

Tribune Editorials

A Council Responsibility

Markham Township Council has agreed, by a vote of 2 to 1, to place the question of a new senior school for Area 2, to a vote of the electorate. The date of the plebiscite has not yet been established.

We feel that Markham members are making a mistake.

As disturbed as the council may become over soaring mill rates; as frustrating as it may seem, that the bulk of these increases are caused through new school construction, the problem is in no way lessened by placing it in the hands of the people. It would appear to be a case of avoiding the blame by passing the buck.

How will the taxpayers be able to vote intelligently on such an issue? On the one side, we have the trustees, who feel that the need exists and a \$990,000

debt is warranted. On the other side, we have the members of council, who are apparently questioning both the need and the cost. Situated in the very centre of this controversy, is the electorate, who admittedly know less about the subject than either the Area Board or Council, but still have a final say. It doesn't make sense.

We predict that, unless the trustees are able to explain, in some way or another, how such an expenditure is required, it will be turned down flatter than the proverbial pancake.

Who is to say that the need does not exist? Who is to say that the cost is not warranted? These are issues for Councils and School Boards to debate. It was for this very purpose that they were elected by the people back in December. Don't force these same people to make the decisions.

The Weekend That Was

"The trouble with Stouffville, there's nothing to do." How often have you heard this comment, particularly from young people who became disenchanted with the same old routine.

As editor of this newspaper, we would have gladly given in to a few hours of relaxation during the weekend that just was. From early Friday evening to late Sunday night, there was something going on continually, if not right here in town, then only a few miles away.

On Friday night we caught a portion of the Hell Drivers show on the Fairgrounds track at Markham. We left early to attend the crowning of the Cen-

tennial 'queen' at Brougham. On Saturday, there were attractions everywhere. There was the giant airshow at Buttonville; History in Action Day at Brougham; the opening of a new Recreation Centre near Ballantrae and an O.R.S.A. softball final at Greenwood. Sunday was little changed. History in Action Day continued at Brougham; there was a baseball doubleheader in the Stouffville Park and the Arena worship services concluded with a giant rally at night.

That's the way it's been during almost every week and weekend in 1967. And still some say 'there's nothing to do.' Don't believe it.

A Flashback To 1927

In the December 15, 1927 issue of the Richmond Hill 'Liberal', the following comment was written: "One of the foremost problems facing municipal legislators in the County of York today, is the rapid and somewhat startling rise in the cost of secondary education."

This very same comment could have been written in 1967.

In 1927, there were nine high schools and seven continuation schools in the old county. The high schools were located at Weston with 941 students registered and a cost per pupil per day of 75c; Markham with 180 students and a daily cost of 49c each; Richmond Hill with 300 pupils and daily cost of 58c; Newmarket with 398 students, daily cost 73c; Aurora 216 students, daily cost 86c; Scarboro 326 students, daily cost 88c, Mimico 356 students, daily cost 73c; York 417 students, daily cost 76c; and East York, 294 students and daily cost per pupil \$1.21.

Continuation schools (from grades 9 to 12) were located at Stouffville, 99 students, daily cost 46c; Sutton, 74 students, daily cost 44c; Mount Albert, 48 students, 41c; Islington, 61 students, 85c; Agincourt 61 students, 47c Schomberg 26 students, 32c; and Long Branch, 95 students, 74c daily cost per pupil.

In 1920 the county rate for higher education was 1.1 mills while in 1926 it

was 1.7 mills or almost one-third the total rate collected in the county, while the assessment in the same period increased only from \$60,000,000 to \$90,000,000. The county's share of the cost had increased by 90% in the seven years from \$25,096 to \$225,650.

The municipality in which the high or continuation school was located paid 50% of the cost of secondary education, with the county contributing the other 50% for the education of young people from other municipalities.

In 1920 there were only five high schools. The following year, six continuation schools were added bringing the total to seven high and nine continuation schools. In 1926 two of the continuation schools became high schools, making a total of nine high schools and seven continuation schools.

In 1920 many county pupils were taught in high schools and collegiate institutes in the City of Toronto, but with the increase in the number of pupils from the city it became necessary to debar those coming from the county. With the growth of population on the outskirts of the city several high and continuation schools had to be established close to the city. Increased demand for higher education in the northern parts of the county was reflected by the doubling and in some cases trebling of the number of students.

Sowing Seeds Of Discontent

The rather abrupt notice of motion, introduced by councillor Bob Lewis, Sept. 7 and followed up by an approved motion, Sept. 14, has done nothing but sow seeds of discontent among personnel of the Stouffville Police Department.

Although none have said so, the officers must feel that their positions are in jeopardy. If this kind of council policy is continued, the men will be looking elsewhere for police posts that retain a little more security.

Although possibly not intended as such, the police here can only interpret this most recent council move as a motion of non-confidence in the economic efficiency of the 4-man force.

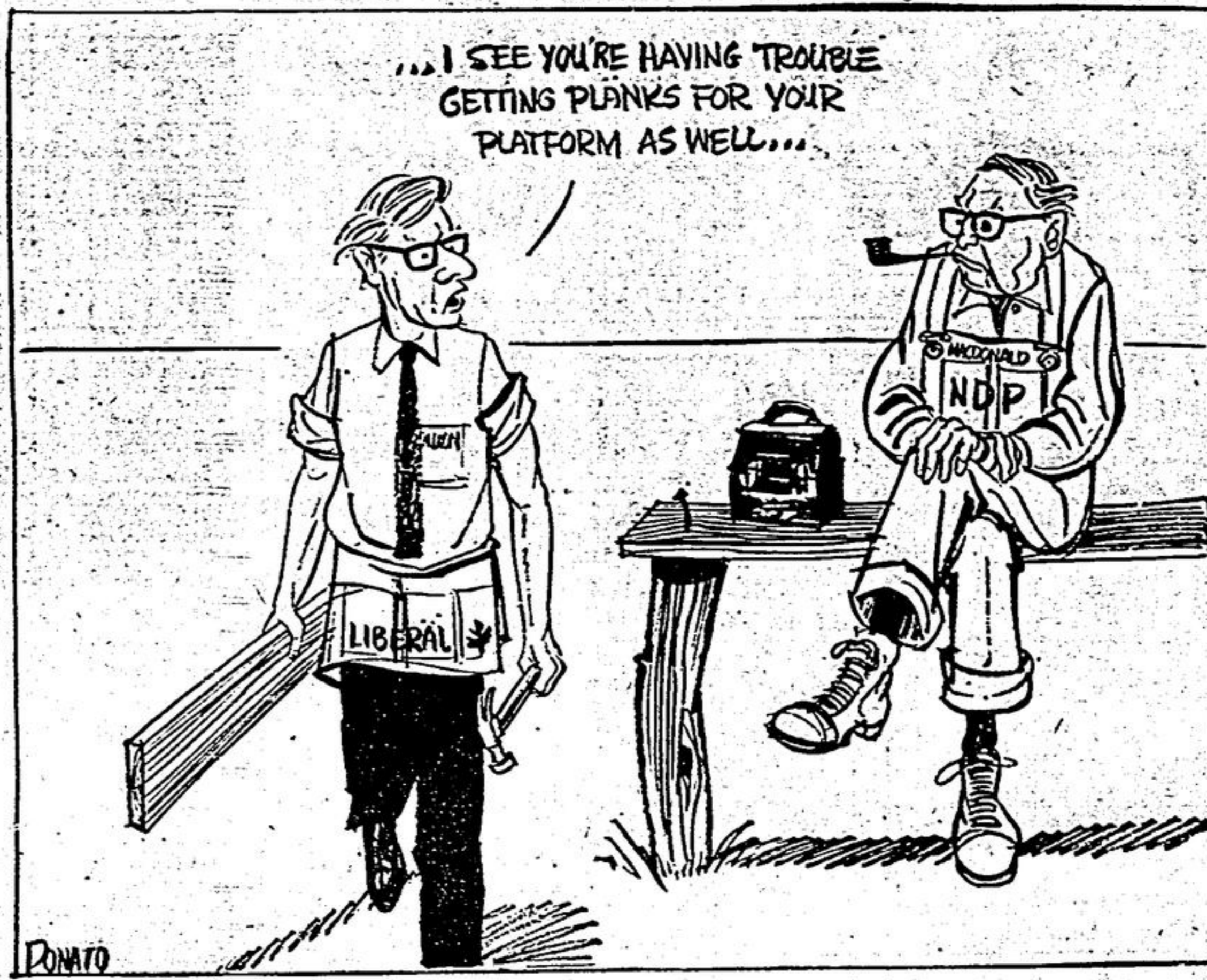
Having gone through major policing problems here in the past, we would have thought that council would have appreciated more fully the kind of service that is provided here and left well enough alone.

Favorable Comment Is Warranted

During the past week, even the most reticent of town residents have spoken out in appreciation of the road-paving program completed here in Stouffville this year. It is now a delight to drive down the back streets that only a few months ago were roughly rutted and difficult to maintain.

Ratepayers who endured many weeks of dust and dirt, particularly on Ninth Line South, are more than pleased with the finished project. And so they should

be. It's a beautiful job. A similar improvement is noticeable on Park Drive South, from Main Street down to the Arena. The same can be said for Somerville Street, Winona Drive and Westlawn Crescent. The program is part of a ten-year debenture that will pay its own way through reduced labor and maintenance costs. We think that it's good planning on Council's part and we would commend them on their foresight.



SUGAR AND SPICE

Plays Are Written To Be Seen

By BILL SMILEY

I wonder how many people, including English teachers, ever sit down in this rat-racy world of ours and read a play by Shakespeare? Or anybody else for that matter.

I'm sure the number of persons on the North American continent who do this for the sheer joy of it, annually, could be counted on two hands and two feet. And I wouldn't be among them.

The only people who read plays are producers, directors and actors, who read them for obvious reasons, and high school students, who read them because they have to.

Plays are not written to be read, but to be seen. Just as operas are written to be heard, and houses built to be lived in, and cars built to rust and women built different from men.

That's why I enjoy so much our occasional visit to the Stratford Festival. Suddenly, a soliloquy becomes not something you had to memorize in school, but a real man baring his tortured soul before your naked eyes.

Suddenly a turn of phrase or shrug brings tears to your eyes. Or an unexpected belch draws a wave of laughter. Or an old cliché like, "A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse," becomes a wail of mad anguish that has you bolt upright in your seat.

This year we wound up our summer with a real bash of play-going at Stratford. It was great. Even Kim, the 16-year-old cynic, admitted, "I really dig that Shakespeare."

Fourteen years ago, my wife and I saw a production of Richard III, with the great Alec Guinness starring. It was the first season of the festival, when the theatre was a huge tent, rotten hot in mid-summer. But it has something new, colorful and vital on the Canadian scene. We were thrilled.

This year, we saw the same play, with British actor Alan Bates playing the emotionally and physically warped

Richard. There's a handsome theatre, air-conditioned. The festival is no longer something new. But it's as vital and colorful as ever. And it's still a thrill.

Despite a fairly solid lambasting from the drama critics, the festival is having a solid smash this year at the box office. Which merely goes to show you how much attention anybody pays to drama critics, outside of New York.

It also shows, I think, that the festival is more than just a theatre. For the real drama buffs, of course, the play's the thing. But for thousands of others, it's a sort of pilgrimage to an exciting annual event. Not even Will Shakespeare could fill that theatre night after night, year after year. People come for the music, the modern drama, the art exhibits, and the whole involving atmosphere.

Things have changed a lot since that first year we attended. No longer do you have to stay in a private home where the landlady is not a look-but-flaunted as ours was. Motels have mush-

roomed, but it's a good idea to reserve. No longer do you have to sit on the bank of the Avon, paddling your feet in the water and drinking gin and tonic out of a thermos. Now you can paddle your feet in the broadloom of any of several good bars.

No longer do you sit down to a good meal prepared by the Ladies Aid, for a dollar and a quarter. Now you can take your pick of some fine restaurants. But the price isn't the same, I'm afraid.

Yep, the festival has changed, and so has the town. Some people yearn for the good old days, but I think everything has improved about 400 percent. One big bonus is the lengthened season, which gives thousands of high school kids a chance to see Shakespeare alive and exciting.

And that's the way it should be. Long live the festival. It was a great idea nobly conceived and executed. It's a source of real pride to see something in Canada that does not flop, but flourishes.



THIS WEEK & NEXT

Enter Mr. Stanfield

By RAY ARGYLE

When Canada's MPs assemble in Ottawa Monday for the new session of Parliament, the shadow of Robert Stanfield will be cast over the proceedings even though he will not be sitting in the Commons.

The task of delivering the Conservative party's reaction to the Pearson government's line-up of legislation will fall to front-row members of the Tory caucus, especially David Fulton.

But it is to Mr. Stanfield that the Conservative MPs, the press, and the nation will turn for quarterbacking signals in what has become an entirely new game in Canadian politics.

Even before Mr. Stanfield enters the Commons—Cyril Kennedy, PC, has offered his seat, Colchester Hants—there is already a new relationship between the Government and Opposition. Mr. Stanfield resigned last week as Premier of Nova Scotia.

The era of intense personal vindictiveness which characterized the exchanges between Mr. Pearson and John Deifenbaker, has gone for good. Mr. Stanfield will offer a temperate, reasonable response to government programs. And it is obvious, Mr. Pearson will keep exchanges on as moderate a level as possible. It is to the Government's advantage to do so, because the less the voters are stirred up by controversial issues, so much the better for the party in power.

Despite the past failure of provincial leaders to carry the federal Conservatives to power, there is a big difference in the prospects of Robert Stanfield and, say George Drew.

Mr. Drew inherited a party with little more than a corporal's guard of MPs. Today nearly 100 Conservatives sit in the Commons. Mr. Drew's support was confined almost entirely to Ontario while Stanfield brings with him a massive following from the Atlantic provinces to join with the Western backing of the old Deifenbaker bloc. The party has

substantial support in Ontario—there is little doubt that Tory Premier John Roberts will win re-election next month—and it is only in the big cities the Conservatives of today lack a real power base.

Mr. Stanfield has fantastic success in Nova Scotia during a 20-year provincial career. Taking over a party in 1948 that had not a single member in the legislature, he built a machine that now holds 40 of its 46 seats.

It is likely, according to the early signals, that Mr. Stanfield will line up only slightly right of centre in the political spectrum. Western Tory influence, plus the pressures of the next election campaign, will likely nudge him squarely into centre field. This will force the Liberals further to the left, almost into the arms of the NDP.

Mr. Stanfield already has begun to woo the big city vote, although he revealed his heart is still in the country. His call for continued supremacy of the family farm will of course appeal to rural voters. But is this a chink in his vision for the future—a future that will almost certainly see the family farm replaced by vast mechanized food factories?

To Stanfield's credit, however, it appears he has a real understanding of Quebec's aspirations—and also of the "deux nations" philosophy. The problem is that the Tories will get into a pile of trouble if they go around talking about two nations. And if they do, they will be misinterpreting their own policy report.

The Tory policy report clearly states that Canada is comprised of "two founding peoples." The reference to two nations appears in French. And anyone who cares to check the Canadian Dictionary will find that while nation means a country in English, it can mean "people" in French. It is therefore entirely correct to speak in English of two peoples and in French of "deux nations," with both meanings precisely the same thing.

ROAMING AROUND

Picking A Winner Can Prove Costly

It's hard to believe that the Nomination night for municipal candidates here in Stouffville and in some surrounding townships, is only two months away. Several have already set their dates and others will, during the next couple of weeks. Unlike the editors of Metro dailies, the weekly guys, or at least the majority of them, decline to creep out on the proverbial limb and pick their choices to be put into print. The daily chaps can afford to stick out their chins. Their chances of meeting Mayor Joe Dokes at the intersection of Queen and Yonge is next to nil. Not so, here in Stouffville. We, however, are continually in touch with the Town Fathers over a cup of coffee, in the Post Office or at the corner of Market and Main. Can't you just picture The Tribune editor high-tailing it up Rupert Avenue with the Reeve hot on his heels, wielding a five-iron over his head? Or, worse still, the deputy-reeve suing the paper for libel, breach of editorial etiquette and defamation of character? He'd more likely be represented by himself and we'd be sentenced to two weeks of hard labor, demolishing the 'tank traps' in the centre of the town's Civic Square.

The reason we bring this matter to mind is because we've just finished reading an article in the Publishers' Auxiliary, a U.S. tabloid, printed in Washington, D.C. It tells the story about the editor of a 5,200 circulation weekly in Picayne, Mississippi who became personally involved in an election in that community. Following the vote, a disgruntled and defeated candidate by the name of Willie Moody, tipping the scales at 240 pounds, beat the be-jeebers out of the out-spoken editor, Charlie Nutter. So violent was the alleged assault, that the victim lost a portion of his sight in one eye in addition to numerous bumps, cuts and abrasions.

We're not suggesting that Stouffville's councilmen would resort to such tactics, but if they did, we'd stand little chance. As a combined unit, we'd weigh approximately 825 pounds. We tip the scales at an undernourished 137. Even with Clerk Corner in our corner, the odds would swing heavily in their favour. So you see, dear friends, it's not worth the risk.

Regardless of the hazards, if any, we'll make the following predictions two months in advance. In spite of repeated suggestions to the contrary, Reeve Ken Laushway will allow his name to stand for re-election. And why not? During the past two years and in particular the past twelve months, Stouffville has shown tremendous progress. Commercially and residentially, we've made great strides. The paved streets and soon-to-be-opened Civic Square stand as monuments of forethought, ambition and ingenuity. Although there are persistent rumors of opposition, we predict that the Reeve will be returned unopposed. For the office of deputy-reeve, we think that the incumbent, Bill Parsons will have a revival. We'll even go so far as to say that his rival will be ex-reeve, Win Timbers, certainly no stranger to municipal politics. With only two years' experience under their belts, we can't see either councillors Jim McKellar, Tom Lonergan or Bob Lewis making a bid for one of the two top spots—not yet. We think that they've enjoyed the past two years and will give it a go again. Councillor Lewis could also run in Whitechurch where he now owns property but we can't see him beating out veteran Ivan McLaughlin who also resides in that neck of the woods. No rivals for Messrs McKellar, Lonergan or Lewis have yet appeared in the R.A. crystal ball.

What's in store for the Public Utilities Commission? We predict that Walter Atkinson will toss his hat in the ring again, following an absence of two years. We think that chairman Tommy Farr and member, Ken Wagg will seek re-election. There's still the Public School Board but that's such a toss-up. No one ever knows the final result until five minutes before the nomination deadline.

If there are any other aspirants in the field who would like their plans made public, we're as close as the telephone, day or night.

While Neil Patrick and several of his employees were in Toronto recently, viewing the new models for 1968, someone stole their 1964 Buick.

Before Stouffville embarks on any plan to engage the Ontario Provincial Police here, council members would be wise to obtain a little practical information from the former O.P.P. chieftain at Vondorf, Sgt. Art Harrison, now stationed in the Mount Forest area.

A quick look at some of the Grade niners, making their debut at Stouffville District Secondary School, would indicate that the helmet must be lowered or the tapeline lengthened.

Postmaster Jack Sanders was aroused out of a deep sleep one night recently. A businessman had mistakenly 'deposited' a sizeable sum of money in the outside letter slot.

Looking Backward

1944
Principal L. C. Murphy announced that enrolment at Stouffville High School had reached a record-130 students. The staff, including the principal, numbers five teachers.

A large steel-clad barn belonging to Jim Barry of Stouffville, was destroyed by fire of unknown origin. Included in the loss was the season's entire hay crop and ten pigs.

The sale of the Harper farm, conc. 9, south of Stouffville, has been completed. The new owner is Harvey Scheff. The sale price is reported at \$12,000.

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