

**THE STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE**

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**White Cane Week**

"This year the theme of White Cane Week is friendliness," declared J. A. MacNaughton, national publicity chairman, The Canadian Council of the Blind. "The theme may come as a surprise," he continued, "since Canadians are universally regarded as a friendly people, and nobody knows this better than the blind."

This year besides making friends during White Cane Week, the blind in Toronto and the five nearby counties are planning construction of an urgently-needed six-building service and rehabilitation centre on Bayview Avenue, just south of Sunnybrook Hospital.

Since the first White Cane Week eight years ago, assistance to the carriers of the White Cane has grown tremendously. However, there are still many Canadians who, though friendly by nature, are often at a loss to know what to say to a blind person or how to go about offering aid. Blindness is not restricted to any particular walk of life. The sightless person you meet on the streets may be a scholar, a business man or a craftsman. The chief difference between him and you is that he has lost his sight. When a person first becomes blind he is depressed, and sometimes very lonely. "This is where the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and The Canadian Council of the Blind can offer constructive assistance," Mr. MacNaughton observed. C.N.I.B. contributes a program of adjustment and training that not only teaches braille, typing, handicrafts, and every day household duties, but in many cases leads the newly sightless to gainful employment. Across Canada, forty-eight C.C.B. clubs provide social and recreational rehabilitation, and many a close friendship has been formed through attendance at the club meetings.

"We are proud of our fellow Canadians," the publicity chairman said, "who, by their friendly guidance have encouraged the sightless to undertake a greater variety of activities. To anyone who thinks he would like to help, but is timid about approaching may we say, 'Let the White Cane Introduce Us. Remember the blind cannot see you. The first move is up to you.'"

**EDITOR'S MAIL**

**APPRECIATION FROM AURORA**

January 26, 1954  
Yesterday the Town of Aurora suffered a tragic and disastrous fire. Without the help of the fire brigades of the neighbouring communities, the loss would have been considerably greater. Without the help of the many willing volunteers who assisted in so many ways the work of the fire brigades would have been considerably more difficult.

This Council wishes to send its sincere thanks to those firemen and policemen who worked so hard and so long; to those who supplied food and drink for the firemen; to those who helped maintain the water supply; to those who helped merchants and householders to safety; and to the many many others who helped in any way whatsoever.

Our sympathy is extended to those who suffered loss and our gratitude to those who came to our aid when they were needed.

The Mayor and Council,  
The Town of Aurora.

**THE OLD HOME TOWN** By STANLEY



**NOTES and COMMENTS**

**The World's Most Enduring Topic of Conversation**

It is probably both correct and conservative to say that the world's most enduring topic of conversation is the weather. Weather of any kind is a subject which people can always talk about when they can't find anything else of common interest. It serves as an opener for conversation among strangers and is the basis for a number of heated discussions even on the coldest days. This has been particularly evident during the cold wave which appears to be taking a brief respite as this is written. A few degrees variation in thermometers can sometimes cause lifelong friends to "get to feudin'" concerning the accuracy of their recording apparatus.

The weather is also said to provide an excellent emotional outlet for those people who have to "blow off steam" periodically. They can always let go at the weatherman, who fortunately is usually so far away that he is unaware that he is being berated unless, perchance, he may suffer the occasional attack of "burning ears."

Indirectly, the weather is probably responsible for a lot of other topics of conversation such as the amount of fuel being consumed, the best type of air-conditioning system to install; what types of clothes are most suitable under the ever-changing conditions to which the weather subjects us, not to mention a few other things such as frozen water pipes, exhausted car batteries, cold feet, hot heads and so forth, all of which are related to the general topic of weather in some way.

Can anyone suggest anything in the world today which provides a more enduring or more vigorous topic of conversation than "the weather?"

**Rural Correspondents a Big Asset**

Too few times, we admit, we express our thanks to our rural correspondents for their faithful and efficient services. With a new year just begun, we think it might be a good time to make special mention of their work.

The Stouffville Tribune has some twenty-seven correspondents who record the day-to-day activities in their own hamlet or corner of the rural district. Many have served The Tribune for years. As well as this they have provided a valuable service to their own community in publicizing the activities of organizations and recording their progress. Their work constitutes an historical record of the community.

The job of being a good correspondent is not as easy as one might suppose. It involves a lot of phoning on party lines; gathering the news and preparing it for publication. The weekly task generally falls on a Monday morning which is a busy day for the majority of our correspondents who are married women.

Readers might take a tip—help your local correspondent by phoning in the news instead of waiting for the correspondent to phone. We know the correspondents would certainly appreciate this co-operation.

Rural correspondence is the backbone of most weekly newspapers and has had much to do with putting The Tribune circulation at its high level of today. Sons and daughters, no longer living in the area count on The Tribune to keep them informed of what is going on "back home." Weekly newspapers are in the top bracket of journalism because of their personal news items about people our readers know. As every good newspaperman knows, "names are news."

**Schooling Comes Too High**

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has asked that the provincial or the federal government, or both, assume the cost of erecting new schools where needed, because the local school boards find it hard to raise the money.

The reason the local boards are finding it hard to raise money for building schools is that the local taxpayers who have to pay the bills are convinced that modern schools are costing more than they are worth.

As long as such expenditures are the responsibility of local boards the taxpayers can exercise some sort of control over them.

But if the responsibility is transferred to the government and payments made out of the general revenue of the province or of the dominion, local influence to keep expenditures within bounds will be converted into local pressure to get, for each district, the best that is going, and extravagance will run wild.

Reckless expenditure on schooling is not education. It can undermine the best educational system.

**For Parents Only**

**"EARS DESERVE CARE"**

By Nancy Cleaver



Ears deserve care! Hearing aids and lip reading do help individuals who are handicapped with deafness. But it is a pity that many a baby born with a normal sense of hearing through sickness or an accident loses this precious heritage.

Ear trouble often accompanies or follows one of the infectious diseases such as scarlet fever or measles. Severe and continuous colds, sinus infection, tonsillitis, diseased adenoids, may produce swelling or an abscess in the middle ear and cause much pain. Unless a doctor is consulted and his instructions followed to the letter, a child's hearing may be damaged.

Small children sometimes put tiny objects such as a wooden bead or a bean in to their ears. If mother can see the object it can usually be taken out easily. But if it has disappeared, or if it is stuck, never use force or poke at it. Whenever in doubt about ear complications, phone the doctor's office. Once in a while, a small insect may enter a child's ear. A drop or two of warmed (but not hot) sweet oil, or castor oil may be dropped in to the ear.

Wax should never be removed from the ear by a child poking in a match, bobby pin, or sharp object. There is too great a possibility of the ear drum being pierced or the ear harmed in some other way. Mother should remove the wax very carefully from the outer ear. If it is hard, impacted or troublesome, check with the doctor.

Swimming in polluted water can sometimes be blamed for ear infection. Some people cannot dive from a high place without protecting their ears from a possible rupture of the eardrum. Swimming under water and diving should be done in moderation and banned if ear or sinus discomfort

develops. If there is pain in the child's ear, noises of any kind, or a discharge take the youngster to the doctor at once. Quite a number of children have poor hearing and this defect is not detected because they do not actually complain of discomfort.

If the child is frequently inattentive when called, if he is very slow to talk, and his articulation is poor, parents should have the child's hearing tested carefully by a specialist or a physician. Irritability and fatigue can sometimes be traced to partial deafness on the part of both children and adults.

The child who is starting to school usually is required to have a medical check-up. Should his hearing be poor, the doctor will discover this. If mother is in doubt she should speak to the doctor of his symptoms.

Not a few children have been considered dull, or have made very poor school grades simply because he could not hear properly. Every little while a boy presents a truancy problem because he hates school. There he is always near the bottom of the class. Neither his teacher nor parents have realized that the reasons for his actions can be traced to deafness.

No parent wants his child to do anything but his best at school. Be sure your child is not endangered by unnecessary threats to his hearing. If you suspect he is handicapped consult a doctor without delay and give him every possible chance to overcome his difficulty. Ears are precious—they deserve the best of care.

Simile: As easy as adding to your worries.

Stouffville, Ont., January 25, 1954  
To the Editor of the Tribune:  
Sir: With your kind attention I would ventilate here a few minor points which have occurred to me, from time to time, as I read The Tribune.

After reading your paper for more than two years I have not received the overall impression that you are concerned with the welfare of the people of this community, as the name of your newspaper implies. It may have slipped your mind, in which case let me jar your memory, but a "tribune" was an official appointed by the people of ancient Rome to protect their liberties and champion their causes.

Despite the most careful scrutiny of your pages I have not found you guilty of championing a single social reform either local or national. We have three streams running through Stouffville which are admitted to be nothing but open sewers. Apparently these streams do not appeal to you—you never mention them—perhaps it is the smell!

In conclusion I would draw your attention to the fact that in ancient Rome streams also carried away that city's sewage, but these streams were covered with stones and masonry. From this we could infer that Stouffville has not caught up to ancient Rome or, that the Tribune of ancient Rome did a much better job than The Tribune of Stouffville.

I have the honour to remain, sir, your humble and obedient servant,

J. Lewis Toole.

**CHRISTMAS TREES ARE \$1,000,000 INDUSTRY**

The humble Christmas tree has come into its own. Besides being a symbol of the Yuletide season in homes across Canada, it also represents a fast-rising industry now valued at several millions of dollars annually to Canadian growers.

Across the country, here's how the Xmas tree industry shapes up:

British Columbia's exports have reached a record 2,000,000 trees with a wholesale value of a million dollars. New Brunswick expects sales to hit the \$1½-million mark from the revenue of 2,000,000 trees. Nova Scotia exports an average of 3,000,000 trees a year. Ontario sent \$1-million worth of trees across the U.S. border last year and so did Quebec.

**REPORT FROM PARLIAMENT**

By Michael Starr, M.P.,  
Ontario Riding

The amendment to the Post Office Act, which authorizes the Post Office to increase the rate on first-class postage from four cents to five cents, has undergone considerable debate in which the fallacy of such an increase has been brought forward by Members of the Opposition parties. The debate proved to be of high calibre and many very good reasons were brought to the attention of the Postmaster General why no increase should be put into effect at this time. In spite of this, the Bill will be passed and we can look forward to paying five cents to mail a first-class letter, beginning April 1st, 1954. This increase will yield fifteen million dollars a year into the Post Office treasury.

The amended National Housing Act is still under discussion and a great deal of criticism has been made by members of the Opposition. In the criticism they suggest that down payments should be lower and the interest rate should be 2%. This Bill has priority over all other business because the Minister is most anxious that it should be passed so that all arrangements can be made prior to the time when building will commence this spring in Canada.

My work here in Ottawa has been varied. Most of it is composed at the present time of looking after the affairs of constituents, and these problems pertain to compensation cases, disabled person's allowances, old age pensions, immigration cases, and postal problems.

We are faced with three by-elections, two almost at once and one a little later on, because of the death of Members of the House of Commons. The ranks of the Conservative Members in the Senate have also been depleted to seven with the death of another Senator.

At a recent meeting in London, Ontario, of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the President of that body, Mr. H. H. Hannam, predicted that hog prices would drop in mid-1954, and that cattle prices will remain low for the next several years. He anticipated also that in view of expanded egg production, egg prices may drop, and that although there is no need for lower fluid milk prices, increasing output could bring new problems. Generally speaking, the shift towards declining farm prices which followed the Korean war is likely to continue in 1954. The root of the farmer's problem is that free competition places him at a disadvantage in rela-

tion to other producers. This handicap is at the root of agriculture's inability to hold a balanced position in our economy in relation to other major industries. What Canada and the world needs is a greater measure of orderly marketing control over the movement of surplus supplies. Producers of farm commodities, other than wheat which is controlled by the Wheat Board would like a similar measure of stability assured for their respective products. While real progress has been made and is being made, producers of farm products do not consider that a program has been completed yet or perfected, which can give to them the same forward assurance for products such as eggs, hogs, cheese, concentrated milk products, potatoes and perhaps some others. The main objective is to have a program, and machinery to carry it out, which will give producers confidence that surpluses, if and when they appear, will be taken in its stride; that they will be stored, moved into consumption, turned over to an international food disposal agency, or otherwise handled before their accumulation has had time adversely to undermine prices and wipe out income for large sections of efficient producers.

Just recently I have had the privilege of interceding on behalf of the Oshawa General Hospital in making arrangements for the Oshawa Post Office to insert a cancellation slug publicizing the Fund Raising Campaign for the construction of the new 100-bed wing which is to be added to the present building.

There is a great deal of apprehension at the present time because of the present high level of unemployment and this matter is being viewed by labour unions and individuals as a gloomy outlook. Labour Minister Gregg, in the House of Commons, said that the Unemployment Insurance is carrying most of the load of the jobless now and that the remainder of the problem could best be solved through federal-provincial-municipal efforts. However, the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labour, who have a joint membership of 955,000, issued a joint statement declaring that unemployment is the most serious problem facing Canadians today. In some parts of the country the unemployed total has reached approximately 15% of the labour force, well over the danger point. The latest governmental figures which have been released show that there were 338,000 persons looking for jobs through the government employment bureaus on December 10, 1953

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**Snowball's Barber Shop**

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**The Cock and the Jewel**

A COCK, scratching the ground for something to eat, turned up a Jewel that had by chance been dropped there. "Ho!" said he, "a fine thing you are, no doubt, and, had your owner found you, great would his joy have been. But for me! give me a single grain of corn before all the jewels in the world."

**MORAL:** It's far more important to have the things you really need, than to have luxuries. That's why you should do as so many other far-sighted Canadians do—build up a savings account at The Canadian Bank of Commerce. Then you will be sure you need never go without the necessities of life. Visit our nearest branch today.



Illustration by Arthur Rackham, from the Heinemann Edition of Aesop's Fables.

**The Canadian Bank of Commerce**