



trailblazers

OUTDOORS WITH

Alex Eberspaecher

Make tracks animal style

Making tracks
Outdoors oriented people collect all kinds of strange things. Hunters and anglers call them trophies, campers and boaters — souvenirs or just plain junk. Whatever it might be, I am sure that most of us have something at home to remind us of our outdoors explorations in the past. One type of trophy most easily collected is the animal track. A perfect reproduction of a bear or deer track is a showpiece on any book-shelf. Just think how proud your youngster would be if he could take it to school on his "show and tell" day. Some plaster of Paris and some stiff paper is all you need to cast an animal track in the mud or dry ground.

Having located a clear track, carefully take any loose dirt or grass out of it and then blow any loose dirt away. Take a strip of stiff paper, about one inch wide and make a collar around the track. If the print is nice and deep, make the collar

only slightly larger, on a shallow print, the collar should be at least twice as large as the track itself.

Plaster of Paris
Mix some Plaster of Paris, not patching plaster, in a container with some water. The mixture should have the consistency of a thin pancake mix. Pour this mix carefully into the track until it is even with the top of the collar. Let the plaster of Paris sit until you can push on the top without making an indentation. The length of time depends on the mixture you have used as well as on the weather. During the summer, 20 minutes should be plenty. When it is no longer warm you know that it is properly set.

Old toothbrush
Being satisfied the Plaster of Paris has sufficiently hardened, take a knife and carefully loosen the dirt around the track without cutting into the hardened plaster. Lift the casting carefully out and make sure it has dried on the underside as well. Take a stiff

brush, an old toothbrush is perfect, and brush all loose dirt off the cast. If everything went all right you have now an exact reproduction of the animal track. The only problem is, the print you have made is now a cast of the foot rather than the track itself.

Making a casting
In order to reverse this print, and make it look like the animal track in the ground, you have to make a casting of the casting you made in the field. Make a collar around your field casting, cover the print side, that is the side the claws or toe marks are on, with a wax or heavy grease. Then mix some more plaster of Paris and fill the collar. After this mixture has hardened, the two castings should part easily due to the coating of wax you have put on the field casting. You now have the same print as you found on the ground. I am sure that with a little bit of experimenting you could make a life-like animal track casting; not a piece of junk but a real nice conversation piece.

Markham softball tourney

The fourth annual Town of Markham softball tournament will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday with 32 junior and intermediate teams participating. The Locale will be Park in Markham. Included are teams from Markham, Aurora, Woodstock, Barrie, etc. Final game will be played at 8:30 at Unionville.

Peewee Lions continue to click as they roll over Bradford 7-3

(Continued from Page 1)
to eventually edge Scarborough Corvette Park 5-4 in the bottom of the seventh. Scarborough started fast as three straight hits culminating in a homerun gave them an early 3-0 lead. The Lions added one run in the bottom of the first, but from that point on they were continually robbed, as they hit the ball really well, but always at somebody. Going into the bottom of the fifth they trailed 4-1 when Whitaker singled and was brought home on O'Donnell's single, only to have Dave Allen crank a homerun to tie the game. The score remained tied until the bottom of the seventh when Allen led off with a single. Ford Fournier then singled to right field and Allen romped home with the winning run on a throwing error. After a rough first inning Pitcher Mike Smith settled down. He gave up a total of seven hits and walked only one man. Allen led offensively as he went four for four at bat, while Neilson went two for two, and Mark Spensley added two hits.

This just seemed to be the day that the Lions were to make dramatic comebacks, as three hits combined with three walks knotted the score at 8-8 in the top of the sixth inning. Stouffville scored the deciding run when a man crossed the plate from third on a throw to first base on a dropped third strike. The Lions were badly out-hit this game for the first time this year as Stouffville held a 14-6 advantage. Both Lion pitchers Allen and Smith hopefully benefited and learned something from being hit so hard. Allen again led the hitting with a single, double, and homer along with two rbi's. Gord Fournier did a masterful job of catching all three games that day.

Alliance gals down Epic by 7-3

Lose to Stouffville
Game three was again another tight one, as Stouffville pushed across a run in the last inning of this curfew-shortened game to defeat the Lions 9-8. Dave Allen started for Richmond Hill, but four straight doubles in the third inning brought Mike Smith in from right field to relieve. At that point Stouffville held a 4-1 lead, but soon opened that up to an 8-2 margin.

Richmond Hill Alliance Sports downed Richvale's Epic Real Estate team 26-3 in a York County Ladies' Softball League game Thursday night of last week at Victoria Square. Barb Richardson played a strong game at first base for Alliance while Sue Hewitt batted safely each time at bat for the second game in a row. Shirley Logan was on the mound. She also hit six for seven at bat. All the players on the Richmond Hill team came up with a strong game allowing Richvale only seven hits.

Richvale bantam gals win

Joey and Jackie Gibson hit three homeruns together to lead Richvale Collision to a 20-18 win over Guarantee Trust in Richvale Minor Ball Association Bantam Girls action. **Peewee Girls** Bork Jewellers lost 34-19 to King City. **Peewee Boys** David Mason hit a close game by 16-15 to Suburban Radiator walloped Victoria Square 32-3. Big hitter of the game was Steve Stewart with a single, double, triple, and a homerun. Another game saw Poolcraft upending Maple

13-6. Pitchers were A. Evelyn and Jim Logush. **Bantam Boys** Maple downed Somerville Pipeline 10-8. Somerville's Dave Ross pitched a solid game and contributed a single and a triple. **Squirt Boys** Rose Trailers lost a close game by 16-15 to Maple. Ben Carbone with three runs, Philip Cichutteck and Craig Wolfenden with two runs each added to a nine run third inning. **OASA** Richvale's first entry into OASA play has been less than winning but the

scores are expected to improve. In six games to date Richvale has lost six to: Aurora 10-5; Aurora 9-3; Pottageville 18-6; Bradford 24-4; Richmond Hill 22-0; Bradford 5-4. This last game saw Richvale finally putting it together and playing ball. Craig Wooley tossed a real good game allowing only 11 men to reach base. Good catching by Jamie Mitchell, a double play by Paul Mills and good fielding by the outfielders all added to the play. Games coming up: June 18, Richvale at East Gwillimbury; June 24, Richvale at Thornhill. All home games are at Crosby Park in Richmond Hill at 8:30 pm.

Minor ball dance ... has prizes galore

The annual Spring Dance of the Richmond Hill Minor Ball Association was termed a "complete success" with a large turn-out at St. Marys Immaculate Church. The lucky winners of the door prizes that evening were as follows: Mrs. June Patterson, Mrs. Gavan McKenna, Mrs. Shirley Edwards, Bill Greenhead, Pat Hanna, Roy Sherwood, Sally Butler, Cathy Boagey, and Joan Montgomery. Donating the prizes were Dynes Jewellers, Black Hawk Motor Hotels, Shields Footwear, and Floracultural Products (five). Holder of the raffle ticket 287 was Gordon Lemon, Lucas Street, Richmond Hill.

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Teacher Views



by Morris Richardson

Why Bill 100 must be amended—or cause problems

Very soon—and possibly this week—a 20-member standing committee at Queen's Park will be discussing one of the most important pieces of Ontario legislation in decades. The legislation is Bill 100 which was introduced in the Legislature June 3 and which sets out detailed guidelines for negotiations between Ontario's 103,000 teachers and their local school boards. It is a long overdue bill and has many good points. If your impression of the legislation, however, is based upon several editorials or instant comments, you may share a widespread belief that Bill 100 will solve all of the negotiating problems of the last two years. That, unfortunately, is dead wrong.

CREATES NEW PROBLEMS
Teachers fervently hope that the legislation will eventually solve most of the problems. But in its present form Bill 100 will create new problems that did not exist before its introduction. In fact, close reading of the legislation shows that it is a restrictive bill in its present form. The following points tell why.

Point 1—Some headline-writers seized upon the fact that Bill 100 contains the right to strike for Ontario teachers. While that is correct, careful reading of the fine print shows that such a sanction can be undertaken only after a series of steps. And to add a further stumbling block to the reality of the sanction, the bill creates a new public service commission with far-reaching powers, responsible only to the government. In short, the bill restricts the right teachers have used to strike upon rare occasions in Ontario.

Point 2—Strike is a rarity in our school system. (The publicity spotlight on a small number of strikes this past year overlooked the many areas that settled amicably). The bill, however, uses the small number of situations to remove the right of all principals and vice-principals to participate in local sanction. In fact, they can't even vote on it. This is particularly dangerous from an educational viewpoint because over-night it places the emphasis upon the administrator role of the principal and vice-principal. Principal teacher should mean exactly what it says: the head of an educational team within the school. Unless amended or dropped, however, this clause will destroy that educational role and the mutual trust necessary to support it. Again, Bill 100 is restrictive, removing rights that now exist for those principal teachers.

Point 3—Bill 100 would create a five-member Education Relations Commission, the public service body referred to earlier, responsible for ensuring that the guidelines work. A serious question about this body is whether it should be responsible to the government or to the Legislature. Ontario's newly-appointed ombudsman is responsible

to the latter. Why not the Education Relations Commission as well?

Point 4—After setting up a series of obstacles to the possibility of strike ever happening, Bill 100 then goes on to include in the definition of strike a far-ranging list of activities. Most unrealistic is the inclusion of extra-curricular or voluntary programs that teachers now provide on an unpaid basis of good will. If this clause passes without amendment, several things will happen. (a) Those voluntary activities may now be mandatory under the legislation. (b) If so, they become an area of negotiation which they have not been. (c) Inevitably, that will mean increased cost for the taxpayer. Again, Bill 100 is restrictive in this part of the legislation.

Point 5—The bill suggests that all contracts end at the same time: August 31. This seems like a tidy idea until one suddenly realizes that every teacher contract in the Province of Ontario will be concluding at the identical moment every year. This has mind-boggling implications for the workload of the Education Relations Commission which may be over-worked for part of the year and over-staffed for the rest. Again, by creating a lock-step timetable the bill may be creating unworkable restrictions.

All of these points indicate why Ontario teachers believe that every member of the Social Development Committee (13 Progressive Conservatives, four Liberals, three NDP) should take a close look at the educational implications of Bill 100 before returning it to the Legislature for third and final reading. The legislation has many good points. But if it passes in its present form, here is what will happen in Ontario's education system.

IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION
The knee-jerk decision to restrict the rights of principals and vice-principals will create an "us and them" psychological situation in every school. It may, in fact, be impossible for many principals to "develop co-ordination and co-operation of effort among the members of the staff of the school" as they are legally required to do in the Education Act 1974. Changing the ground rules for voluntary activities by teachers creates a whole new ballgame in this area. Unless amended, this clause makes it likely that voluntary and extra-curricular activities will enter negotiations. The financial implications are obvious. The good faith that the bill endorses (without defining, by the way) will be impossible in many areas because of the many restrictions. Teachers want to see an end to confrontation in negotiations. They want renewed emphasis upon the educational concerns they share with parents and their students. In its present form, however, they do not see Bill 100 doing that.

Morris Richardson is General Secretary of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation which hopes to inform the general public of current educational issues through this periodic column.

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