

The Prince George Citizen



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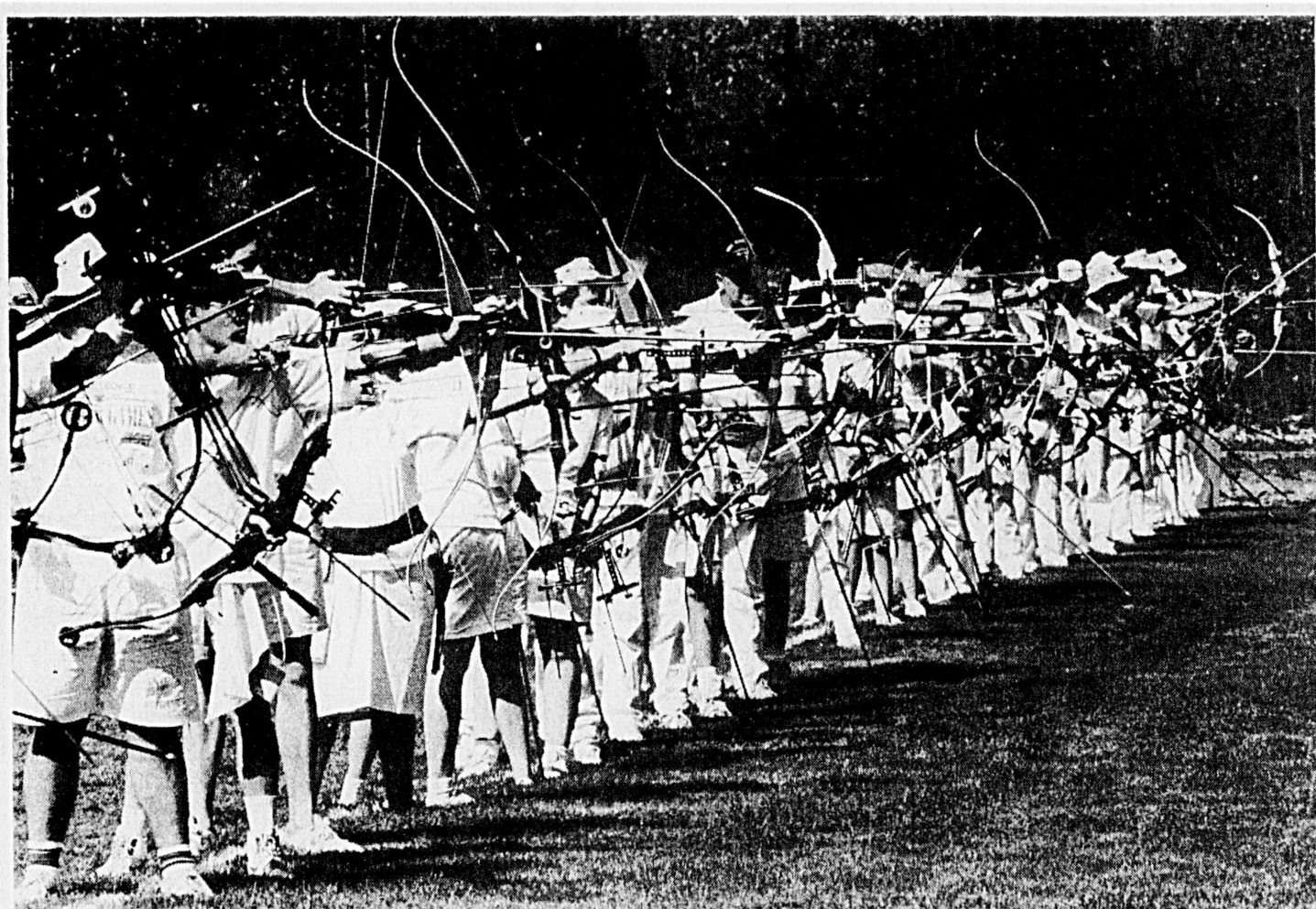
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Citizen photo by Dave Milne

A forest of archers prepare to let fly during the opening day of competition Friday at the B.C. Summer Games.

Athletes enjoy fun, sun

by BERNICE TRICK
Citizen Staff

When 11 p.m. comes in Prince George these days there's a mad rush of B.C. Summer Games athletes heading back to dormitories throughout the city to make it "home" by the 11:30 p.m. curfew.

"You should be here at 11 o'clock. It's somewhat like a zoo," said one security volunteer at Prince George Secondary School.

Athletes, housed in classrooms in 19 schools, are placed in male or female dorms with team mates in the same sport and from the same zone.

Classrooms are wall-to-wall foam mattresses with sports bags serving as dressers and closets.

It's not neat, but athletes, many of whom are visiting Prince George for the first time, seem to be having fun as they try out the shopping areas or gather in the evening to talk about whatever it is youth talk about.

Carrie Jenkins, 15, from Co-mox is happy with the Games so far.

She has made the final round in the 100-metre breaststroke and is looking forward to two more days of competition.

Carrie said she enjoyed the pork chops served for dinner, and outside meals she's kept busy spectating, preparing for competition and competing herself.

Anne Chitty of Port Alberni, a chaperone with that same swim team, said she's impressed with the Games and described the food as excellent.

"The 1992 the Summer Games will be in Port Alberni and we'll surely have to do as well even though we're a smaller community," Chitty said.

But a few have complaints.

The pool is fine, but cold when they get out; not being allowed to use school lockers for personal items; what they termed "powdered eggs" for breakfast and a Danish pastry with a hair in it.

One young male athlete can't get used to the speed-bumps around town.

"I hit my head hard on the top of the bus. Prince George should fill them in," he said.

Demonstration sports, like fencing teams, dislike having to work on the grassed boulevard at the Games Village because the band-shell is always filled with entertainment.

"They should have two stages," they said.

But everybody agrees on one thing — the new running track is great, and many would like to take it home with them.

Friday's track events were marred by one accident about 3:30 p.m. when a 19-year old woman official was struck on the head by a timing device accidentally knocked off a platform.

She was taken to Prince George Regional Hospital by ambulance where she received stitches and was released.

Meanwhile, over at the Summer Games Village at Prince George Secondary School, the site teemed with visitors Friday during the first day of competition.

The two most popular places in

the tent village are the central souvenir sale booth and the performers band shell where different entertainment is offered every half hour.

"Souvenir sales are incredible," said Jason Aisenstat, one of a nine-member crew here from Vancouver to sell the souvenirs.

The most popular items among athletes are tank tops, T-shirts and jam shorts while most adults prefer the souvenir shirts.

"The Games Village is a good idea because there's lots of people coming and going," said Aisenstat.

After browsing through the large tents which offer locally made arts, crafts, souvenirs and candy as well as demonstrations like weaving, Buster Wiggett from Kelowna thinks the Village is a fine idea.

Bob Henderson, a spectator from Vancouver who came strictly to see the Games, agreed.

"It's a great place to look for souvenirs which is what I'm doing now," he said.

Throughout the area, athletes and spectators alike are readily using the information and results centre, swapping pins, trying out the concession stand and relaxing in front of the band shell.

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TEMPERS FLARE AT BLOCKADE

Ottawa asked to step in

OKA, Que. (CP) — As Quebec Native Affairs Minister John Ciacia called for federal intervention in the bitter standoff between Indians and police in Oka, a police riot squad held back an angry white mob incensed over another Mohawk blockade Friday night.

Ciacia ended discussions with Mohawk leaders in Oka, 30 kilometres west of Montreal, suggesting the federal government "assume its responsibilities" in resolving the three-day impasse over the extension of a golf course on to land claimed by the Indians.

Frustrated by the Mohawk blockade of the Mercier Bridge — staged in solidarity with the natives of Oka — hundreds of incensed residents of suburban Chateauguay, south of Montreal, milled about at three boundary points on the edge of the Kahnawake reserve, some of them ready to attack anyone who looked like a native.

At about 9 p.m., provincial and municipal police formed a human ring to protect a teenage girl who the crowd believed was a Mohawk. The mob started chasing her when she came into the shopping centre parking lot from woods beside the barricade.

"Go back home," the crowd yelled, hurling obscenities at the teenager.

Although she insisted she wasn't a Mohawk, the girl was escorted by police back to Kahnawake.

The crowd spent most of the day Friday taunting the Mohawks just inside Kahnawake as they camped behind a trailer on the road. A banner strung from the trailer said: "Stop Canadian Apartheid and Amerindian genocide."

Two white men became the mob's first victims.

Hearing a rumor that two Mohawk women were inside a supermarket buying groceries to take back to the reserve — with police permission — the crowd moved in.

While the women escaped by the back door, two young white men showed up in army fatigues, were mistaken for Mohawks, and were chased and beaten.

Three cars were then kicked and a windshield was smashed with a motorcycle helmet.

Provincial police officers moved in and dragged away the men who had been attacked, pulling them with their nightsticks.

MOHAWK FOOD BID THWARTED

OKA, Que. (CP) — Police turned back federal NDP Leader Audrey McLaughlin at the Oka wharf Friday night when she tried to bring in food for natives caught behind police barricades at Kahnawake.

McLaughlin had crossed Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes from Hudson on the west side of the lake with \$300 worth of food she bought earlier in Ottawa. She said she used her own money, not the party's, for the groceries.

Two hours earlier, McLaughlin was turned back at another police barricade at the western edge of the embattled Mohawk settlement. It was the third day police have refused to allow natives to bring food into the settlement.

Ten heavily armed officers at the Oka wharf forced McLaughlin's food-laden van to drive back onto the ferry and to recross the lake.

McLaughlin was amazed at being rebuffed.

"I'm stunned that I can't come into a community in Canada and leave food at a church," McLaughlin said.

Rousseau permitted McLaughlin to stay in the immediate wharf area until the provincial native affairs minister, John Ciacia, got to the dock. The two met for 10 minutes in Ciacia's car.

More tapes released on Smith

VICTORIA (CP) — Less than 48 hours after Bud Smith resigned as B.C. attorney general following the release of transcripts of two intercepted telephone conversations, more tapes were left in the parking lot of the B.C. legislature.

The tapes, delivered by an anonymous source, contained conversations between Smith and television reporter Margot Sinclair and between Smith and his wife.

The tapes were picked up by Vancouver Sun reporter Keith Baldrey and played before the press gallery.

In them, Sinclair discussed her press gallery colleagues with Smith and gave him advice about handling himself with media.

Within hours of the tapes being played in the press gallery, Sinclair went on the air and said she would be stepping aside as a reporter for Vancouver-based CK-VU-TV until the station conducts what it called a "thorough investigation."

The tapes also contain a conversation Smith had with his wife about the handling of a lottery grant last fall by then cabinet minister Bill Reid.

Reid resigned his post as provincial secretary and tourism minister in September after it was reported that \$277,065 in lottery money controlled by his ministry went to a company owned by his former campaign manager and a long-time family friend.

On one of the tapes delivered Friday, Smith told his wife that Reid had done nothing illegal.

"It was pretty stupid," Smith said. "There's nothing unlawful about what he did."

"Well, what do you mean?" his wife responded. "He must've got some kickback from all that too."

"Well, that's the whole point," Smith said. "He didn't in fact."

"Yeah, but the thing is the money was going into a friend's pocket," Mrs. Smith said.

"Well, yeah, but nothing happened in that regard that was, that I can see, that was unlawful," Smith replied. "It was dumb and so on, and it shouldn't happen and, uh, it was the wrong thing to do and there was no bid on it, but it turns out that, uh, that the little group that got the money apparently paid the right price for the equipment they bought."

"I mean no one made any excessive profits. I mean they, whatever, but what was wrong about it, you have public money going out without a proper bid."

The equipment referred to was recycling equipment.

Comptroller general Brian Marson investigated the lottery grant and concluded that while it was improper, it was not illegal.

Officials in the Attorney General's Ministry later decided against filing charges against Reid, arguing there was not enough evidence to get a conviction.

NDP justice critic Moe Sihota subsequently filed a private information before a justice of the peace, who concluded that a breach of trust charge could be laid.

Premier Bill Vander Zalm refused to speak to reporters Friday night about the release of the latest tapes.

Sihota facing contempt

VICTORIA (CP) — A contempt of Parliament case against NDP justice critic Moe Sihota will be prepared this weekend by government house leader Claude Richmond, Richmond said Friday.

Richmond said he was taking the action because Sihota released transcripts of cellular telephone conversations — taped surreptitiously — which led to the resignation Thursday of Attorney General Bud Smith.

Should Sihota be judged in contempt, the house would decide on the punishment. However, what the punishment might be was not immediately clear and Richmond did not know.

Sihota has not said where he got the tapes, but has said the NDP did not make them, nor would the party ever do such a thing.

"I'll have it all Monday," Richmond said. "I don't know all the legal technicalities so we'll have to let it unfold."

"I don't know what all the options are. I haven't had time to do the research on it. . . . There is precedent."

Wilson hints at rate fall

OTTAWA (CP) — There's more room to bring down interest rates in Canada now that the United States is preparing to ease borrowing costs, Finance Minister Michael Wilson said Friday.

"The fact that the United States may be headed in that direction themselves gives us more flexibility to do that — just more room," Wilson said in a wide-ranging interview with The Canadian Press.

However, he added that Canada will have to be more cautious than the U.S. because it's facing greater inflationary pressures, such as rising wage settlements.

"As soon as we are confident those pressures are subsiding, then we will be able to bring interest rates down," said Wilson, who has just returned from the economic summit in Houston.

'FIRST IN CANADA'

Worst polluters listed

VICTORIA (CP) — British Columbia's worst polluters were named for the first time Friday when the provincial government released a list of 116 industrial operations discharging a wide range of pollutants into the environment.

Cyanide, oil and grease, sulphur dioxide, raw sewage, acid mine drainage, mercury and PCBs are among the contaminants being released.

The forest industry leads the list of those not in compliance with permits, with 13 pulp mills and eight sawmills named. Nine municipalities — including the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District — are also included for exceeding effluent permits.

Environment Minister John Reynolds said such lists will now be issued regularly as part of a government effort to toughen up enforcement of its regulations.

Reynolds said all permits in non-compliance are subject to legal investigation and possible charges — but only two of those on the list are currently facing charges.

Lakeland Mills Ltd., a sawmill in Prince George, is before the courts because the operation allegedly exceeded air emission permit levels. Charges have also been laid against the village of Port McNeill, for discharging raw sewage.

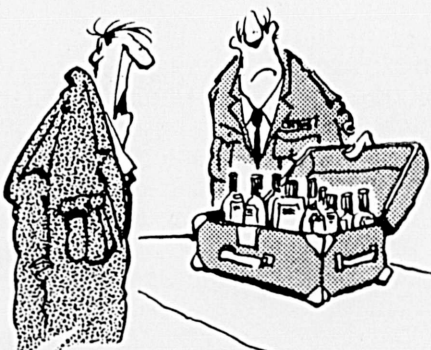
The forest industry operations exceeding their permits' toxicity levels included: Howe Sound Pulp Paper Ltd.'s mill in Port Mellon, MacMillan Bloedel Ltd.'s operations in Powell River, Canadian Pacific Forest Products mill in Gold River and Fletcher Challenge Canada Ltd. operations in Campbell River, Crofton, and Mackenzie.

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