

It could easily have been Richmond Hill

What happened in Mississauga Saturday night could just as easily happen in Richmond Hill, Thornhill, or anywhere else for that matter.

And what would have happened had the tanker carrying the chlorine not been 200,000 people in Mississauga to evacuate.

The train wreck (an overheated wheel bearing caused it, officials believe) turned the City of Mississauga into a ghost town and only now are things getting back to normal.

How long are we going to continue threatening ourselves with these calamities? When are the huge shipwrecks with their devastating oil spills going to stop? When are rail lines going to stop shipping toxic materials through built-up residential communities.

When is the public going to find out such shipments are being made.

We're afraid to imagine — along with automobiles — what gets transported through Thornhill's Doncaster yards every day.

Railway officials have a responsibility to keep their rolling

stock in top-notch working order, and some of that stock isn't getting any younger.

A few years ago, Canadian National dumped a burning boxcar at the station in Aurora, and left it for the volunteer firefighters to handle.

The car was locked and only after the firefighters broke open the doors did they learn what was inside. It took them five hours to extinguish a boxcar full of charcoal.

There wasn't much threat in that fire, but the blaze itself was caused by faulty equipment, the same equipment carrying chemicals strong enough to wipe out a neighborhood.

Many people risked their lives in Mississauga on the week-end, and we wonder if it had to be.

In the same time span, two other train wrecks, both in the United States, caused evacuations because of chemicals.

Before one of these disasters turns into a head count of dead rather than evacuees, some very strict safety measures must be set down. Otherwise, we're going to destroy ourselves.



(Photo by Bruce Hogg)

LIBERAL SPRINKLINGS

Jean Claude impresses

By DOREEN LIVINGSTONE
Liberal Correspondent

International ski champion Jean Claude Killy visited Thornhill last week and I was there. Actually, I was shopping at Sears in Markham Place and he was autographing books and posters at the sports department.

There were two men filming him and since they didn't resemble anyone from Classicom, I asked where they were from. Unfortunately, they spoke French and I didn't. I found out later they were with Swiss Television and were touring with Killy, filming a documentary for Swiss TV. The documentary "Killy the Business man" is being made to help celebrate 25 years of Swiss TV.

Having stumbled on a story, I approached two important-looking gentlemen with Killy, told them I was with a local newspaper and started fumbling for my press card to prove it. I didn't want them to think I was a "ski groupie" who was looking for an excuse to speak to that tall, lean, handsome, athletic-looking Frenchman.

After all there are those who pretend to be newspaper reporters and I don't have to pretend. Besides, why would a groupie have her husband and kids with her?

I was informed the young fellow next to Killy was none other than Steve Podvorski, Canada's ski hopeful for the 1980 Olympics. Terrific, two for the price of one, even if Podvorski only lives in Don Mills.

Killy's competitive career is over but he still skis "as much as I want to". He is now a businessman, as the title of the Swiss documentary suggests, and Jean Claude Killy ski clothing is sold at all Sears stores.

After informing him he was not in Toronto but Thornhill, I asked him what he thought of it and he said, "it's always a pleasure to come to this city, I have lots of friends here." He has been coming here twice a year for the past seven years. Killy is a member of the Sports Advisory Council for Sears.

The Swiss film crew had been travelling with Killy for the past four weeks and had another 10 days to go, but he didn't mind because "they are all my friends".

He had already visited Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa and Mississauga.

Besides promoting his sportswear he was also autographing his book "Situation Skiing".

Sears is supplying all the outfits for the 1980 Canadian Ski Team (designed by Killy).

But we can't neglect Podvorski. Steve doesn't train here. The team couldn't get a visa to train in Russia, although the skiing there is apparently very good. He skis in Europe, in the fall and in the summer he works as a ski technician.

Steve started skiing at the age of two in the Collingwood area and as Killy interjected "he learned walking on skis". When asked if Killy had ever seen Podvorski ski he said he had seen him on television. Apparently all the important races in Europe are televised. Said Killy "it's part of our life to ski, either going or watching".

Steve is 22-years-old but Killy and I both agreed he looks 17.

"It's because he has no worries," said Jean Claude.

When asked if he was married, Podvorski said no.

Killy lives with his wife and family in Geneva, Switzerland.

Knowing very little about skiing I tried to appear worldly but my cover was blown when I said to Steve Podvorski "it will be nice for you to visit Russia next year," to which he replied, "That's the summer Olympics, I'm going to Lake Placid".

Feeling like an idiot but gaining my composure I commented, "Too bad, Russia would have been far more interesting," and then took my leave.

Briefly, then...

The Liberal's editorial photograph last week — a door knob — has quite a history.

That door knob will celebrate its 100th birthday next year.

It is believed that the door knob was part of the original equipment in the United Church on Yonge Street in Richmond Hill when it was built in 1880.

The door knob was found in the church basement when David Howard and some other men were cleaning out some junk.

He took it to his home on Centre Street and installed it. Mrs. Irene Howard called us this week to tell the story of how her late husband found the item.

It is still doing yeoman service on the door of the Centre Street house.

Praising police

York Regional Council voted to formally commend its police force last Thursday, for its conscientious efforts in helping to crack a widespread break-and-enter ring.

Several councillors stood up and had nothing but fine things to say about the York Regional Police. King Mayor Margaret Britnell was especially pleased since several of the stolen items were her own property. She wasn't sure if she'd

ever see some of the goods again, though.

Others to congratulate the police included Gord Rowe (Richmond Hill), Mayor George Timpson (Aurora) and Lou Wainwright (a police commissioner from Richmond Hill). Mr. Wainwright noted the commission was aware of the recent police activities and approved \$8,000 for special surveillance equipment.

Newmarket Mayor Ray Twinney wasn't so generous with the laudatory comments.

"You know, we're congratulating them on doing a job we're paying them \$10 million to do," he said.

RICE FLEW, ALL RIGHT

One of the biggest traffic report assignments of the decade had to be the situation caused by an explosion in Mississauga Saturday night. Monday morning, main traffic routes through that city had been blocked, and radio stations continually informed the commuters of the best roads to take.

The Liberal's Bob Rice, a traffic reporter for Radio Station CKEY, would play a key role in such a situation.

Except, only hours before the explosion, Rice left for a vacation in St. Lucia.

ENERGY SAVERS

Hillcrest Mall gets a big gold star this week for the number of energy saving programs they have instituted.

John Tobin, Operations Manager for Cadillac-Fairview Corporation, Hillcrest Mall, said there has been a program of energy management in operation in common areas of the mall since 1977.

Energy Conservation practices such as:

- using 20 watt bulbs instead of 40 watt bulbs
- replacing one fluorescent light in a unit with a "phantom tube."
- relying on sky light during the day for lighting
- every second fixture being disconnected in back corridors
- setting air conditioners at 76 degrees in the summer and heating

at 68 degrees in the winter.

-strict timer control on parking lot lights

-cutting of temperature of water in public washrooms from 180 degrees to 120 degrees

-cutting the flow of water in taps with special valves

-turning off all pilot lights on heating units during summer months

Just to go even one step further, Mr. Tobin said Hillcrest Mall is in the process of setting up a tenant program where they, in conjunction with Richmond Hill Hydro, can show tenants how to cut back on energy consumption in each individual store.

Richmond Hill Hydro has generously offered to do a study for the tenants, said Mr. Tobin.

By BOB RICE

Christmas Card floods in

Last week The Liberal switchboard was flooded with a call about my Christmas Card draw for the Panasonic Portable TV and Radio.

There seems to be some confusion as to why I want all of the entries MAILED to the paper rather than dropped off at the front door. I have two reasons for this rule and they are as follows.

One: By using the facilities of Canada Post you will help to restore my faith in the system and, at the same time, hopefully use some

Christmas Seals and contribute to a good cause.

Two: At our offices here in the Richmond Heights Plaza we have not one but THREE doors and it could get pretty confusing as to where to leave the cards (and also very messy for the staffers who have to walk all over them lying on the floor).

I realize that some of you may have just returned from a lost weekend in Vandorf and so I will very briefly go through what is happening one more time.

Since my readers are the nicest people in the whole, wide world I have decided to give one of them a Christmas Present!

I would like everyone to send me a Christmas Card and all of those received will be put in a big thingamagig from which I will draw the winning entry on December 12.

The lucky reader will be the recipient of a Panasonic Portable 'Pop Up' TV which includes an AM-FM radio and runs on either household electricity or its own batteries!

You may send as many Christmas Cards as you like but each must be mailed separately and all entries must be postmarked no later than Midnight, December 9.

By the by... I'll be reading each and every card that you send me and if you say some really nice things, I'll even show them to the Editor.

Oh... one more thing. Don't forget to put your address and phone number on the card... nothing is harder than trying to find a winner when I don't know where to look.

Speaking of addresses... the correct way to send the cards is to:

**BOB RICE CHRISTMAS PRESENT
THE LIBERAL
BOX 390
RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO
L4C 4Y6**

Keep those cards coming gang, and I wish you all the best of luck!

The ol' Millpond Philosopher once said... "Anyone who hates little boys and puppies... is a real meeny!"

Brian Banks
Thornhill

Letters

In praise of Markham Transit

During the past few days, I have been looking into the Markham Transit system to determine if it would be fast and convenient for my wife to take to work in northern Scarborough.

Having ridden on several of your routes, I am pleased to say that this is the best bus system I've seen anywhere.

Your bus routes are well laid out, providing good coverage of Markham, and your drivers, always courteous and friendly, stick to the schedules like clockwork.

As a taxpayer, I am delighted to see a municipal service running efficiently. I've never seen anything like it.

If the schedule says 4:19, the bus is there at 4:19 (give or take 10 seconds).

Considering the stage of development of the areas north of Steeles Avenue, you people have done a fine job establishing an efficient system.

I wonder if the people who are complaining about the system know how much better yours is than most. I think not.

To your organization, and to the Town of Markham, I would like to extend hearty congratulations for a job well done.

I am writing re the article on Morocco by Jim Withers (Liberal, Nov. 7). I am wondering when he was last there, especially in Tangier. The Tangier he describes might be true at the turn of the century, but hardly today.

I can write with some authority as I was born in Tangier in missionary parent's, lived there for some years, and during the past 15 years have toured Morocco several times, both by bus and car.

In the early part of the century there were perhaps only two hotels of good calibre in Tangier.

One was at the port which has long since been torn down and the other "The Grand Hotel Villa de France" was near the British Consulate. The latter is still in operation today and is a very fine three-star hotel — so classed because it is a three-storey walk up with

plumbing of the vintage often found in England (i.e., overhead pull-chain, etc.) but spotlessly clean and with excellent cuisine.

The grounds are very picturesque with a fine swimming pool.

Highways are basically in good condition. The French, especially, left a fine network of modern highways and the present government is making an effort to maintain these arteries in reasonably good condition.

I can agree that Morocco is a page out of the Arabian Nights and there is still considerable poverty.

However, I am in a position to make some comparisons over several decades.

The "pestering boys" are, in general, far cleaner and healthier than years ago — the number with open sores, lice, and tattered clothing are very much diminished.

Education is much improved though, as yet, not compulsory, but it is co-educational and much advanced over the old Kravich schools reserved for boys only; in fact the rule and practice at the

Rabat University is 50 per cent women and 50 per cent men in the student body.

In many cities, Tangier included, the medinas have been considerably improved re sanitation, fewer open drains, many of the narrow streets paved, but retaining the atmosphere of the eastern bazaars.

It is true that in some parts of all medinas improvements have yet to be made.

Born in Morocco, reader says story erroneous

I would hesitate to recommend that Tangier be covered by a walking tour. First, because it is extremely hilly, and, secondly, because it is one of the many cities of this world undergoing expansion

Naturally, the medinas of all Moroccan cities can only be covered on foot in view of the narrow streets typical of the near east.

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Why not have Feb. holiday?

A few weeks ago, Heritage Canada launched a campaign to have the third Monday of February declared a public holiday.

Many take unofficial holidays in February anyway, so why not declare a holiday and give "Heritage A Break" at the same time?

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