

ESTABLISHED 1828  
 Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association  
 and the Ontario-Quebec Newspapers Association  
 Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations  
 Authorized as second-class mail, Postoffice Dept., Ottawa  
 Printed and Issued every Thursday at Stouffville, Ontario  
 In Canada \$2.50 In the U.S.A. \$3.00  
 A. V. Nolan & Son, Publishers

NOTES and COMMENTS

Costly Embassy

Canada this year will spend about \$400,000 on diplomatic representation behind the iron curtain. Of this amount there is \$260,762 provided for the embassy in Moscow. One of the things that makes the Moscow embassy costly is the fact that no foreign government may own property there. The result is that \$30,000 a year rent is paid for the embassy quarters.

"Press and Information"

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in the year ended March 31, 1952, spent \$321,000 on what it calls "press and information." This presumably includes legitimate preparation and dissemination of printed material, but it also includes the propaganda department.

Programming is in some respects propagation of ideas favorable to the CBC and its socialistic friends and culture. So the actual whole cost could be in excess of even the astounding figure given.

New Homes Around Stouffville Reflecting Changing Trend

Few people have failed to notice and comment on the attractiveness of a large percentage of the new homes which are so numerous in and around Stouffville.

In most of them there is a definite evidence of a new trend in Canadian preferences. The new styling can be seen greatly in evidence when one compares the new places with the older established residences which are currently appearing in the Tribune in the "Homes in Stouffville" series.

Note of this change in Canadian — and American — trends was taken by a Montreal architect of 45 years' experience, Harold Lawson, who the other day was honored by a merit medal for service to his profession.

Once, he noted, tradition strongly influenced architectural styles, and all architects worked within the framework of specific styles and periods. But of late there has been a gradual change, influenced largely by continental moves. It is unlikely that Canadians will ever return to the overcrowded buildings of the past. The new trend in homes is toward simplicity, with as many labor saving devices as couples can afford.

In general building trends, Canada is tied to the United States. Like those across the border, Canadian architects have stripped today's buildings of many "meaningless" ornaments, which used to be tacked to buildings just because it was believed to be the thing to do. And there is a decreasing preference for tall buildings, because people want homes simple and convenient throughout.

The probability is, moreover, that only the start of the influence of new ideas on Canadian architecture has been seen.

Abolition of Conditional Grants Important To Stouffville

The Committee on Provincial-Municipal Relations has recommended to the Provincial Government that conditional grants be abolished. The change if it becomes effective would be important to Stouffville and much-so at the present time.

It has been pointed out time and again that while the provincial government makes, what appear to be large handouts, these grants are all conditional and in many cases a municipality in order to collect the grant must spend double the normal amount to be eligible. An important example of the working of this system is at hand in Stouffville right now. Stouffville is anxious to collect the 25% grant for police purposes offered by the government, and in order to do so they must either institute a pension plan for local constables, a costly proposition, or engage the provincial police who are under such a scheme, but whose services are more costly.

Likewise in the field of recreation, the municipality must spend a considerable sum before the government will toss in any aid. In the field of education again, the Dept. of Education puts stringent requirements on the types of buildings, the inclusion of restaurants and other unnecessary frills. This runs the cost of new schools "sky high," but unless the regulations are met, the government pays no grant.

It has always been our own contention that municipalities would favor being given new means of taxation or a share in tax collections, other than real estate, to cover their higher costs, and not lean on the provincial government who offer subsidies in one hand and insist on expensive regulations with the other.

The Association of Ontario Mayors and Reeves in its briefs to the Government has looked with disfavor on grants to which conditions are imposed, such as grants for the police and fire departments. It has also criticized the system because it requires a municipality to spend money in order to obtain government funds. The committee appears to agree with this point of view when it declares that "a system of conditional grants is one of the causes of the rapidly increasing governmental expenditures at all levels."

Its statement that it "believes in the principle that citizens of a community should have the widest feasible control over matters primarily of local concern" expresses exactly the position taken by the municipalities. They have contended that democratic government is best maintained by leaving responsibility of service with the level of government administering and financing the service in its proper sphere.

In the place of conditional grants, the committee recommends "that there be paid to municipalities an unconditional per capita grant graded upwards according to population." The value of grants paid on this basis will depend, of course, upon the rate and the formula, but the principle appears to be in the direction which the municipalities wish the Government to follow.

The recommendation calling for the abolition of compulsory arbitration for the personnel of police and fire departments is made on the grounds that "there is no apparent justification for continuing a plan which gives preferential treatment, under provincial legislation, to policemen and firemen as compared with other equally essential public employees." The committee also states that it would place the municipalities in a difficult situation to discontinue conditional grants to police and fire departments without removing the hazards of third-party determination of the rates of pay and working conditions.

BYGONE DAYS

From the Files of The Tribune 107 Years Ago

Something of a clue to the question "How old is Stouffville?" may be gathered from Smith's Canadian Gazetteer published in the year 1846. The information in this book is based on facts gathered in 1844 just 109 years ago and this is what it says about our present flourishing village.

"Stouffville or Stoufferville is a small village in the Township of Markham on the townline between Markham and Whitchurch, eleven miles from Yonge street. It contains about 70 inhabitants, one physician and one surgeon, two stores, two taverns, one blacksmith, one wagon maker, one oatmeal mill, one tailor, one shoemaker, post office with mail three times a week.

Respecting other municipalities in the locality interesting information is given. Newmarket had a population of 600 and was at that time some thirty years old. In 1842, Markham Township had a population of 5,698 people and was in point of cultivation second to largest in the province. There were eleven grist mills and twenty-four saw mills. The rateable property was about \$350,000.

In Uxbridge Township 14,000 acres were taken up 3337 of which were under cultivation. The population stood at 1842 and this included the Township of Scott with a population of 810. 210 acres of crown land were still open for sale.

Whitchurch Township was more settled than Uxbridge as 43,462 were taken up with 15,000 under cultivation. The Gazetteer further states that this is an old settled township, containing many fine farms with excellent orchards on them. It was mostly settled by Pennsylvania Quakers who situated in the northwest section. The rateable property was slightly over \$36,500.

The population of Markham Village is given at 300, and was settled 25 years prior to the publication of this book. Pickering Township had a population of 3752. All the places above mentioned were in what was known as the Home district which embodied all the County of York and Ontario and Simcoe with a total population of 58,853. The number of milch cows in the district was 23,735 and the number of oxen over four years old were 6,173.

29 Years Ago

H. O. Klink, the new teacher employed by the school board, commenced his duties on Monday. With five teachers in the public school the big knowledge works should roll along at much better speed for there is now one teacher for each grade.

The eleven o'clock morning train from Port Hope was six hours late on Tuesday being stalled at Omeme where a freight train was stuck in a snow bank. An auxiliary engine sent out got off the track, causing additional delay. Evidently there is much more snow to the north of here a few miles.

The person that stole the blanket from the horse last Sunday night in the Methodist shed was seen taking it off the animal, and if not returned to the owner at an early date proceedings will be taken against them.

The School Board discussed the cigarette question at their last meeting and the number of boys reported to be smokers of cigarettes was alarming. The trustees may approach the council with the view of putting a cigarette license on the local vendors such as is in operation in most towns and villages. This, may, they think, cut down the number of vendors and make it easier for those interested to find out where minors are getting their supplies.

Leadbetter's butcher shop had a shipment of buffalo meat in this week from the government slaughter house which took place a few days ago. These animals used for food are all young and well fed. People in Stouffville who used the meat this week pronounce it of most beautiful flavor and tender delicacy.

The worst wind and snow storm for several years set in on Tuesday of this week and continued until Wednesday night. All trains were cancelled and not even a snow plough got through. Three engines and a plow set out from Lindsay and were stuck in a snow bank near Cambray all day Wednesday. Roads were blocked in nearly all directions and the attendance at school was less than 50%. Milk and mail routes were cancelled and business was generally tied up.

Citizens who have hydrants near their premises would be doing a good act to shovel them out. Many hydrants are completely covered and could not be readily got at in case of fire.

A horse race or circus will draw the masses. We saw a bit of the former on Main street the other day when Geo. Watson and Peter Wideman staged a little "get away" much to the enjoyment and amusement of a goodly number of on-lookers. Wideman's horse carried off first honors at the Toronto Exhibition and he wasn't going to take second place from any "dark horse" on the road, so the pair went through town like a real set of race horses. Watson's horse is said to be no stranger to the track and certainly she travels like one accustomed to the ways. If these horses racers would announce their escapades slightly in advance we can promise a big crowd of on-lookers.

The amoeba has a red tail, according to a science note. The amoeba must have been invented by a Russian.

FOR PARENTS ONLY

By Nancy Cleaver

DOES YOUR CHILD ANGER YOU?

OR ANGRY PARENTS

"The visiting psychologist spoke of anger in children. I do wish he had made some suggestions about 'anger in parents'! Children aren't the only people who get mad! At times my young daughter, Ann is so obstinate that I could almost explode!"

Are you amazed at this parent's frank comment? Maybe you have an equable temperament and yours is a serene household. But if your reactions to your child's behaviour are occasionally violent, you have lots of company. When you find your own offspring annoying and even provoking at times, you are not an unnatural parent. You face a similar problem to that of countless other mothers and fathers.

In homes parents feel responsible for directing their children in sensible behaviour. Children of all ages long to be independent and be their own bosses. This is especially true of adolescents, who lack the experience of mature adults, and at the same time want to be treated like grown-ups.

It is during this period of adolescence, that explosions of wrath on the part of both children and parents are likely to increase. Parents have good grounds for feeling that there are some mistakes which are too tragic to risk. Just read a newspaper report of a bad smash-up of a car filled with teen agers coming home from a party.

A boy wants to drive a car so that he can impress his girl friend and be popular with his gang. Parents are often dubious about their son's driving skill in an emergency. Is it any wonder there are so many fixed battles over the use of the family car by adolescents?

But anger can arise in a parent or a child of any age, and it is often over a comparatively minor thing. Some parents and children at certain stages just seem to be allergic to each other! Differences in outlook or habits can be exceedingly annoying.

Mrs. Jones is a very good house-keeper and her son Tommy just

naturally "hangs his clothes on the floor." He scorns his mother's "fussy ways." She wants to be proud of every corner of her home. But Tommy has no urge to keep his own room "ship shape." He is infuriated when she tries to straighten his hobby table. She might damage his precious model plane in the making! The sight of this construction job with the litter in the surrounding area "makes her blood boil."

It does no harm for a parent to make it plain that there is a limit to his or her patience. But a child can understand this by other ways than by shouted words and angry gestures. Frequent quarrels create a poor atmosphere for family living and learning.

In any perplexing situation such as disputes over the family car, or a child's persistent untidiness, a parent should ask "How did this come about?" Is there any way an angry conflict can be avoided? What constructive things can be done to alter this provoking pattern of living?

There is no one magic-formula for side-stepping all friction. But part of the job of being a parent is to look at a problem objectively. Good mothers and fathers try to find a solution which is at least partly satisfying for both parties involved. Compromise is usually better than angry dictatorship.

The Family Council has been a real help in many homes in preventing anger situations from arising or from becoming common occurrences. In other homes, time for talking things over at regular intervals between a parent and child has proven its worth.

Before an adolescent boy has the use of the family car, either in a Family Council or in a chat, the son should agree to certain rules. These are safeguards against accidents or too great a drain on the family budget. These regulations the boy must observe, or the use of the car is forfeited.

A child's training in tidiness must be started at an early age. If mother has always picked up after her son, she cannot suddenly expect him to hang up his own things. He will see that there are

advantages to not living in a complete state of chaos, if he cannot invite a chum to play in his room unless he keeps it reasonably neat.

Sometimes parents realize that it is their own fatigue or anxiety about quite another matter, and not their child's perversity, which precipitates an angry flare-up. It is not right to take out on a son or daughter one's own weariness or vexations over unsolved difficulties!

No modern mother or father wants to play the role of "angry parent." It is an unpleasant part, damaging to health, to peace of mind and ruinous to family happiness. Parents can often "think ahead" and prevent conditions arising from which a violent difference springs. They can remove many causes of disputes. Through mutual understanding and co-operation with their children they can seek for satisfying patterns of family living.

All "hot-heads" are not red-haired and all redheads are not easily provoked. Nevertheless the strains of modern living often tend to make parents "quick on the draw." By temperament and training, many adults find it extremely difficult to rule their own tempers. But parents want their children to grow in self-discipline. They know there is no more effective way to teach their child control of anger than by demonstrating in a trying situation that it can be done!

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