

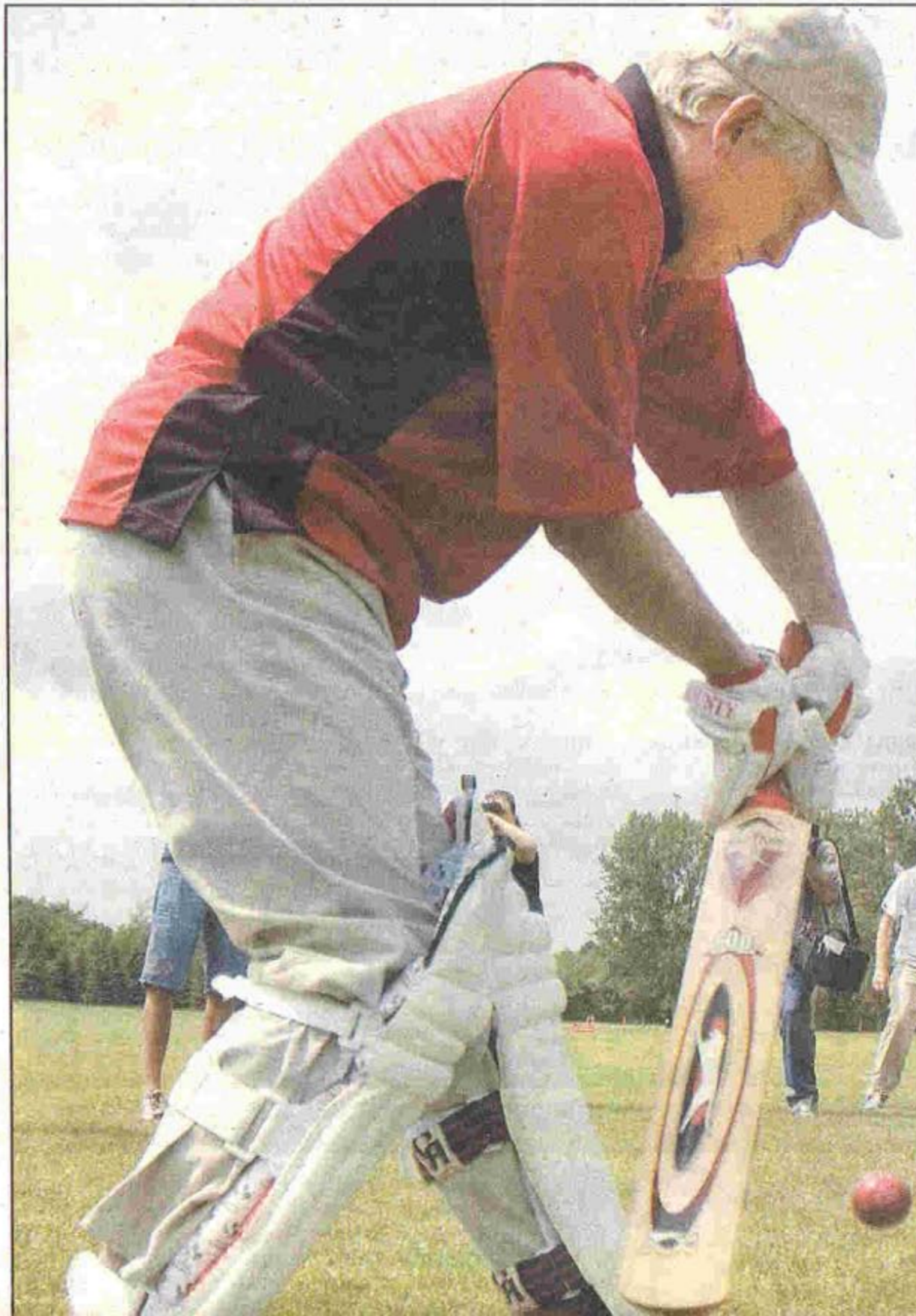
Hey, Batman: Don't quit your day job



Mayor David Miller takes a healthy swat at the ball yesterday at Sunnybrook Park, where cricket teams of all stripes, including the media, competed for the Mayor's Trophy. The event, held to promote and celebrate the game, is sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants Canada.

DAVID COOPER/TORONTO STAR

Sun bats win at cricket



Defeats rivals in tourney to promote international sport

**NICK KYONKA
and CHRISTINA BLIZZARD**
Toronto Sun

A *Toronto Sun* cricket team captained by Editor-in-Chief Jim Jennings crushed both the *Toronto Star* and *Globe and Mail* in two nail-biter five-over games at Sunnybrook Park yesterday.

The media teams, along with police, politicians and members of the public squared off for A Celebration of Cricket in an effort to bring Canadian exposure to the popular international sport.

Crucial to the *Sun's* upset victory was some aggressive offensive play from batsmen Mahes Perera, who hit a six, and Darren Melanson, who notched up two fours.

The *Sun* defeated the *Globe* 27-26 and the *Star* 29-28. The team then went on to defeat a combined media team 35-29 to capture the Mayor's Cup.

Sun bowlers also shone, with fine performances by Steven Hoke, Richard Beardwood, Melanson and Perera. Wicket keeper Jennings

■ Do you think cricket has a future in Canada?



MAKE YOUR POINT ... AND CLICK
sendit@canoelive.ca

credited the win to a valiant team effort on the part of an inexperienced team.

"We decided not to practise because we didn't want to peak too soon," he said.

Hundreds of people turned out for the event, which was hosted by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

With a Canadian team taking part in next year's Cricket World Cup, some in attendance said now is the time to promote the game in Canada.

"Canada is in the World Cup next year and we are here to support the game and promote the game," said player Ghalib Iqbal, the consul general of Pakistan in Toronto. "It is said that cricket is a game of gentlemen and

Canada must be in the forefront because all Canadians are gentlemen."

Yesterday's prize may not have been as prestigious as the World Cup, but that didn't seem to deter participants or bother organizers, who called the turnout a success.

"Cricket is catching up as a popular sport in Toronto," said Kanish Thevarasa, CIMA Canada president. "The whole idea is to make it more fun and make it more diverse.

"We had only four teams playing last year — today we have 13."

With teams representing Toronto Police, the TTC and the city, Thevarasa is not likely to be disappointed with the exposure.

"Toronto has changed over the years," Jennings said. "It's become more and more a diverse city. It's no longer just hockey. It's no longer just basketball and baseball.

"It shows how unique this city is to have an event like this to draw this number of people. It's actually amazing."

JOE O'CONNAL/SUN PHOTOS



Would it be cricket to stump the mayor?

BY ALEXANDRA SHIMO

Mayor David Miller and others from city hall may find themselves under attack from spinning bouncers or Yorkers, hurled by a Toronto Police squad, at Sunnybrook Park this morning.

Mr. Miller is the captain of the city hall cricket team that will take on the defending champion police team led by Deputy Chief Keith Forde during the annual competition that aims to settle (or stoke) some of the city's rivalries on the pitch with bats, balls, wickets and, yes, tea time. The competition begins at 9 a.m.

But the day of matches which is as much about revelry as rivalry — and pits *The Globe and Mail*, skippered by publisher Phillip Crawley, against a *Toronto Star* team under the direction of sports editor Graham Parley and foreign/national editor David Walmsley — also has a serious aim, says Kanish Thevarasa, one of the event organizers.

It's a chance for foreign-trained professionals (outside of cricket) experiencing difficulties finding work in Canada to network with

politicians and business people, to try to break down barriers that keep skilled immigrants out of the work force, said Mr. Thevarasa, the president of the Canadian branch of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

"Many of our members come to Canada with the CIMA qualification, and hope to find a job in their profession," he said. "This qualification is recognized in most of the world, but in Canada, people don't know about it. Often they end up working at a job well below their training."

For Keho Joseph, 27, a CIMA-qualified management accountant, that meant delivering newspapers. In Sri Lanka, he worked as a senior accountant in a multinational firm. When he lived in London two years ago, he quickly found a similar job. Not so in Canada; potential employers said he didn't have Canadian experience. It wasn't until he met Mr. Thevarasa that he gained a foothold in accounting.

"In the U.K. and Sri Lanka, the CIMA qualification gives you respect and authority," Mr. Joseph said. "Here it's very different. Two of my friends have the CIMA qualifica-

tion, but are working in factories in Toronto. It was the same for me. . . . I thought of leaving Canada."

His situation is far too common, said Lillian Manea, a communications consultant for the Toronto Region Immigrant Council.

"It's a huge problem," she said. "It's a problem for skilled immigrants because they come here to start a new life and they are not able to contribute as fully as they could, and it's a problem that's costing the economy."

Several studies support Ms. Manea's assertions. In January, Statistics Canada reported that only four out of 10 immigrants in Toronto find work in their profession. An RBC study last October found that the barriers immigrants face costs the economy \$13-billion a year.

Ms. Manea said governments have recognized the need for action for years, but until recently little was done. Last month, the Ontario government announced it would spend \$14-million to help 3,000 immigrants enter the work force in their profession. However, since 13,000 skilled immigrants arrive in Ontario every year, critics question whether this is enough.