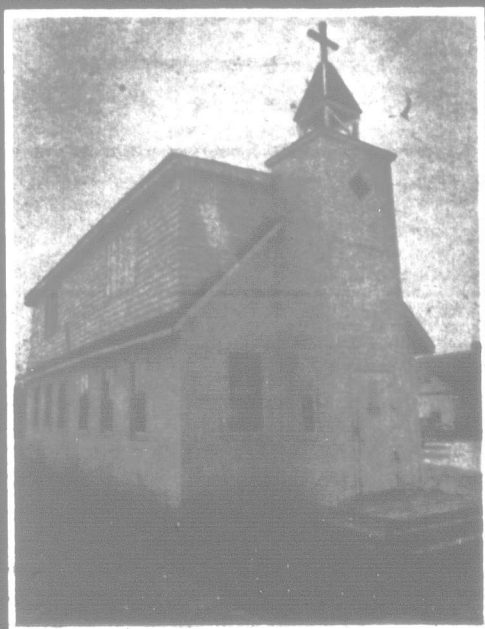


Mississauga north



Times photographer Rob Beintema got away from it all last week and headed to northern Ontario. What did he find there? Mississauga. What? The Mississauga Indian Reserve, 80 kilometers east of South Ste. Marie, provided him with these photos.

Photos by Rob Beintema

How the author lost his own contest

Last week I wrote about my nightmares in which my ability to write columns has disappeared.

To end these nightmares I invited readers to enter a contest I had created. The aim of the contest was to find the goofiest thing in Mississauga.

This would, I reasoned, supply me with two columns — one on the entries and another on the winner, since that's the first prize. Those two columns would stop the nightmares, I thought.

But it hasn't worked. The nightmares have been replaced by a dream that's even worse.

In this dream, I walk into a library, which is filled with comic books and copies of *The Thoughts Of Farrah Fawcett*. I ask the librarian, who is dressed as a chicken, for a copy of *The Goofiest Thing In Mississauga*. She hands it to me.

I open it and facing me is, not a page, but a mirror. At that point I usually wake up, screaming, "Rodney Dangerfield was right!"

The cause of these dreams is the contest, which produced some unexpected and, in my opinion, uncalled for responses.



Chris Zelkovich

Almost every entry included me on its list of goofy things in Mississauga. Only one didn't mention me.

One mentioned only me. That entry was from Glenn Ford of Conyers Crescent, who wrote that it is goofy that a city named after Indians and settled by British colonists should be represented in the local newspaper by a man named Zelkovich.

Unfortunately, Mr. Ford disqualified himself by failing to enclose the required \$50 entry fee.

Barbara Tuz of Selsey Drive had the

longest list of goofy things. She noted that Toronto International Airport and Toronto Golf Club were both in Mississauga, which one must admit is pretty goofy.

She also noted that Mississauga's alleged downtown is nowhere near the necessary downtown facilities like the hospital, police station and most of the people.

Barbara was doing quite well until she included in a postscript that "Mississauga also has a skinny Times editor who has been seen in Baskin-Robbins at least twice a week."

Barbara might have won had she chosen the word svelte or slender or slim or trim or sleek. Skinny just about put her out of the running.

R.J. Gunston of Bowsheim Court wrote that the goofiest thing in Mississauga was that I earn money writing funny stuff and he doesn't. In fact, they pay me in Baskin-Robbins' gift certificates, making Gunston's claim somewhat erroneous.

Other letters, some unsigned, noted it was goofy that in my list of goofy streets I had omitted Come-By-Chance Mews; that I would run a contest like this and that a newspaper would print a column like mine

which 'doesn't make sense most of the time.'

In fact, the only person who didn't list me on the goofy roll call was Joanne Gruner, bless her 11-year-old heart. Her entry was the fact that while public schools in Mississauga are being closed, separate school students are being taught in portable classrooms.

As for the winner, I had to go with R.J. Gunston, despite what was said about me. Gunston discovered a 'Senior Citizens Crossing' sign in Streetsville and even entered a photo of it as proof.

Gunston wondered if the sign meant that only those over 65 could cross there and would violators be charged with jaywalking under the age limit. Does the sign mean motorists have permission to run over anyone who isn't bald, grey-haired or mauve-haired, Gunston wondered.

What cinched it was the letter noted the sign is on Queen Street, which is also called Mississauga Road. That, in itself, is goofy enough.

So R.J. Gunston will be immortalized in print next week as winner of the contest. Revenge will be sweet.