

Editorial

Another Crowd Pleaser

Stouffville's annual Santa Claus Parade on Saturday proved to be another crowd pleaser. Several thousand jammed into town to witness this big event and all agreed they had enjoyed another great show.

Chairman Ross Giles and his assistants can take a bow for a job well done. Such an undertaking requires the support and active participation of a great many people as well as the financial contributions of the business people. Main St. with its fine new pavement never looked better. The three officers of the local police force had a job to handle and like everyone else who had anything to do with the affair, they turned in an excellent job. The weatherman too, co-operated and undoubtedly helped swell the crowd.

Stouffville's Santa Claus Parade

has won fame far and wide and is regarded as one of the best north of the city as far as you want to go.

Two thousand treats were handed out at the Santa Claus stand and old St. Nick had his hands full with the endless line of youngsters who were all agog to have a chance to get near the merry fellow.

The good-will and popularity which the town gains from such an affair cannot be measured in the dollars and cents rung up at the cash register on the day of the parade, but it is a well-known fact that such events do go a long way in community promotion.

Local business people who sponsor the parade can take real satisfaction from the success and the host of favorable comments heard on every side.

Too Big For One Bite

One ratepayers' association from one section of Whitechurch Township has been exerting considerable pressure on the council in an effort to acquire some action that will lead to a rather costly road-construction program on the Sixth Concession. The figure for the project has been estimated at more than \$40,000 or a large percentage of an entire annual budget.

We viewed this particular area recently and can certainly understand the feelings of the residents in the section, especially those who have young children walking to and from the Hillcrest Public School. We looked at the steep hills, but are there not other hilly areas in other districts of the township? We drove through the narrow gullies and ravines, but are there not other gullies and ravines within the same municipality? Certainly other sections have a gravel truck problem and we would suggest that their dust nuisance is even

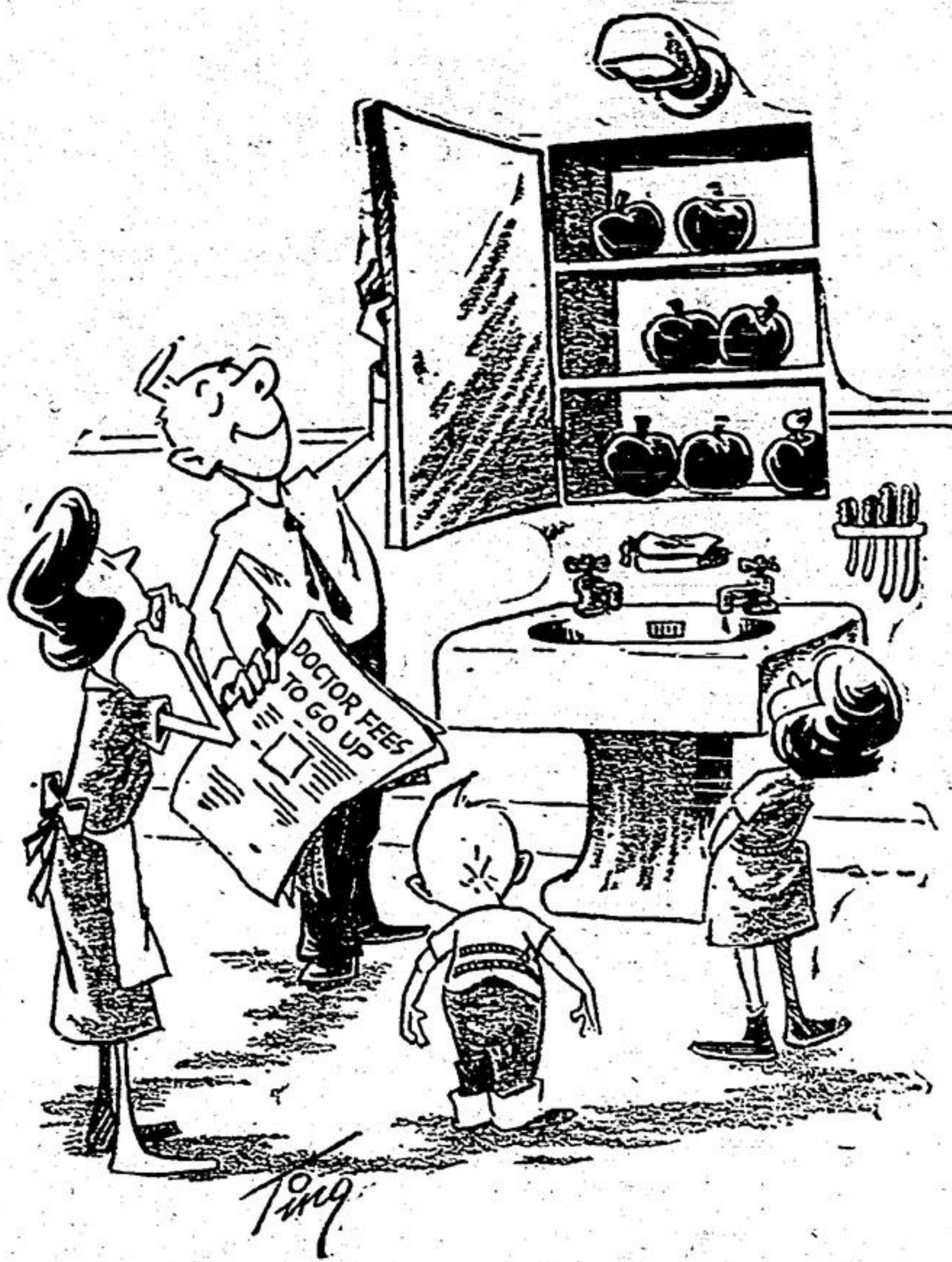
worse. These hills and ravines apparently did not prevent the present home-owners from buying their properties and we doubt if any have moved out because of their existence. With 140 miles of road in the township, many punctuated by steep hills, narrow ravines and sharp curves, the ratepayers on conc. 6 should not feel that they are the only fish in the frying pan.

We do not suggest that the recommendations from these residents should go unheeded, but we do feel that it would be unfair to other areas in the township to have such a big chunk of the year's road allocation expended over 3,700 feet in a confined section. If the council can see its way clear to spread the cost of this program over a four or five year reconstruction scheme, then everyone will be happy and no one would be hurt. To do, and pay for this work in one fell swoop, appears completely out of the question.

Shirt-Sleeve Comfort

The finest project to be completed in the local arena since the purchase of the automatic time clock, is the heated enclosure at the westerly entrance of the rink. Already, the shirt-sleeve temperatures have resulted in increased patronage at the gate. Instead of flocking like so many sheep into a single dressing room or remain shivering in the cold, spectators can now congregate in comfort for an entire game or during the between-

period intermission. Viewing winter-ice attractions under such ideal conditions makes the entertainment one hundred per cent more enjoyable. If fan interest should warrant any further renovations, no doubt the arena board will consider the extension of this program. Although we were rather pessimistic concerning the spectator-appeal of this project, we already would consider it money well spent.



EDITOR'S MAIL

Stouffville, Ont.
Dec. 1, 1961

Editor, The Tribune,
Stouffville, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Congratulations on your editorial of last week entitled "The Same Old Story". I am not a ratepayer in the Glasgow section nor was I present at the latest meeting held in the schoolhouse but I certainly agree wholeheartedly with your stand on the issue. To permit a teacher to be chastised in public is a detestable situation that should not be permitted, regardless of whether he is in the right or in the wrong.

I have attended similar gatherings of this type and have discovered that whenever employees are castigated "to their faces" it tends to create ill-feeling, no matter what the final solution to the problem might be. In this particular instance, I agree with your views 100 per cent. Thanks for permitting me to air my thoughts on the subject.

I remain,
A Subscriber

Goodwood, Ontario,
Dec. 1, 1961

Editor, Stouffville Tribune,
Stouffville, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I do not mean to direct any unfair criticism toward the successful candidates in last week's Uxbridge Township election but I must say that the people in this community (Goodwood) certainly showed little gratitude for the untiring work done here by Bob Nesbitt during his last nine years in office. As was reported in The Tribune, it was the Goodwood poll that actually sealed Mr. Nesbitt's fate.

The annual spring thaw was one of the biggest headaches that many residents in our hamlet had to contend with, year after year. Who was the main promoter of the pumping system that was installed for the protection of our properties? It was Mr. Nesbitt. Apparently only 47 persons thought enough of this project to cast a ballot in his favour.

This writer is as much at fault as anyone else but as so often happens, the ones who are "agin ye" are the ones who work the hardest. I feel that our new deputy-reveve will also carry his fair share of the load but I also feel that this township can use the services of a man like Bob Nesbitt and I for one, hope he will be back in the running when another Nomination rolls around.

—A Voter

R. R. 1, Ashburn, Ont.,
December 4, 1961

Editor, The Tribune,
Stouffville, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Should the Township of Pickering buy land at \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00 per acre, when they can buy land at \$243 per acre? Now the ratepayers of the Township of Pickering, who are

being asked to give "our council" their consent to purchase land for industrial sites. On September 25, 1961, when discussing my land assessment with Mr. Goslin who valued my farm for the Township at \$32,205.00. I offered to sell my farm (166 acres) for \$16,000.00 to the Township of Pickering. This offer was confirmed and registered to Mr. Goslin on September 29, 1961. To date I have not had an acknowledgement of this offer.

I moved to Pickering Township in the year 1946. Since living here my farm was reassessed, and at that time I was advised by the assessors for the County of Ontario, that land assessments were being equalized, (for the county and the Townships) as in years past land assessment was not on an equal and fair basis for the County of Ontario. Since then my land assessment has been around \$36,000 per acre.

I was at the Court of Revision Nov. 15, 1961, and I heard of land being assessed as low as \$9.00 per acre in the south part of the Township, where they have services. I live in the north-east part of the Township, and assessed at \$135.00 per acre without services. Mr. Goslin, is that your definition for equalization?

1. They who have unquestionable inalienable rights in a fair Court of competent Jurisdiction because their honesty and integrity has been, is and always will be God's greatest creation.

2. They who by opportunism, arrogate arbitrary interpretations of any Act for their own consulatory benefits in a devious Court of questionable Jurisdiction.

3. They who succeed through subtle intrigue and deception, a situation by which a fellow-man is defrauded in a corrupt Court of incompetent Jurisdiction, and continued:

"In my honest view I suggest this Court is the latter and not a taxpayer should consider this Court short of its being a fraud, to judge by their modus operandi. That is to say, the manner in which they implement the Act, and continued:

Today, widows, orphans, working men, returned soldiers, farmers, businessmen, investors, etc., etc., as well as those on the verge of bankruptcy are penalized by the Pickering Township for living here.

What has Pickering Township to justify such insult to our intelligence as though it were a Monte Carlo or the Riviera instead of the proverbial horse's derriere?

Today, gentlemen, it appears to me that you are trying to put that over, not only on the Pickering Township taxpayer, but on all other townships in the Dominion of Canada who will surely be "inspired" to emulate the Pickering Township Commissariat which by all the sense of common decency should become a Russian Commissariat, more than to the principles of common justice in our Canada.

Penalizing anyone for the simple reason of living in Pickering is equivalent to penalizing him for living at all, which is the most invidious, cruel, brutal and corrupt imposition on the people of this Dominion, as though we were in Congo land and our laws were tantamount to legal head-hunting.

Not one man denied my remarks, not one man offered the promised ruse to stand up for "the Assessment Department for an explanation," but this is what they did:

One of the members of the Court of Revision looked at the Commissioner who promptly gave him a nod whereby that member of the panel got up from his seat, and passing the nod to another member of the panel, he too got up and walked out whereupon the chairman of the court looked at me, not with admiration for upholding his own rights nor the precepts of justice but with the sinister snicker of an accomplice and very parsimoniously said: "You

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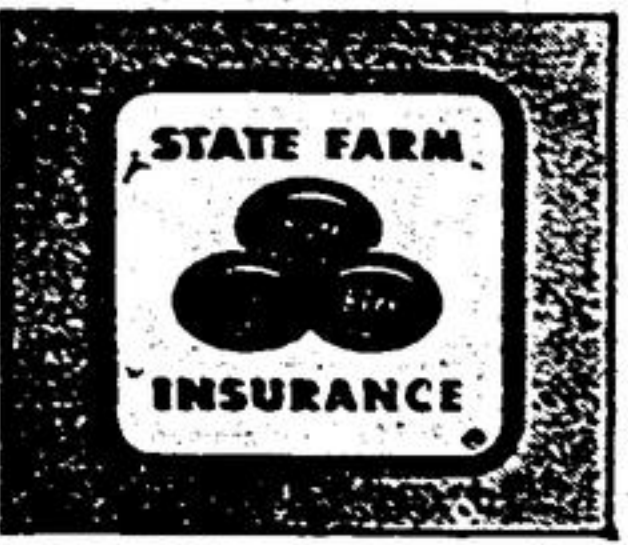
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see Mr. Roy, all you have said just does not mean anything, because as you can see, there is (Continued on page 4)

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SUGAR and SPICE
By Bill Smiley

Do you know something? We haven't any national character. There's no such thing as a "typical Canadian." We're just a vague unformed glob of human beings who happen to live in the same vast hunk of geography. Isn't that a fine state of affairs, with Christmas coming on, and everything?

I learned this while reading a couple of new books about Canada this week. The authors seemed not only disturbed but displeased because they were unable to put down a list of adjectives, point triumphantly and say, "There you are! A typical Canadian!"

This search for a Canadian identity has become a regular parlor game among writers and intellectuals. I find the whole problem remarkably undisturbing. I'd rather be a typical human being than a typical Canadian. Have you ever noticed that when people say, "He's a typical American" (or Englishman, Frenchman, or German), they don't mean it as a compliment?

However, in the interests of pure truth I thought I'd look back through a number of friends and acquaintances and see whether I could come up with a typical Canadian, after more than forty years of consorting with the species.

There was a huge, happy, lively-tongued, quick-witted fellow with whom I once trained as a pilot. In the dead of a typical Canadian winter. He didn't have any special advantages of wealth, schooling or social position. But Jake Gaudaur, pres-

dent of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats football club, is doing all right these days. A typical Canadian?

There was a skinny, starved-looking little guy at college who was so shabby, physically and financially, that I didn't think he'd graduate. But he had a wicked wit and a powerful way with words. His name was Jamie. As Professor James Reaney, poet, playwright, novelist and editor of a new magazine, he's doing alright. A typical Canadian?

There was the French-Canadian kid who worked with me as bellhop on the lake boats, before the war. When he started that summer, he knew only 3 words of English, all of them bad. I couldn't help hooting when I saw his name in the paper the other day—a distinguished member of the clergy in Quebec. A typical Canadian?

There were a couple of young screwballs who wrote and played in comedy skits when I was at university. Next time I saw them in a troop show, overseas. They had improved. I saw them on television the other night. They're getting by, as Wayne and Shuster. Typical Canadians?

Then there's Dutch. Once a wild and woolly Australian, he taught me to fly Spitfires, in England. He came here after the war and is happy as a trout, hotly pursuing his first million in Toronto. A typical Canadian?

And Chuck. His old man was a Ukrainian. We were in prison camp together and when the Russians were getting close he taught me to say, "Don't shoot!"

In Russian. He was a first-rate cartoonist and last I heard he was in Vancouver. A typical Canadian?

And three Georges. One was a quiet student, who bought a Belgian pistol from me after the war and paid me \$10 more than it was worth because I needed the money. He's managing these days, between directing plays at Stratford and on television. A typical Canadian?

Another George repaid the Yanks for burning York in the war of 1812. He went over to Wall St., made a million before he was forty, and carried it gleefully back to his northern lair. A typical Canadian?

The third George used to be a Czech. He was in a concentration camp during the war. Now he's a dentist in Canada, has a split-level home, a two-car garage, and a real aversion to paying so much income tax. A typical Canadian?

I can think of a dozen others. The country is full of characters, but there's no such thing as a "typical Canadian" any more than there is an "average man." I, for one, am heartily glad of it. Who wants to be a "typical"? Do you want to be a typical farmer, or typical merchant, or typical laborer or typical housewife? Or even a typical millionaire? Not a bit of it. No more than I want to be a typical school teacher.

The only thing the characters above have in common is that they live in this country and love it. And that goes for me, too. How about you?

The Stouffville Tribune

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