

**Don Morberg**



Like a couple of Mafia dons waging war, Loto Canada folks and The Provincial-Western bunch are engaged in a knock-down-drag-'em-out brawl.

Nary a punch has been thrown, but the two something-for-nothing groups are engaging in a donnybrook of bare-knuckle proportions.

Because all hands are too busy taking money from pockets, fisticuffs are out of the question anyway. The weapon is money. Each side is investing acres of advertising dollars to convince us to buy its lottery tickets. With the money, presumably, they will have more finances to buy more advertising space to convince us to buy more tickets.

Lotteries are taking the vicious-circle attitude like other social diseases.

Each fairy godmother advertises that a myriad of good things will come from our purchasing its tickets. Try to imagine race horses lining up in front of the grandstand and begging with the crowd to bet on them. Same sort of idea.

Loto Canada was originally a fund to procure the services of Dr. Morgentaler to do a number on Jean Drapeau. It has since, championed by Iona Chagnolo, MP from the rainforest country, blossomed into the organization which brought you the Summer Games and Canada's last-place standing in the world amateur baseball championships.

In the red corner, wearing a smaller price tag, are the Western, nee Western Express, and The Provincial, the separatists of gamblingdom, championed by Grace McCarthy, professional smiler. These two are the purveyors of a real tear-jerker of an ad campaign. All these unrehearsed little clips about how the Western allowed the Chetwynd Flower Counters Club to donate \$8 million in sales proceeds to a home for elderly sea captains in Dawson Creek.

Imagine how much more money would be available if neither of these two groups advertised.

Lotteries need as much advertising as a dog in heat.

Naturally, I have a solution which would save us all a lot of money, money which could be going for worthwhile projects.

I suggest that since the Olympic Stadium started all this, it be the location of a one night performance, the likes of which the world has never seen.

Admission can be at any set price, or better still, admission free with any 10 cancelled lottery tickets.

Closed circuit or national television rights can be sold to whomever is interested.

Those proceeds, along with the seat sales, concession results and programs, should amount to a pile.

Warm-up performances can be whatever is available, a Rolling Stones Concert, Edmonton-Ottawa football game, anything to warm up the crowd for the main event.

The curtain would come up and there would be Iona and Grace in a no-time-limit free-for-all. The winner would get all three lotteries.

Maybe we can get a grant from one of the lottery funds to put the thing on. At least it would put an end to this silliness.

**B.C. MAY LOSE MILLIONS**

**Rain puts damper on crops**

VANCOUVER (CP) — Farmers throughout British Columbia are facing millions of dollars in lost revenue and crop damage unless there is a respite from rain which has lasted almost a month, industry spokesmen said Monday.

They said almost all areas of the province need at least three weeks of dry, frost-free, warm fall weather to allow harvest of this year's crops.

Alan Barker, manager of the B.C. Coast Vegetable Co-operative, said that potato, carrot and onion growers are experiencing major harvesting problems because of heavy wet soil that is preventing the use of large equipment.

"All quotas have gone by the board and we are just getting vegetables from wherever we can."

Labor costs for onion growers are up considerably because digging has been done almost entirely by hand and the onions are taking almost twice as long to dry.

Barker said there has been some blight and rotting at a few potato and onion farms "and this could get really serious if the wet weather continues."

Most vegetable farmers say continued bad weather will also be unfortunate because prices this year are higher than in the last four years.

George Rush, manager of

**The Citizen**  
**Second front page**

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the Cloverdale Lettuce and Vegetable Co-operative said that between 40 per cent and 50 per cent of the lettuce due for harvesting in the last two weeks has been lost.

The co-op, which vacuums-cools (removes field heat) lettuce, cauliflower and celery, said the lettuce losses to

growers in the last two weeks could total \$40,000.

Rush said that there is no shortage of cauliflower "but it has not developed as fast as it should. I think that many of the growers are harvesting what they can for the fresh market hoping to get the rest off later

**QUESNEL AIRPORT**

**'Safety not threatened'**

John Gunn, manager of the Quesnel airport, says transfer of a foam fire truck last year doesn't jeopardize safety at the airfield.

Although the foam truck was transferred to Williams Lake about a year ago, town council didn't learn of the move until this year.

Gunn said in a telephone interview from Quesnel Tuesday that Ministry of Transport officials ordered the transfer because of decreased air traffic at Quesnel.

He said the decrease resulted from Pacific Western

Airlines removing Smithers from its Vancouver, Quesnel, Smithers run.

The run now includes Vancouver, Quesnel and Williams Lake.

Gunn said the airport has an "F" classification which means a vehicle with 300 pounds of dry chemical must be available.

The truck currently at the Quesnel airport carries 1,000 pounds of dry chemical.

Quesnel Mayor John Panagrot has termed the foam truck's removal "serious".

and then supply the packing houses."

Both in the Vancouver area and Interior, farmers report some second and third cuttings of hay could be lost leading to higher winter feeding costs for dairy and beef producers.

Al Isfeld, of the provincial fields crop branch in Victoria, said, "The Peace farmer needs four to five days of drying weather before they can start harvesting again."

Okanagan grape growers, who thought a month ago they were headed for an excellent crop following the early summer hot spell, now say they need three weeks of hot fall weather to increase the sugar content of grapes and qualify for top prices.

Lionel Desharais, marketing manager for B.C. Tree Fruits Ltd., said this year's apple harvest is expected to be a minimum of 8.1 million boxes, one of the largest in the last 20 years.

"But we need some good weather to finish off the fruit because the size of apples is down this year."

**IT'S NOT CRICKET**

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WESTERN CANADA LOTTERY FOUNDATION

**SEPARATE INCIDENTS**

**Fishkills are probed**

VANCOUVER (CP) — Federal environment officials have begun separate investigations into two recent fishkills in British Columbia.

Bottom-living fish, shellfish, crabs and other marine life were found dead last week in Osborne Bay near Crofton on southern Vancouver Island.

The site is close to the mouth of the Chemamus river and adjacent to the sewage outfall of the B.C. Forest Products pulp mill.

The second investigation involves two creeks in North Vancouver where several hundred coho salmon and cutthroat trout were found

dead last week by a local sports fisherman.

Tom Carscadden, an environmental emergency officer with the federal environment protection service, said several days passed before he became aware of the spill, making positive identification of the substance which caused the fishkill impossible.

"There are cases where you know it had to occur from a certain facility but you can't prove it or tie it down legally," said Carscadden.

"Chlorine from a swimming pool is enough to kill fish but it may flush out or break down so you have just a one-shot kill," he said.

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