

Letters

What happened to restraint?

Although the mayor states that he does not want to make a career of correcting my figures, I do intend to continue to use figures supplied in the Town's budgets or other public financial statements.

They should be sufficiently clear as to say what they mean.

The mayor should recall the \$80,000 error in the Town's financial statements for the years 1975 and 1976 which was confirmed in the auditor's letter to the newspaper in November, 1977.

Also, the information on

the "reverse funds" from the opening balance in 1975 to the closing balance in 1975 and in the year 1976 did not reconcile.

These differences were rectified in the 1977 financial statements of the Town.

In fact, the 1977 financial statement presentation gave considerably more detail of the reserve fund transactions.

It seems my letters did bring results.

The following facts were obtained from the published figures of the Ministry of Municipal

Affairs; salaries related to total equalized assessment values in 1976 by areas within the Region.

The salary cost per thousand dollars of assessment is as follows:

Aurora, \$5.77; Markham, \$5.08; Newmarket \$5.76; Richmond Hill \$6.67; Vaughan, \$5.59; Whitchurch \$2.93; Georgina, \$6.10; East Gwillimbury, \$4.49; King, \$3.39.

The Town of Richmond Hill costs for salaries show the highest cost for each thousand dollars of assessment.

Either we have a large staff employed by the Town or too high salaries are paid.

Possibly a question that I had asked earlier could be answered by the mayor: What was the number of staff employed in the years 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 by the Town including those on a contract basis?

We should be entitled to this information from our elected REPRESENTATIVES.

What happened during the years of restraint? One weakness of municipal government is the lack of an opposition party, therefore it is up to the citizens to enquire and oppose expenditures deemed unnecessary.

This is part of the democratic process.

Some elected representatives too often join forces with the municipal civil servants in expanding expenditures or services rather than support the citizens point of view (the one who pays).

They also forget that Provincial or Federal grants applied for, are from the same source, the taxpayer.

Therefore it is necessary for the taxpayer to be the "opposition" in the municipal government system.

The taxpayers in California and elsewhere were the opposition since the elected representatives did not "represent" them to their satisfaction.

They won't sacrifice three more children

Attention: Dalo Keliar or Whom it may Concern.

We, the parents of the children in the John Street - Dawn Hill Trail area, wish to take opposition to your statement that "five accidents have to occur to meet the standards".

We have already had two of our children hit by cars that continually wish to use our street as an accelerating strip.

We feel we can not afford to forfeit three more children.

Maybe you have three children that you are willing to spare. We don't!

Then again, since you are so concerned about standards, maybe one fatal accident would take the place of three hits.

I hope these above statements look as silly to you on paper as they do to us parents.

We sympathize with you to have to comply to those ever regimented number games of

political circles.

Yet, we are not willing to have our children become statistics in order to change a definite hazard.

We appeal to you as a human being and a parent to act with some common sense.

It will be too late once a fatal accident occurs.

We trust in your powers of decision as a responsible politician or public civil servant that a definite hazardous problem can be alleviated.

We hope that a more realistic approach may be reached to solve the problem before it is too late.

S. Christopher H. Howe, Thornhill
R. Marquis, 46 Roosevelt Drive, Thornhill

Who will repair soccer field?

Ever since the Thornhill Minor Soccer Club was founded four years ago, many of us parents spent hours and hours voluntarily to make the Club work.

Whatever reasons these volunteers might have to dedicate their time to the children, it certainly will keep them off the streets, hanging around corners, and shopping plazas, smoking, etc., etc., but it seems that we do not get any co-operation from the Department of Parks and Recreation and or School Board.

Obviously due to the tremendous increase of participants in the sport of soccer the availability of playing fields is rather limited.

One may feel that if a field is not in too good a condition it would be looked after fairly quickly by the proper Department, of the Town of Markham, once they had been contacted.

No, not at all. Approximately seven weeks ago somebody ripped the goal posts apart on the north end of the soccer field on the Thornhill Secondary School grounds.

Furthermore the south goal on the same field is also very brittle and will not hold up very much longer.

I certainly do not know the reasons for the hold-up in repairing the goal

posts.

I only can assume that one Department (Parks and Recreation) passes the buck to another (School Board) and each one pleads innocent.

Examples:

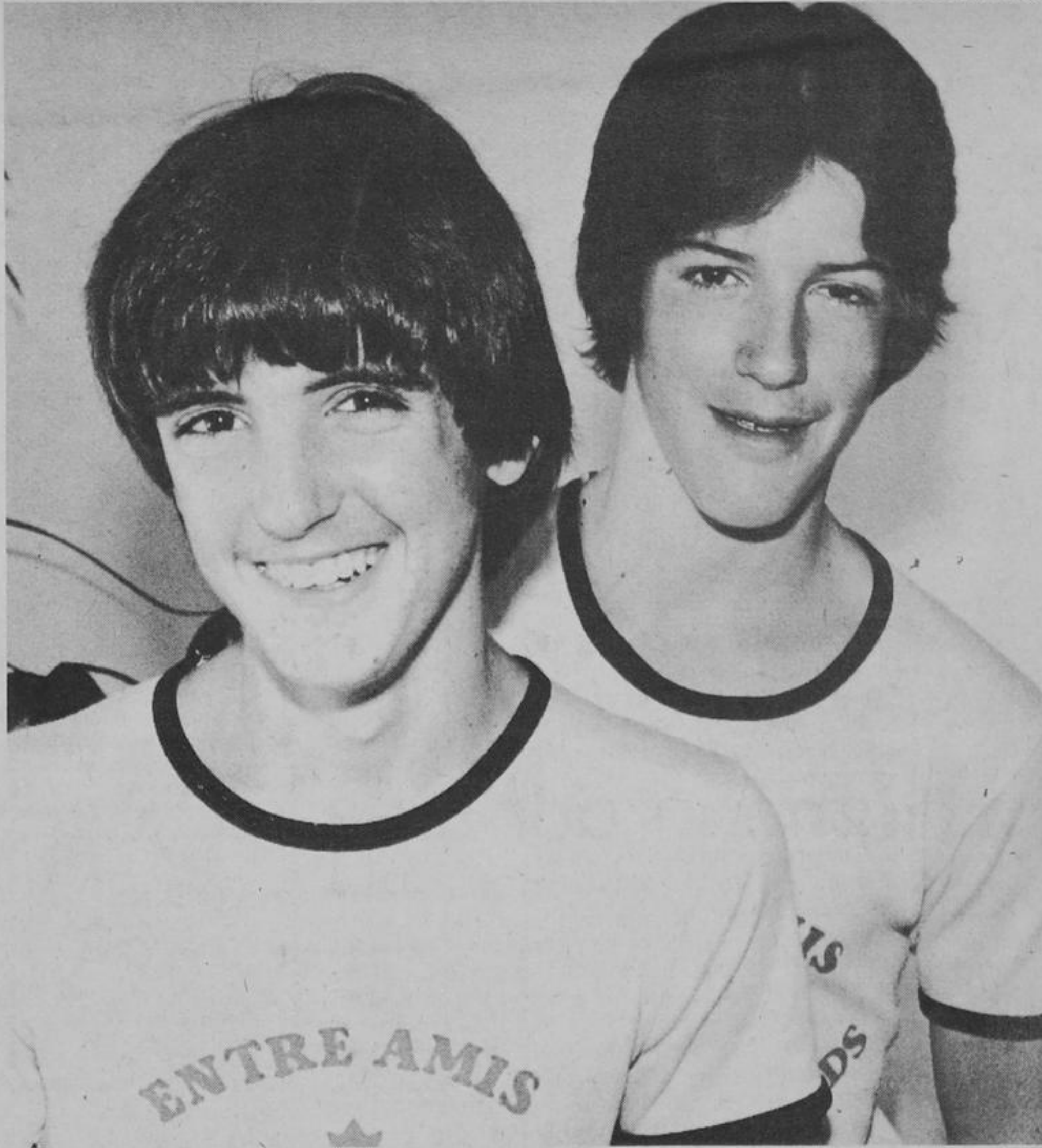
1 — Last year Thornlea soccer field's grass was too long. After complaint, grass cut all around the soccer field, but not on the soccer field, excuse from a certain Department: this is not our responsibility, it is the other Department's.

2 — Thornhill soccer field again. Last year large holes 2' x 2' or so. After a rain, field looked like a bombed out battle field. As per Parks Department it costs \$500 to fill holes with sandy loam. Incredible.

It is so encouraging and reassuring that our elected representatives have so much interest in the well being of the younger generations, the taxpayer and the taxpayer's money.

Thanks, indeed, "Elected Members" for being so concerned about our Community.

Klaus H. Maier
47 Proctor Ave.
Thornhill, Ont.



CHRIS AND MARK AMIRAULT

Idea's great but not the \$\$\$

The regional health and social services committee is planning a \$47,000 program for high schools on the evils of drink if it can find the money.

The program would be an expansion of a pilot project at King City Secondary School last year.

Dr. E. J. Holowaty said that both the public and separate school boards were interested in providing support for the project "but no money".

It would receive 75 per cent funding from the province.

The regional social services department is to spend the next month looking for ways of finding the other 25 per cent.

Mayor David Schiller, chairman of the committee, questioned the need for a full-time secretary to assist the public health nurse in operating the program.

But Markham councillor Ron Moran said he could see a lot of paperwork involved in the program.

Exchange was worthwhile

By DOREEN LIVINGSTONE 889-9922

They weren't too keen on the idea, but the Amiraault brothers of Thornhill let their parents talk them into filling out an application form to participate in the teen-exchange visit "Between Friends-Entre Amis", sponsored by Simpsons Toronto-Montreal.

Fourteen-year-old Mark Amiraault said that by the time the exchange was over, he and brother Chris, 15 were glad they had been part of it.

During the first week of the exchange, 20 teenagers from the Montreal area stayed in homes around Toronto and Chris and Mark Amiraault, who live on Marsnow Drive, were visited by Sylvain Pilon,

15, from Verdun, Quebec, and Marc Servang, 15, from Pierre Fonds, Quebec, suburbs of Montreal.

Of the 20 French-Canadian students, here, five of them were bilingual and Mark says he "doesn't think anyone from Toronto spoke French as well".

The Toronto itinerary included a tour of Simpsons, a day at Niagara Falls, a free day in which arrangements had been made for visits to such attractions as the Zoo, the Museum, McLaughlin Planetarium, Black Creek Pioneer Village, etc., a tour of the CN Tower, and an audience with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario where Mark said he enjoyed "walking around the house at Queen's

Park."

The following week the 20 Toronto teenagers, ages 13 to 16 travelled by train with their counterparts to Montreal where they had a bus tour of the city, visited a chalet in the Laurentians, and spent a day at Quebec City.

Mark says "I really picked up on my French a lot there; some of the stuff I learned in school is a bit different."

He added that sometimes he wasn't sure of a word and everyone started to laugh. He admitted some of the French he learned was slang.

"Between Friends", introduced for Canada Week last year was so successful that Simpsons had enlarged the program this year.

Other students participating were from Regina, Halifax, London, Ottawa, Windsor and Kitchener.

The students filled out application forms and were matched up by their similar interests, "like one of those computer dating machines" says Mark.

Chris and Mark really enjoyed their trip and would like to go again but each student is given the opportunity once.

With all the talk about Quebec separating from the rest of Canada, what were the opinions of the four teenagers on the subject?

Strangely enough, according to Mark, the subject of politics was never discussed.



MARLENE TITUS, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Mitchell, Oak Ridges, graduated recently from York University with an Honors degree in Physical Education. She attended King City Secondary School. Marlene plans to attend the Faculty of Education, University of Toronto in September.

FENCES AND TREES

They put up their fences,
And they put up their trees,
What are they afraid,
That they might see?

When the judgment day comes,
I wonder —
Will there be fences and trees?

Something in my heart
Says — no way.
Fences and trees,
You've had your day .

THE RAIN

It wasn't the rain,
No, not the rain,
Afraid?

Yes, afraid,
But not the rain,
Someday you'll see.

DEATH

In the cool of the evening,
When the breeze blows through,
The street is dark and peaceful,
And the wind blows —

Death is cold —
It comes unexpectedly.
Life goes on,
Death is accepted.

At 5.25 a.m., the birds talk,
Wake up, it's morning,
The night is over,
Soon the sun will shine.

Margie Donovan
366 Browndale Cres.
Richmond Hill

IMPORTANT

Canadian Citizenship is required to vote in Federal Elections

The Canada Elections Act of 1970 provides that every man and woman who has attained the age of 18 years and is a Canadian citizen qualifies as an elector and is therefore able to vote in federal by-elections and general elections.

The Act also provided that British subjects who were not Canadian citizens but who qualified as electors at the time of the 1968 general election could continue to vote in federal elections for a period of five years following the coming into effect of the new Canada Elections Act on June 26, 1970.

Accordingly, since June 26, 1975 only Canadian citizens have had the right to vote in federal elections.

You do not need to produce proof of Canadian Citizenship either at the time of enumeration or at the polls. However, if challenged at the polls, you may be asked to swear that you are a Canadian citizen before voting.

If you wish to apply for Canadian citizenship or if you have any doubts about your status as a Canadian citizen, please contact:

The Court of Canadian Citizenship nearest you listed under "Government of Canada" in the white pages of your telephone directory as follows:

Citizenship Inquiries, or
Court of Canadian Citizenship, or
Secretary of State.

OR — You may wish to write directly to:
Registrar of Canadian Citizenship,
Department of the Secretary of State,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M5

There are Courts of Canadian Citizenship located in 28 major centres across Canada. Citizenship officers, provincial or county courts, and specially appointed individuals provide citizenship services in many other areas. You will be referred to the most convenient location.

THE GRANTING OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP TAKES AN AVERAGE OF THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF APPLICATION.

This information is provided as a public service and issued jointly by the Chief Electoral Officer and the Registrar of Canadian Citizenship, Department of the Secretary of State.

JOHN ROBERTS
SECRETARY OF STATE

JEAN-MARC HAMEL
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

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