

# CNA The Liberal

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## Letters to the Editors

### CHIEF MINOR BALL UMPIRE APPEALS FOR MORE HELP

Dear Mr. Editor—  
I'm the umpire-in-chief for minor ball, and I need umpires very badly. I would like to explain why we cannot acquire enough umpires. We use young ball players who want to learn how to umpire. We've found that unless we have an older person with them, the coaches and some parents give them a very rough time. I do not think that this is fair. I think that it's time that both the coaches and parents grew up! Unless they do, we will not have anyone to umpire the games and this could ruin minor ball in Richmond Hill.

Another point is that if the coaches don't stop arguing and carrying on like little kids, and learn to coach ball, the parents are going to stop their kids from playing ball. And can you blame them?  
We have an awful lot of available men and women who have children playing ball, and I wonder why we can't encourage these people to help? I need umpires badly and anyone wanting to learn to umpire, please tell them to contact the umpire-in-chief either at Bradstock Park any night, or phone after 9 pm at 884-1659.

(See Editorial This Page)

I love the game of ball, but with the trouble getting umpires and the problems with child-like coaches, I may not go back into ball next year. This year I have had nothing but one big headache. We need help and support! You would think that with the size of Richmond Hill, and the number of ball players that we have, our park would be crowded with people anxious to help — But Where Are They!  
So come one — come all — help keep Richmond Hill a good ball town during the summer. What else can I say — WE NEED HELP!

### AN UMPIRE'S PLIGHT

An Umpire is a sort of man  
Who tries to help if he can,  
But seldom does he ever succeed  
In doing what the ball players need,  
He has to make the calls that no one likes,  
And he wonders about his balls and strikes,  
Or else he will call "Play Ball"  
And then relax as he makes his call.

### AN UMPIRE

A ball diamond, that's the place for me  
Where there's lots of excitement, and the yelling free,  
I am a good old Umpire, as you can well see,  
Made of very thick skin and as calm as can be.  
And every call that is made by good old me  
There's lots of yelling, "Hey Ump, can't you see?"

Now all summer long, when all the games start,  
I'm there, ready and willing to do my part.  
My calls are made by the book, that good old rule  
And when the spectators yell, I still keep my cool,  
Of course you know why, it's because I'm a happy old Umpire  
And the game of ball is my heart's desire.

### UMP. FOR HIRE

How much is that Umpire?  
I do hope that he is for hire,  
The one with the funny hat  
We need one just like that,  
One who knows the game of ball  
And how to make that funny call,  
Now, when he walks onto the field  
You know that during the game, he's not going to yield,  
Making the whole game come alive, by calling strike, and ball, and infield fly,  
You're out, you're safe, only one base,  
See he's an Umpire, can't you tell by his face?  
He never hears any nasty remarks  
While on that field from daylight till dark,  
You can tell that a lot he has bumped  
For on no rule is he ever stumped,  
So we need good Umpires that make a good call  
Please, hire that one for our game of ball.

Thanking you,  
**ALFRED FRY,**  
Umpire-in-Chief  
and  
**GLORIA FRY,**  
his right-hand man,  
73 Benson Avenue,  
Richmond Hill.

### OPPOSE AIRPORT EXPANSION

Dear Mr. Editor —  
We were very interested to read Mary Dawson's vivid description of our farmlands in her article on the Buttonville Airport . . . and we were grateful for her

noting the yellow haze of pollution over Toronto.

A good portion of that haze is caused by the exhaust of privately owned motor cars, Ontario, or North America, chose to promote the ownership of private cars by the development of roads and



(By Ethel Snow and Estelle Barker)

## Samuel Troyer's Octagonal Barn In Vaughan

The octagonal barn on Lot 1 Concession 3 of Vaughan Township, known as the Fisherville area, is one of the few remaining eight-sided barns in Ontario. It was built by Samuel Troyer, grandson of Christian Troyer, Sr., way back in the late 1800's.  
Christian Sr. came to Canada from Brothers Valley, Somerset County, Pennsylvania and eventually settled in Vaughan Township in 1804. For almost forty years he was the

minister of Edgeley Mennonite Church, and was the means of bringing many of the faith to Canada. There are many of his descendants in Southern Ontario.

Barns are becoming scarce in this region as Metro Toronto expands. Cities don't build barns — don't need barns — and don't want barns; so take a good look at the barns in your area before they are torn down.

## Librarians Need Riot Control Course, Quips Chief

It's nice to be popular, but some of the programs run by the North York Library have been so much so, Chief Librarian John Dutton has expressed the opinion, "We should take lessons on how to handle riots."

The sessions that give the most trouble are those that prove more popular than expected, such as when a local hockey player took part in a program for young people. "They just kept moving closer and closer," says Phyllis Goldman, head of adult education at the library's extension department.

The worst she had to contend with was when she started to distribute free comic books to a group of youngsters, and the big ones threatened to crush the little ones.

"Something for everyone" might well be the slogan of the library, and when one examines the great variety of programs offered, it's not surprising to learn that they had a total attendance last year of about 90,000.

"We're interested in broadening our service as much as possible," says Reg Rawkins, who is director of public services. "The old idea of a library being simply a collection of books in a considerably out of date. What we try to do is to offer a learning, cultural or entertaining experience to as possible by other than the medium of print."

**NEW SERIES SOON**  
The scope of the library's programs is suggested by the total number of different series held last year in the 14 branches: 646. Take October 2, for example, when the following series will be starting:

At BAYVIEW, rug hooking; at YORK WOODS, Beyond Ourselves; at WILLOWDALE Streamlining Together (a diet program in cooperation with the Y); and French for pre-schoolers; at DON MILLS, Junior Book Club, crafts for pre-schoolers, and with the Y, Discovering Canadian Drama; at DOWNSVIEW, Coffee, Tea and Books; at BLACK CREEK, Women's Fitness (with the Y) and Junior Fun; BROOKBANKS, preschool story hour, and Creative Music (for children); at AMESBURY PARK, "My Mother and I."

These are all in addition to ongoing programs such as school upgrading at BATHURST HEIGHTS, karate at BLACK CREEK, "Lunch Italiano" at DOWNSVIEW, Children's Orchestra and Now Books at WILLOWDALE, contemporary books at DON MILLS and yoga at BROOKBANKS.

**STUDY OLD MOVIES**  
No doubt the most popular series this fall will once again be the women's series which is in its fifth season. They are always filled to capacity. "Searching for Values" is also expected to be a hit. This has already

been held at CENTENNIAL and FAIRVIEW, and is scheduled this season at DOWNSVIEW, BROOKBANKS, DON MILLS and WILLOWDALE. A feature of each program in the series is a 20-minute excerpt from some Hollywood film, such as "All the King's Men" or "Waterfront", after which the values demonstrated in the film are discussed by both speaker and audience.  
Mrs. Goldman also expects a good turnout for a series of four free musical programs under the heading of "The Composer Today", arranged in cooperation with the new North York Symphony Orchestra and consisting of both lectures and demonstrations.  
The variety is endless, some of the programs only vaguely connected with adult education. Their success, according to Mr. Rawkins, is largely due to the fact that the library depends on its branch people to advise them what the people are interested in hearing or doing or seeing.  
"We intend to continue to do what we can do best, sponsoring unstructured programs of every possible hue," says Mr. Rawkins.  
Of course, not all efforts are wild successes. "The thing we all fear most," says Mrs. Goldman, "is a night when almost no one shows up." Once, for a lecture on housing, only two people had arrived by eight o'clock and the speaker was furious. By the time he had got well into his subject, however, there were about 25 present and they were all so interested, it was a good evening. Another time, during a snowstorm, only four people turned up for a talk on Canadian folk cooking. The speaker quit half way through.  
"I've worked out a system to prevent complete disasters," says Mrs. Goldman. "I tell everybody, if you're doubtful about the attendance, invite your family and friends and you're bound to have at least a minimum audience."

Information on programs to be sponsored by the Library this fall is available at local branches or by calling 638-7100, extension 37.

**NEWMARKET:** The fourth annual Algonquin Festival has been set for September 13-16, recreation department officials announced recently. Recreation Commissioner Dan Shannon urged any clubs interested in taking part in this year's festival to call the recreation office. Among the special events planned for this year's festival is a giant art exhibition at Fairgrounds Park. There will also be a corn roast, barbecue, bands, a canoe race at Fairy Lake, the Algonquin Fest beer garden and a track and field meet.

## Save Bayview Fairways

The Municipal Board has held a full public hearing on the matter of the subdivision application for 17 acres of Bayview Country Club Limited land on the southwestern edge of South Thornhill's Bayview Fairways community. The board members are now making their decision.

The proceedings before the board shed much light on this particular controversy and upon the general issue of what happens when private owners of recreational open space seek to undertake urban development of their property.

It appears that such owner developers usually win their case and can go ahead with construction unless the public authorities are willing to pay a handsome price to take the land involved. This was the experience in the recent and well known York Downs golf land case in Metro.

But in South Thornhill there is a difference. The application involves a small piece of land cradled in a community in such a way that a subdivision of this size can't be introduced without infringing on the rights of existing property owners.

Indeed, the degree of this infringement can be measured in part by the degree the standards of the Official Plan for the neighborhood are violated. If a citizen can't rely upon Official Plan provisions when he buys a home, then upon what can he rely?

In this case one of the major Official Plan standards endangered is that for neighborhood park area. The Bayview Fairways neighborhood population already substantially exceeds what it should be, when the neighborhood park space Official Plan standard is applied.

And there is no opportunity to be seen in the vicinity to alleviate the neighborhood park space shortage. Lieu money or a "tot" lot can't make up for an overcrowded neighborhood park.

This park space problem is probably the most clearly delineated obstacle in the path of development. But as the proceedings of the local town government over the past months have shown, and as the OMB hearings also showed, the shortage of park space is only one of a number of such considerations which stand against the application.

These considerations which are adverse to the application, in total, have resulted in almost unanimous local rejection of the proposed subdivision. In its final wisdom, after much soul searching and after wrestling with the problem for months, the elected Markham Town Council turned down the project. The local ratepayers, through their organization and also independently, have shown their firm opposition.

The Markham Committee of Adjustment, an independent appointed body not subject to the pressure of voters, decided against the application. It decided the proposed severance of land from the golf course for the new subdivision wasn't appropriate.

The right of the golf club to use its property as it sees fit isn't disputed. But the exercise of this right can harm the neighbors and can infringe on their rights, too. This is where the dispute arises.

In this case, as in all such cases of open space conversion, approval of severance, rezoning, subdivision and Official Plan amendment shouldn't be given. In this instance we feel the Municipal Board should uphold the decisions of the local municipal authorities.

## Minor Ball Needs You

Richmond Hill minor ball leagues are suffering this year from a lack of participation by mothers, fathers, older sisters and brothers. There is a lack of volunteer help from adults generally.

Perhaps it is a reflection of the pace of life today. Sometimes society seems like a dog chasing its tail faster and faster in a circle, never getting anywhere and due for an awful surprise if it ever gets its teeth into what is being chased after.

Be that as it may, the older folk just aren't getting out of that rocking chair on the porch and ambling down to the ball field of an evening to swap yarns about the old days and tease the youngsters along. In recent weeks there haven't been enough oldsters around to umpire ball games, thus delaying schedules and putting a heavier and heavier load on those grownups who do turn out. With a shortage of leadership help, it's little wonder that schedules also get a bit mixed up once in a while.

The wear and tear on the umpires, especially the younger ones, naturally is a bit heavy once in awhile when the players or the coaches throw themselves a little too hard into the sport. That's the nature of the thing, and you sometimes need replacements for the casualties.

It takes a lot of courage, dedication and self-confidence to get out and get behind that wire mask to

be a judge. You have to develop a lot of maturity to handle those highly emotional moments that come up. Then, too, there's that missile that comes whizzing in your direction. You have to stand brave and nonchalant when what you really feel like doing is ducking out of the way and running to safety behind the screen.

But this umpiring thing is something pretty important that needs doing. Sport, especially where it involves rubbing shoulders with adults and learning how to grow up, is crucial to the development of our children. It pays huge dividends in the building of character in the citizens of the future.

Helping with youth activities is a unique opportunity for service, an opportunity that seldom can be equalled in other ways. It can be pretty exciting and fun, too.

Last week the bantam league convenor reported problems due to lack of adult participation. As a result the youngsters tend to lose interest.

This week the minor ball chief umpire enlarges on the problem in a letter to the editor. He can be found most evenings at Bradstock Park behind MacKillop Public School, doing what he can to keep the ball diamonds going.

We feel sure the community of Richmond Hill doesn't want to let itself down by letting its young people down. Get out there and help.

## Commonly Held Theories On Drinking Are False

Doubt has been cast on some theories about drinking, which are commonly held, by a recent three-year survey by the Alcoholism Foundation of British Columbia. The survey appears to indicate that drinking is not directly related to the size of a city and is not determined by personality factors or demographic indicators such as religious or ethnic background.

The survey shows that per capita consumption of alcohol in Prince George, Nelson and Kamloops is about as high as in large cities. But because of the "frontier" style of drinking in the three cities, problems associated with alcohol are probably greater than in large cities.

The survey's results also question the value of the Jellinek method for measuring alcoholism in a community. This method is based on the number of deaths in a community from liver cirrhosis.

Ron Cutler, research director for Alcoholism Foundation, said that people in a large city typically drink more frequently than people in the three BC cities but drink less per occasion.

"In San Francisco and other large cities where the drinking style is more sophisticated a person may have two drinks at lunch, two after work and two before bed for a weekly total of 42. That is a lot of alcohol, but we've found that people in the tri-cities drink approximately the same amount but on fewer occasions — typically Friday and Saturday nights. Half the people in our sample fell into the high-maximum category — they drink a large volume of alcohol on any given occasion. High-maximum in San Francisco is about 22%."

The more than two-fold difference in high-maximum drinking in the tri-cities means that people in the three cities are drunk more often and suffer more of the problems associated with intoxication, such as arrests for being drunk in public or drunken driving or wife beating, Cutler said.

Prince George has a population of 33,000 and liquor sales of \$6.2 million annually. The figures of Kamloops were 26,000 people and \$4.5 million and for Nelson 9,400 and \$1.5 million. Per capita liquor sales were

\$297 for Prince George, \$260 for Kamloops and \$233 for Nelson.

The tri-cities have a resource-based economy—logging, mining and road-construction. It is assumed that the results found there could apply to any North American city with a similar resource base.

The tri-cities were chosen because, although they had similar economic activities, they differed greatly in rate of growth. Nelson's growth rate has been stasis for a decade. Prince George is growing rapidly. Nelson has a concentration of older people in its population. Prince George has a large proportion of younger people.

Mr. Cutler says, "Though Prince George showed higher drinking activity, this does not seem to come from its higher growth rate but rather from its higher proportion of young people. For a long time people have speculated that alcoholism is more of a problem in larger urban centres and is a reflection of the problems of urban living — population density, urban stress, alienation. Results of the survey show drinking to be as much a problem in the tri-cities

as in large metropolitan areas."

"I think the incidence of problem drinking in smaller cities and towns is just as great as in larger areas. The man from a large city may not confine his drinking to uncontrollable sessions on a Friday and Saturday night. But he may have a better chance of dying of cirrhosis of the liver though he may never be identified as an alcoholic," Cutler states.

The general population survey showed little difference in levels of drinking across ethnic or religious groups.

Cutler says the best predictors of how much a person drinks are sex, age and income in descending order of importance.

Students in Nelson, the city with the older and stabler population, drink more than students in youthful and booming Prince George in spite of heavier drinking by Prince George adults. Nelson students drink more frequently without their parents' knowledge and favor drinking intemperately. Prince George parents have a relatively permissive attitude towards drinking.

freeways rather than electric railways (remember taking the old Yonge Street car all the way down into Toronto, and nothing to park when one arrived?) Even train travel is actively discouraged by the governments.

Our councils have a decision of exactly the same importance to make now! Will the Markham Council allow Buttonville to expand, sending more traffic over Richmond Hill on its longer runway? (The lengthened traffic pattern so that the twin engine planes will take off over south-east Richmond Hill rather than into the Town of Markham. Or will the Town of Markham restrict the usage of private pleasure planes?)

Buttonville Airport is now a safe says the Department of Transport) well run airport business. As Miss Dawson pointed out, it is active and attractive. We have been grateful to the courtesy of the pilots these last few months — they have stopped flying low over our home. However we still experience irritating noise, particularly on Sundays, and in the evenings when we have leisure time. Pity the poor suburbanite in Markham, Unionville or Richmond Hill who works all day in the city, returns to his expensive "country" home in Allencourt or Unionville to the noise of Sunday pleasure flyers!

Certainly it is essential that young people learn to fly at the Buttonville School. We need pilots for the Northlands, for oil exploration, for traffic control, etc. I think the day of owning planes for prestige is past, and those who wish to fly for pleasure might well do so farther from the city.

Our great grandfathers never envisioned an era where all the railway passengers would have to get out of the trains and into private cars to choke the roads . . . all going in the same direction at the same time, but each in his own separate vehicle! Can you imagine what will happen if every jumbo jet passenger discovers the joy and convenience of flying his own plane as Councillor David Stephenson of Richmond Hill has?

We are entering a new era! At this point in time we must ask ourselves if it isn't even immoral for one or two people in a plane, flying for pleasure, fun or convenience, to disturb whole subdivisions! I just can't have a bonfire (and I'm glad we can't) because it pollutes, why should a pilot pollute my air, consuming fuel and irritating my ears? Why can't "Mrs. B" of Allencourt keep a couple of chickens in her back yard to provide food for her family? I'd rather hear a rooster crow than an airplane roar.

Jet planes are necessary; pilot training is necessary. But don't let's encourage hobby flying, or indulge those executives who are "too busy" to join the rest of us in a passenger plane.

It may not be the "American Way" to discourage business expansion, but let's encourage Buttonville Airport to stay the size it is now — or better still, from the point of view of its neighbors, move out of this built-up area.

I'd love the feeling of freedom, the excitement of speed, experienced in a small plane — I'd adore the view too. But it's a selfish hobby that hurts other people.

We live near Leslie Street and Markham Road and have for 40 years.  
**MARILYN WATFORD,**  
Box 240, Richmond Hill.

### WOODBRIDGE RECYCLING GROUP SUPPORTS MAPLE RATEPAYERS

Dear Mr. Editor—  
The Woodbridge Area Recycling (WAR) programme is an informal activity carried on by residents of the Woodbridge area as a demonstration of the viability of the concept of recycling glass, paper and metals. The increasing participation of Woodbridge citizens in this activity, as reported in the Woodbridge and Vaughan newspapers confirms their endorsement of the concept of recycling and thus the protection of our environment. Many of the participants have commented on the reduction of garbage produced by their households when recyclables are separated.

The technology of recycling and processing garbage, as reported by various news media, is showing substantial advances. We note that the plans for disposal of Metro Toronto's garbage takes no account of these advances.

There seems little justification for the Town of Vaughan to support this out-moded approach by Metro Toronto and thus to be victimized.

The Woodbridge Area Recycling group therefore strongly endorses the resolution passed by the Maple Ratepayers Association and forwarded to the Vaughan Council and the Vaughan Planning Committee opposing the dumping of Metro Toronto garbage in the Town of Vaughan.

Yours very truly,  
**WOODBRIDGE AREA RECYCLING,**  
**DAVID COATES,**  
11 Waymar Heights Boulevard.

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