

# Editorial

## The Little Country Store

It would appear that the rural reign of the little country store is nearing an end. In a gallant defence of its proud but simple domain, only a few remain to wage a losing battle against the steady encroachment of urbanized shopping centres and supermarkets.

The little country store has served its patrons long and served them well. Now, we the fickle public, with nary a sign of sadness nor tear of regret have turned our backs on a most faithful friend.

The little country store stocked everything from horse collars to bubble gum. There was a place for everything, although everything was not always in its place. When the antiquated crank-style cash register failed to produce the necessary change, the owner would merely dig down into a well-patched pocket for an additional supply of nickles, dimes and quarters.

The little country store knew no regular hours. If the front door was locked, purchases could always be made at the adjoining residence — a sort of annex. On Saturday night, it resembled a community meeting place. Politics, the weather, the hay

crop, births, marriages and deaths were current topics that were thoroughly discussed. When everyone had been brought up to date on the week's neighborhood news, all parted company in separate directions. "See you in church tomorrow, Joe," would be a common parting remark.

The little country store was no thing of beauty. No tiled floors, no stainless steel showcases, no fluorescent fixtures, no air-conditioning, no revolving doors, no giant plate glass windows and no multi-car parking lot. In spite of its failure to keep in step with the trend of the times, the country store retained a friendly atmosphere that could never become out-dated. The majority of customers either lived just a "stones-throw" down the road or on the fifty acres around the corner. A few strangers would enter the front door. All would leave as a lifelong friend.

The little country store has been part of our heritage. Few of us saw them come. Too many of us are seeing them vanish. Lemonville, Altona, Buttonville, Kinsale and Cedar Grove are all vivid signs of changing times. To some, it may be a step forward. To others it signifies a major step back.

## Put It To The Test

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the members of the Ballantrae Public School Board. Their present plight is perhaps unique in the entire province. Unscrupulous cottage-owners at Musselman's Lake are responsible, in part, for a pupil enrollment that, according to September expectations, will exceed the capacities of the present five-room structure.

Larger land-owners, faced with a sky-rocketing mill rate have joined forces in a solid front against further increases in the section's debenture debt. Council's hands are tied. Breach of bylaw cases aired in court have gained little sympathy from presiding magistrates. Still, these summer residences continue to "flood" the schools, with four to six pupils per dwelling and the section reels under

the tax load.

We would suggest that the board members should pass the buck right into the laps of the province. Somewhere along the line there will have to be a "show-down" on the issue and we feel that the ratepayer who is sharing the major portion of these school costs, is nearing the end of his rope.

The problem at Ballantrae has not occurred overnight. It has been smouldering like some semi-dormant volcano for over four years. The board members have done everything humanly possible to satisfy the needs of the children and meet the wishes of the ratepayers. It would appear that the area's educational dollar has been stretched to the limit. Someone must surely break under the strain.

## Parking Meters Again

At last week's meeting of Stouffville municipal council, there was mention of the installation of parking meters, a subject which has been dormant now for some time. On this occasion a number of business men appeared before council suggesting that some contact be made with the Dept. of Highways as regards widening the Main St. and instituting angle parking. The majority of the group present favored parking meters, and were told that they could be installed anytime that a sufficient number of all the business places indicated that they desired them.

Now, as was the case when meters were debated several years ago, we are strongly in favor of them. Those who say they are afraid they would drive business away, are only kidding themselves. We don't know of a community anywhere which has installed meters where they have ever asked to have them removed. We would also venture to say that the most prosperous towns around, have meters, and like them.

## Council Should Act

Our town is once again being offered a gift which any community in the Dominion of Canada would "give its eye teeth" to get. Mr. Arthur Latham is proposing to build for Stouffville, a modern curling rink, fully equipped and ready to go. He has asked council in return to provide additional parking space in the town park since the proposed new building will use up considerable of what is now available. How they do this he is not concerned with — it might be necessary to procure additional park land as this newspaper has suggested a number of times.

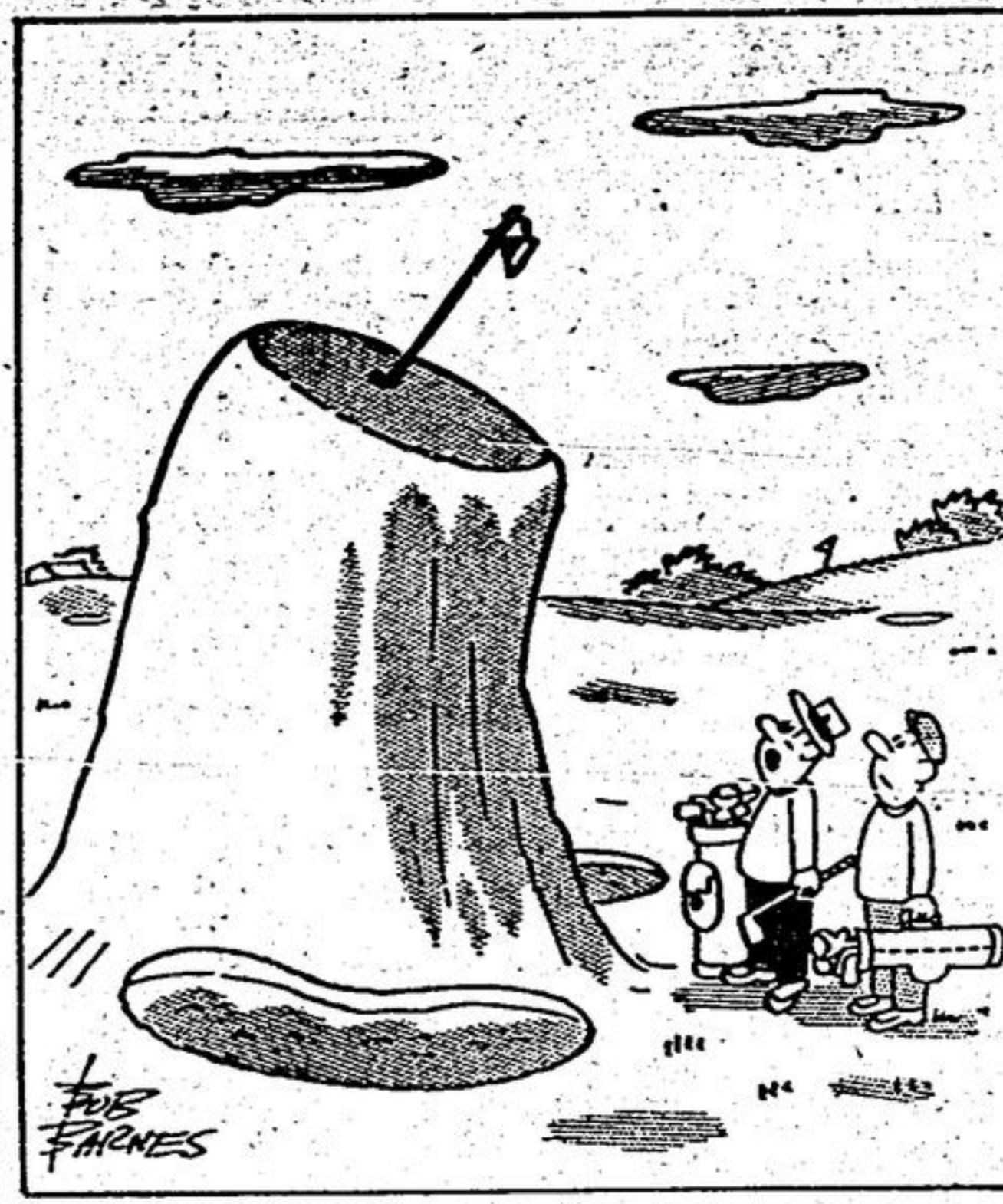
Whatever steps need to be taken to provide this extra accommodation is a mere nothing compared to what is being offered by this town benefactor. Mr. Latham has already provided Stouffville with a fine swim-

ming pool, baseball floodlights, grandstand and picnic shelter, and ratepayers must be eternally indebted for these wonderful gifts. Our sister communities, yes, communities all across the country marvel at our good fortune.

We believe that council will take steps to provide the space that is necessary, and we whole-heartedly endorse whatever steps they take to enlarge our park for this purpose.

All the gifts mentioned above, are luxuries for any community, and Stouffville has received them at no expense whatever to the taxpayer. Most centres work years to gain some of them, and then everyone has to dig deep to provide the money. Thus we say, whatever small amount is necessary to bring another fine recreational gift here should be provided without hesitation.

## Cliff Of The Week



"Let's just nibble for a par and skip this one."

## From Our Early Files

### WAY BACK — WHEN?

(May 1896)  
The Stouffville Bicycle Club had their weekly run to Claremont on Tuesday evening last. Their next weekly run will be to Markham on Tuesday evening.

Little Dorothy — "Grandma's is the nicest place! You don't have to mind a thing that is said to you."

We desire to draw the attention of the public to a personal matter which should be understood by every society, church or organization in the Community. Sometimes it happens that no report of a lecture or entertainment appears in the paper and surprise may be expressed as to the cause, when in reality the parties who are in charge of the entertainment are at fault, because the usual courtesy of admission ticket was not extended.

**A Seven Day Wonder at Spofford & Co.'s**  
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Altona — Altona is now connected with the outside world as Mr. Willis Monkhouse has installed a telephone in his store. Some of the farmers are placing them in their homes. The world is moving forward.

Stouffville 1903 — Mrs. James and son Arthur of Toronto are visiting at her daughter's, Mrs. A. C. Burkholder.

May 3, 1894 — Those having any job printing to do, call at this office for quotations. We run doggers at \$1 per 1,000, quarter sheets at \$1 for 50 or \$1.25 per 100, half sheets at \$1.25 for 50, or \$1.50 per 100, and whole sheets at \$2 per 100. All other work done at proportionately low prices. The notice given in the Tribune in connection with work done in this office is worth as much as bills owing to the extensive and general circulation of the Tribune through the entire neighborhood.

Editor and Proprietor  
Wm. Malloy, B.A.

## EDITOR'S MAIL

March 31st, 1960

Mr. James Thomas, Editor,  
The Stouffville Tribune.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Our neighbour, Mrs. Mary Hume, who is one of our subscribers, was kind enough to pass along to you your editorial on the Canadian National Exhibition Grandstand Show which appeared in the February 4th edition.

We wish to thank you for your understanding of our problems which exist in presenting a show of this size and your kindness in bringing it to the attention of your readers. Catering to an audience with such varied tastes in entertainment is rather like serving a table d'hote dinner to a thousand people. Most of them will fail to appreciate every item on the menu. This, of course, has always been a major problem in the production of the Grandstand Show and it is all too seldom that we have the privilege of seeing it acknowledged publicly.

Thank you again for the morale-boosting editorial. Our production staff, as well as the writer, found it most encouraging.

With kindest regards,  
Yours very truly,  
C.N.E. Association  
J. A. Arthur,  
Executive Producer,  
Grandstand Show.

Gormley R.R. 1,  
April 23, 1960

Editor, The Tribune,  
Stouffville, Ontario.  
Dear Sir,

I wish to stand corrected if I'm wrong, but I understand that the Council in the Township of Whitechurch intend to enter into some agreement with a tannery company in an adjoining municipality whereby this township will continue to be used as a dump for sewage from this Aurora firm.

This issue has been hanging fire for some time now, and it would appear that the members are back-tracking from their former critical stand on the matter. I am certainly very disappointed.

I am not personally affected by this "sludge pot", but I cannot stand idly by and see any part of our municipality defaced by this unwanted refuse. This company shows little concern for our township or they would not ask the Council to accept this waste.

I wonder what the town of Aurora would think if suddenly a Whitechurch firm requested permission to dump sewage on property within its borders? We all know what the answer would be. Here is certainly one case

where we are stretching the good neighbour policy a little too far.

—A Taxpayer

April 9, 1960

Mr. G. Lehman, Reeve,  
Stouffville, Ont.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Mayor and council of the Town of Ridgetown may I extend to you and to your council, and through you to your wonderful Midget Hockey team, the congratulations of the Town of Ridgetown, its officials and its citizens for the splendid showing made in the Ontario Minor Hockey championship playoffs, and for the good sportsmanship of each and every member of your team. They are truly the type of young people from whom champions are made.

Sincerely yours,  
Glady's Kennedy,  
Clerk-Treasurer

Balsam, April 22,  
Stouffville, Ont.

Dear Sirs:

At this time, when the Commander of The French Forces and President of France is visiting the country of Canada, may I mention something I saw in our Pickering Township Hall at Brougham, which made me feel very proud to belong to this township. I don't imagine many people know of this.

I was visiting Mr. Beaton, the then Clerk, a very fine gentleman who worked hard and well for the good of many people, charging so little for his services? I noticed a very imposing picture hanging there and asked what it was, and to my surprise, it was the Signing of the Armistice which we celebrate once a year on November 11. The declaration was signed at the back of the firing lines in France. I wonder if this important picture is being so preserved for future generations, and as belonging to Pickering Township.

—Mrs. R. Day

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## The Stouffville Tribune

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