

Classic encounter takes the 'boring' out of baseball

In keeping with big league baseball's mega-hype All-Star break earlier this week, there's an ongoing story of local sports glory that's gathering some major momentum in these parts.

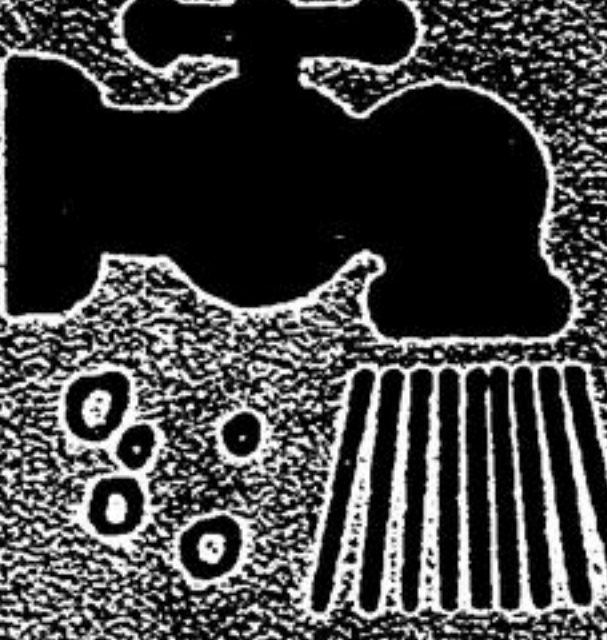
And although it specifically involves softball - or 'fastball' as it is known by those who take the game seriously - this is the type of stuff out of which absorbing human interest yarns are made.

That radiant glow you might have seen approaching out of the north-eastern sky Monday afternoon was actually the Stouffville Merchants coming back down to earth after lighting up all comers on their way to

FROM WHERE I LIVE

Bruce Stopley






THE FAUCETWORKS

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Markham

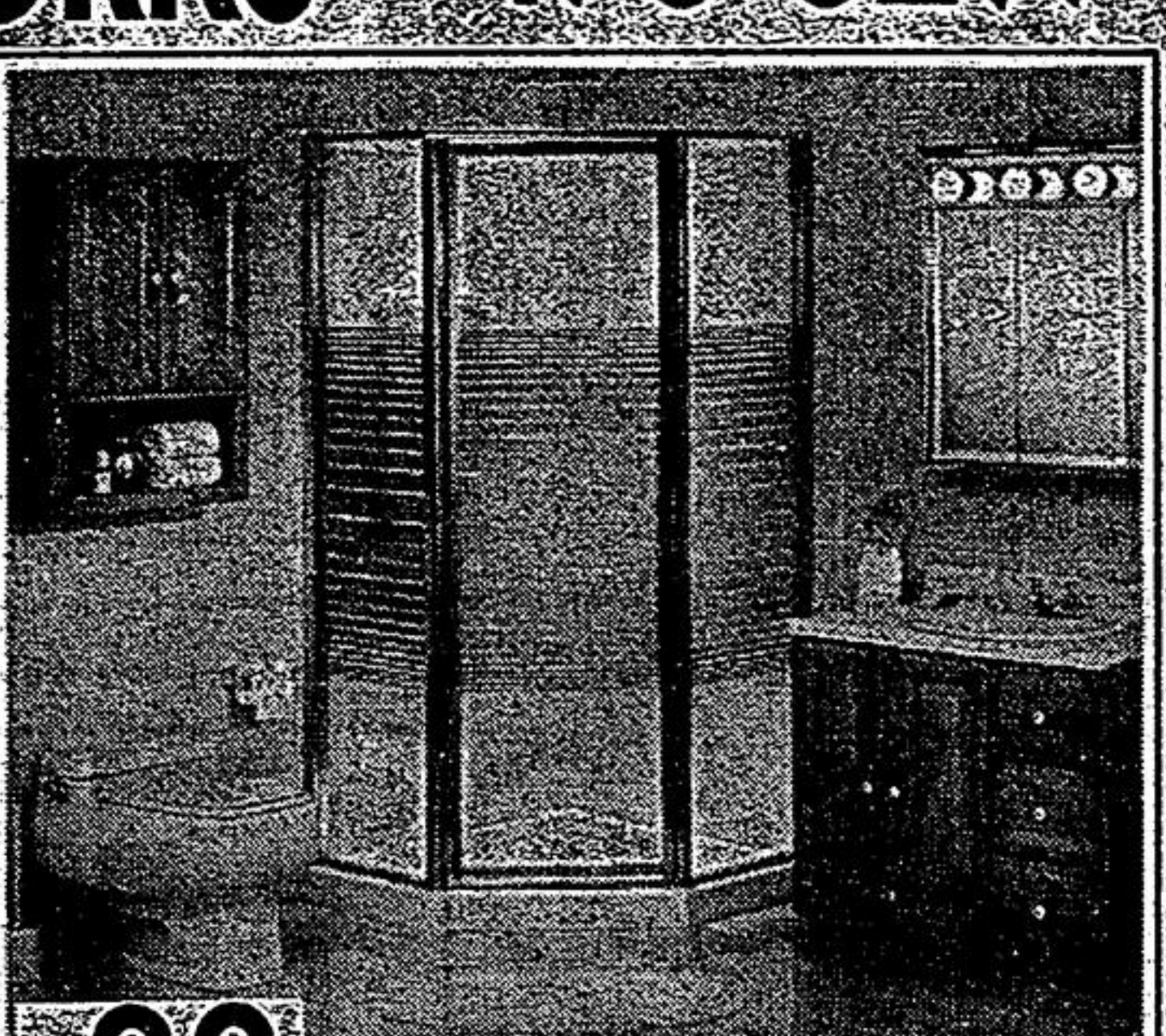
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the Ontario Junior Men's Softball title held last weekend in Kempville down Ottawa way.

The Merchants consist of 14 young men under the age of 21, along with a head coach who happens to be a farmer, and a manager who happens to be a lady.

They hail from such diverse locales as Bradford, Stouffville, Markham, Unionville, Vaudorf and Claremont.

And they are, for the second consecutive season, the best damn junior club in the province, bar none.

The team is based in Stouffville because that's where they play, and because the man who assembled the troupe two Februarys ago, the late Carl Myers, was a resident of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Carl picked up the pieces when it looked like Stouffville was going to follow Markham's lead and not field a junior squad for the 1990 season.

A clever operator who had put together a provincial titlist junior crew from the Vaudorf area two years before, Carl plucked the cream of the 1989 Midget (as in one level below junior) crops from both Stouffville and Markham.

Carl signed up Markham's Fred Crawford to coach the unit, and proceeded to tell the Ontario Amateur Softball Association he expected the province's junior championship tournament to be held in Stouffville in 1992.

Carl figured he would have his team honed and ready to take on the best by then.

But he succeeded in attracting two of the finest young fastball pitchers in the province, Stouffville's Scott Evans and Bradford's Byron Baranieski.

The duo, backed up by a devastating show of offence, led the Merchants to the Ontario crown their first year together.

They contested the Canadian title in Pont Rouge, Quebec, but had to settle for fourth place when they lost

a couple of 1-0 heart breakers.

Unfortunately, Carl didn't survive the year, but his handiwork remained for all to see. Apparently the OASA was impressed as well as they decided to accept the Stouffville offer to host the 1992 eliminations.

Mary Myers took up where her husband had left off, assuming the role as manager for the current season.

Howard Burkholder picked up the coaching reins and proceeded to direct a team that included his two sons, a trio of players he had coached to the Ontario championship as Bantams in 1987, and some Markham kids he had coached against for years.

Also on board was Baranieski, whom Burkholder had convinced to play on his own Markham Menos men's team the past few seasons.

Gone, however, was Evans, having accepted an offer to play ball in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan this summer.

Apparently he was expendable, both his immense skills and his occasional swings towards moodiness. All Baranieski and the Merchants proceeded to do at last weekend's All Ontario Eliminations was to keep the opposition off the scoreboard in five of six games played. Lord Byron twirled a pair of no hitters to boot!

Now it's back for another crack at the Canadian title in August, to be held on 'the Rock' they call Newfoundland.

And guess who's a good bet to be a member of the Saskatchewan team, if he province which finished second last summer, a team the Merchants will have to beat at some point if they are to win it all?

Scott Evans. The fellow suspected by some of thinking he may have been just a little bit larger than the rest of his Stouffville team mates in years gone by.

A classic encounter to be sure. And who said baseball is boring?

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO TAX PAYERS



Gordon Landon
Regional Councillor

July 13, 1991

Dear Resident,

Effective January 1st of this year, the Town of Markham changed the manner in which sewer service charges for residential units are collected.

Prior to January, sewer service was charged as a flat rate on residents annual property tax bill. For 1990, that rate was \$127 and the estimated rate for 1991 would have been \$140.

Beginning this year, the billing of sewer service charges has been changed and now reflects 80 per cent of residents water charges.

The rationale for the change is that in most cases, the more water residents use, the more sewage is generated as a result. Council feels it is unfair to charge a flat rate which penalizes residents with relatively low water use volumes. The present system, based on the user-pay concept, is not only more fair -- but we anticipate residents will become more conscious of water as a valuable natural resource. By tying costs to use, we're hoping to lower the amount of water residents use unnecessarily and make our community more friendly to the environment.

The final two installments of your property tax bill will reflect the deduction of the flat rate sewer service charge. It is important for residents to realize that this change to the manner in which costs are collected is NOT a move to generate revenue. The funds received for water and sewer service charges are on a cost-recovery basis to the costs the Town of Markham incurs to the Region of York for these essential services.

Yours truly,


Gordon K. Landon
Regional Councillor &
Chairman, Finance Committee

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