



**sharon's
sunshine**

By Sharon Brain

**Lop-eared rabbit
at Markham Fair**

THORNHILL — Markham Fair starts to loom large in our minds about a week before it happens. We all watch the weather forecasts. It calls for rain all weekend.

There are rumors flying about that there will be a party afterwards as usual, but no one will admit it is to be at their house.

Thursday the weather clears. The weekend weather is to be good. Thursday night the phones are buzzing. All the husbands are now willing to be host for the party.

Social surprise

The location is decided. Someone meets the hostess at the hockey rink.

"I hear you're having all of us over after the fair." No one has told her yet. She smiles through clenched teeth.

By Friday everyone is organized. The kids are told. Now rain or shine, the show must go on.

On Saturday, 30 people meet at the tail of the Markham Softball Association's cow.

Since every member of the group has bought at least 10 raffle tickets on the cow, we feel the tail at least belongs to us.

Lost child

One child is missing. He has set off with 50 cents and orders to be back in 10 minutes.

One adult stays behind to wait for him. The rest of us are dragged off to the midway.

Strollers can't wheel as fast as the kids can run. Cries of echo around the fairgrounds:

"Stay together!"

"Who has Boomer?"

"Can I have a drink?"

The group begins to splinter as families look out for their own. The virtues of having one child per adult become abundantly clear.

The baseball playing fathers try to strut their stuff and knock down the milk bottles.



**regional
viewpoint**

By Jim Irving

**Topf is calling
kanne schwartz**

"Is Irving the author of this statement, or McMonagle?"

I admit it

Why, of course I'm the author, Mr. Lamont. Everyone knows that Mrs. McMonagle, who pioneered the business of working with and helping perceptually handicapped children in this area, always insisted such children run red lights on their bicycles, and walk around the ledges of 20-storey buildings in order to face whatever hidden fears they had.

And, naturally she would hardly object to a child floating around in a scuba tank as a therapeutic measure in this enlightened year of our Lord, 1976.

At another point, Mr. Lamont refers to trustee John Stephen's remarks castigating the guidance project, as a means of using the teachers as "scapegoats," in the manner of Adolf Hitler. Which as old Adolf might have said himself, is a case of the topf calling the kanne schwartz.

Defensive tone

Also, in a tone that is defensive from beginning to end, Mr. Lamont speaks about the "constant badgering and show of contempt for teachers as a professional group."

He defends the teachers several more times in a similar vein, although being quick to imply that it is as a disinterested party. His protest is as a taxpayer. "Have we, the taxpayers of York, not been punished enough?"

But perhaps Mr. Lamont, as the old phrase goes "doth protest too much." That's why it didn't come as that much of a surprise to find out this outraged taxpayer is also a school teacher.

Why didn't you say so, Mr. Lamont? Or would that have weakened your argument and made it difficult to label others — and the word is yours — "scapegoats?"

**Versatile early
Vaughan settler**

yesterdays
by mary dawson



A versatile early settler in Vaughan Township was Captain Edward G. O'Brien, according to Doris M. Fitzgerald writing in The Liberal in 1967.

"Never forget your Bible, or that you are the son of an Irish gentleman."

These were his mother's parting words to 11-year-old Edward George O'Brien when he went to sea as a midshipman in 1810.

Nineteen years later young O'Brien came to Canada, a half pay captain in broken health.

3 careers

In the interval he had travelled widely, met with many adventures, and gained experience in three careers.

From his first ship, H.M. Sybelle, he transferred to the 30-gun frigate Doris, captained by a cousin Robert O'Brien, and served in the China Sea.

At the end of the 1812-14 conflict when chances of promotion in the navy seemed slight, he joined the army and was posted to the West Indies.

Suffering from a serious bout of malaria O'Brien was invalided home on pension. But after a period of convalescence he went to sea again.

This time he served in the merchant marine and made a number of voyages to the east, before being struck down by a second illness.

Arrived here

Deciding to emigrate, he arrived in Vaughan in May 1829.

He bought a "pretty estate" — the west half of Lot 19, Conc. 2, for 375 pounds.

Then he set out to learn about backwoods farming. Fortunately he was able to hire help, as he was frequently laid up with painful bouts of rheumatism and a bad back.

On good days, however, O'Brien cheerfully tackled such jobs as building a bookcase, digging drains, roofing a cowshed, or driving a load of oats to the market in York.

Born leader

When ill, or in need of relaxation, he did some sketching.

Being a born leader and keenly interested in his surroundings, O'Brien soon became involved in local affairs.

He was a member of the book society and was instrumental in obtaining young clergymen.

He taught at Upper Canada College and took services in Trinity Church, Thornhill, when it was without a rector.

He served on the grand jury in York, "that most troublesome of public duties."

He electioneered for Benjamin Thorne who ran unsuccessfully against William Lyon Mackenzie for a seat in the legislature.

O'Brien also helped start the Home District Agricultural Society.

Bad roads

A heated topic at the meetings of this society, as elsewhere, was the deplorable condition of the roads. These were made and maintained by statute labor.

Though mud, ruts and potholes caused costly damage to horses, carts, harness and clothes, many farmers were more willing to endure discomfort than to pay taxes.

O'Brien spent many hours calculating the cost and the advantages of stone, brick and plank roads. He finally got up a petition for the establishment of turnpikes.

Wed visitor

In May 1830 Edward O'Brien married Mary Sophia Gapper, a talented young Englishwoman who was visiting her brother on Yonge Street. Her letters were published and paint a colorful and descriptive picture of pioneer life in this area. The book was reprinted a few years ago.

O'Brien was appointed government agent for a new settlement at Lake Simcoe at Shanty Bay in 1832.

This was to have been a negro colony. But only about 20 negroes took up land.

The drift away because of the severe climate. They O'Briens lived for a time in Toronto but died in 1875 and 1876 in Shanty Bay in their comfortable log house.

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Then there's the ferries. You rest and cool off as you ferry across the Tagus river in 15 minutes. For the fare of 2 escudos (about 7½¢) you can see the whole panorama of myriad colored buildings jumbling down hills to calm silvery - blue water. On the opposite bank, a row of seafood restaurants serve everything from grilled sardines to octopus and lobster. For less than 100 escudos (about \$3.25) you can have a complete lunch with wine.

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PUBLIC MEETING

Crosby Heights Public School
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21st at 8 p.m.

The public is invited to assist the Municipality in the long range planning of what kinds of facilities might be considered for a Community Centre in your area.

This is your opportunity to let us know your ideas and suggestions.

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Their re-use saved energy and raw materials involved in bottle manufacture. And, more important, people returned refillable bottles. So they didn't become the litter and garbage disposal problem that throwaway bottles and cans are causing today.

On October 1, 1976 a new law went into effect. It says that within six months, retail vendors will be required to stock and display in refillable bottles any size, flavour and brand of soft drink they offer in non-refillable bottles.

In other words they have to offer you a choice. It also requires that retailers selling soft drinks in refillable bottles must now accept and refund cash deposits of at least 10¢ on small sizes and 20¢ on large sizes. And the amounts of these deposits must be shown separately from the actual price of the pop.

Your Ministry of the Environment thinks that a return to refillable bottles will save energy, help alleviate garbage disposal problems, and reduce the number of landfill sites. It will be a step toward a clean, uncluttered Ontario.

Ministry of the Environment
Ontario
Hon. George A. Kerr, Q.C., Minister
Everett Biggs, Deputy Minister

Notice to Ontario Retailers

Effective October 1, 1976, you will be required to accept deposits on refillable soft drink containers of 10¢ on small sizes and 20¢ on large sizes. You will also be required to refund deposits in these amounts on all reasonably clean, intact, refillable soft drink containers which you normally handle.

This information is covered in a notice which must be displayed by soft drink retail vendors. These signs are provided by the Ministry of the Environment and are available at our offices in these locations: Barrie, Belleville, Cambridge, Cornwall, Don Mills, Gravenhurst, Kenora, Kingston, London, North Bay, Oakville, Owen Sound, Ottawa, Pembroke, Peterborough, Sarnia, Sault Ste. Marie, Stoney Creek, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Welland and Windsor or by writing or phoning: Environment Ontario 135 St. Clair Ave., West Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5 Telephone: (416) 965-1658

DEPOSIT REFUND FOR REFILLABLE SOFT DRINK BOTTLES

Regulations of the Province of Ontario under the Environmental Protection Act provide that a cash refund of the full deposit will be paid for up to 48 intact and reasonably clean refillable containers in any 24-hour period of a brand and flavour of carbonated soft drink sold here in containers of the same size within the preceding six months.