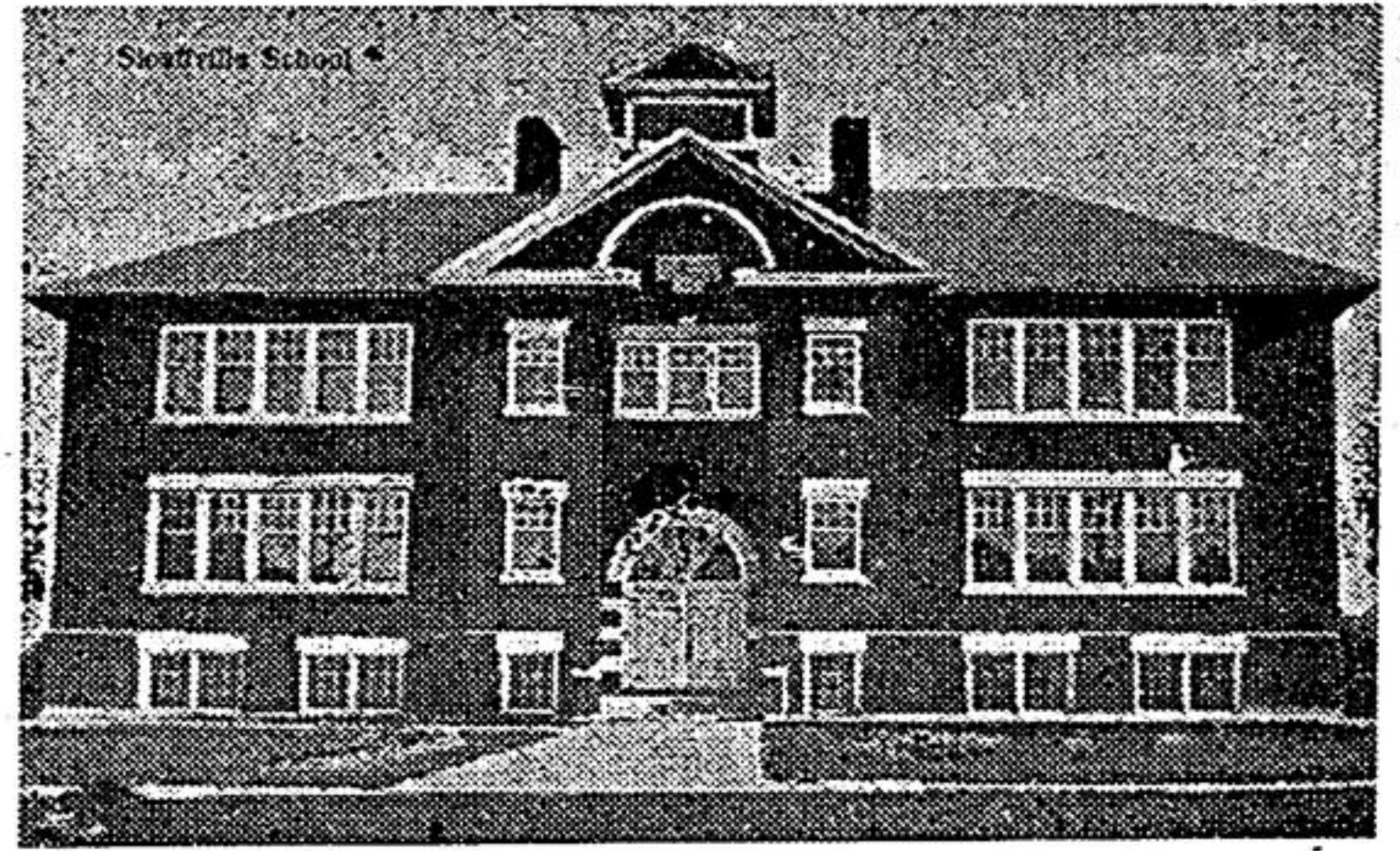
Printed material for both teachers and children was sent out early in June to all schools. The teachers' bulletin stresses "the great seriousness of traffic accidents involving children in the summer months" quoting Highways Department's statistics on children killed and injured, it states that: "A record number of cars (both resident and visiting) is expected on Ontario streets and highways during the summer. There are also more school children than ever before. If the coming holidays are to be kept unmarred by tragic losses of life and limb in traffic accidents, our combined efforts must be redoubled."

"The Dept. of Education and the Dept. of Highways are again cooperating to get a safety message into the hands of every school child in the Province just before school

of Georgina Township, leader in the Progressive Conservative organization of his riding, master of half-a-dozen business enterprises, and veteran of the First World War.

J. D. Sibbald served the county three years as chairman of the Reforestation Committee, a position he later relinquished to the reeve of Stouffville. However, Mr. Sibbald fought for an annual grant for the purchase of waste lands and obtained \$10,000 each year he headed the committee.

High School Area Board occupy this building on a rental basis.



Stouffville High School houses both public and high school students, but the building is the property of the Village of Stouffville and the adjacent parts of two school sections on the 10th concession of Markham and Whitchurch. The Markham-Stouffville High School Area recently formed now occupy their portion of the building on a rental basis, as a means of sharing the cost of mutual expenses that provide services for both high and public schools.

closes. When this literature is delivered to your class room:

"1. stress its importance to your pupils and urge them to take their copies home to their parents;

"2. have each pupil's name written in the space provided on the front of the folder before giving it out;

"3. make summer safety your theme on the last day of school and on the opening day next fall."

Mr. Doucett's Carry-Home Safety Message for each school student consists of a short letter, an illustrated chart showing how 68 children of school age were killed in 1948, and a miniature poster to be put on screen doors at home telling the children to STOP, LOOK, WAIT and WALK.

Of the 68 victims of traffic accidents 42 were on foot. "Crossing the highway, coming from behind parked cars and playing in the streets" were the three most common causes. Thirteen children

were killed "riding bicycles" and thirteen were killed when riding in automobiles. The message closes as follows:

"To help you remember how you can play, walk and ride safely this summer, we are sending you this little folder. Please read it. Then put it somewhere where you will see it often."

In order to make the letter personal, the schools write in the name of each student.

Tied for fourth place among 15 Canadian and U.S. cities surveyed, Montreal and Detroit have each cleared 13 per cent of their streets of overhead wiring by placing wires underground. The leader, Buffalo, has cleared 31 per cent, while Toronto and Winnipeg bring up the rear with less than one per cent each.

To relieve its congested business streets and alleys, Denver, Col., is now spending \$500,000 a year on underground wiring facilities.

Profits Dropping

Agincourt, June 18—The government has taken the excess profits off at the very time when profits became excessive, Agnes Macmillan, CCF member of the Legislature, charged here last night. Miss Macmillan was speaking on behalf of Fred Madill, CCF candidate in York East.

"That money should have been used to bring security to the people," she said. "Everyone, to be content, requires security of work, housing, care in sickness and old age. This is what the government could have been doing since the end of the war, but instead, prices

of the necessities of life have gone sky-high. Houses are unobtainable at any reasonable price and illness ruins families."

OUT OF TROUBLE FOR A WHILE



A policeman straddles one of the men mixed up in a picket-anti-picket melee outside the International Longshoremen's headquarters. The man was felled during the general fracas involving some 200 pickets, predominantly Negro, and anti-pickets of the Longshoremen's association. The original pickets were staging a protest against alleged Jim Crow tactics on the part of Joseph P. Ryan, I.L.A. president, who charged the demonstration as being Communist-inspired.

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YOUTH for CHRIST

8.00 o'clock sharp — Film entitled "Jungle Raiders" taken in the heart of Africa.

8.15 — Song Fest led by Lloyd Grose. The Emmanuel Messengers from Kitchener College join with us in a program of Singing and Witnessing to the Glory of God. Bert Stouffer and Bruce Hisey present a Bible scene entitled "Fence Sitting." Y.F.C. Girls' Choir in Song. Testimonies from our young people. What's in your Bible Verse? Come and hear.

9.15 — Film — "Reaching from Heaven" By special request.

"ALL WELCOME"—says Norman Rowan, director.

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