

# What's in a name? -a boon to Canadian culture

By FLORENCE WILKINSON

My first experience of Shakespeare was a parody on the famous lines, "What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," which my older schoolmates would quote, "What's in a name? An onion by any other name would smell." With the past tension over Meech Lake we have certainly been made aware that a name has great weight.

When I moved to Georgetown, I was amazed to hear so many names with an Anglo-Saxon sound. I grew up among Belgians, Hungarians, Dutch, etc. and have worked for years where Ukrainians, Russian, Japanese and Native Canadian besides other non anglo-saxon names were very prominent. In the latter years Hindu and Sikh names have been added to the list.

Each of these names holds a tradition with religion, cooking, family habits which differ from others. What's in a name can have great meaning in our Canadian culture with all its richness of tradition and colour.

But to get back to Georgetown - It had not been too long until I found that by observation about anglo-saxon names was not completely correct. I ran across such names as Esquesing, Chinguacousy and Nassagaweya. I was sure that one of the names at least was from our Native Canadian heritage, but found that all three were.

To the oldtimers in the area the meaning of these names will be familiar, but to newcomers, just to give you a feeling for what the area meant to earlier inhabitants, here are the meanings: Esquesing means Land Of The Tall Pines, or another source says that it means That Which Lies At The End; Chinguacousy means Whispering Pines, or another source says that it means Young Pine, and was named for a young chief who won a battle in the war of 1812-1814. Since pines do not grow in that heavy clay land it is surmised that Young

## Seniors for the Future

Pine came from some other area. Nassagaweya means Having Two Outlets, and it is supposed to be a corruption of a word meaning a river with two ways or two outlets.

I tried to get some other feeling for the early days by going to the maple syrup days at Crawford Lake. A lot of advertising makes Ste. Marie Among the Hurons well known, but Crawford Lake has a lot of history to offer also. I enjoyed my time there though it was late when I arrived and it was a raw windy day for having to walk around.

One of the qualities of early life which intrigues me is the ability to survive, and often live well, on whatever was at hand - and this applies to the west coast natives who made cedar the centre of much of life; the prairie people who used the buffalo; or the Ontarian who

used the poles and trees available. This of course also applies to the earliest settlers, who are ancestors of so many of us who now live in this country. Simplicity is certainly not ignorance. Much wisdom is obvious in the ways of life of any 'pre-education' culture, and education has always been present with the same purpose of passing on knowledge which is necessary for living - at any stage and any age.

So, "What's in a name?" Names often tell us of the struggle, wisdom, culture, sense of beauty, or craft of a person or a people, and therefore can be an interesting hobby or past-time; something which does not take a lot of physical exercise, but can put to use the sense of wonder and curiosity which, contrary to the old wives tales, continues to exist even in those growing old.



Remembering Terry

In recognition of the 10th Anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope, Terry's parents, Rolland and Betty are visiting communities who welcomed their son in 1980 to offer their personal thanks. Mr. and Mrs. Fox will be at Halton Hills Civic Centre on Maple Ave., from 1-1 p.m. Aug. 17. (Photo submitted)

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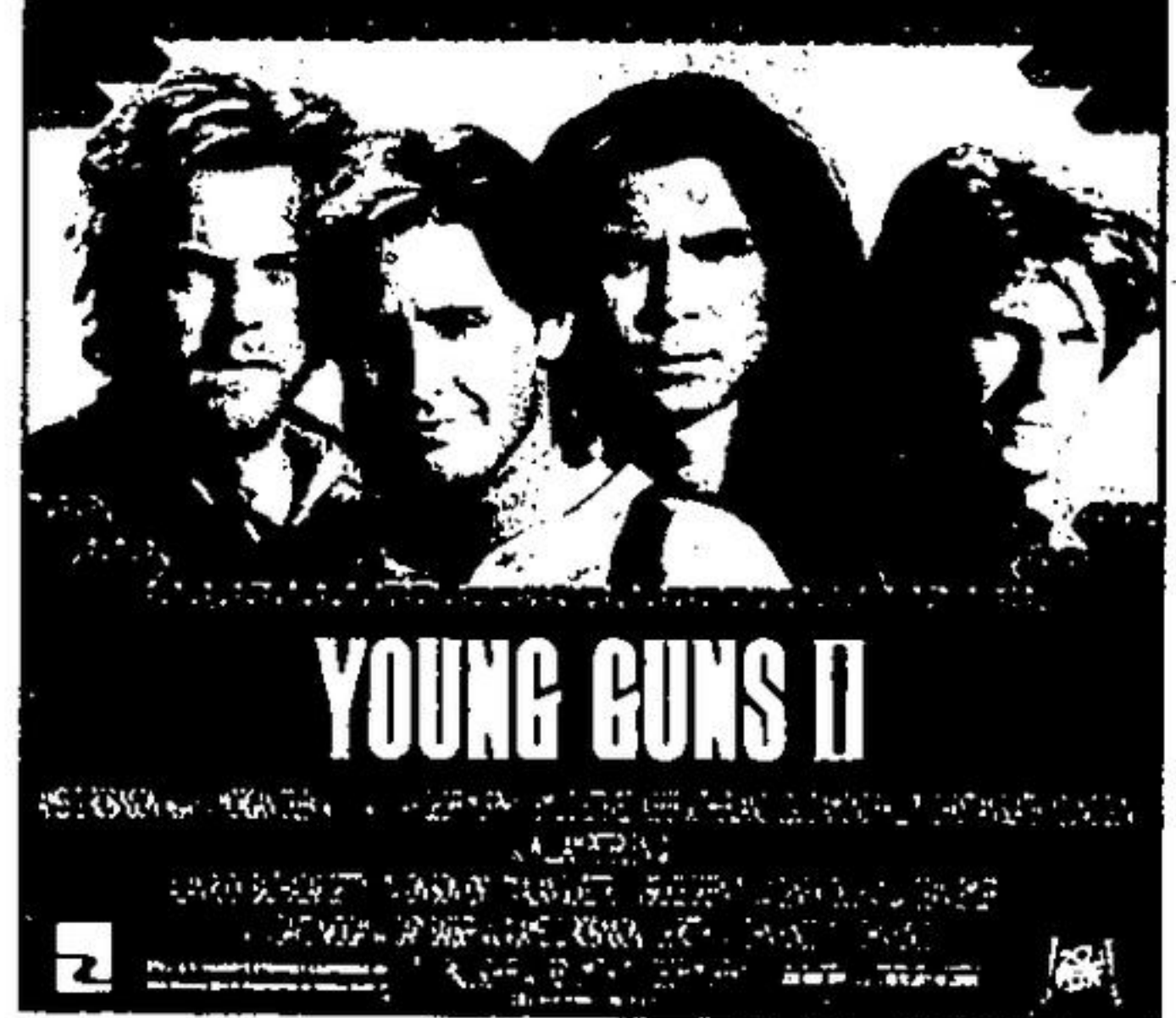
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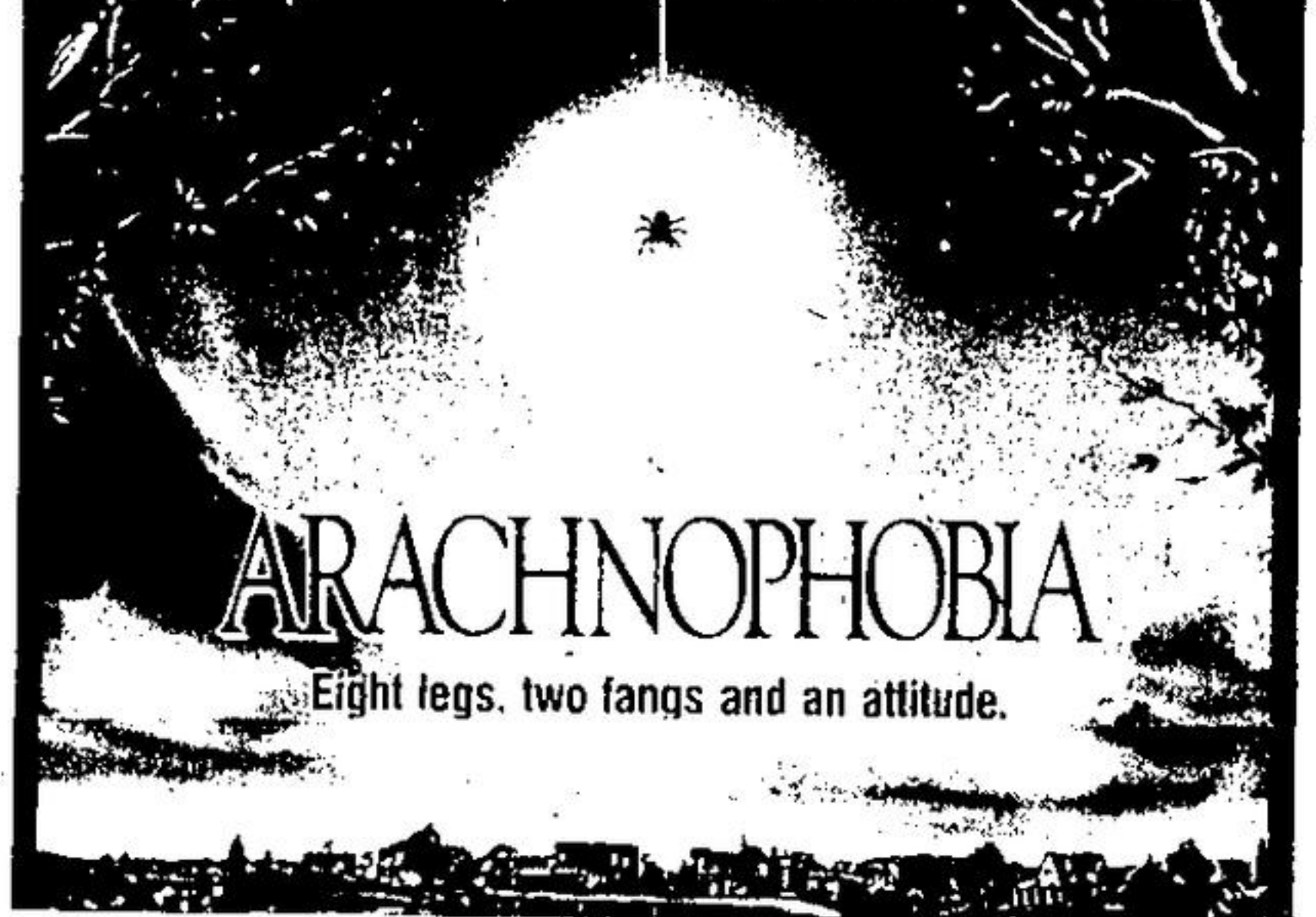
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