

Bill Newman

Youth Secretariat channels ideas, views

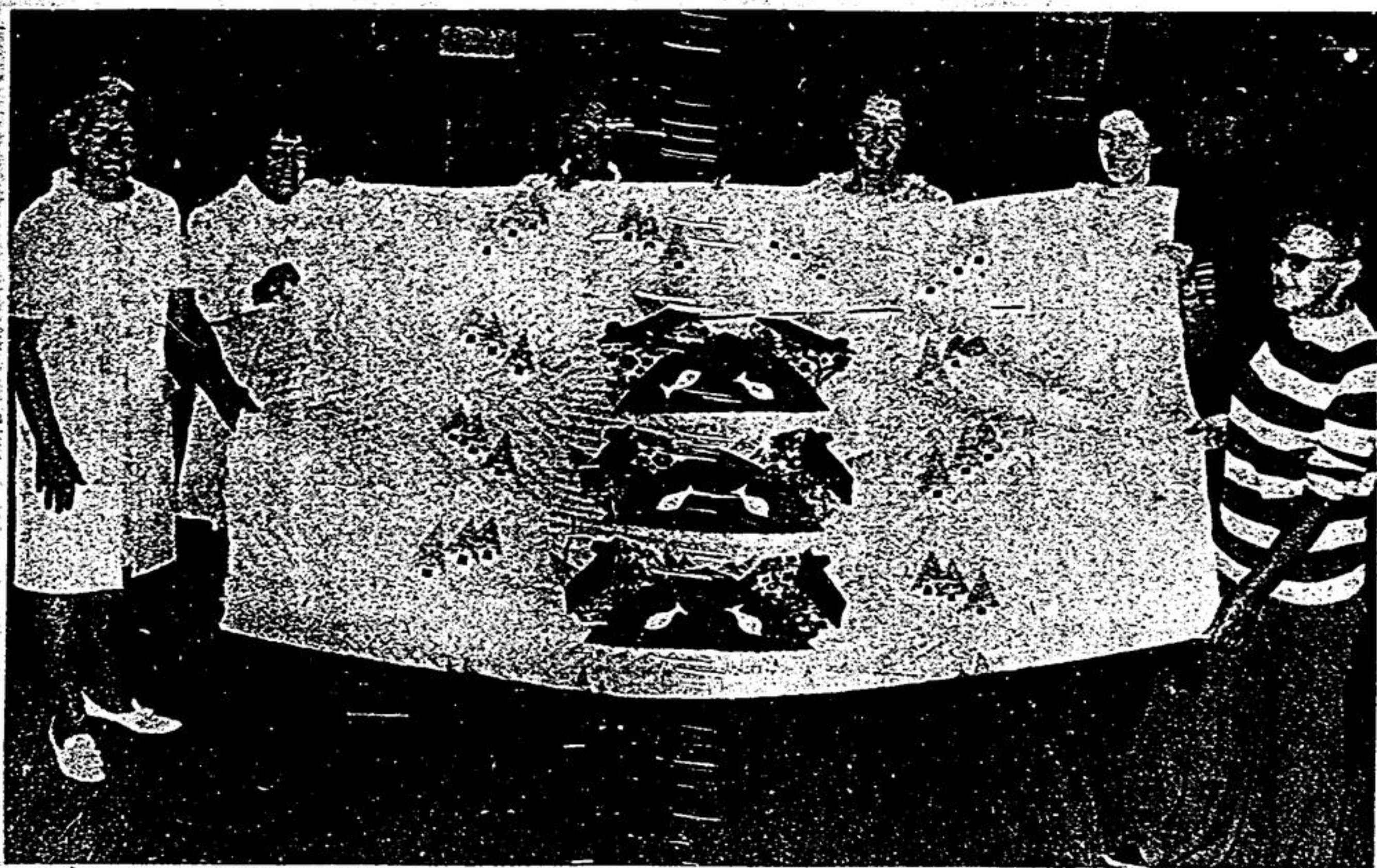
ONT. SOUTH — The Ontario Youth Secretariat was established in 1972 in response to the need for a department which would act upon the concerns of young people. The Secretariat acts as a liaison between youth and the decision-makers in the government. It channels the ideas and views of young people to the government and recommends courses of action on such concerns. In addition, the Youth Secretariat co-ordinates Experience '74 which is a special summer employment programme. The Secretariat is presently involved in examining several areas of legislation which deal directly with young people. Included in these areas are: the utilization of youth hostels in the province, and the direction these hostels should take in the future. The Secretariat is also examining employment opportunities for handicapped youth in the Ontario Government. It is further involved in legislation dealing with the age of consent and the age of majority.

The role of the Youth Secretariat is to focus on the ideas and problems of youth in a number of areas.

In the past few years, more and more young people have been voicing concern over summer employment opportunities. They have wanted meaningful and useful jobs — jobs which will give them practical experience for their future. The Ontario Government, through the Youth Secretariat, has taken concrete steps to help young people find such jobs. The Experience '74 programme provided employment opportunities for 7,400 youth across the province. In addition, another 10,000 students worked for the Ontario Government in regular summer replacement.

Experience '74 is comprised of 18 component programmes. Young people are engaged in a wide range of activities in many different areas of interest including education, conservation, social services and culture. The programme has tried as much as possible to place students in jobs which will assist them in directing their futures. I must emphasize to you at this time that these are not "make work jobs". They need to be done and are useful to the community. The jobs are also accountable to the various communities in which they are carried out. Thus both the communities and the young people benefit from the experience.

I would like to tell you a little about some of the Experience '74 jobs which involved young people in our area during this past summer. The RSVP project or Retardation Student volunteer Programme employed 11 young people at the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital Mental Retardation Unit. A further 7 students were employed in the Christopher Robin Home, also in Whitby. The SPICE programme, or Students Participating in Community Education employed 5 young people in Ajax for the Durham Board of Education.



Ladies of Musselman's Lake have worked many hours to create this quilt which is to be raffled off, at the Craft Fair, Sept. 28. Shown here from left to right are Lucy Baxter, Gwen Jenkins, Florence Pearce, Eva Burland, Mary Morris and Mary Ratcliff. It depicts the lake with trees and water. Mrs. Burland designed the quilt and taught the ladies how to make it. —Don Bernard

Guilty youth conditionally discharged

NEWMARKET — A 17 year old Stouffville youth was found guilty of possession articles stolen from a Stouffville church when he appeared in Newmarket Provincial Court last week.

Wayne Frizzell who had pleaded guilty to the charge, was placed on one year's probation by Judge Clare Morrison and given a conditional discharge.

Police revealed that a cross, bible stand and collection plates, stolen by juveniles from the Christ Church in Stouffville last June, were found in the trunk of a car driven by the accused youth.

Frizzell's counsel pleaded that the accused youth's home life was not the best. He told the court that the 17 year old offender needed guidance.

Judge Morrison said he was in agreement with counsel and directed the youth to be placed on probation. He was also ordered not to associate with the juveniles who had been involved in the theft.

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Bill Hodgson

Disturbing change in hockey

YORK NORTH — Hockey, our national sport, can be one of the most positive forces in our society. Under ideal conditions, it has the ability to teach our young people the values of discipline, courtesy, understanding and respect. In recent years, however, there has been a disturbing change in our approach to hockey, and a dramatic increase in violence in the game. This increase in violence and specifically violence in amateur hockey was the subject of a recent inquiry by the Ontario Government. The investigation was undertaken by William McMurtry for the Ministry of Community and Social Services. In the next two columns, I would like to discuss some of the findings and recommendations of the inquiry.

there is very little attempt made to prevent brawling. A player has no reason to turn his back and refuse to fight. The NHL has never attempted to experiment with match penalties for fights.

The "no-fighting" concept was discussed with many players who had played in college and international hockey where brawls are prohibited. Without exception, they said that it was far more rewarding to play in an environment where fights and violence were not considered to be "part of the game".

Brawling can be removed from our national sport. The "no-fighting" rule has been implemented in Toronto Public School Hockey in an effort to curb violence and abuse of officials by players. This is a concrete example for the rest of the sport.

Many defenders of fighting in hockey say that to give automatic game misconducts for brawling would encourage players to provoke the star member of an opposing team into a fight. This fight would result in his ejection —

for the good of the other team. This argument, however, is completely unfounded. If there was a system of automatic game misconduct, then every player would be able to refuse to fight without fear of losing face. Violence could be removed from hockey, if the rules were changed and a concrete attempt made to enforce new rules.

The existing structure of hockey rewards fighting in that it makes no attempt to curb its use. This violence will lead in turn to more violence in the game. Acceptance of hockey violence will lead to violence outside the sport. The implications are most disturbing.

Another cause of increased violence is the fact that amateur hockey has no clear definition or objectives. It has for a long time been influenced, and financially supported by professional hockey. Yet the "win at all costs" direction of the professional leagues should have no place in amateur sport.

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