

Election policy

This newspaper over the coming weeks will be aiming for informative, fair coverage of the local government election campaign, as well as of the voting on the first Monday of December.

Each and every candidate for seats on the school boards and municipal councils in Markham, Vaughan, King and Richmond Hill is offered space in the news columns to communicate at least once with the electors.

Candidates are invited to provide the news department with written details of their election platforms, their biographical-quality photographs.

This material will be

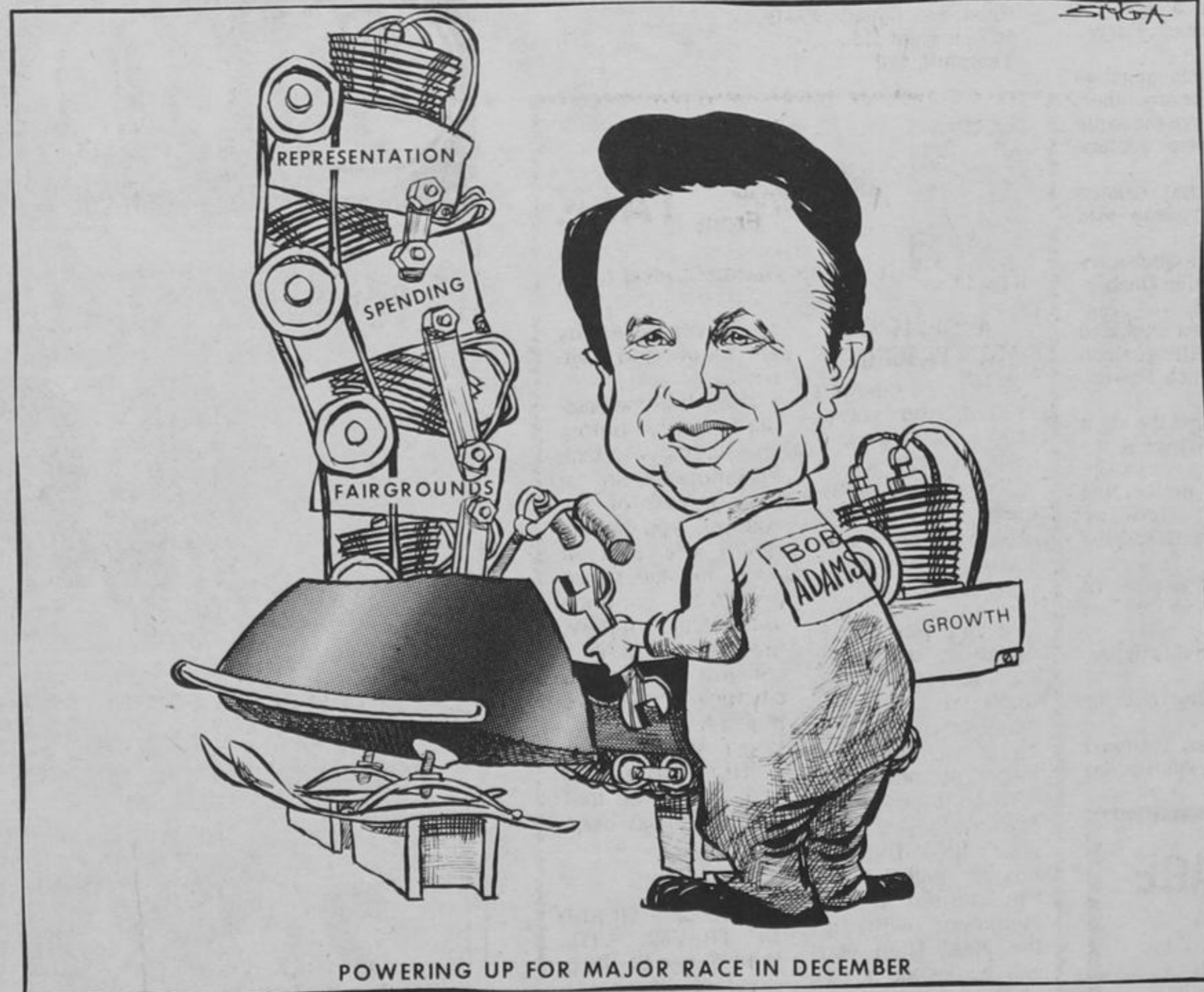
used in news stories. Forms to help candidates provide complete information will be available at the newsroom.

Press releases on the issues will be welcomed from candidates during the campaign. The releases will be used in reports, according to newsworthiness.

Candidates who have any quarrel with coverage in the news columns are urged to make full use of the Letters to the Editor columns.

There will be absolutely no favoritism for any candidate in the news columns.

However, the right is reserved in the editorial columns to recommend to the electors any candidate or group of candidates, where such an endorsement is judged to be in the public interest.



POWERING UP FOR MAJOR RACE IN DECEMBER

Letters

Baif area is 'Everglades North'

Dear editor:

Reference has been made in The Liberal on two different occasions with regard to the drainage problems resulting on the properties in the second phase of the Cadillac-Baif subdivision in South Richmond Hill.

In the latest issue of The Liberal (Wednesday, July 14), Bernie Toporowski, the town works commissioner, was quoted as saying: "About one in 20 people find defective drainage in their new subdivision home, and instead of complaining to the builder go right to engineering."

Hog wash! In most cases, we, the undersigned, anticipated a drainage problem in our area long before the spring thaw.

Many of our backyards are literal marshes; we have been furnished with "trenches" (courtesy of Cadillac-Baif), which have only created further problems. Many of us have had our sod removed and replaced at least once with no significant results.

We have also been informed by a representative of the developer that we could not expect drains to be installed where necessary, since we are living in Canada and not in Italy!

Perhaps Cadillac-Baif would do well to take some lessons in drainage techniques from a country that ap-

parently knows what it's doing!

Much time and energy have been expended by all of us to get appropriate action from the builder, who has proven quite proficient at trying to placate our demands by substituting ineffective (and inexpensive) methods for solving our problem.

It was after much dissatisfaction on our part, and stalling on the part of the builder, that prompted many of us to approach the Town Engineering Department for some kind of action. We found that, in most cases, the town representatives have been quite obliging, but unfortunately the powers

to have not seen fit to go about alleviating the situation in a satisfactory manner.

This leaves us, the residents of the Yonge North Everglades, no other recourse but to try to do something ourselves to solve our problem. At our own expense and labor, we are reclaiming ourselves residents of Italy, and are installing proper drains and pipes under our properties!

If there is anything nicer than having your own backyard, it's being able to use it!

We appreciate whatever assistance the town engineering department undertook on our behalf; but unfortunately, big business still has a bigger voice than town politics, and it's the little people who pay out the big bucks who must suffer the consequences.

MR. & MRS. LARRY BRESLOW,
216 Castle Rock Dr.,
Richmond Hill, Ont.
(and 10 others.)

Dear editor:

The July 14 issue of The Liberal contained two references to what appears to you to be a gross error on my part. At the risk of compounding this "error," I feel compelled to acknowledge your comments.

I did prepare that agenda for the July 12 meeting of The York County Board of Education, with the item of business identified on it as "The Three R's vs. Supplementary or Peripheral Services." Having said that, I know you will expect me to proceed to accept responsibility for "the demise of your Three R's" as described in the editorial and in Jim Irving's columns, where I have been accused of "slipping in an apostrophe."

Well, because long ago and far away in an educational system other than the York County Board I did absorb some basic skills, and perhaps what is even more important, I did develop a desire to learn and to search out accurate and factual information. I have now consulted one of my old English textbooks, "Mastering Effective English." There, on page 552, I read "The apostrophe is used (1) to denote possession, (2) to take the place of an omitted letter, and (3) to form the plural of letters, figures and signs."

Then, as I read more of your paper today I find in another story about our school system, Lynda Nykor has written that parents "want to know why the schools can't get back to teaching the three R's." Right on, Lynda, and to you, Mr. Editor and Jim, I say — Touche, and let's all mind our P's and Q's and Three R's.

So much for tongue in cheek. I know that your criticism was directed at the much maligned York County Board, and not at me as an individual, but I couldn't resist reacting to this clear and simple example of how unsubstantiated statements are used by the press and public, and by some within the Board itself, for whatever negative reasons.

If all this concern for our educational system is real, surely improvement will be achieved only by constructive criticism based on facts.

DOROTHY J. STREET
Executive Assistant to the
Director of Education,
The York County
Board of Education.

Kiwanis aids block parents

Dear editor: We would like your readers to be aware of the financial support which the Thornhill Kiwanis Club has given to the block parent program in our area.

The funds will be used to cover the cost of block parent signs and for mimeograph paper.

We would like to extend our thanks to the Kiwanis for this contribution and for the club's continued interest and concern for the protection of the Thornhill community.

(MRS.) JOYCE VOTEARY,
Central Committee,
Thornhill block parents,
130 Highland Pk. Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont.

Richvale resident angry at sewer system 'vote'

Dear editor:

I wish to place on record my anger at the methods used to force through the proposed sewer system in Richvale.

Does the householder in Richvale really know how much these sewers are going to cost him? Has he included in his expected expenses the cost of hooking up his house to his lot line? Will it cost \$1000? Or \$2000? Add this

to the \$1400 — \$1800 to take it to his lot line, (from the street) it's now \$2400 — \$3800. Amortise all this — \$4500 — \$6,000.

Do we really want all this expense? Why? So that subdividers may put more houses per lot, and construction companies prosper?

I would like a vote taken against these sewers, with every non-return

counted as a NO-VOTE.

Would this still give 82 per cent in favor? The method used was a "book club" type method of forcing by default, and I object. Oh yes! And will our taxes be raised even further for the use of this facility?

LARRY MORRISON
35 Oak Ave.,
Richmond Hill, Ont.

Airport inaccuracies alleged

By Murray Billinghurst

MARKHAM — As both a resident of Markham and president of the Association of Involved Residents, I am deeply concerned about a lot of misleading and inaccurate statements regarding the Buttonville Airport expansion issue.

I wish to bring the following observations to the attention of all concerned residents:

— The airport says runway 15-33 is approximately 2,000 feet long. This runway is in fact 2,500 feet long.

— The airport says a 1,200-foot extension will make this runway approximately 3,200 feet long. Actually, the finished runway will be 3,700 feet long.

— The airport says that after construction, there will be a 400-foot expansion of the airport. But the truth is the expansion will total 950 feet.

— The airport says this expansion does not allow for a change in the type or size of aircraft, and is being built for safety reasons.

A.I.R. learned that an airport executive is on record as stating 94 percent of general aviation aircraft

require less than 3,000 feet of runway. If this is the case, why do they want a 3,700-foot runway?

— The airport seems, in order to support some of its claims, to use figures based on U.S. experience. A.I.R. suggests if existing American aeronautical laws (in respect to airports) were applicable in Canada, construction of the extension would have been halted long ago.

— The airport tends to emphasize its capital investment. A.I.R. suggests that if, for example, you took 45 homes in Arleigh Heights subdivision, valued at an average property value of \$65,000, a total investment of some \$2,925,000 will be directly affected by airport expansion.

If other affected homes, farms and businesses in Richmond Hill, Unionville, Markham, Buttonville (including the Knob Hill Farms store) and the Cachet area, are taken into consideration, it becomes apparent these private investments far outweigh the airport's investment.

— The airport lays claim to being a very good citizen. A.I.R. suggests



that if it is such a good citizen, it would not now be in the midst of construction before third reading of a rezoning bylaw, nor would any good citizen be proceeding on this good citizen without first doing a comprehensive study on how they are going to affect their neighbors.

— The airport indicates only a handful of residents are opposed to this expansion, and attempts to downgrade these opponents.

A.I.R. would remind the airport that a very large number of people signed the petition presented to Markham council and that all of the

signatures were from residents of the community. However, the petition submitted by the airport consisted of a great many signatures of non-residents.

I would like to point out that I am both pleased and honored to be associated with a group of very fine and respectable citizens who have been endeavoring to, at least, maintain a safe and livable environment.

I also wish to express my concern about events that took place at a Markham council meeting July 13.

It appears that some members of council believe it is quite proper to make an agreement with the airport without the participation of residents who not only have fought this expansion long and hard but also have to live with the final agreement.

Must council be reminded that it was they who informed A.I.R. the town could do no more, and that A.I.R. would have to carry the fight to its end?

Also, the town stated they could control zoning of the airport lands and has continually rejected A.I.R.'s claim the airport expansion was

solely a matter of federal jurisdiction.

Carried fight

Well, A.I.R. has carried the fight right to the federal government (and has won its support). We have proven council wrong on the previous two counts, and we have not conceded expansion even though council has by trying to enter into this totally unacceptable agreement with the airport. Suggestions that there would be an agreement have since been denied by an airport official.

I am also distressed to see some members of Markham council are apparently trying to deal face by attempting this type of sale with the airport (and conceding expansion), when council knew full well that A.I.R. representatives had a very good meeting in Ottawa with the Hon. Barney Danson and the Hon. Otto Lang, in addition to meeting with these ministers' assistants?

In view of the fact that, at A.I.R.'s invitation, representatives of Markham council were present at this meeting, and that Mr. Danson

was concerned enough — and kind enough — to send a telegram to council stating that the department of transport is "studying the situation on an urgent basis," A.I.R. is positive council was aware Ottawa is looking into this matter, and that the issue is important enough to warrant further study.

Council stubborn

A.I.R. feels council is attempting to blunder ahead on the course they have adopted, regardless of these facts.

Therefore, I feel it is time to inform everyone concerned that A.I.R. has not conceded expansion and is prepared to take legal action against the airport or the council if the need arises.

A.I.R. will not rest until we have asserted the "rights of the individual to life, security of the person and enjoyment of property," as guaranteed by the Canadian Bill of Rights.

A.I.R., I'm convinced, has acted with credibility and truth in the past, and will continue to act in the same manner.

Viewpoint from the regional desk



BY JIM IRVING

Out at Kleinburg Film Studios where they're filming "Welcome to Blood City" with Jack Palance, Keir Dullea, Samantha Eggar and Hollis McLaren — It's gratifying to see all those Canadian actors and actresses as well, getting a chance to do something other than play parcheesi, or peddle beer bottles, or whatever they do when they're not performing.

And surprisingly enough — although the CBC brass and various filmmakers around probably won't believe it — they look just like other people, fitting in with the American and English performers just as if they had two arms and two legs, too.

No one would ever know they were just Canadians, as opposed to some other race.

They're as easy to understand as the others and they're able to follow directions the same way.

Canadians blah
The only thing one can find against

them, apparently, when the leading roles in such things are being considered, is that they're Canadians which, as everyone knows, is a heck of a way to start out in the country of your birth.

It probably wouldn't be held against you if you were living in the United States or England, or some other place well beyond our borders.

But naturally, unless you're a moutie and wearing one of those distinctive red coats, or a politician signing official documents on government stationery giving you another raise, being a Canadian is not really something you can take much comfort in or gain much recognition for.

Can't spell it
Of course, there are always the Montreal Canadians — top dogs in the hockey world — but they can hardly be called Canadians in the true sense.

After all, half of them are French speaking and the team owners,

themselves, can't even spell C-a-n-a-d-i-a-n.

Many of those performers out at Kleinburg are well-known faces, if not well-known names. And part of the reason for that is because familiarity in acting respects, so far as the CBC is concerned, breeds contempt.

Any chance of a star in the offing is contrary to the ultra-Presbyterian ethic that says we should be protected against ourselves at all costs.

If a Barrymore or a Bernhardt looms likely, then you can be sure that's the last they'll be seen until they can get it through their heads that they haven't the right to think of themselves as anything but part of the over-all fabric.

It's important they recognize and appreciate everyone's efforts to keep them from becoming the least bit vain.

Dizzy heights
Being known as a star, you see, would automatically do that.

One can reach starry heights on one's

own in Canada, but don't be so presumptuous to think that any large corporation — especially a public one — should feel it has any responsibility that way on your behalf.

The CBC did help to create many stars over the years, however, despite its best efforts not to.

But that was because it provided the opportunity through such top-flight productions as CBC Stage and CBC Wednesday Night, plus the great live dramas of early TV, for performers such as John Drainie, Kate Reid, Barbara Chilcott, Andrew Allen and countless others in which to put their great talents to use.

Canadians nay
No one thought of them as Canadian performers per se, they were just actors and actresses, first-rate ones, mind you, performing in first-rate stuff.

One wasn't necessarily concerned where they came from at the time. But on reflection, I suppose, it did seem

logical enough that they were Canadians.

After all, weren't they performing in Canada on a publicly-owned network?

Forgotten mandate

But now all that's changed and, if Canadians are a little paranoid on the subject, it's hardly surprising.

The CBC, for one, has forgotten it has a mandate to produce the best kind of entertainment possible, employing the highest standards.

By doing so, it would naturally restrict its audience, because the rock 'n' roll cult with its limited emotional horizons, will always prevail.

But that doesn't mean it still wouldn't have a large, as well as constant audience.

But that's not enough; the CBC has gone all out for ratings now, producing corn such as the Frankie Howard Show, featuring a never-was comedian.

But he's not Canadian, so that right away probably gave those in production

the courage of his (correct) convictions.

Or perhaps they feel it would be in bad taste to give a Canadian equal opportunity to make a fool of himself.

Here in Hill

Closer to home at the Curtain Club, it insecurity with you, too, that makes you trot out those only English-may-apply productions year after year?

Nobody's disputing their calibre, but you've all been here quite a while and, although we realize that without you, there probably wouldn't be a Curtain Club, theatre is supposed to be a universal gathering place.

So next time you cast a production even if the setting is English — do it with the idea of hearing a few Canadians as well.

You'll find that they not only walk upright, but probably can do one of those foreign accents from across the sea as well.

You know what oi mean?