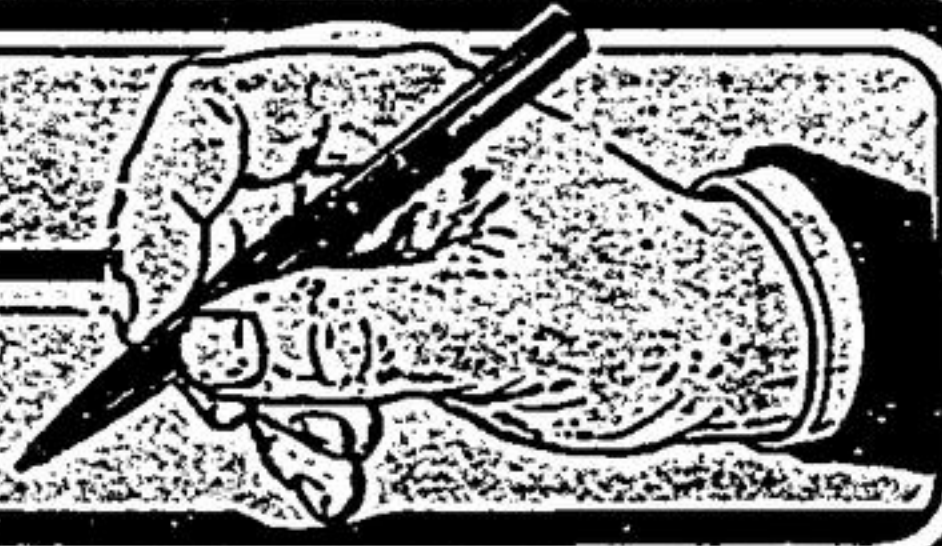


# Editor's Mail



## 'Town should have full-time firefighters east of McCowan'

Dear Sir:

Since the municipal election date is fast approaching, I have noticed your editorials on some of the issues such as overcrowding in our schools, speed bumps on local streets, ambulance service at night due to the recent strike, and two-man patrol cars for our police officers at night.

I also see you are in favor of spending millions of dollars on an emergency 911 telephone system. All these issues are important, especially the school problem and the emergency services.

I find it curious that you are in favor of spending a lot of money on a 911 system to save "valuable seconds" when you are not in

favor of full time fire protection in the old village of Markham. Full time fire protection in District number 1 would not only save "valuable seconds" but three to four minutes.

I find it interesting that most of the issues dealt with are a regional or provincial responsibility. Markham council is solely responsible for the Fire Department.

As you know, Station number 1 is the only Markham fire station that is not professionally manned on a full-time basis. You might be interested to know that this station covers the area east of McCowan Rd., from Steeles Ave. to the northern boundary.

This area is about one third of the total area of the entire town and has at least one third of the population. The politicians will tell you that fire protection is not an election issue because the fire chief says the protection is "adequate".

Station one has an average response time of almost six minutes. The Ontario Fire Marshall recommends three. The human body cannot live without oxygen beyond four minutes and children, who make up a large part of this community, are at greater risk.

The fire chief, who is appointed by our elected officials, and who has to work in the political arena, calls our fire protection "adequate". I call it DEADLY.

Public apathy being what it is, I would guess most taxpayers are either ignorant of our level of fire protection, don't know what our

level of fire protection should be, or just don't care, because they will never require the services of the fire department.

It is my belief that our elected representatives have a duty to provide the best safety services that the town can afford. I ask the politicians, why are the residents living east of McCowan Rd., not receiving the same level of fire protection that the rest of the town receives? With a \$2½ million dollar surplus in the town budget, the money is available.

I guess the only conclusion that one can make, is that when it comes to public safety where there are no corporate head offices, the Town Councillors put the almighty dollar first.

Bradley C. Jackson  
Markham

## Player replies to attack

Dear Sir:

I read with interest your article entitled "Mother Blasts Hockey Group" and feel that as my name has been used, I should have the opportunity to tell my side of the story. The article draws a comparison between myself and Jeff Johnson which is unwarranted.

I did receive a metal trophy and jacket, though I was unable to play as a result of a broken leg. However, I feel my actions earned me these awards. I do not feel that Jeff demonstrated a similar level of commitment to the team.

My leg was broken during a hockey game Jan. 31, and I was hospitalized immediately. Four months later, I required an operation to straighten my leg and I wore a cast for seven months, used crutches for five months and was completely unable to play hockey.

To my knowledge, Jeff's knee injury never required him to leave during a game and it was never apparent to myself or the other team members.

As often as I was able I attended Markham Major Bantam playoff games, travelling to Welland, Stratford and Kirkland Lake. After Jeff stopped playing, he was replaced by another player and he attended a few local games, during which the confrontations with Mr. Miwa mentioned in your article occurred.

After late February/early March Jeff no longer attended any games, though the team played until the April finals in Kirkland Lake. When the team won the Ontario championship finals in Kirkland Lake, all those who attended (myself included) was asked if they wanted to order jackets.

The cost was paid by each player. Since Jeff did not attend the four Kirkland Lake final games, he was not given the opportunity to purchase a jacket.

By doctors orders I cannot play hockey for another year, however I intend to begin playing fall of 1986 or whenever it is safe to do so. Though Jeff is playing football this fall for MDHS (a sport known for knee injuries), he has not rejoined the Markham Major Bantams or any other hockey team.

I only belonged to the team for one year but have found Mr. Miwa and the team management both fair and honest, and I think their decision was the best that could be made under the circumstances.

Steve Ryan  
Markham

## He's offended

Dear Sir:

With regard to your recent editorial on the possibility of Don Cousens' running for the leadership of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party. As a constituent of Mr. Cousens I was deeply offended at what appeared to be your considerable bias against him.

Mr. Cousens has served this community well, working for extremely long and hard hours, yet on the few times that I have sought his help and advise he was instantly accessible.

Yes, it's true that he was only a Cabinet Minister for a short time, yet you ignore the fact that both of the leaders of our major national parties were selected as leaders at times when they were not even members of parliament, let alone Ministers or Deputy Ministers.

In short, sir, with Mr. Cousens' wealth of experience both in business and government, far from treating his possible candidacy lightly, you should be proud of the fact that he has distinguished himself enough that he would be considered as the leader of a major political party.

Yours truly,  
Ray Parry

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