



regional viewpoint

By Jim Irving

After only a couple of months in action, York County board of education members apparently see dark days ahead.

No one knows just how it came about, but it seems as if they're not all certain they'll finish out the season marching hand in hand, cheeks glowing, eyes flashing, school board pencils beating out a happy tattoo together on their lined notepads.

Maybe it was all those recorded votes that first gave them the inkling they weren't taking the same vitamins, and something had to be done to sweat to restore the spirit of good will and fun-loving camaraderie they enjoyed at the inaugural coffee party when they could still exercise such freedoms of choice as to whether to have saccharin or a bit of Irish Mist in their coffee.

So the board, with its youngest trustee—in age, anyway—18-year-old Jim Corcoran of Woodbridge, leading the way, came up with a motion this week showing that, while they might split the county with a \$74.1 million budget—which few protested, so they can hardly squawk—they were certainly going to see that they, anyway, remained together. Chips off the old blockhead, as it were.

Summit meeting

And what better way to do it than to pass a motion giving them the right to get together formally and ask each other—just out of curiosity, no offence meant, of course—just what they should be doing on the board other than coming up with the proper look of piety during the evening prayer.

That's the gist of it, anyway. The motion bringing this great summit

meeting about, was set down in loftier terms, incorporating sufficient whereases to give it the ring of legislative authority.

"Whereas," the motion started off, "it could be possible for this board to become divided;" (now there's sacrilege if I've ever heard it) "and whereas Trustees and administrators (capitals for trustees, lower case for administrators; already they're divided) "of this 1977-78 board have not had an opportunity for informal, open interaction: It is moved: That the Chairman's Committee make plans to hold a workshop on the Role of the Trustee and the Administrator", (capitalized this time).

The more sane

Last year, a couple of the more sane trustees suggested—not moved—they have the odd coffee party to get to know

each other better. But the idea smacked too closely of fraternization with the enemy and was quickly discouraged.

This year, to put its motion into being, the board plans to hold a workshop, at which trustees and administrators will earnestly discuss: "What is going well," "what is not going well," and if the sea is boiling hot and whether pigs have wings.

Later on the trustees will meet to consider "trustees' expectations of trustees," and "trustees' expectation of administrators." Then the administrators will try it, putting forth their expectations of administrators and then their expectations of trustees.

Into the woods!

Good stuff, eh? Can't you just see them at some

woodland retreat, smartly casual in borrowed safari jackets and blue jeans, trying to sneak in the odd question between small talk about the Blue Jays and Margaret Trudeau, as to what they're doing up in Aurora all the time when they don't even like the place.

"Look, I don't like to get personal. I mean, why you ran for the board is your business, okay? But, like, well, tell me, did you really expect all those night meetings?"

"I didn't even expect to get elected. But I'll tell you, now that I am, it makes me damn mad when some of those other trustees argue against a motion when staff and-or the chairman's committee have gone to so much trouble to prepare it and we have to go

past the 11 o'clock adjournment because of them."

Gone forever?

"You mean, like Jenkins over there? He argues everything, especially where money's involved. If it were left to him, we'd still have attendance records and graded report cards."

"Yeh, and the kids would have to go outside to smoke, instead of having their own room."

"And the teachers wouldn't be able to strike, or the trustees wouldn't be able to take winter holidays."

"I'm not even going to speak to him." "Me either."

"Well, there's the bell, let's go in."

"Yeah, I'm really looking forward to it. It's a good idea. Communication is everything."

"That's right, that's right. I wonder what time the coffee break is?"



sharon's sunshine

By Sharon Brain

Teachers are getting progressively happier and parents progressively glummer. Next week is Spring Break.

Parents are wondering how they can survive a whole week of the kids at this time of year.

There's no Christmas shopping to do or decorations to make. They can't go swimming and the cottage is a sea of mud.

The weather is sure to be rotten. It won't snow of course. A nice big spring snow storm would mean the kids could get outside and use their sleds and skates and skis. But Spring Break always seems to mean rain or sleet.

Outdoor play means puddles and mud.

Traditionally, this is the week the plumber, who has been promising to fix your taps since Christmas, finally comes and shuts off the water for 24 hours.

This is also the week the dog will have puppies in your bedroom closet.

The kids, much impressed by this event, will explain the facts of life to every visitor, prefacing their remarks by pointing at your bedroom door.

They will manage to omit any reference to the puppies.

They will do this to the aforementioned plumber who will wonder what kind of place this is anyways.

Last straw

This is the week when you can't share

your troubles with your best friend because she and her family are spending Spring Break in Florida.

She will send you a postcard that will arrive on the worst Friday you have ever had in your life.

You will rip it up without reading about her "wonderful time, wish you were here."

You will then feel so guilty, you have to make a casserole to take over to welcome her back.

This is the week you finally agree to take the kids to the matinee. But the line stretches for three blocks, and instead of "Black Beauty," they are showing "Gonzilla at the Planet of the Apes".

So you're just as glad that they couldn't get in, but they cry a lot. So you

end up at a bowling alley and wonder whether Gonzilla could have been any worse.

This is the week you learn why everyone knocks daytime TV.

I've got some suggestions.

Don't clean house this week. Rest instead.

Ways out

Anyone who drops by next week will never suspect the mess doesn't all belong to the kids. If they notice The Globe and Mails under the comic books, they'll just think your five-year-old is an advanced reader.

Make a list of all the people who asked you to showers and kitchen ware parties this winter. Call them all up.

Explain you feel you owe them a meal

as thanks for the lovely time you had at their house, and tell them you and the children will be serving peanut butter and-or bologna sandwiches and freshie from 12 to two on Wednesday.

That should cut down on your invitations next winter.

Plan an excursion for Friday. That way you have a stick with which to beat the kids all the first part of the week.

But don't offer the Science Centre or the CN Tower or the Eaton's Centre. They'll be packed.

Doldrum killers

Instead, go to your library or to Classic Bookstore in Hillcrest and get a copy of "Toronto is for Kids", by Sheila Clarke, Marilyn Linton and Jeanne

Scargall.

It should take the kids all week to read it and decide what they really want to do. The fights will be vicious, but at least they'll be arguing with each other and not with you.

While you're at the library, grab an armload of books and hide them, somewhere to pull out when the kids have nothing at all to do.

But don't hide them too well. It's not very pleasant to find the books under the bed five weeks after Spring Break has passed.

If you've got time, take the kids to see the dinosaurs in the new Gallanough Library in Thornhill.

And if that doesn't turn them on, take them to see Dad at work.

But only as a last resort.



yesterdays
by mary dawson

As a child I enjoyed visiting Archie Colin and Maggie Stewart, a bachelor and spinster, who were well into their seventies.

Although their farm home boasted a furnace, running water and a bathroom (almost unheard of luxuries in those days) Maggie continued to keep house much as her grandmother did in pioneer days.

She baked bread from flour ground in a hand-operated mill, she churned butter from cream skimmed from the milk left to sour in several flat pans in the milk house.

She used an old dasher-type churn her grandfather made from a hollowed-out log.

Her butter bowl he carved from wood grown on the farm.

Her pound press had carved flower and leaves which showed up in bas relief on the top of the pound of butter.

Best delight

But the greatest delight to me was her homemade cheese. It was white and had a very mild flavor, being a bit rubbery or crumbly, depending on its age.

This she made just as her grandmother had back in the early 1830's.

First she sat a pan of sour milk on the back of the kitchen range. After some time and stirrings the milk separated into curds and whey.

She turned this mixture into a piece of cheesecloth stretched over an earthenware crock which caught the whey.

Caught whey

After the liquid drained away and the curds were fairly dry, she transferred them to a round cheese press lined with cheesecloth and placed a weighted cover on top.

When the weight had squeezed out any remaining whey and the curds had become a firm white mass she wrapped the resulting small "wheel" in layers of fresh cheesecloth.

Then she set it on a shelf in the cool milk house to age. The result was delicious.

Cheese industry

About 1880 with the coming of more peaceful times in Europe the bottom dropped out of the Canadian wheat

market.

However, there was a good demand for cheese in England. Rural Ontario got into the cheese making business, many cheese factories coming into existence.

One of these was located on Richmond Street in Richmond Hill. It was later converted into a cottage which was torn down to make way for the apartment building at 67 Richmond.

Until the day it disappeared from the local scene, passersby claimed that on a hot, muggy summer's day they could still smell the whey.

Factories clustered

These cheese factories usually were just a few miles apart. Some farmers

brought their own milk in to be processed.

In other cases a farmer would contract to haul the milk from several farms as well as his own to the factory.

He would have to get up very early in the morning (about 4 a.m.).

After feeding himself and his stock, and milking his cows he would start out for the factory, collecting milk in large cans as he went along.

He lifted them from high wooden platforms at the roadside.

The loads of milk had to be at the factory early so the cheesemaking process could begin.

Process method

Rennet and culture were added to the

milk. The mixture was warmed and stirred until curd formed.

This was cut with long cheese knives. The solid was pressed to remove whey and placed in cheese boxes.

These were cylindrical in shape and held about 100 lbs.

After dumping the milk, the hauler would load up with the whey from the previous day's cheese making.

He put whey in each can according to the amount of milk the farmer sent.

This was fed to the pigs on the farm. After curing for some months the cheese was teamed to the railway and sent on the journey to England.

About 1908 the price of cheese at the factory dropped to 12c a lb. This made the farmer's return unsatisfactory and many cheese factories closed.

Pioneered cheese making



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