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Queen's Park report
by Donald Deacon, M.P.P.

The recent meeting called by Municipal Affairs Minister, Dalton Bales, presented a clear example of the frustration faced by municipalities in connection with Provincial grants. Although the conditional grants he announced were designed to offset the tax impact of the cumbersome Regional Government imposed on York County last year, the method of granting them showed that Queen's Park intends to assume full control of municipal operations. Locally elected officials are becoming mere intermediaries between the public and Queen's Park. They are being blamed for inefficiencies and higher costs of local government but are deprived of the authority and the resources to make improvements they consider necessary.

The trend to big bureaucracy in education and local government began when the public believed this would provide greater uniformity in quality and greater efficiency than the former small units. It sounded sensible to eliminate all the little units of volunteers because so many lacked the background and expertise required to meet modern day demands. It was believed that the big new structures would be the best solution because then our educational system and municipal government could be run by experts. For this reason the local school sections and municipal school boards were thrown aside in 1968 and local municipal councils have been placed in stronger straight jackets, both controlled by means of county school boards and, in many cases, regional government structures designed to make them puppets of Queen's Park bureaucracy. True local autonomy is now a thing of the past.

4-H Club certificates

By Betty Pegg
GREENWOOD. Our community ladies are invited to a tea and home bake sale on Saturday, Aug. 28 at 2 p.m., at the home of Lady Richie of Mt. Zion.

The 4-H Garden Club held their Achievement Day at Uxbridge, on Wednesday last. Kathy Pegg and Brenda Middleton were leaders for our community. Those taking part were Kathy Pegg, Brenda Middleton, Janice and Donna Wilson, Carol Goodwin, Mary Lou Morden and Alma Wilson. Each received a certificate for a good garden. Mrs. Gatenley inspected the gardens.

Grade XIII pupils are now preparing for university beginning Sept. 15. Brenda Middleton will go to Scarborough, Steven Goodwin to Waterloo, Kathy Pegg to Guelph,

Jennifer Hyatt to Toronto.

Miss May Brown accompanied the Brooklyn Women's Institute on a bus trip to Dundas, Grimby and Botanical Gardens at Hamilton recently.

Mr. Elmo Short suffered a stroke last week and is now a patient in Oshawa General Hospital.

Unit 1 of United Church Women will hold their regular meeting on Sept. 2 at the home of Mrs. M. Pegg, with Mrs. I McLean in charge of program.

Mrs. Byers and Mrs. D. Morden attended the birthday party celebrations in Brougham Hall for Mr. Gordon Hodgson on Sunday afternoon.

Visitors at the A. Robertson home on Sunday were Mr. Hazlett and daughter of Toronto and Mr. and Mrs. Danny Poulton of Oshawa.

Misses Gertrude and Mildred Corbett and recently with Mrs. Courtice of Byers and Mrs. Cole.

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The Democratic Way to Better Government

The way Queen's Park should have brought about the much needed improvement in our old educational and local government structures was to have analyzed the problems. A major problem was the poor system of grants which placed, and still places, the major burden for services for people, including education, on the property taxpayer. This could have been corrected by un-

Plan fall meetings in Buttonville area

By Jean Leaf
BUTTONVILLE. It is difficult to believe that the summer season is coming to an end, but when announcements for autumn activities begin to come to my desk it is time to accept the obvious. This week the reminders include the Brown's Corners United Church Women will hold their first meeting of the new season September 8, at the church at 2 p.m. 2. Buttonville Branch of York Central Hospital Auxiliary will meet at the home of Mrs. Alvin Robinson, Parkway Avenue, Thornhill, on September 10, at 10:30 a.m.

Mrs. Norman Reid has been home almost two weeks after eye surgery at Scarborough General Hospital. Jack Rodick returned last Saturday after his bout in the same hospital. We wish them a speedy convalescence.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Walton were in Bowmanville for a 25th wedding anniversary of friends last week.

John and Jeanette Craig's daughter Michelle was a guest at the home of her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Walter Craig last weekend.

The William Champions returned recently from a trip to Scotland. At present they are enjoying a visit from their daughter Margaret who will return shortly to Long Island where she is a staff member at Montessori School.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Denby, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Freeman and Miss Jeanine Gibson were guests at the Tanne-Hincks wedding which took place at Brown's Corners United Church last Saturday. Other guests attended from Mount Forest, Calgary, New Brunswick, Buffalo, N.Y., Ottawa, and Guelph.

conditional provincial per capita grants which by their nature recognize local communities in a democratic society should have the right to decide how to provide for their local needs.

A second major problem was lack of public knowledge about how their local school boards and councils were managing in comparison with others. In my view, the Province should have developed continuing, improved techniques which would inform the public of such important facts.

The third problem was unavailability of expertise provided free of charge to local authorities when the latter so requested. If experts were made available in this way they would be serving local people rather than making decisions for them and local elected representatives would still be responsible for the performance achieved by local government. The public would then be in a position to know when improvement, through a change in local representatives, was warranted.

Unfortunately, in education, in welfare, in health, and in most other fields of a truly local nature, the people have lost control to the bureaucratic experts. Business tried "the big structure" route a generation or more ago, however, successful modern businesses have since learned the value of local interest and autonomy in winning the support of the public. It is time Queen's Park learned the same.

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