A ship in a window!

How much is that ship in the window? Whose window?

Syd Lamb's window, at the corner of Mill and Main Streets. You know-the replica of the Queen Mary which sits sedately in the window with advertisements for houses and farms.

How much IS it worth? Dont know but Syd Lamb turned down \$1,000 in cash from an American visitor

from Nebraska this summer for the model. Made in '35

Syd figured it is worth even more than that. It was made in 1935 at the same time they were building the real ship and it won first prize in 1936 at Acton Fall Fair, the same year the big ship was launched.

Who made it?

Not sure. Fred Wright gave the model to Syd Lamb when he found Syd was very interested in ships and sailing. Where Fred Wright got it I don't know, although it is thought the late Colonel Claude Gray, who used to live at the corner of Church and Frederick Sts. built it. Renovations

Syd Lamb had it renovated when he acquired the ship and enclosed in a glass case made by cablact maker Peter Looser, a local craftsman. Masts for the refurbishment were made by industrial arts students at the Robert Little school, where they had tools delicate enough to fashion them.

It can be lit up at night but Syd Lamb likes to see it sitting there just as if he was on an ocean voyage. He was never on the real Queen Mary, which is berthed in California now, but has travelled on a sister of royal blood-the Queen Elizabeth.

The model attracts much attention, especially by visitors like the American who offered Syd \$1,000 for it. Syd refused.

It is worth more than that to me, he said. You've never seen the ship? Well, just look in Syd Lamb's window the next time you go past.

Parks have visitors

population has increased by three-at least temporarily.

Townsley reports a mated pair a wildlife sanctuary have been Canada geese along with their torn down, presumably by young gosling landed on the lake vandals, and unless they're last Tuesday and have been replaced the birds could become staying very close to the other prey for hunters.

Fairy Lake's waterfowl ducks and geese there ever since. Meanwhile, another concerned observer called the Free Press to Parks manager Harold say signs designating the lake as

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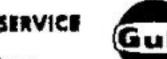
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READERS WRITE: OUR

Dear Editor:

First of all I would like to publicly thank Acton Parks and Recreation Committee for hearing my request on behalf of the Acton Minor Baseball Association for financial assistance in the installation of lights for the Prospect Park hardball diamond, and those who provided me with cost figures or offered to donate their time and labor.

Now that I have handed out the bouquets, I have a few questions I think deserve

answers. After presenting my case at the September 16 parks and recreation meeting, I was promised the committee would include money for lights in the budget they present to council in February for their approval and that our association would be notified of council's decision towards the

latter part of March. In the front page Acton Free Press report of the meeting it was reported that later in the evening the committee "finally decided to write the A.M.B.A. to say they don't feel they can see their way clear to take the request to council right now and that they would rather not see another set of lights erected in Prospect Park. They would be more inclined to develop a park in the eastern end of town at a later date."

My first question is why was the original promise not kept?

Secondly, in reply to a statement attributed to Mrs. Diane Spielvogel which read "I sometimes get the impression some people sit around and wait for this board to hand out money to them." May I make it clear that I or the Acton Minor Baseball Association were definitely not asking for any handout. Minor hockey in town receives a sizable subsidization in the way of reduced ice rental rates and justifiably so. Why does minor baseball not warrant similar financial assistance? Is it not as important?

The Acton Minor Baseball Association does not want lights just because they feel it would be a feather in their cap to be able to say they influenced the committee into undertaking such a project. Far from it. Their aim and the aim of any other minor

sports organization is to provide much needed recreation for the boys and girls of this town. The men and women who give up their time and money to organize minor sports have the welfare of the youngsters at heart. Most of the organizers are involved in more than one organization and undoubtedly could use the extra time dropping out of one of them would mean, if it were not for

the fact they know they're needed. Not only do they give their time freely, they also dig into their own pockets to help cover expenses. Transporting teams to games can add up to close to \$150 a season for coaches and managers using their own cars, no matter whether it's baseball, hockey, lacrosse, soccer or any other sport.

It is my understanding the Municipal Act suggests that two mills of a town's tax rate should be set aside for recreation and sports. The A.M.B.A. felt justified in requesting a share of this tax money.

According to a report of the same meeting in an area daily, committee member Barry Inscoe suggested dodging around the request until the board decides if Prospect Park is the right place for another set of lights. Why should this request be dodged at all?

It seems to me the committee is dragging in a "red herring" by stating they would be more inclined to develop a park in the eastern end of town at a later time, when there is a need for baseball lights now. The only other park in town is Sir Donald Mann Park in Glenlea and it is unsuitable, on account of its size, for minor baseball above the novice age level.

If the committee is trying to think of ways to use Sir Donald Man Park, what's wrong with construction of an Indooroutdoor swimming pool. The Y.M.C.A. found it practical to bus only 60 youngsters to Guelph for swimming. Those who registered after the limit of 60 will unfortunately be left out.

It would be nice to think that lights in a separate new park could be partially paid for by an admission charge of 10 or 25 cents to all those entering, as arena manager Harold Townsley has suggested, but how could we expect to realize any revenue from this, when very few parents attend the games anyway? I'm sure we couldn't ask the boys and girls to pay the admission

price. Mr. Townsley expressed the opinion the softball lights shouldn't be in Prospect Park. He pointed to the difficulty parks employees are having planting trees there. "We can't plant trees in the centre of the park", he said. I would venture a guess that the cost of planting trees and caring for the park's waterfowl population would be about half the cost of installation of baseball lights.

What I would like to know is do the committee want to keep Prospect Park as a beauty spot? Are the youngsters to be denied use of the park? I would be curious to find out exact figures on tree planting and waterfowl care, including labor costs.

In view of a recent article in a Toronto daily, which claimed Acton has the highest juvenile delinquency rate of any town its size in Ontario, I ask what should we as citizens be more concerned about, planting trees and looking after ducks, or making sure our youth have organized recreation?

Not too long ago one of our former town fathers was quoted in the Free Press as saying minor sports in town is overorganized. How can minor sports in Acton be over-organized in view of the juvenile delinquency rate we have.

In closing I would like to say I sincerely hope none of my children or any of yours ever end up a delinquent.

Any of the comments I have made or views I have expressed in this letter are my own and not necessarily shared by the Acton Minor Baseball Association.

> Yours truly, Harold Speaker.



WELLINGTON-Dufferin Liberal candidate Cam Lush chatted with Halton M.P. Rud Whiting at the fair. —(Staff Photo)

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Acton will pay 2.02 per cent, Burlington will pay 42.69 per cent, Georgetown 6.61 per cent, Milton 3.15, Oakville 39.488, Esquesing 4.27 per cent and Nassagaweya 1.92 per cent.



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