

Home No Longer The Centre Of Teenage Activity

Panel Debate Attracts Standing Room Crowd

STOUFFVILLE — The panel discussion, sponsored by the Stouffville Home and School Association in the Masonic Hall, last week, was, without doubt, the most interesting and informative public meeting held here in many years. A standing-room audience of close to 200 parents and young people heard the topic of "The Teenager" discussed in full and although no factual accomplishment was immediately achieved, it provided both listeners and participants with food for thought.

Magistrate David Coon, the panel moderator, allowed questions from the crowd and many of the comments were accorded enthusiastic applause. Panel members included — Mrs. Ruth Dedlow, William Duxbury, Rev. Gordon Gooderham and Orland Keating.

With reference to teenage "restlessness," chief Keating said that such behaviour was by no means abnormal. "Adults live at a much faster pace now and so do our children. It takes more to satisfy them than it did fifteen years ago. They get around more with mobility second to none."



William Duxbury 'parents too busy'

High School Principal, William Duxbury stated that, in his opinion, modern day circumstances and surroundings had created more problems for the young people of today. He said too, that there was a time when parents would sit down and talk with their sons and daughters. "There was a closer knit family unit," he said. He noted that mothers and fathers are engaged in so many activities that their children become neglected. "Suddenly, when they are older and we realize they have a problem, it's too late to communicate with them," he said. He agreed with the moderator that many young people appear 'over sophisticated' at the age of 16; but this was no fault of the teenager. "After all, we are the ones who are raising them."

With reference to the much publicized 'coffee house' program in Stouffville, he said he had no criticism to offer as long as it was practiced on a once-a-month basis. He argued against the necessity for an after-school meeting place in town. "I feel they should meet in their homes and parents should encourage this," he said. He said that the cafeteria room was available in the high school but he didn't feel that this was the kind of after-school recreation that the students were wanting. As for extended use of the school during the summer months, he said that such a program would have to be worked out with the Board.



Orland Keating 'need discipline'

With reference to the pre-teen years, Police Chief Orland Keating opposed the views of a previous speaker from the audience who claimed that physical discipline was not necessary. "I'd love to do it your way," he replied, "but it's not always possible. I feel that children expect discipline and respect a parent all the more for it." Producing a 'shingle' he said that he was a firm believer in the old-fashioned trip behind the woodshed. He limited such practices to the

several activities of a recreational nature both at the arena in the winter and in the park during the summer. In addition, he said that there had to be chores around the home that could occupy a teenager's time after school.

Changed World
Mrs. A. Gresham, speaking from the audience, defended the teenagers' desire for unorganized activities out of school. "We are dealing with a changed world and we must think of it as it is and not as we would like it to be." She observed that the home was no longer the centre of family activity. "I'm sick of the idea that young people should go straight home from school to work and study. They're not machines, they're human beings."

One speaker referred to the 'home' as a house where parents resent a teenager's presence for fear of spilling Coke on the broadloom.

Allen Lee, one of the prime promoters of the 'coffee house' program, said that Stouffville teenagers wanted their own meeting place where, under adult supervision, they could discuss matters of mutual interest, dance and listen to records.

Councillor Tom Lonergan said that a hall to be used particularly by teenagers could represent a 3 or 4 mill increase on the tax rate. He said that it was rather strange that a community hall had never been promoted as a centennial project. "All of a sudden, one year later, it emerges as a big problem."

On the question of a recreation director, councillor Robt. Lewis said that such an employee had been discussed at the Park Board level but had advanced no further. He said that in his own opinion, there were plenty of halls already available in the town if put to a practical use. He said that another similar project would represent a burden on the taxpayer.

Mrs. Peggy Topping suggested that a lack of proper organization seemed to be the basis for much of the present problem.



Mrs. Ruth Dedlow 'responsible people'

Mrs. Ruth Dedlow came to the defense of Stouffville teenagers who had organized the 'coffee house' program in the Anglican Church. "It's a good organization," she said, "they are proving to be responsible people." She said that a sizeable profit had been realized. Her only complaint was that the activities lasted too late into the night. With reference to teenage problems, she argued that they had not increased to the same extent that they were publicized. Mrs. Dedlow, the mother of four, stressed the need for discussion between the parent and the child. "If you can't talk to them, you're only hitting your head against a stone wall," she said. She observed that if young people are different today, it is because they live in a completely changed society.



Rev. Gordon Gooderham 'grow up too soon'

Rev. Gordon Gooderham, Stouffville Baptist Church Pastor, said that the elimination of the old-fashioned 'spanking' and the word 'no' had lowered the standard of rules in many of the homes today. He said that regulations, curfews and age limitations were still necessary. He contended that no high school student should be out after midnight and teenage dating should not begin until 16. "We're making our young people grow up too soon," he said. He agreed with Mr. Duxbury that sons and daughters should be encouraged to bring their boy and girl friends home. "Undesirables wouldn't want to enter this kind of environment," he said.

In reply to a statement that Stouffville's young people 'have nothing to do', Rev. Gooderham outlined

"Anne of Green Gables" Storybook Comes True

BLOOMINGTON — "Ann of Green Gables" was a young miss who was brought up by very strict disciplinaries and who ended up operating a nursing home for less privileged people. She was a young girl who stole the hearts of millions of readers, and who, herself, had a heart of gold.

Now, there is a new Ann of Green Gables, and the circumstances are somewhat parallel. Ann laVine, who with her husband, Lewis, operates the Green Gables Nursing Home in Bloomington, was, in fact, named after the storybook heroine, and was born in the same area in the Maritimes.

Known as the Green Gables Manor, the 92-year-old home is on the ninth concession about two miles north of Stouffville. The laVines purchased the property last September, and had it licensed as a Nursing Home on November 2nd. They now have fourteen guests, with future expansion imminent.

In this day of modern nursing institutions, Green Gables maintains a distinct air of the past. And that is how it will stay.

"It's what our guests remember in the past," said Mr. laVine, "the spacious rooms, with high ceilings and older furniture."

The house, itself, being nearly a century old, was the perfect setting. The laVines were looking for a similar home in the Markham area at first, however, high land costs forced them to look elsewhere. When Ross Farquharson, Reeve of Whitechurch Township informed the couple about Green Gables, they immediately purchased the property.

Mr. laVine, who once operated a small newspaper in Scarborough, was born and raised in the east end of Toronto. The couple were living there, prior to moving to Bloomington.

Mr. and Mrs. laVine live right on the property, along with two members of their staff. Five persons are required to keep Green Gables operative, besides the owners. They have a registered nurse, nurses aides, and kitchen help. New aides can be trained right at the home, and thus qualify for a certificate.

Keeping the guests active is the major role of the laVines.

"The question is motivation," Lewis said, "we want to get these people to stop feeling sorry for themselves."

The women enjoy knitting and crocheting, as well as assisting in the kitchen with their own ideas and hints.

With the future plans completed, the men will

have their own area for gardening, and a little farm.

LIVE THE JOB
"You can't go into this project half-heartedly," said Mrs. laVine. "It's a 24 hour job."

Mrs. laVine listens attentively to her guests as they relate their troubles, problems, and most of all, their priceless memories. One lady was a high school teacher, while one of the men was a manufacturing executive. Now, their best friend is their memory, and someone who will listen.

Since four of the beds are utilized by the owners and staff, expansion of the premises is necessary. The home is licensed for nineteen persons, and will accommodate that many when a nearby garage is converted into a cottage bungalow. All the rooms in the house, thirteen to be exact, are bright, cheery and have plenty of room. They are colourfully decorated with wallpaper, and highlighted with flowers. In accordance with safety regulations, fire extinguishers are placed strategically throughout both floors of Green Gables. Outside, is fourteen acres of land that, come spring will be landscaped and cultivated. Hundreds of young fir trees will be planted around the perimeter of the property forming a nature-like fence.

GUESTS NEED ATTENTION

However, in all their planning and charting, expanding and building, the laVines still have one major problem. Their guests need all the attention they can get, and what is provided by the staff is not enough.

"What we want to do," said Mr. laVine, "is to encourage service clubs and private citizens to show an interest in these people. That way, the guests won't feel that Green Gables, and other nursing homes like it, is just a 'dumping ground', where they can be thrown and forgotten."

It seems like a pretty cold world when you discover that some people actually think that. But the human element, can't for one moment be forgotten. No matter how old or feeble these people are, no matter how bad their memory is, they still belong to the human race, and as members, deserve the equal treatment as anyone else.

"We want the people to see for themselves," Mr. laVine added.

Medicine had figured out many ways for the senior citizens to remain active for many more years than they could have twenty-five years ago. The least we can do is to keep them happy. Ann of Green Gables is trying.



'Ann of Green Gables' is story book famous and actually a story come true. The Green Gables Rest Home is located at Bloomington in Whitechurch Twp., and its operator is Ann laVine. — Staff Photo.

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Farm Prices Higher

Prices received by farmers for agricultural products rose 12 1/4% last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics report.

It is said its index of farm prices stood at 274.7 in December, 1965, up to 30.7 points from 244 in December, 1964. Prices of nearly all farm products rose during the year.

The index rose 8.4 points from November, 1965, with higher prices for livestock and poultry products, partly offset by lower prices for potatoes.

The annual index for Ontario in 1965 with 1964 index in brackets: 293.4 (269.5).

Present Improvement Program Citizen's Committee Speaks Before Markham Twp. Council

BUTTONVILLE — The Markham Township Citizen's Committee, headed by the chairman, Eric Baker and including members, Don McClelland, Lawson Murnberson and Howard Cosburn attended a meeting of council last week and presented a rather extensive improvement-type program for the municipality.

Mr. Murnberson, a former deputy-reeve, urged the council to promote a tree-planting plan both on roadsides throughout the township and on private properties. He said that many trees, particularly elms, had been removed and in the majority of cases, never replaced. He felt that if the council took the lead, local citizens would follow. He suggested that the types of trees already in the area, should be retained through transplanting.

Reeve Stewart Rumble said he had attempted to plant trees outside his own farm premises but most had been destroyed by the snow plow or killed by weed spray.

Councillor Allan Sumner said that a department policy was for the foreman to clean everything up when the job was completed.

Reeve Rumble admitted that there was no organized garbage collection program throughout the township. He said that some was picked up on a private basis while in other sections it was handled by the municipality. He said that the township did not make it a practice to enter onto private property unless a bylaw was contravened.

Mr. Baker urged also, that more east-west roads in the township be hard-topped. He recommended too, that the type of development in the village of Unionville, should be controlled in order that the nature of the community be retained.

Councillor Roman said that a private line could be installed if desired. The council agreed to check on the complaint of overloaded party lines.

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