

# Editorial

## Thursday Night Important

Nomination night in Stouffville is this Thursday evening. During the past couple of years, interest has mounted in this all-important municipal event — let's hope the trend continues. However, there are still hundreds of voters in Stouffville who take little or no interest in who is to handle the spending of their tax money in the coming year.

A recent poll to ascertain the extent of interest in municipal politics, showed that only three out of ten took the trouble to display any interest, either in the nominations or at the polls.

It is difficult to understand why

## Could You Better These Prices?

Most of us just completed paying our municipal taxes for 1960. A number possibly ground their teeth and vowed to elect a new council. Let's face it — we don't like taxes in any shape or form.

This attitude is quite understandable, but we might pause for just a moment and consider how much our tax money buys. Right here in Stouffville, as in most municipalities, it buys quite a lot. If you paid \$200, what did you get in return?

In front of hundreds of homes and business places you have a sidewalk and a pretty passable roadway. At your call you have a fully modern fire truck as well as three policemen to protect your property. At either

## A Risk To Life And Limb

We have suggested on previous occasions in this column and we would repeat once again that the present rule which requires a police officer to stop each and every vehicle before making an arrest or issuing a summons, is faulty. It is noticeable in the local courts that more and more motorists are attempting to take advantage of this regulation. Rather than accept the loss of a few demerit points or a license endorsement, the driver will engage in a cat and mouse game and attempt to lose his pursuer.

We are not too concerned over the continued good health of the getaway car's occupant, but we are concerned over the safety of the unfortunate officer. He must risk his life to catch some half-cocked, speed-crazy character who must have found his permit in a pop-corn carton. In addition, but of lesser importance,

## Canadians Waiting With Interest

The interest shown by Canadians in the United States federal elections recently, was possibly the greatest ever witnessed. We know that here in Stouffville, the election was a topic of conversation on many street corners and in homes as well. Probably the great use of television, so widely employed for the first time, had a great deal to do with the local interest.

To say the least, this interest does serve to show that Canada and the United States are more closely

## Who's To Blame?

Some realistic facts were recently brought to light, the result of a study of delinquency conducted at Harvard University.

The survey, according to The St. Marys Journal-Argus, showed that:

Six out of every ten juvenile delinquents have fathers who drink to excess.

Many have mothers who drink to excess.

Three out of four are permitted by parents to come and go as they please.

Three out of five are from homes where there is discord between parents.

Seven out of ten are from homes where there is no group or family recreation.

Four out of five have parents who take no interest in the children's friends.

so many people are so indifferent when these municipal matters come up. They don't seem to realize that all of the services for which municipal administrations are responsible must be paid for by local taxes. These services include education, police and fire protection, water supply, sewage disposal and others.

It is also something to reflect, that out of town council sometimes come those who may later move up to provincial and federal politics. This adds still further importance to municipal nominations and elections. The forward looking citizen will keep this in mind when he chooses office holders in the municipal field.

end of town you have public schools and a modern high school. You have snow plowing service which permits you to operate your car at all times and you have people to operate these services for you where operation is necessary. These are not all but they are services familiar to most.

You might jot down these services and opposite them put the figure you would have to pay if you went out to get them on your own, without the co-operation of your neighbors, who, in total, make up the town of Stouffville.

If you're still not satisfied, remember that you have an alternative. You can always build a shack in the bush — your taxes will not be very high, and neither will your standard of living.

Over 75 percent of Canadian homes have television. Only nine percent are beyond the reach of the TV beam. So here is an important part of a child's environment and he needs wise parental guidance.

When a TV set is first purchased, it may, for a time, eclipse other desirable activities such as reading.

Some librarians, however, have found that a book-reviewing TV program has stimulated many children to borrow or buy a special book mentioned.

Our eyes are one of our most precious possessions and parents insist on sight-saving rules such as having a dim light on some distance from the TV and avoiding a too dark or too bright room.

It is also important that a child watch TV, not from the side, but from in front of the screen, at a distance of ten feet for a large screen and at least six or seven feet from a small one. Mothers must see to it, TV sessions are not too long.

Parents and adolescents frequently view TV together. Mutual enjoyment and discussion of TV ideas, plots, characters tend to strengthen the family bond. But mothers of small children are so occupied with household tasks that it is a temptation to turn on the TV, place a child in front of it and go about their work, relieved that the youngster is quiet and out of mischief.

Along with thousands of other Canadians we are anxiously waiting to see what effect the change to a Democratic government will have on the country's best customer, Canada.

Four out of five delinquent boys say their mothers were indifferent to them.

Three out of five boys say their fathers were indifferent to them.

A similar poll was conducted about the same time by George Gallup on the subject "Why Teen-agers Get Out of Hand." The conclusions of the poll were:

1. Parents are not strict enough.
2. Parents do not provide proper home life.
3. Parents have too many outside interests.
4. Parents are too indulgent; give children too much money.
5. Both parents work, even though the mother is needed at home.

Read these points over again carefully and note that each reason for our juvenile problems begins with the parents.

# Laff Of The Week



"New what seems to be the trouble, Mrs. Frayley?"

## For Parents Only

By Nancy Cleaver

### GUIDE YOUR CHILD'S TV HABITS

It is of vital importance that parents accept responsibility for guiding their child's TV habits. They should not drift into a permissive "watch anything you like any time you want" attitude.

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TV should not be used as a daytime baby sitter, regardless of what is being shown. A program is much more meaningful to a child if from time to time mother, or dad when he is home take time to view it with him and help him see its good and weak points. Some programs have too much violence or are unsuitable in other ways for a child.

TV does such a good job of capturing a child's interest that it is apt to crowd out important things such as outdoor play, creative hobbies, and necessary chores. Here is where some parental guidance is essential.

If there is a swing, a slide, a sandpile or other play material in the back yard and if small friends are welcome, a child is not apt to insist upon watching TV instead of playing outdoors. Crayons, paints, clay blocks, blunt scissors and magazines for cutting out, scrap books, paste with a mother's suggestion, can be a substitute for too much TV or unsuitable programs.

TV can be a real asset to every member in the family, providing pleasure, relaxation, and adding greatly to knowledge of life and appreciation of other people.

Not long ago we called on a refugee mother from Europe who was making very good progress in learning English. She explained that her husband picked up many new words at work and that she and her husband had attended night classes in English for New Canadians.

Her children picked it up quickly at day school, and, she said, "when they are away, often I turn on TV and listen carefully while I peel potatoes, mend, knit or even iron — and so I learn Canadian ways and how to say words, too!"

# Handyman

By Gordon Donaldson

that way. There is always a great deal of filling and scraping and moaning before any kind of joint is achieved.

This time, however, the finished frames, glazed and puttied, looked neat. Every second frame is fixed—pushed into the existing frame and held by a clasp at either side.

The others are hinged on top. I fitted screw-eyes at either side of the frame and ran screws through them and into the outside woodwork.

I screwed a handle to the inside of each opening storm frame so that it swings out and up and can be held in the up position by a clasp screwed to the woodwork.

To improve the insulation I ran rubber weatherstripping around the frames. This reduces the likelihood of trouble as the wood swells or contracts. sold, ready-grooved for building storm frames, is 1 1/2 ins. thick. This can be butted or lapped together at the corners.

As my frames were small—the largest being 19 inches by 28 — I used one-inch frames with mitred corners.

Mitering, with an accurate mitre-block, looks easy. You simply fit your saw into the grooves provided and cut accurate 45 degree angles. Fit the pieces together, screw the corners and you have a frame fit for the Mona Lisa.

With me, it never works out expensive little gaps. Aluminum storms will slide open along rubber tracks, offering ventilation plus a tight joint. Large wooden storms can be made to fit tightly.

But the best they offer in ventilation is usually three round

holes in the frame.

After laboriously double-glazing the top fixed portions of my windows, I was left with the problem of what to do with the bottom sections, which slide up and down.

The standard type of lumber HANDYMAN — Despite the fuel-saving advantages of keeping a home sealed against the winter, you sometimes feel like opening a window.

This raises the problem of finding storm windows that can be opened but maintain insulation when closed.

The heat loss from an average house is not all caused by exposed areas of thin glass. An equal amount escapes through cracks and openings around the windows.

If you want storms to save you, as they can do, 15 percent of the fuel bill, look to those

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# Sugar and Spice

By BILL SMILEY

A couple of months ago we began a new life in a different town, with a new job and a different home. Have you ever considered pulling up stakes and making a completely fresh start? It's quite an experience. Let me tell you about ours.

For ten years, I was editor of a small-town weekly newspaper. When we began that life, I worked very hard. We didn't have any money. What we had was faith, hope and mortgages. The faith and hope seemed to decrease much more rapidly than did the mortgages.

But gradually, things improved. Sheer grit, honesty and ignorance were not to be denied. For example: after my wife had been cooking for years on only a two-burner hot-plate set up on the ironing board, we were able to buy an electric stove. This was accomplished by borrowing money on my insurance policy.

After this, life got better steadily. I was able to borrow enough to put a down payment on a used house. An old aunt of mine died and left me a legacy of \$50. With this, I was able to buy a car, five years old, with only 36 months to pay. We managed to establish a fuel bill, tax arrears and several grocery bills, sure signs of success.

Despite our steady progress downhill, those were the good years, as people in their dotage are fond of saying when they recall those horrible early years of marriage. We raised two children who were a continual source of amusement, delight and irritation. We made many friends who were a continual source of good fun, good food, good talk and bad whisky.

Of course, it wasn't all roses, mind you. The Old Battleaxe and I fought frequently and hotly during those years, over anything from my laziness around the house to my inadequacy as a father. The kids complained bitterly about going to bed so early and not having more spending money. I talked continually about how hard my job was on the nerves. My wife rarely ceased lamenting her menial role in life.

But on the whole, we led an average, wildly disorganized, normal, Canadian family life, and most of the time thoroughly enjoyed it. We had definitely put down roots even though most of them were busily engaged in either mucking up our drains or heaving our foundation.

Why would a family, moored to a snug berth, suddenly cut its hawsers and drift off into unknown waters? You might as well ask why a hen wants to cross the road, or an octogenarian decides to get married. It's a cross between "to see what it's like" and "just for the hell of it".

As Brutus said: "There is a tide in the affairs of men . . ." This was just before he went out and got his head knocked off by the bad guys. Or, as Robbie Burns put it: "You tak the high tide, and I'll tak the low tide . . ." Well, we took the family size tide, and we've been at sea ever since.

You've no idea of the tremendous changes in our lives since we made the big move. My own life has undergone a general uprooting that has made it almost unrecognizable. For example: I used to put on 14

storm windows every fall; here I just slide down the aluminum. I used to write this column on the kitchen table; now I write it on the card table. I used to have just a cup of tea for breakfast; now I must gag over an egg. I tell you, I don't know whether I'm coming or going.

It's been even more of a wrench for my wife. Used to the deep, rich satisfaction of looking after a big eight-room house, she's frustrated by this mere six-roomer. Used to lugging the garbage cans out from the back shed, she finds it no challenge at all to hoist them the 20 feet required here. She's quite at a loss with doors that close tightly and windows that go up and down. These may seem like little things, but they mean a lot to a woman and she's become so neurotic from the leisure of life here that she's taken up the violin.

Kids are tougher than adults, but the change has upset even them. It's obvious in young Hugh. Sometimes he's so disturbed he can scarcely eat a third piece of pie. Little Kim, too, has been deeply affected by the move. The usually boisterous hoyden has become so quiet and repressed that there are days on which she knocks over her milk only once.

All in all, it's been quite a shake-up, and it's a pretty tragic thing to see a family torn up by the roots and shattered like this. However, I think we'll be adjusted after another 10 years. And when that happens, I'm going to leap out of my rut again and head for another one, whatever the cost. Maybe go farming.

## Haul Out Your Red Flannels, It Seems You're Going to Need Them

Put on your long woolies, father, and build a solid woodpile, 'cause this winter's going to be colder than last year and slightly colder than average.

This isn't the word from the weather bureau. It comes from Old Abe Weatherwise.

You know Old Abe. He's the perennial prophet for the Old Farmer's Almanac, now in its 169th year of publication.

And lest you lack faith in Abe's prognostications, be reminded he admits that last year he was 80 percent correct.

Old Abe, who is really Robb

Sagendorph, editor of the famed Dublin, N. H., Almanac, says to watch for a cold November, snowy December, very cold January, warm but snowstruck February and a cold, but not too snowy, March.

Besides Abe's predictions — which include one for a warm Christmas, the almanac for Atomic Year 17 is full of other information.

In what other book could you find how many eggs there are in a pound, how to live to be well over 100, when Daniel Boone was captured by the Indians,

what were a 30-year-old woman's chances of being married in 1905, a Connecticut baked shad recipe and a poem by Ogden Nash?

If you read this book thoroughly, you'll find out that January 14 will be the coldest day of the year; and Feb. 4 is a good day for marriage or repairing ships; that late April is the camel's mating season while early May is the same for ostriches, that on Sept. 30, no year date, Adam and Eve were banished from paradise, and that the lowest maximum speed in any state is 25 in the District of Columbia.

Oh, yes, nearly forgot — there are nine eggs to a pound.

Who knows, that information might some day win you top prize in a quiz contest!



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