

Annual Fun Run

By SUE PETHICK

Don't forget the Family Fun Run through the streets of Unionville. A gentle 5-km. or a tougher 10-km.

Late registration on run day, Sunday June 8 is from 7 to 8 a.m., with the race starting promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Dog owners, please keep your pets controlled on leashes or behind fences, so the run-

ners haven't extra things with which to contend.

See you Sunday morning!

The Unionville Festival Fun Run wishes to thank the following for their contribution to this year's event: Beatrice Foods Ltd., Clintar Groundskeeping Services, Coca-Cola Ltd., Loblaw's Ltd., Tridel Corporation, Unionville Fruit Company Ltd. and Unionville Massage Therapy Center.

Gold-digger produces work pants

By SUSAN CASELLA

In the 1800's in North America it was a time of "waste not want not" and "use and re-use" for settlers.

The canvas from covered wagons used to transport pioneers to a new home could serve several purposes.

The first was often a tent to protect the family while the team and wagon was put to use to help clear the land.

The canvas was then used as a temporary roof on a log cabin.

If after this the canvas had any life left in it was cut up and sewn into sturdy work clothes.

In 1850 a gold-digger, Levi Strauss from San Francisco who realized like many others he would have to make his fortune somewhere other than the gold fields.

Noticing the thriftiness of pioneer wives and being aware of the need for ready-made clothes for working men he started a company that produced work pants.

He made these first pants from brown tent canvas, they were slim legged for safety and low cut for comfort.

Later he had his canvas fabric dyed indigo blue.

In the 1870's Strauss added copper rivets at points of stress. Until the turn of the century though most men would not accept these.

Levi's were eventually made in grey, brown stripes and the most popular blue denim.

As with today's they shrank, wrinkled and faded but unlike today's product of the same company they could be worn for years without wearing out.

AN INVITATION TO MEET ALEX TILLEY

The Man who Built
a Better Hat. . .



Alex will be at The Blue Heron between 12-2 p.m.
on Sat. June 7th

If you already own a Tilley Hat, let Alex
autograph it.

or

Purchase your first Tilley from our store.



OPEN THURS. 'TIL 8
205 Main St. Unionville

477-8659

Sun. 12-5
Mon. 1-5
Tues.-Sat. 10-6

Historical Society busy

The Unionville Historical Society was established in 1983 and while still a relatively young organization, it has been very active in the past year and has some interesting plans and projects lined up for the coming year.

The society has been involved in lectures and audio-visual presentations to local schools and community groups. Library displays, a public walking tour of the village, as well as assistance with a ROM bus tour of the community, have all been recent activities of the society and its members.

We are presently undertaking a book project, with the aid of the Unionville Festival Committee, which will document the history of the village since its beginnings more than two centuries ago. If you have any

information which may be helpful in our research, please contact the Society at the address listed below or contact our writer/researcher, Larry Rainey, at 22 Karma Road, Unionville, L3R 4Y2.

Be sure to stop in at our display at the Festival. We have an excellent 35-millimetre presentation on Unionville's history, which was recently produced and is being premiered during the festival. We are located in the tent behind the Union Mills clothing shop on the west side of Main St., just north of the Queens Hotel and Old Firehall Sports.

New members are most welcome to join the society and attend its monthly meetings, usually held on the fourth Monday evening of each month. Our annual membership fee is only \$5 and our address is P.O. Box 296, Unionville, Ont. L3R 2V3.

Multi-faceted man Unionville founder

THEO. ROTHE

What does a school in Unionville and a small park in downtown Toronto have in common? The name — William Berczy.

Although William Berczy has been a maligned figure in Canadian history, recent historical evidence has determined that William Berczy played a major role in the settlement of York and Markham.

Born in the town of Wallerstein in the southern principality of Swabia, Germany, Johann Albrecht Ulrich Moll otherwise known as William Berczy was baptized on Dec. 10, 1744.

He was raised in Vienna and subsequently travelled (painted) his way around Europe before settling in England in 1790, where he became the drawing master to the daughters of Sir William Pulteny.

Sir William Pulteny and his associates founded the Genesee Association, a British company which organized colonists for settlement in North America.

An adventurer at heart, Berczy gathered a group of German families and reportedly set sail for America and the Genesee track in New York State from Hamburg, Germany on May 2, 1792 in two small brigs with 235 passengers.

On their arrival, disputes arose over finances and especially tenure, when it was discovered the settlers would be lease-holders and not true owners of the land.

In February 1794 after reading Governor Simcoe's proclamation of 1792 offering free grants of land, William Berczy resolved to take his entire group to Upper Canada. Approximately 190 German settlers plus some Pennsylvanians who joined Berczy enroute, spent the winter of 1794-5 in the midst of a

forest in Markham Township in the County of York.

Some of the Berczy people moved their equipment and goods by raft up the Don River where they established a small hamlet known as German Mills (John Street & Leslie). The crop failures of 1795 and 1796 drove many of the settlers to York in search of food.

Nevertheless, the Berczy settlement survived but not on the grandiose scale envisioned by William Moll Berczy. He was not destined to be a successful businessman.

It appears that political intrigue and obstruction frustrated many of his schemes for developing the Markham settlement.

Although he went heavily into debt, bonding his houses and mills to secure food for his settlers, they turned against him.

His land title questioned and methods of management challenged, William Moll Berczy returned to England to plead his case before the King.

Financially ruined and disillusioned he nevertheless returned to clear his debts and provide a decent living for his family.

William Berczy turned to other talents. As an artist, he portrayed early Upper and Lower Canadian officials in miniature-like portraits. As an architect, he was the first to build a bridge to span the Don River, design and construct many of the early government buildings, build a saw mill and grist mill for the young City of York which he help found.

Also to be noted was his work on the extension of Yonge Street in 1794-5. Despite all these accomplishments, William Moll Berczy, born Johann Ulrich Moll, died a broken embittered man in New York City in 1813.