

**The Stouffville Tribune**

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**Notes and Comments**

**Public Utility Commission**

It is becoming increasingly evident that Stouffville is in need of a Public Utilities Commission to handle its hydro and water systems. The amount of work involved annually for a council in directing the affairs of these two departments is steadily increasing, and becomes more technical too as the years pass. Almost every town operates their water and hydro by means of a Commission responsible to the people just as councillors are elected.

Council personnel changes so rapidly that its members scarcely become proficient ere they are out of office. Their councillors are not elected because they have any particular qualifications to operate the water and light systems, whereas Commissioners chosen and elected for this work alone, usually show some aptitude for such work before they are considered for the job.

A Public Utility Commission is composed of three members, one of whom is elected annually for three year terms, such as members of a school board. Thus there are always experienced men on the Commission. When such a body of men are giving satisfaction and making a success of the job, they are not likely to be removed from office. In the case of councillors, there is always the urge of younger members to reach the top, and while that is a good thing, it may not be so good for the Public Utility of the town, which usually suffers whenever there is a change.

Stouffville water works must be expanded to care for the new needs. The supply of water appears ample for the present, but the amount of mains must be developed, and small pipe lines relaid with mains where they have been put down as a matter of expediency in bygone years. These are wearing out and will shortly cause considerable trouble. A commission with no other town affairs to think about could devote their undivided attention to these matters with better chances of success. It is very well said that we have done without a Commission, and have been successful. That is true, but the attention demanded by the water system is about doubled in recent years, while the hydro which at first sold around 100 h.p. is now servicing 400 horse power, and that calls for double the amount of work it once did.

Commissioners are likely to offer their services free, whereas if the council is to continue to handle this work, the time is near at hand when they will have to be paid for their services.



Here is shown Jocelyn Easton, 14-year-old daughter of Joe Easton, herdsman at the W. J. Russel farm in Markham township, holding the 1,190 pound Klaymor Toby, 17 months Shorthorn champion at the Ontario Winter Provincial Fair.

**Sorrow Fills Heart of Tribune Windsor Correspondent**

Found Scarcity Amid Plenty, Which Recalled the "Hungry Thirties."

Believing that a first hand report on the situation at Windsor where numerous people from Stouffville and district are more or less affected by the strike at the Ford plant, your home-town paper, arranged for a reporter to visit the city last week and record what he saw was his reaction to the whole thing.

Stouffville has put up imposing sums of money during the war and from its 1300 inhabitants nearly 100 donned the uniform, and we are concerned when we hear it said, "peace, peace", where there is no peace.

It is true that during the past six years the people of Canada have enjoyed prosperity and immunity from war, while people in the war zones have lived in a perpetual state of fear, have been blasted out of their homes, and have suffered terrible privation.

Now the war is over we have allowed a peace-time war to crop up. Reflecting on this situation The Tribune special correspondent entered Windsor, the stricken city. Here is what he says—

"As I entered the city there were, of course, no signs of physical warfare, for the residential and business sections of the city were quite peaceful and things seemed to be going on as usual. But as I came into contact with people in various walks of life I felt that they were living in a state of extreme tension. The strike had been on for nearly three months. It had been entered into by the men with enthusiasm and confidence in a quick victory for their union. But as the weeks and months passed by and one conference after another had failed to bring about a peaceful settlement, a tense feeling of hope-deferred and of the futility of the strike prevailed.

I took the bus to No. 1 Ford plant where there had been riotous scenes some weeks before, but I found the streets around deserted except for about 25 pickets milling two

entrance. A larger group was circling about the entrance of the Power House. A bleak wind was blowing from the river and the men were hunched up with the cold. I felt sorry for them, and I was reminded of much larger groups of unemployed men gathered day after day, outside of plants and employment offices in Toronto during the depression years. But here the situation was reversed, for instead of seeking jobs these men were there to prevent the work of a great industry from being carried on.

A strike is thus a self-imposed period of unemployment. It is a planned and organized local depression. Windsor was hit hard during the Great Depression. A reminder of that miserable period of unemployment appeared in a daily feature column of the Windsor Star, entitled "Bygone Days," in which were quoted excerpts from the news columns of that paper in former years. This was from the Star of November 30, 1930:

"Plans were being made for the establishment of an old clothes bureau in east Windsor for the relief of the needy and jobless."

That was fifteen years ago. There were no strikes in those days; there was no work or wages to strike over. Today there is more work at higher wages than ever. The people do not need an old clothes bureau, but thousands of men are jobless and families have been impoverished by the strike. Hard-earned savings have been spent, grocery bills have been run up, and business is said to have fallen off 50 per cent in many instances. During the "hungry thirties" it was said that we had "scarcity amid plenty," and as a result of the strike there was abundance of work and wages amid an organized scarcity of labor. It has been well said that "the people have short memories."

Union leaders can surely think out some other way of improving the working conditions and raising the wages of their members without putting them out of work and rendering them, wageless—to say nothing of the injury to local business and the disrupting of industry in general. Strikes may have been necessary in the early days of the struggle for the rights of labor and union recognition, but there is little in the present day demands of labor immediately affecting the interests of the workers that could not be settled by negotiation. A strike is usually settled by that means eventually, so why should the workers

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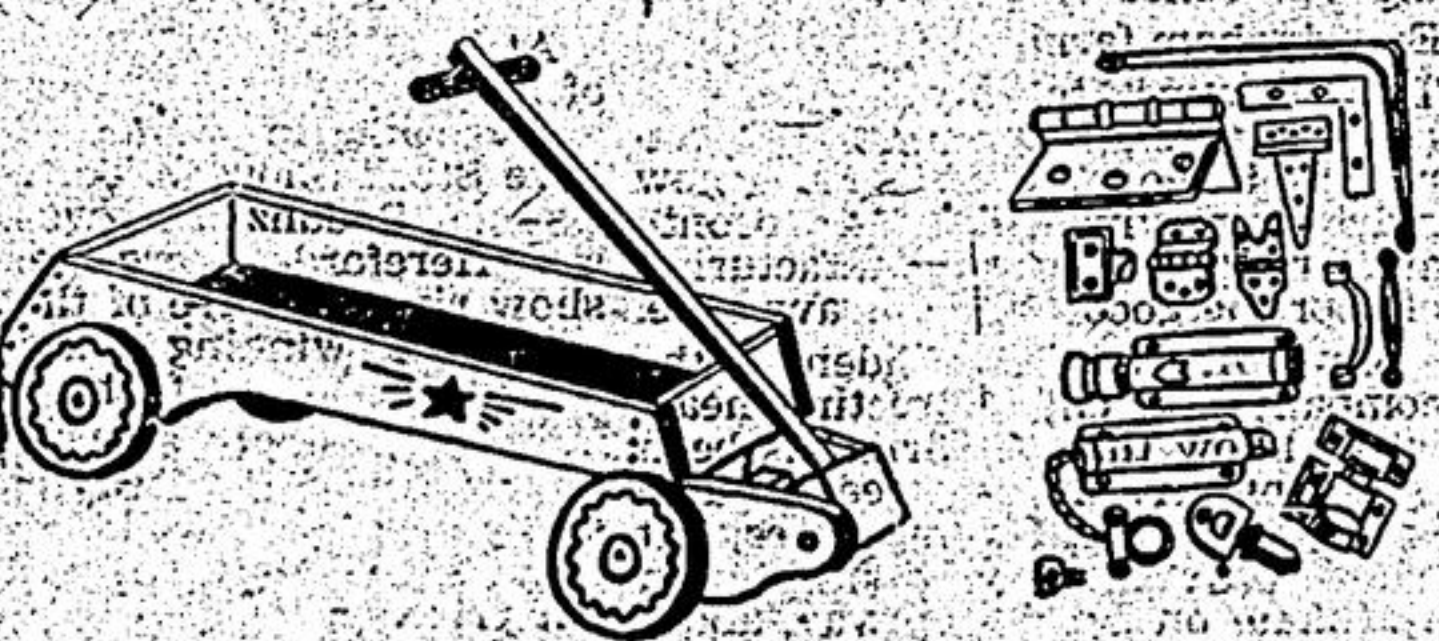
THURSDAY NIGHT IS FOTO NITE Offer — \$275

Beaverton Horticultural Society is being revived after being dormant throughout the war years. A similar move to reorganize in Stouffville could be of great advantage to the town.

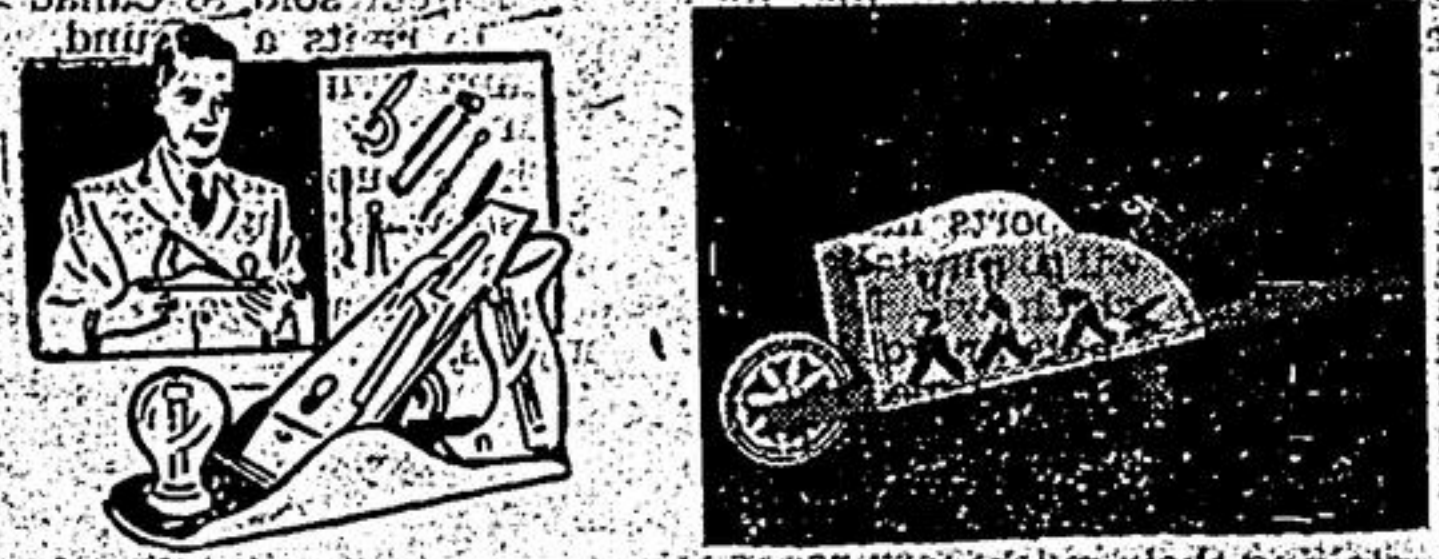
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