



Fred Simpson

There's romance out there

Some things are not to be in this world, I realize this.

I'm not to be a fisherman but every season about this time I get the romantic urge to take up angling.

It especially happens when I see the strange glow in the eyes of a fisherman just before he takes off for a three or four day excursion with his buddies.

He sort of just sits there, fondling a cold one, and you know that you're in the presence of a happening.

There was a time, in my more cynical youth, I used to figure he was really entranced by the sudden realization he was escaping from the wife for three or four days. Hence the glow.

Now I know this is not the case. He's a fisherman, one of the last great romantics in our somewhat unromantic age.

Wave of sadness

It's at times like this a great wave of sadness washes over me. Something like that anyway.

You see, I'm an armchair fisherman. I love to sit and imagine myself somewhere out there in hip-waders amidst the fast-flowing waters of a river with fishing rod in hand.

Fish, of course, are jumping out of the water all over the place. Back in the shallow part of the river, buried beneath a cool rock, is a flagon of wine.

Just like Hemingway used to describe it if you've ever read "The Sun Also Rises."

Big catch

Then comes the big catch, later the crackling camp fire, the sizzle of cooking fish, the smell, the stories about the big ones that got away. All that, and that.

Well, I'm afraid it's never to be for me. Oh, I've been fishing. Things never seemed to turn out quite romantic for me. The glow wasn't there.

There was a time in the Fench River when I was strong-armed into going fishing. That was back in my more youthful days when you did things you don't do anymore.

A cool one, please

The only thing that got me near the water in the first place was that cool little fisherman's lounge that clung enticingly to the shore. I must admit I did my best fishing there.

Oh they got me out once. Right in the deepest part of the water, in a boat. It was about 99 degrees out (that was before Celsius) and, being a non-swimmer, I insisted on wearing a life jacket. No, it wasn't very romantic at all.

The only other time I gave in to the weakness of the flesh was a few years later. Got talked into it again. Trouble is I left to go fishing right from a party which really isn't as romantic as it sounds.

Barb wire fence

It seems to me this particular fishing hole was a private one because it had a barb wire fence around it. Have you ever tried to surmount a barbwire fence with dress clothes on? That takes the romance out of anything.

As it turned out I was the biggest fish caught that day and it took a lot of ingenuity to get me off that top barb on the fence.

Cast your bread

Then they tried to teach me how to cast. Said it was easy. Just bring the rod straight back over one shoulder, bring it straight forward, and push the release button in the same motion.

The first time I brought the rod straight back I heard an anguished "moooo" right behind me. My line was draped over the back of a farmer's cow who happened to be passing by in the area.

But I got better later on. It was a narrow river and on one frustrating occasion I flung the line out into the river and right over it.

I spent the next hour trying to coax the line and hook out of a tree. Somewhere there's a robin flying around with a fish-hook scar in one wing.

End of romance

That was the last time I tried to find the romance in fishing. So I sit here and warm in the glow that comes to the eyes of other fishermen who are about to head out.

Then a convulsive shudder runs through me. I remember. Do I ever remember. Happy fishing guys. See you when you get back.

Finally

A reminder that the annual meeting of the Richmond Hill Hockey Association will be held next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the "Blue Flame Room" at the Consumers Gas Building on Elgin Mills Road East. Get out there and participate.

Carlo Corvese . . . not happy at all

No 'Junior A' hockey for Thornhill

By Fred Simpson

Carlo Corvese's two-year struggle to establish a Junior A hockey franchise in Thornhill — namely the Toronto Nationals — is over.

He lost. Phrases such as "I was shafted" and "there's blood dripping from my arms" were used by Corvese to describe his disappointment at Markham Town Council's decision Monday of last week to reject his application.

"Certainly I'm bitter," said Corvese who lives on Pheasant Valley Court in Thornhill and is vice-president of the Toronto Nats. "But it's not because my bid was turned down by council. It's the way it was done, the way I was treated. I got a royal shafting."

Markham Regional Councillor Ron Moran told "The Liberal" that the proposal was denied mainly because "the majority of council felt that a junior A franchise wouldn't be sufficiently community-oriented."

Another entry

That same decision was undoubtedly fed by the prospects of a Junior B franchise in Thornhill as proposed by a group of municipal ratepayers.

Councillor Moran observed that the "type of franchise proposed by the Thornhill group seems to be the likelier to give young people from the town the opportunity to play a higher calibre of competitive hockey."

He added that the Thornhill group — led by Spokesman Fred Disera — would also have to "satisfy us as far as financial arrangements are concerned before any approval is granted".

Corvese upset

Corvese was upset because the same group "has never presented a formal, written proposal to council which I have done and have been doing for the past two years."

He explained that he had made a formal application to council in early April and had been told there was a chance a local "B" team would be applying also.

"I was told that council was going to hold off any decision until after April 26 for the purpose of seeing whether this other group would come up with a written offer."

"A meeting was called for April 29 with the understanding that council would make a decision then on my application or the one by the other group."

Caught by surprise

Corvese said he was surprised to find that "on the date of the meeting the Thornhill people were there some 20-strong to object to my proposition but with still no formal application of their own before council. They didn't even have a franchise at that time."

It was Corvese's contention that council was then committed to "giving me the okay because I had lived up to the guidelines laid down by council. Namely, to produce a written offer and a franchise already to go in. The other people had neither."

Council, he said, then went in to an in camera session and came out and told me that my proposal had been denied."

Offering top hockey

Corvese added that he was a "resident of Thornhill and I simply want to contribute to the community by giving it a top brand of

hockey which a lot of people want and will go to see. It would put Thornhill on the map."

He said that "if I'd known there would be a large delegation of minor hockey people there I could have as many or more people there who are eager to have "A" hockey in Thornhill. I just didn't have a chance."

Fear

Corvese acknowledged that there was a great fear that "youngsters from Thornhill wouldn't be given a chance to play on the Nats. This is nonsense. If they were able to make the team I'd be happy to have them. I would even give the ones that couldn't make it a chance to play on the B's."

Glorified juveniles

He said that "junior B hockey, as proposed, is really only glorified juvenile hockey these days and you already have a juvenile club in Thornhill."

"People want the Thornhill kids to stay in Thornhill and be given a chance to play competitive hockey on a higher level. It won't work anyway. If they're that good they'll be grabbed off by the Richmond Hill Rams and you'll lose them anyway."

Corvese was also of the opinion that if "you try to immediately stock a junior B club with all Thornhill hockey players it'll be a farce. You'll just have a juvenile club playing "B" and they'll get killed."

Angry over treatment

He summed it up by repeating that "you should stress I'm not angry about having my application refused. It's just the unfair treatment I got. They led me down the garden path."

Councillor Moran said that council's first concern is "to accommodate the people in

the community. The Thornhill community centre complex represents a five and a quarter million dollar proposition and our residents are paying for it. It's our prime objective to provide a facility for these residents."

He said he had originally been for the Corvese proposal but had changed his mind after talking to various people "regarding the unlikelihood of our Town of Markham youngsters getting a fair chance to play a higher calibre of hockey."

Letter controversy

Moran told "The Liberal" that "another development that changed my mind was Mr. Corvese writing a letter asking that the junior B request to have a hockey team be refused."

Corvese later denied this stating that he had written "a letter all right but at no time did I say anything about refusing a junior B application."

He said he sent a letter to the Ontario Hockey Association "not knocking any B organization from Thornhill but, rather, explaining why an A hockey franchise would be of a greater benefit. Why settle for a B team when I was offering top flight A hockey? That's all. I wasn't knocking anyone, just pointing out my own case."

Adams talks

Markham Councillor Bob Adams said the council's decision was based on the "fact we felt any hockey promotion should be in the best interests of our community."

"We wanted an organization originating inside the Town of Markham and not one from Toronto. The junior A Nats would simply be an extension of the present Toronto hockey set-up."



Carlo Corvese ...was shafted



Fred Disera ...optimistic

. . . but door wide open 'B' hockey

Thornhill and area hockey fans may have a junior 'B' team of their own to watch in the 1975-76 season if a group of businessmen and sportsmen have their way.

"We've got our application before the Ontario Hockey Association right now," commented Spokesman Fred Disera. "We should know soon after June 6 when they hold their next meeting."

Disera's comments to "The Liberal" came in the wake of the Town of Markham's refusal last week to give the okay to Carlo Corvese's efforts to establish his Toronto Nats Provincial Junior 'A' franchise in the Thornhill Community Centre next season.

Not jumping gun

Disera observed that "we're not jumping the gun by saying we will be accepted by the OHA. But we think there's a very good chance we'll be in some B league. It looks very promising."

The proposed club would be a non-profit organization with initial financing put up by what Disera described as a "group of hockey lovers and businessmen in the area. Any eventual profit that might be derived in the future would be turned back into minor hockey in the municipality."

The backers

Comprising the club's organizers are the aforementioned Disera, Stan Stankiewicz, John Perrins (past president of the York Simcoe OMHA Association), Bill Fisher, Brent Fisher, Brian Turner, Vic Steeler and John Bernardi.

The proposed club would still have to work out financial arrangements with the town as well as playing dates at the community centre even though accepted by the OHA.

Disera said the "whole idea of starting a 'B' hockey club here is to assure that our young players in the town's minor system will be given an opportunity to play a higher calibre of hockey without having to leave the community if they don't want to. We'll be strictly a community-oriented club."

Will be competitive

He expressed little concern about certain fears expressed in some areas that a junior B team staffed strictly with Town of Markham players wouldn't be competitive.

"We'll have a drawing base of some 2400 to 2500 minor hockey players in the Markham-Unionville-Thornhill systems and I'm sure we'll come up some pretty good hockey players."

Six champions

"This past season our minor hockey teams came up with six Ontario championship clubs in one category or another, four in Thornhill and two in Markham."

Disera was also optimistic about fan support in the Thornhill area pointing out that "I've discovered over the years that people in our community will come out and support the local kids."

Community spirit

"I don't feel this would be the case if a Toronto-based organization operated out of here. In most of the hockey leagues in the area you'll find that the only teams drawing well are those that have a community spirit about them because they are primarily using local players."

Disera had no idea where a Thornhill team — if accepted — would be playing but "we'd like to get into the Central Ontario Junior B grouping with Bramalea or even the Metro Junior B. We have no choice in the matter, it's up to the OHA."

No franchises

He explained that the OHA did not allot franchises in B hockey which "means that they can tell you where and what league to play in. If we had a franchise we could go to any league that would accept us."

Disera said it was "too premature to think about a coach for the team but we have a number of present day coaches in Thornhill who have had experience playing in junior and senior hockey in the past. I don't think this should be any trouble."

He named such present hockey personnel such as Bill Fisher and Brian Turner who are already minor hockey coaches as well as himself.

"I've played junior A hockey with the St. Mikes and some senior in the year's past and right now I'm with the minor midgets. It's a question of getting someone who can put in the time."

The Liberal sports

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1975



(Photo by Hogg)

They're not paddling Madeleine home, they're in the big concrete canoe race that was held Saturday at Seneca's King Campus. Leading now and eventual winners of this particular head are

(front) Brenda McNeill (left) and Carol Walsh of Seneca College. Brenda is a civil engineering teacher, Carol, a student.

Paddling Madeleine home in a concrete canoe

It was a canoe race with a difference Saturday when students from 14 colleges throughout Ontario, Quebec, and the United States got together at Seneca's King campus waterway.

They used concrete canoes.

And, yes, some of them sank, other turned over, and yet others just looked like they were going to do it any second.

It was the second year for the popular concrete canoe race and students from

Seneca College more than held their own in most of the heats.

Seneca stars

Seneca came up with a first in the first heat, a second place finish in another yet, and three third place finishes.

There were numerous prizes up for the grabbing and you didn't necessarily have to be graceful to get one.

One of the prizes, as devised by the civil engineering students, went to the first canoe that tipped over. This dubious prize went to a paddling team from Fanshawe College at London.

Their prize? A life jacket made out of concrete.

Another one went to McMaster University who had the first canoe that sunk to the bottom.

Concrete paddle

Their prize? A concrete paddle.

That's the way the day went with one spectator commenting that "there were quite a few casualties before the day's events were over. It was a fun thing. We're still recovering some of the canoes."

How it began

Concrete canoe racing was developed originally as a practical test for design and materials and has become an annual spring competition in which university and college engineering departments display their

design skill and paddling ability.

The state of the art has become so sophisticated that the concrete canoes must now be able to do much more than simply float to be competitive.

The boats, not longer than 14 feet nor wider than three feet, must have hydraulic cement as the primary binding material, and it must float when filled with water.

This year's event saw more than 30 concrete crafts of all descriptions out there doing their thing.

King Campus, where the race was held, is the former Lady Eaton Estate and the park-like setting lends itself readily to family outings.

Gets hole-in-one . . . first day out

There's nothing quite like starting the golf season off right as Joe Meschino of Thornhill discovered Saturday at Richmond Hill Summit Golf and Country Club. With a hole-in-one.

He got it with a six-iron on the 127-yard second hole. It was the opening day of the season and Meschino was golfing with partners Bill Burks and Pat Campbell of Willowdale.

It was Meschino's second hole-in-one of his golfing career.

Ian Cameron: 5-Pin champ

By Fred Simpson

Twenty-four year old Ian Cameron of Richmond Hill bowled over all opposition Saturday to five-pin his way to the Canadian singles Master championships in Vancouver June 28-29.

Occasion was the final of six Master tournaments of the season which saw him emerge victorious with the best total aggregate score.

"It was easily my best showing in 15 years of bowling," said Cameron as he savored his bowling achievements.

The thing that surprised him was not so much winning the aggregate total as coming up with top singles score in the final tournament.

Close

He edged out his nearest opponent by 88½ plus 16 pins to his opponent's 88 points and 37 pins.

"It was this win that put me on top of the heap and a chance to be the only bowler from Ontario to compete in the singles matches in Vancouver against other top bowlers from the provinces," said Cameron.

"I went into this final tournament just aiming for a high aggregate score to be one of the six bowlers on our provincial team that also plays in Vancouver."

The hard way

He did it the hard way, too.

"I lost my first game of the day although I figured I

bowled pretty well. I came up with a 290 single but my opponent hit me with a 356. That's tough to beat."

The unflappable Cameron maintained his "consistent" bowling the rest of the day and ended up with 11 wins, two losses, and a tie to emerge atop the pile.

He wins it

"It was the tie that won it for me. You get one point for a win and a half point for a tie. That half point was a big one."

Of course, winning is no shock to Cameron. He's been doing it since the age of nine when he decided to "take up bowling because I liked it better than hockey." His home base was the Allencourt Lanes.

Just stare at the record:

In 1963 he won the Ontario bantam singles; won junior singles in 1966 and was Canadian runner-up in Vancouver; won the mixed triples with two others in the Masters Teaching Division.

Canadian record

Last year he bowled a Canadian record for five games, a total of 1,710.

But 1974-75 is undoubtedly his biggest year to date both trophy-wise and money-wise.

For winning last Saturday's final Holiday Inn tournament at Hamilton he collected prize money of \$1,350.

"All in all," he said, "my total earnings for the season are around \$3,000. That's by far the most I've ever picked up bowling."

"It's not enough to make a living on but it sure helps pay for a vacation." Sure does.

Right attitude

Cameron credits his success in bowling this past season with "my attitude towards bowling. You have to be consistent."

"It doesn't help if you bowl high one game, low the next, and so on. It's being consistent that makes your game. That only comes with a lot of experience and a lot of bowling."

Cameron is also busy off the alley-ways.

Busy, busy

He pens a bowling column for "The Liberal"; helps with instruction clinics run by the Master Bowlers Association; is vice-president and publicity chairman of York Simcoe Bowlers Association.

He has also represented York Simcoe at the Carling Ontario championships for the past four or five years in various team events.

Cameron now bowls out of the ABC lanes and has since a fire put Allencourt out of business.

His ultimate tip for bowling would be.

"There's a lot of tips for good bowling," he said, "but one of the main things to concentrate on is aiming the ball rather than blasting it. Accuracy is the key. The ball is heavy enough to knock the pins over."

It also helps to be good at it. Like Ian.



Ian Cameron Vancouver bound