

FROM WHERE I SIT
by *Frank Gardiner*
YMASC Past President 1971 - 1972

“ A RAGING CURIOSITY” is the appropriate phrase to open with the page S15 obituary tribute to the late Canadian educator and innovator Dr. Fraser Mustard along with the following two questions which were Dr. Mustard’s trademark of curiosity and intellect asked in yesterday’s memorial service at the great Hall of Hart House at the University of Toronto.... “ DO YOU GET IT ?”” SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT ? “

These two questions haunt me as I “connected the dots” this morning as I read your GLOBE SPORTS section,

I am inspired by these two questions and your front page S1 stirring and classic 1909 photo of another great Canadian namely Smirle Lawson crashing the line and up and over for University of Toronto Blues in the very first GREY CUP of 1909 and the unreported because of time restraints Vanier Cup outcome that ended early this morning in Vancouver BC (see globesports.com) .

Last nights University football championship VANIER CUP that began slowly at 9pm with McMaster surprising domination for the first half and ending with perhaps the most exciting Canadian sports comeback by Laval in the second only to go into a cliff hanging, exciting series of overtime play showcasing amazing Canadian talent and sportsmanship by both teams and ending around 1AM !

The final winner is secondary to this fantastic sports spectacle of Canadian talent and this our VANIER CUP game will become known as THE Canadian sporting event of 2011.... if not the decade (including Sidney Crosby’s winning goal in our recent Vancouver Olympics..

This is indeed our own CANADIAN FOOTBALL WEEKEND and Sunday’s 6pm professional 99th GREY CUP of Winnipeg Blue Bombers vs BC LIONS in Vancouver BC will be hard pressed to match the Canadian team talent and sports excitement displayed in last nights memorable VANIER CUP contest which made any Canadian viewer proud to be a Canadian .

And your inspiring 1909 photo on the front page of a classic football contest is the pictorial **Canadian spirit** 102 years later of last nights Vanier Cup under this mornings page S1 heading “ ONE SHOT AT GLORY”.

Another “dot” in my mornings Globe and Mail read appeared on page S3 which reported a Canadian business entrepreneur Tom Gaglardi with deep pockets dared to buy the troubled NHL hockey team the Dallas Stars this week and that **Canadian spirit** will I believe make the Dallas Stars a Stanley Cup contender in the very near future.

Meanwhile two other “dots to connect” back in Toronto... the first “dot” being our cherished Maple Leaf has been removed from the roof of our revered MAPLE LEAF GARDENS as Loblaw’s prepares to officially open this building next week as their flag ship new retail operation with a small rink and sports facility to be opened later for RYERSON UNIVERSITY but tightly restricted by MAPLE LEAF SPORTS and Entertainment Ltd as per your page S4 which is owned 79.5 % by our own tax funded and wealthy ONTARIO TEACHERS PENSION PLAN. Sadly, the second “dot” being two of Canada’s largest telecommunications firms namely BCE INC. and ROGERS COMMUNICATIONS INC. with many entrepreneurial shareholders reflecting our grassroots **Canadian spirit** and sense of teamwork and winning sports could not agree on partnership details and dissolved their alliance and killed the deal to buy out the ONTARIO TEACHERS PENSION PLAN 79.5 % for \$1.4 billion.

Finally , and most importantly to me personally as a proud Canadian father and grandfather having enjoyed through our youngest son Peter , his 4 years of Division One USA hockey in Troy NY (RENNELAER UNIVERSITY) where Peter earned a \$30,000 + per year full student athlete hockey scholarship graduating with a business degree in year 2000...the big "dot" this morning is your page S10 article by James Christie who quotes Ken Shields in his excellent and very accurate article titled " THE \$5.000 scholarship too puny. Shield says".

Hockey is in our Canadian DNA , it is a big part of our **Canadian spirit** and Ken Shield asks the number one question that today should be asked of all Canadian Universities and Canadian shareholders and that is.....

" Why should a hockey player (male or female)have to leave Canada to get training? We can't do every sport, but we can pick our sports, find sports we can fund properly,and keep our athletes at home. The number of Canadian student athletes going south on U.S.A. scholarships (over 1000 per year) is creating a " massive talent drain" that has and will continue to adversely affected some national teams."

So my fellow Canadians that dare to connect the dots in today's Globe and Mail Sports section , together with " a raging curiosity" let's ask the two inspiring and haunting questions stemming from yesterday's memorial service for Canadian Educator and innovator Dr. Fraser Mustard **'DO YOU GET IT ?and**"**SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT ? "**

TODAY.....this morning ... working with LOBLAWS and all Canadian Universities let's stop our "Massive talent drain" to the USA by taking back a portion of our revered MAPLE LEAF GARDENS and starting with RYERSON UNIVERSITY hockey let's install DIVISION ONE HOCKEY (working through Ken Dryden and Jim Flaherty both USA hockey scholars) for Canadian athletic scholars funded by all levels of government in partnership with Canadian Corporations like Loblaws, Rogers, BCE for both young men and women to play Harvard, Yale and RPI at Maple Leaf Gardensand put back our cherished MAPLE LEAF onto the roof of our revered MAPLE LEAF GARDENS !

Now THAT'S teamwork and the grassroots , entrepreneurial **Canadian spirit** reflected by this mornings GLOBE and MAIL news "dots" of the late Dr. Fraser Mustard, 1909 Grey Cup player Smirle Lawson, last nights Vanier Cup talented , university football teams of McMaster and Laval, Ken Shield , Sydney Crosby, Tom Gaglardi . Ken Dryden, Jim Flaherty and all other ordinary , compassionate Canadians , shareholders and stakeholders that DARE to dream !

A wise leader once said...." Some people see things as they are and ask why they are so...TOGETHER.. let us dream of what can be and ask WHY NOT ? "

WHY NOT ? indeed !

"DO YOU GET IT ? "

"SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT ? "



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ONE SHOT AT GLORY

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DECEMBER 4, 1909

Grey Cup action has changed since halfback Smirle Lawson of the University of Toronto plunged forward in the first Grey Cup game when the Blues beat Toronto Parkdale Canoe Club 26-6.

Now, the CFL relies less on the run and more on the throw. But with an occasional dearth of great QBs and strong defences, who will take charge Sunday between the Bombers and Lions?

Toronto's Rosedale Field, 1909. ARCHIVES

Defenders

Both Winnipeg and B.C. are solid on the D-line. The game plan from B.C.'s big men is simple: attack and crush

ALLAN MAKI VANCOUVER

Khalif Mitchell will play the piano as he always does; Solomon Elimimian will say his prayers, and then the two will step onto the field and bodies will fly, bones may break and they'll be in the thick of it, relishing the chaos.

It's what they do best together. As partners in devastation, Mitchell and Elimimian are the teeth and terror of the B.C. Lions' defence. One is a 6-foot-5, 305-pound landslide of a lineman who plays a mean Chopin. The other is a Nigerian-born middle linebacker who could scare the feathers off a vulture with one look. In tandem, they have a simple plan for Sunday's Grey Cup game against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers: attack and crush; win CFL championship by proving theirs is the best defence in three-down football.

All week at the 2011 Grey Cup it's been a point of discussion and statistical debate: which side B.C. or Winnipeg, has the better defence since both were so formidable during the regular season?

The Blue Bombers recorded the most sacks and interceptions while boasting the league's top defensive player in cornerback Jovon Johnson. They're not exactly cheesecloth when it comes to blanketing opposition offences.

Yet even the Bombers acknowledge that what B.C. does with Mitchell and his fellow linemen, backed by the ever-ready Elimimian, is beyond the CFL norm.

"We have a lot of different [defensive] sets where speed is paramount," said veteran Bomber Doug Brown. "[The Lions' defensive front] know they can take over a game. They're more bash and bruise and that gives them confidence."

Mitchell has been known to overpower his blockers to the point of driving them back into their own players.

Lions, Page 7

MERRY CHRISTMAS

MAY YOURS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT



CHARLIE MICHAEL TIMOTHY OLIVER



"Yes Nanny, I know you and Grampy love your Toronto Maple Leafs but our Vancoooooover Canucks are a real hockey team and will win the Stanley Cup this year"



Hockey Newsflash: Charlie, Michael and Timothy all plan to be the next Toronto Maple Leaf kid line year 2029. And Oliver with that fierce look will be our tough defenceman eh?



"Okay Oliver, with your dual citizenship you can get a university hockey scholarship at RPI USA university or Ryerson University Toronto and then we all play at Toronto's Lobjaws/Ryerson Maple Leaf Gardens!" ... (or we can figure skate at McGill!!!) :)