

# Tennis 'bubble' in big trouble?

By Fred Simpson

The "bubble" may have burst on winter tennis in Richmond Hill. At least as far as the majority of members of the Richmond Hill parks and recreation committee are concerned. They voted 4-2 against a recommendation to town council that would have given the green light on a private proposal to erect an inflated bubble over the four tennis courts at Crosby Park.

The estimated \$160,000 bubble, which would allow year-round tennis on the courts, has run into some stiff opposition from Crosby Park area residents.

A number of them were out Thursday night to watch the committee discuss and then reject the agreement drafted up by staff and the private businessmen promoting the bubble.

**Death knell**  
The death knell at the committee level was sounded by Councillor Mike Burnie who said, "The bubble in this particular locale would stick out like a sore thumb. It would be an imposition on the people in the area."

"I think it would be a great idea if it was located in another area," he said. Burnie added he travelled down to the Lakeshore to see the inflatable bubble in use there.

"It's a massive thing as far as I'm concerned, at least two storey's high," he said.

"I don't think any of us really realized what it would look like," he said. "I think it would be an incredible imposition on the area residents. If council accepts this proposition it would be enough to not make me run again."

Burnie concluded by emphasizing he had "nothing against tennis per se. It's a great game."

**Hot and cold**  
Mayor Dave Schiller was running "hot and cold on the proposition. I think generally it's a great idea."

Then he listed three areas of the proposal that bothered him. "The tennis club's position is yet to be determined," he said, "although it may have been accepted to a degree."

(The tennis club has announced a membership meeting to discuss the proposal next Friday night at 7:30 p.m. See story elsewhere in sports pages).

Schiller also worried about the "impact on the immediate neighborhood. The residents may learn to live with it in time but I'm not too sure about that. It is quite an imposition."

He also pointed to the "general energy problem. The bubble, at least initially, will let quite a bit of heat escape. Energy is a crisis everywhere at the moment."

He concluded, "I can't support the bubble at this time. Maybe a year down the road in some less intrusive residential area."

**He likes it**  
Committee member Steve Mills was just as vocal in his support of the bubble.

"It would ensure the citizens of Richmond Hill year-round tennis at reasonable rates and also provide some capital improvement to the present courts and clubs. And require no capital funds from the town."

Mills thought it was "unlikely the town would come up with the capital to provide a bubble of its own. There are other priorities."

The bubble, he said, wouldn't be a problem as to "noise pollution or lights and it's height would be at least less than four storey's high. It should pose any problems in nearby back yards in the winter."

**Bubble booster**  
Another bubble booster, there were only two, was committee member Ted Spence.

"It's unlikely such an opportunity will be made available to the town again," he said, "for inexpensive winter tennis. The time is right for this type of facility."

Councillor Al Duffy, chairman, noted the "area is much noisier right now." He said the bubble would be 34 feet high "which fits in with the town's height bylaw. I don't think there would be a problem and it would provide tennis at a reasonable rate. There is no cheap way."

A petition opposing the bubble had already been submitted to the committee.

Mayor Schiller said the defeated motion would "still go before council for its final approval or disapproval on May 2."

Requesting permission to erect the bubble are Alex Squires, Shell Canada Limited; Dr. W. Gordon Squires; Robert Smith, president Marksall Industries Limited; and Robert Firth, general manager, North York Tennis Association Winter Club.

Firth, who attended the meeting, expressed disappointment at the committee's decision to scuttle the proposal.

"We thought everything had been ironed out in drafting the agreement," he said. "Now there's almost a complete turnaround."

He added, "We have tried to be very co-operative with all concerned in drafting this agreement."

Voting against the motion were Mayor Schiller, Burnie, Barbara de Boer, and Bob McKee. In favor were Spence and Mills.

Chairman Duffy wasn't required to vote.

## Duck bullets

Residents of the Devil's Elbow are up in arms over what seems to be an oversight in local bylaws.

"There are no restrictions on hunting in or near the developed portions of the Devil's Elbow community," says C.W.D. Foster, president of the Devil's Elbow Community Ratepayers Association.

"This oversight is apparently also known by various hunters, who, in the past, have discharged firearms within less than one half mile of these built-up areas," Foster said in a letter to Markham council.



(Photo by Hoogi)

Sorry, goalie it caught the corner. That was the story for Lambeth Saturday afternoon as the Oak Ridges Lions Club Juveniles

## Oooops, another goal

down them 9-4 at Bond Lake Arena to win the All Ontario Juvenile Double 'C' hockey championship. To add insult to injury, the

locals popped in four of their goals while playing shorthanded. Only way to finish a season.

# 'Ridges juveniles champs

Oak Ridges Lions' Club coach Glen Wright spent all season trying to tell his players not to pick up cheap penalties. "Cheap penalties kill you every time," he would say.

So what happened Saturday when his team met Lambeth in the seventh game of their best-of-seven All-Ontario Double C hockey championship at Bond Lake Arena?

The Oak Ridges boys skated into four "cheap" penalties in the second period with the score tied 3-3.

It was enough to make coach Wright cringe.

Except his team scored four shorthanded goals to win 9-4 and take the championship.

"We were lucky," said coach Wright. "That doesn't happen every day. But it was nice. Wild and wonderful."

It was a happy ending to a wild and woolly series which saw the Lions win the first three games and then tie one and lose two.

Coach Wright had lots of "family" help in this game as his son, Glen Wright Jr., scored two of the shorthanded goals with Karl Taylor and Ken Clague getting the others.

It was the same Wright who tied the game at 3-3 in the first period as he carried over the line, fired the puck back to Paul Smith at the point, and he whistled it home.

**Just start**  
It was just the start.

The same Mr. Wright then proceeded to score the first two shorthanded goals.

Coach Wright admitted that "I was pretty concerned after the first period. I thought we played badly even though we came out of it tied 3-3."

"I gave the boys a talking to between periods, they listened, and that's what happened. I figured they were the better players if they started playing hockey."

"Two goals Lambeth scored on us in that opening play resulted directly from our defence just waving their sticks at the puck instead of taking the player out with the body."

The rest is history.

**Mature**  
"This is one of the most mature group of youngsters I've coached," said Wright. "They've played very controlled hockey all season with the exception of a few lapses."

"I've tried to keep them out of the penalty box. 'If you want to fight' I told them, 'go join a boxing club.' I wanted

them to play hockey and they did."

Goals went to the aforementioned Wright with two along with two assists; Karl Taylor, two and one; Jim Gerber, one and two; and Tony Roffey, Chris Smith, Paul Smith, one of each; and Ken Clague, one goal. Dennis Griffith and Ted Clague also drew assists each.

It was the second time in three years the local juveniles have captured the All Ontario but the first time for coach Wright who termed the feeling "just beautiful."

Wright said his team "has come a long way from the start of the season when we just had 24 players to choose from for our line-up. And you carry 16. They did a great job."

The Lions carved out championships in the York Simcoe League as well as winning the only tournament they entered: Orangeville.

"This is essentially a young team, too," said Wright. "We only lose about five guys next season. It's a good nucleus to start with."

## Hill, Richvale join minor hockey forces

The Richmond Hill Minor Hockey Association will be richer by 200 youngsters next year.

That's the result of a decision to amalgamate between the Hill organization and its Richvale counterpart.

Still on its own is the Oak Ridges Minor Hockey Association which attended one of the five information sessions but never considered making it a triumvirate.

Oak Ridges outgoing president, Ray Harris, told "The Liberal", "We were never actually approached to become part of the Richmond Hill Association although we were invited to sit in as observers."

Harris said his association sat in on one meeting but "I wasn't able to get to any personally due to conflicting meetings."

He added, "Our situation isn't quite the same as Richvale's. We have an arena in the area and they haven't. Our association may consider the question next year or the year after, I don't know."

Harris observed that "some of our members are not that much for amalgamation at this time."

One of the architects of the amalgamation, Ed Sackfield, arena administrator, felt "the youngsters will benefit the most on both sides."

He said, "In Richvale particularly the youngsters will get more ice time and be playing in a regular league. Right now the house leagues have to travel to play an interlocking schedule with communities such as Unionville and Maple."

"They're not getting the turnout of youngsters under such conditions as they would otherwise," Sackfield said.

"If Richvale had grown the way we originally thought it would, the amalgamation might not have been necessary."

"Eventually there will be an arena in the south Richmond Hill area when the population is such that it's required," he said.

Equally enthusiastic was outgoing Richmond Hill Minor Hockey Association president Bob Reeves.

"It'll give the kids a lot more hockey and better competition," said Reeves. "It will benefit both our associations."

One initial hitch will be the bumping up of Richmond Hill town rep teams from Double A to Triple A, in the first year at any rate.

"That's the penalty we have to pay under OMHA rules," said Reeves. "Whenever you amalgamate you have to move into a high classification."

"This, of course, only applies to OMHA playdowns. We'll still be going against the same teams in the York Simcoe league. Besides," said Reeves, "the tougher competition will be good for the boys."

Reeves said there was some concern some "of the Richvale youngsters might have trouble making some of the town rep teams. I think it goes both ways and we don't see any problem."

Reeves said he was "sorry Oak Ridges didn't get involved with us because it would make for much better hockey and a bigger house league. But that's up to them."



## Nice going, Bruce

Bruce Bunker of 367 Bent Crescent, Richmond Hill, won the men's low net trophy in the recent Can-Am Golf Tour-

nament at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Presenting this award (left) is festival chairman Barry Thipgen.

# No tackles this football

Bone-crushing tackles they can now do without but they still like the fun that goes with playing football.

That's why "they" are members of the Thornhill Touch Football League which is readying for its fifth season starting June 1 and going through to Aug. 15.

"We actually have two seasons," states league head Mike Redvers. "Our second season runs from Sept. 1 to mid-October."

The six team loop — they hope to expand to eight teams this season — features players ranging from 20 years to 40 years who "still like to get out and taste the competition of football without putting their jobs on the line," states Redvers.

"They just enjoy tossing the football around and reliving some of the excitement of their high school days."

This Thornhill football league also boasts a few ex pro players such as Len Sparks, ex Argo and Ottawa Roughrider, and Mike Blum who also

toiled for the same teams at one time plus others.

"It's not as rough, obviously, as tackle football," says Redvers, "but the guys are very competitive. We've had a few concussions and the odd broken leg."

Redvers says that "touch football is growing rapidly in popularity. There must be 2,000 teams active in the city of Toronto."

The Thornhill league plays out of Thornlea Secondary School three nights a week and could expand very easily if "we had more playing facilities." They play on Sundays.

"Last fall we played a game at the CNE stadium and it was quite a thrill," said Redvers.

Oh by the way, they're not especially looking for any more players.

"We've got all we can handle right now," says Redvers.

That's how popular touch football is. Sure beats getting tackled when you're 40 years old or over.



fred simpson

## Bag of notes

I've got the post-winter lowdowns. Something, anyway. Must be the weather. Cool for November.

Don't even enjoy going to the laundromat these days. And that's usually a weekly highlight in my life.

I should be happy. My car's run for three days in a row without stopping in the middle of an intersection, haven't got a cold, my friend even smiled at one of my jokes the other day, all kinds of warm things are happening to me.

So I better shake myself a couple of times and do some jutting about on-rushing Spring (?) and wonderful Summer.

It's beginning to look like the Richmond Hill Dynes Jeweller fastball team will be returning to their former days of glory.

At least one gathers that from the names filtering out from their continuing practice sessions. Names like pitcher Bob Domik and Doug Webster; fielding familiars like Terry McCool, Danny Boyne, Mickey Hancock and catcher George Dickey.

**Reid's back**  
Was somewhat surprised to see the name of Duane Reid popping up. Surprised because Duane has been missing from the local sports scene for the past few seasons. He's been playing out west in the Winnipeg area.

Duane, you may recall, was a standout rookie shortstop with the Jewellers when they won World Championship in Manila in 1972.

Also on hand are fellows like Stu Aiken who played with Oshawa Tony's last year and Marty Twynman who toiled with the Toronto Globals.

Then I'm told they've got a couple hotshot juniors by name of Mike Krause and Lorne Funt. It all sounds interesting and should make for an exciting season.

**Back home**  
The Jewellers, incidentally, have returned to their Thursday night spot at the Town Park diamonds. All is as it was.

They open the Beaches League May 17 with a game against John Oliver at Dieppe Park and are at home May 19. Won't be long now.

Just some notes from here on in and then I'm going to go out and sniff some oxygen. Get back in the race.

**Chicken Hop**  
The Richmond Hill Ball Association is holding a "Chicken Hop" deal next Friday night at the Lions Hall. Cocktails are at 6:30 and you go to meet some of the Dynes ball club.

A Swiss Chalet Dinner follows and there's dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Proceeds go to the town rep teams and Dynes ball club. Tickets, \$6 per person.

Let's see now:  
The Thornhill Minor Hockey Association will be holding its annual meeting May 19 at 8 p.m. in the Thornhill Community Centre Boardroom.

Any amendments to the constitution must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the meeting. So get them in if you have any. For further info, call Michael Smith at 667-3641 or 889-7291.

**Pitching clinic**  
And the Richmond Hill Minor Ball Association will be holding a pitching clinic May 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the "old" Richmond Hill Arena. All boys are welcome.

**Free hamburger**  
Finally, anyone want a car wash with a free hamburger thrown in for nourishment?

If you do, drop around to Harvey's Restaurant next Saturday any time from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. It's \$2 a wash and, of course, that hamburger.

Promoting the car wash are members of the Langstaff Secondary School soccer team which cleaned up this season in the York County and Georgian Bay high school leagues.

They won the right to play in the 16-team All Ontario tournament in Windsor in June. That takes money. And the youngsters need some \$800 for expenses. Give them a hand.

That's at Harvey's next Saturday. Don't eat before you go.

Finally, congratulations to the Oak Ridges Lions Club Juveniles for winning the All Ontario Double C championship against Lambeth.

That Oak Ridges has done it again. A note from the coach of the team, Glen Wright, thanks the following for their invaluable contribution: The Dynes Junior B club for loan of their dressing room and facilities; special thanks to Al Bestard; also to Maribelle McKenzie for acting as time-keeper, etc.

On that happy note we'll leave.