

Notes and Comments

Greater Aid For Municipalities

Grattan O'Leary of Ottawa told the Eastern Ontario Development Conference recently that the financial plight of municipalities will not be remedied unless the provinces and local governments receive more tax revenues from the federal government. There is nothing original in this. The same idea has been put forward many times by municipal governments and by the Canadian Federation of Mayors. They have argued that investment in homes is losing its attractiveness through burdensome taxation.

Municipalities have only one major source of revenue—taxes on property. Other revenues amount to very little. The municipal tax base is, in effect, still in the horse and buggy days. Public demands for services, however, are not still in that stage. People expect better schools, higher education for more children, modern roads, and many other improvements. Every new or improved service is a further strain on the municipal tax dollar. Realty taxes are mounting so high that many people, who could own homes, prefer to rent.

Provincial governments, notably in Ontario, have long recognized the plight of municipalities, and have tried to help. Ontario has been generous in making grants. But even this help is not sufficient to hold down mounting tax rates. Mr. O'Leary has touched on a possible solution—greater help from the federal government, with its greater taxing powers, could provide more revenue for the provinces which, in turn, could pass on some of the benefits to the municipalities. The real solution, however, does not lie in increased government grants. It will be found more adequately and equitably in broadening the base of municipal taxation, providing municipalities with new and sufficient sources of revenue, so that the overburdened property taxpayers may be given a measure of relief. —Oshawa Times.

The Light Hazard

Dr. Leonard Ancona of Milan, Italy, told delegates to the 14th International Congress of Psychology meeting at Montreal that death on the highway is often caused by light. It is a seeming paradox because without light life on earth would not be possible. He said drivers are not yet sufficiently aware of the menace of their cars due to impaired vision, not because of mechanical defects of the vision but rather because their vision has been impaired by bright lights. He illustrated the menace this way:

If a driver stops at night to eat in a brightly lit roadside restaurant and then returns to his driving his vision may be impaired 50 per cent or more for a matter of several minutes. His eyes may not return to their former 100 per cent condition for some time later.

The hazard of light to traffic also exists at mid-day. A driver without dark glasses on a bright day could impair his eyesight 50 per cent or more, according to Dr. Ancona. He advises the use of dark-colored glasses of such design as to exclude side light. This safety angle has been given little stress.

A Sewer Vote This Year?

Time is fast passing and no move has been taken yet to provide for a sewer vote this year or to take a survey for such a system. This matter has been discussed many times in council but action is continually delayed. Again this month the York County Health unit is urging such municipalities to give more thought to sanitation. Residential areas are developing fast and a thought to the future health of these areas should be given.

As the Health Unit warns, the season for polio is again only a few weeks away and improper sanitation is just another way of strengthening the hand of this disease.

Ratepayers have heard stories from council now for several years concerning a possible survey and vote and the main question now is "what's the hold-up?" Each week more new homes are going up and more new residents are spending hundreds of dollars on septic tanks and tile beds, dollars which might better be financing a town sewage system.

Council should have no hesitation about allowing the ratepayers to vote on the question. After all, it's the taxpayers' money and if enough residents feel they can afford to shoulder a big tax increase for sewers council should not delay the project.

Parking Problem

Summer is upon us and our Saturday night parking problem also remains despite many attempts to solve the congestion. Some time ago a move was made or at least discussed to make use of the public parking lot near the arena. The lot is now well lighted but few avail themselves. Saturday night especially, shoppers are reluctant to use the lot when it is not attended and the use of the lot as well has been very poorly advertised. Businessmen and council should at least get their heads together and give this lot a fair trial. The hiring of a man to attend the park on Saturday nights should not prove too costly.

The other solution to the problem which was also discussed and which has been under consideration by council, is the installation of parking meters. Talking with business people in Uxbridge the other day, we learn that meters are also under consideration there. Meters do prove beneficial in reserving the good parking space in the centre of town for the shopper as those who wish to merely use their cars as a grandstand on open evenings are not likely to sit in their cars and feed a meter all evening.

FOR PARENTS ONLY

"CAMP ADVENTURE"

By Nancy Cleaver

Camp is a real adventure and "the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts." What finer expression of the idealism which stirs within campers at a good camp on "High Occasions" can be found than in this "Code for Campers?"

"We Aim: To live out the things we believe.

To have a sincere care for all people.

To be disciplined in all we do. To see the job that needs to be done, and carry it through.

To be constructive in our thinking and speaking.

To learn to work in a group. To be willing to recognize and to correct our faults.

To study and work for sound homes, united communities and a peaceful world."

(Written by the "Crees" or Senior girls at Camp Tanamaboon, Algonquin Park.)

To camp—or not to camp—that is the question in countless homes where boys and girls are eager to go to camp.

"It's such fun!" they chorus. "A summer camp adventure for a boy or girl has become an accepted holiday pattern in thousands of Canadian families.

But, with rising camp fees, accompanied by the higher cost of living, many parents are wavering about camp this summer.

The younger generation show no signs of doubting the value of camp! They just know they will learn to swim and dive a lot better. "Jim can handle a canoe just like an Indian since he went to camp—and did he ever pick up some smart fishing tips!" Helen, who is an only child, says a bit wistfully. "Betty just raves about camp being such a friendly place. The girls had a marvellous time in their cabin group."

A good camp benefits the whole child—body, mind and spirit. It is not just a place for recreation, or even just for education, but for the growth of a boy's or girl's total character and physique.

A child's of youth's enthusiasm for a particular camp where he has summered is

likely to be as ardent as his loyalty for his own school. There is a great satisfaction in meeting old friends again and returning to familiar haunts. It is quite possible that the camp your child loves, even if it costs quite a bit, is worth every cent at the present stage in his development.

But if increased camp fees make this particular camp really beyond the amount of money the family can devote to it, why not consider another camp where the rates are not quite so high? This would seem a better solution than cutting out camp completely. There are good camps in the different price ranges in most areas.

What is your idea of a "good camp?" Every parent will have a different answer—but they all want their child well cared for and happy. My husband and I want to be very sure that the camp our boy or girl goes to is a safe place, that adequate provision is made for nourishing food and sufficient rest, that the camp director and staff have some of the same ideals for the campers that we have for our children.

We would like to feel confident that our child will be happy at camp, swimming and diving and boating, and trying out fresh hobbies and making new friends. Discreet inquiries made to parents of last year's campers satisfy or disillusion a father or mother about the true quality of a camp!

Camp has all kinds of values for different campers, meeting their own special need and helping them grow. As a counselor four years and as a director for six, we saw very clearly that although the contribution camp life made to some youngsters was much more vital than to others, with very, very few exceptions, they all seemed to receive benefit from it. A camper can echo Ulysses' words in Tennyson's poem.

"All experience is an arch where through gleams the untravelled world whose margin fades Forever and forever as I move."

(Copyright)

REPORT FROM PARLIAMENT

By Michael Starr, M.P., Ontario Riding

A meeting was held in Oshawa a few weeks ago, at which were present Mayors and Reeves of various municipalities under the jurisdiction of the Oshawa Unemployment Insurance Commission office and representatives of labour organizations. The discussion at this meeting was in respect to the unemployment which is now prevalent in Oshawa and district. As a result of this meeting a delegation arrived in Ottawa on Wednesday, June 16th.

This delegation was composed of Mayor J. Naylor of Oshawa, Mayor D. G. Davis of Uxbridge, George Lockhart of the Trades and Labour Council and Gordon Wilson, President of the Oshawa and District Labour Council.

The delegation was accorded a very cordial reception by the Honourable M. F. Gerg, Minister of Labour, the Honourable Walter Harris, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare. In an advisory capacity at this meeting were present the heads of various sections of the Labour Department and of the Unemployment Insurance Commission branch. Sitting in also at this meeting were two other Members of Parliament, J. James, M.P. for Durham, and G. Enfield, M.P. for York South, and myself.

The meeting lasted approximately two hours and various aspects of the situation as it exists in Oshawa and District were thoroughly discussed. Mr. Gerg stated clearly that he does not consider Oshawa a depressed area, but promised that the Unemployment Insurance Commission would keep in close touch with Oshawa through periodic visits and the findings would be submitted to the Minister of Labour. As a result of this the Minister would then plan a course of action, in an endeavour to alleviate any hardships that may be experienced. He also stated that the Unemployment Insurance Commission was making a study of the Unemployment Insurance Act in an endeavour to make certain revisions in keeping with the present

needs. On Wednesday, June 16th, the Honourable Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport, during the course of questioning, on his Estimates, which were being submitted to the House, stated that the Trans-Canada Airlines would like to have a cross-country run between Montreal and Windsor, with stops at Cornwall, Kingston, Belleville, Oshawa, Toronto and London. He did not elaborate any more on this statement and it is presumed that plans in their preliminary stages must be being discussed. It is not likely that any immediate action in this respect will be taken by the Department.

The channel leading into Frenchman's Bay from Lake Ontario is again causing some concern because of the lower level of the water and the sifting of the sand, thereby reducing the depth of water at this particular point. I am presently endeavouring to have this channel dredged so that it will have the proper depth.

Opposition suggestions that the Government consider sifting the living allowances paid to Canadian diplomats and other representatives abroad isn't going to go anywhere. The Government argues that other countries are paying higher allowances. And that in any event the payments are necessary to allow Canadian representatives to meet higher living costs abroad and to mix as widely as possible with officials and others in the country to which they are posted.

Sources here report that Ottawa's civil defence plans may undergo some changes. Past campaigns haven't been able to cope with public apathy. Some provinces haven't taken advantage of federal defence funds available to them. And some key cities (Toronto is an example) have been displaying a monumental lack of interest in civil defence planning. Awaited is Health Minister Martin's forthcoming statement on civil defence when his spending estimates come before the Commons for approval.

EDITOR'S MAIL

Dear Mr. Editor:

Re. Markham Township School Taxes —

I have just received my 1954 tax bill, and upon examining it was amazed to find the amount we are paying for school costs in School Area No. 1, 39.12 mills plus 10 mills for High School, making a total of 49.12 mills, and I understand it will be worse next year, with new buildings being planned.

What really surprised me was the revelation I found on the reverse side of the tax bill, where I found the costs of education in the rest of the Township of Markham.

The average cost for twenty-five Union School Sections and regular school sections is 12.7 mills including debenture rates in many cases. The cost in School Area No. 1 is 25.5 mills including debenture rates, or almost three times as great as the average in Markham.

Now when School Area No. 1 was formed, I understood that the purpose in forming the area was to provide better education at a lesser cost, the costs to be lowered by mass buying power and co-operative administration costs. I guess I have been disillusioned.

While I am ready to admit that school areas in theory do offer greater opportunities for our children, actually in practice the costs seem to be three times as high. Is it worth it? Give me less elaborate school buildings and qualified well paid teachers and I will be glad to revert back to former methods of education for my children.

I have read in the papers that our school Board is planning a



As the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association, Ontario Division, held its annual convention in London, third General Excellence Contest (towns 1,500 to 3,500); Col. F. J. Pickering, Aurora Banner, first in same section; Dick Pierce, Simcoe Reformer; first General Excellence towns over 4,500 Don Southcott, Exeter Times Advocate, best front page.

further new school at No. 7 Highway and Bayview for us to pay for (I presume) for the next twenty years. This seems strange to me, when, in driving along Bayview I notice both the old Thornlea School vacant and a portable beside it also vacant.

Perhaps there are other ratepayers who are also wondering if we should not revert back to our former way of electing local trustees for local schools as has been done in other parts

of Ontario. If so, please contact the writer.

Sincerely,  
Reg. Crawford,  
Langstaff, Ontario.

WINDSHIELD GLASS

A statement that green-tinted windshields reduce the effectiveness of car headlights at night by two-thirds is attributed to the Canadian Medical Association Journal. It seems incredible, in view of the fact that such windshields, having

a 15 to 20 per cent filter factor, at the top, are quite clear in the lower part through which the driver sees the road.

There is a mass of practical and scientific evidence in their favor, and a majority of U.S. states now require tinted windshield glass on all new vehicles. An important circumstance is that it unquestionably reduces harmful daytime glare, and thus aids night vision, which otherwise would be impaired by prolonged daytime driving. —Toronto Telegram

For every DOLLAR you invest, Pontiac gives you

a wealth of truly startling values.

Take FOR instance, Pontiac's unmatched choice

of 31 models in six great series.

Think, too, of the DOLLAR stretching, trouble-free performance of Pontiac's

famous high-compression engines.

And when YOU consider features, both standard

and optional, it is a fact that you

CAN'T find another car in

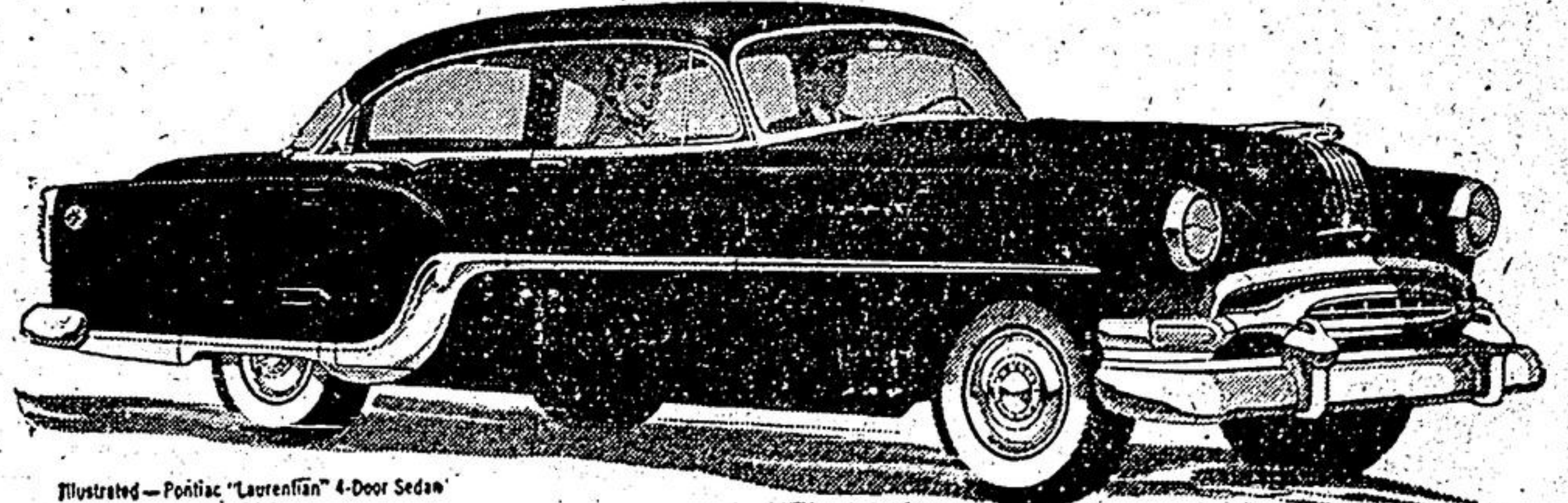
any price range anywhere that

can BEAT what Pontiac gives you. With Power Steering

for instance, Power Brakes, Automatic Window and

Seat Controls, PONTIAC offers luxury car features

at thrifty prices!



Illustrated — Pontiac "Laurentian" 4-Door Sedan

A GENERAL MOTORS VALUE

DRIVE IT and you'll want it... PRICE IT and you'll buy it

Pontiac

MOLE MOTORS Limited

Stouffville, Ontario

Phone 372

ABERDEEN - ANGUS

THE SUPREME BEEF BREED

Get premium prices for baby beef with Aberdeen-Angus. Either pure bred or crossing with Angus bull means early-maturing, easy-feeding hornless calves, with all the best beef features. Open and bred heifers and bred cows available now.

R. C. BAKER

Claremont, Ont. Ph. Claremont 41w

- APPRECIATION -

Having disposed of our store and refreshment business at Ringwood, we would like to take this opportunity of extending appreciation to the many customers who have patronized our place of business over the past five years.

We would also bespeak this continued patronage for the new owner, Mr. Archie Reid.

Eric and Edna Allen.