



They came for Easter

Just in time for Easter, five mallard ducklings made their appearance in a classroom at Beverley Acres School last week. Students in the school's Room 4 ob-

tained the eggs from caretaker Al Smith, put them in an incubator in mid-March and saw them hatch 28 days later. The ducklings

will go to a farm in another couple of weeks. Shown admiring the flock are (left to right) Lianne Atkinson, Billy Knights and Karen Baddeley.

Block parent group offers child safety

RICHMOND HILL — The block parent program being organized here is a brand new movement but it's based on a very old-fashioned idea.

As spokesman Carolyn Quinton of Bluegrass Boulevard puts it, "It's a throwback to the traditional situation of earlier days when everyone knew their neighbors and watched after each other's children."

That kind of community togetherness doesn't come easily in modern-day suburbs, but the block parent promoters believe we can still offer our children some sense of security in their own neighborhoods.

The program — modelled after a project begun in London, Ontario several years ago — has become widely discussed and promoted following publication of an article in a national magazine in February.

Basically, it involves the co-operation of parents who offer emergency help or solace to children who encounter difficulty while walking to and from school.

A block parent sign, prominently displayed, lets children know which houses they can go to if they need assistance.

"It's nothing revolutionary," says Mrs. Quinton. "We're just trying to organize something that used to be done as a matter of course."

"The purpose is to help a child in trouble. It could be an emergency such as an accident, or a child being bullied by older kids or getting trouble from a driver."

Mrs. Quinton is one of a group of local parents on the organizing committee in Richmond Hill. Similar groups are working in Thornhill, Markham and throughout Metro Toronto.

As a start, the local parents have received pledges of co-operation from six schools — Crosby Heights, Beverley Acres, McKillop, McConaghy, Pleasantville and Walter Scott.

The principals have sent letters explaining the program to parents and inviting applications from those wishing to participate.

As a precaution, York regional police will screen the applications before homes are approved.

The school principals are also helping educate the youngster about the new program and how to make use of it.

Bike-a-thon to roll Sunday

RICHMOND HILL — The Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan areas have been added to six other courses in the big Variety Club of Ontario Bike-a-thon for disabled children to be held Sunday.

Thousands of cyclists will be hitting the roads on five courses in Toronto, one in Mississauga, and the local one. Locally, the bike-a-thon will kick off at Hillcrest Mall and find its way up Yonge Street to Elgin Mills Road, east on Elgin to Bayview, south on Bayview to Steeles, west on Steeles to Bathurst, north on Bathurst to Carville Road and back to the mall.

Entry forms can be picked up at the mall, neighborhood variety stores, McDonald's and sporting goods stores. Riders can begin their ride for disabled children at any of seven

checkpoints. Generally, it's a good idea to choose the checkpoint nearest home to start. It can make the ride shorter.

Officials will mark the course and man the checkpoints. Police will be on hand to help maintain a safe course for the riders.

Each course will cover 20 miles with a few pennies or dollars per mile pledged.

Money earned from sponsors will help Variety Club's work with: —Variety Village, a vocational school for handicapped young people.

—The Research Development and Production Centre for electronic limbs.

—The \$300,000 pledge to the Variety Club Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at the Hospital for Sick Children.

—The support of additional projects to assist handicapped youngsters.

Tories tangle

They want a winner

By William Lever

THORNHILL — "Be sure to wear your tin hat," says York Centre Conservative association president David Cork.

He's just kidding about that, but even so it's bound to be an explosive sort of evening tomorrow when several hundred Tories do intramural battle in search of a candidate for the next provincial election.

The combatants are two well-known municipal politicians, Mayor Tony Roman of Markham and Councillor Bill Corcoran of Richmond Hill.

It's Corcoran's first try at provincial politics, but in 1972 he was defeated by Tony's Uncle Steve in a bid for the federal York North nomination.

Tony Roman is no stranger to defeat either, having run and lost for the



news analysis

Tories in the last two provincial elections.

If there are other candidates this time around, they're keeping it to themselves so far.

"I've been hearing funny rumors that someone else is going to be nominated from the floor," Cork says, "but I've got no way of knowing for sure."

Rules of the convention — Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Thornhill Community Centre — allow nominations until 8:30 p.m. Each candidate will have 20 minutes for his nomination and campaign speeches.

Cork reports the local Tory membership is stronger than ever, with an approximate total of 1,245.

Lots of them are new members, he says, and are likely without commitment to either candidate.

But lots, too, are probably new members because they do have a commitment — presumably to the candidate who signed them up.

It's called stacking the convention, and it's common practice with all political parties.

Asked if he feared party division along Richmond Hill vs. Markham lines, Cork said there is no reason why it would happen.

"The history of our riding association is that everybody has done everything possible to prevent such local division. We're all one riding."

If a definable split does occur, it will more likely be between the give-him-another-chance Roman supporters and the victory-hungry Tories who figure two consecutive losses is chance enough.

York Centre, comprising Richmond Hill, Markham, and the Thornhill section of Vaughan, was created as a riding in 1967.

It has been held by the Liberals all along and is currently represented by freshman MPP Alf Stong.

Famed painter struck by car

RICHMOND HILL — Thoreau MacDonald, son of one of the giants of Canadian art and himself a renowned painter, is in satisfactory condition in York Central Hospital here after being struck by a car in Thornhill last week.

MacDonald, 75, of 121 Centre Street, Thornhill, suffered multiple fractures after being hit while walking at Yonge Street and Highway 7-B.

His father, J.E.H. MacDonald, was one of the founders and leaders of the Group of Seven. The father lived in Thornhill from 1912 until his death in 1932.

Thoreau MacDonald, who has earned his own reputation as credible artist and writer, still lives in the Centre Street house where his father produced much of his best-known work.



Steve Penyige Ontario judo team

Richmond Hill Edition

The Liberal

"In Essentials Unity, in Non-Essentials Liberty, in all things Charity"

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Schools invite public use

RICHMOND HILL — Schools can become much more than isolated knowledge factories for young people, in the view of community education organizers such as Richmond Hill's Bob Crosby.

Whether they will depends on whether the community itself takes advantage of the potential that exists for using the schools as a "a central cohesive force."

A meeting, to seek support for a community education pilot project here, will be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Crosby Heights School.

Crosby says he hopes to survey 2,800 homes "to identify new program areas for implementation next fall."

"To do this, at least 100 volunteers will be needed with only two or three hours required per volunteer. If 100 volunteers cannot be obtained, then it's likely the number of homes visited will be reduced accordingly."

Selected for the town's pilot project is the area east of the CNR tracks, bounded by Elgin Mills, Palmer Avenue and Bayview Avenue.

The Monday meeting, Crosby says, will seek ideas from the public on design of the survey, as well as recruit volunteers to implement it.

Commenting on the purpose of the community education program, Crosby says:

"In recent years schools have become larger and more sophisticated. Communities are more densely populated and schools have lost much of their familiar rapport with the people."

"Consequently, schools have become not an integral part of the community but an island unto itself."

"Today, however, this trend may be changing. Schools are offering their

facilities to the public and are beginning to use community resources within the total learning experience.

"Community education is not only the use of the schools by community groups during non-school time. It is also a process by which the school and the community jointly identify common concerns reflecting local interests and needs, and develop resources and activities to meet these using the school as the major focal point."

Crosby adds that if the concept is encouraged, it can develop from a growing awareness that the school "is more than a knowledge factory."

"It is, or can become, a central cohesive force with social, cultural and recreational benefits for all who share in it."

Anyone interested in the program but who is unable to attend the Monday meeting may contact Crosby at 884-5281.

Airport protesters are digging in for a battle

BUTTONVILLE — "We're fighting." That's the gist of a brochure issued last week by A.I.R. (Association of Involved Residents).

Distribution of the pamphlet coincided with a decision by Markham council April 13 to defer third and final reading of the controversial Buttonville Airport bylaw.

Ordinarily, third reading of this rezoning bylaw would have enabled Toronto Airways to build a 1,200-foot runway extension.

The reading was postponed for 30 days, the maximum allowed interval. Nevertheless, for A.I.R., "the big battle is still ahead," its brochure predicts.

"We're digging in for a long fight — right through the courts if necessary."

Major concerns, association members say, are noise, pollution and safety.

"The conditions are intolerable now during evening and weekend peak periods," says Ed Quesnelle, a Buttonville resident.

"If the runway is extended, the situation is going to be unbearable."

More aircraft

According to the brochure, airport expansion will result in "more jets, more STOL (Short Take-Off and Landing) aircraft, more twin engine flights, more passenger flights, more training flights and 24-hour operation."

The brochure is among resources

A.I.R. is using to increase citizen protest actions in Buttonville, Richmond Hill, Unionville, Markham, Cachat and other York region communities.

Seek membership
"The first thing we need is people-power," Quesnelle says.

In addition to its membership drive,

Black belt at age 16

Judo star has eye on Olympics

By Fred Simpson

RICHMOND HILL — Word has it that 16-year-old black belt judo athlete Steve Penyige was "born on a mat" and who's about to argue the point?

Especially since the "word" comes from the lips of John Penyige, Steve's father, who tips the scales at 205 pounds and, incidentally, has a black belt too.

Better to move quietly on into the story which involves the announcement last week that Steve is one of two area athletes picked for the Ontario Judo team which will be competing in the Canadian Nationals in Montreal on May 8.

The other chap is Joey Toule of Thornhill. Both are members of the Thornhill Bukokai Judo Club.

Wrestles, too
Steve, who also dabbles in high school wrestling at Bayview Secondary School, is enjoying the best year of his rather lengthy career in judo.

Like he started when he was five years old under the expert tutelage of father John who, at 45, who is chief instructor of judo at the West End YMCA in Toronto.

Steve has learned his lessons well. Just recently he finished third in the men's senior judo competitions for Ontario in the 139 pound class which earned him a spot on the provincial team.

He also finished first in the Ontario Winter games.

Fine showing
But it was the fine showing in the senior competitions that impressed the experts. Steve was going against older, much more experienced competitors.

"I was quite happy with my finish," states Steve. "I feel I won't reach my peak in strength until I'm 20."

That, of course, means he'll be probably standing on the sidelines when the judo competitions take place in the Olympics in Montreal this July.

Top five?
"I'll be satisfied if I can finish in the top five in the Canadian finals," he said. One step at a time.

"My ambition right now," he said, "is to represent Canada in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow but that means there's a lot of work ahead."

Got to work

And "work" is the magic word. States Steve's instructor at the Thornhill Budokai club, Chris Toule: "It's work, work, and more work. There's no easy way."

Joey Toule

Toule thinks that Penyige and his son, Joey, should do well at the Nationals but "it all depends on the coaching. If the coach can instil an attitude that they won't be beaten, they'll do all right."

Their head coach, incidentally, is Don McClelland, a former resident of Richmond Hill who is a top-flight judo instructor himself.

Both Steve and Joey, who fights in the 154 pound category, are described as "judo technicians" by coach Toule. "They both fight a lot alike," he said. "They are stylists. They don't rely on ground work, they like to throw their opponents with a certain amount of grace which is really what judo is all about."

Likes body contact

Why does Steve enjoy body contact sports and with judo you can have the best of both worlds. It's body contact but it's also strictly a sport, a clean one at that.

One of Steve's recent accomplishments was helping Canada down Mexico 17-0 in a judo competition at the CNE.

Has he ever been injured?
"Not really, I broke an ankle once. That's the most serious although I've had the usual sprains and bruises."



Bob Crosby seeks volunteers

Inside The Liberal

Students shine

Talented, articulate and confident are the area students who won top prizes in this year's regional science fair in Richmond Hill. And to one who's used to seeing the drearier, more negative side of school board affairs, they're very refreshing. Columnist Jim Irving comments in Viewpoint, Page A-4.

If you've had enough ice sports to last 'til next winter at least, the spring season brings plenty of outdoor relief. This week, for example, there's a big sports page spread on track and field to celebrate the climbing of the mercury. Page B-1.

This week's index of news and advertising features is:

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