

Editorials

Tribune

A by-pass road? Proceed with care

In an effort to alleviate congestion on the main street of Stouffville, reeve Ken Laushway has suggested that suitable signs be erected at both Ringwood and Lincolnville, directing through-traffic around the village via the Bloomington Road.

Oddly enough, the recommendation failed to arouse much discussion among members of council. It should have.

We would urge the council to give this matter very serious consideration before it embarks on such a move.

We contend that the congestion, for a few hours on Friday evenings, Saturday afternoons and Sunday nights is no cause for complaint as far as Stouffville people are concerned.

If these cars do not stop, they create no parking problem.

Travelling bumper to bumper, speed is not a factor.

Why, then, the concern?

While the majority of merchants may reap no benefit from cottagers, other commercial establishments do.

We would go so far as to suggest that on a weekend, 75 percent of local gas sales are with transient trade.

Village restaurants also do well, to mention only two.

While many towns, much larger than Stouffville, felt the 'pinch' when community by-pass roads were created, business here has not been impaired in this way. We hope it never is.

In our opinion, council should leave well enough alone. To advertise an alternate route around the town could create more problems than it will ever solve.

How about an enlarged WELCOME sign? That's what our attitude should be — to everyone.

Three down - one to go

To say that a Stouffville hockey team has never won an OMHA championship, may be subject to error.

It is safe to state, however, that such an honor has not come to our village in recent years.

We've come close on several occasions.

In 1958, the Bantams advanced to the Ontario finals but were beaten by Shallow Lake.

In 1959, the Bantams again gained a berth in a title series but lost out to Blenheim.

In 1960 the Middlets went all the way only to be ousted by Ridgetown.

Perhaps 1969 is Stouffville's year. This season, not one but two teams are knocking at the door.

The Pee-wees under the leadership of Bob Hassard have swept aside three opponents in Alliston, Kingston and

Huntsville. The lone rival left is St. Mary's.

The juveniles with Don Harman at the helm are currently engaged in a series with Meaford. If they can get past this club, they will have earned a shot at the championship. The picture will be clearer by Thursday.

Stouffville has gained much favorable publicity through the hockey prowess of our Pee-wee and Juvenile clubs. They have carried the village name to all corners of the Province — the kind of advertisement no amount of money could buy.

Like in the review of a professional player's contract after an exceptionally fine season, perhaps the council could consider raising their donation a little when another winter rolls around.

Calling for student jobs

In a special advertising announcement in this issue, the Ontario government is appealing to employers to provide summer jobs for students.

While the shortage of jobs in the summer for students in this immediate area, has not loomed as a big problem up to now, a great percentage came from farms and were easily integrated into the labor force during vacation time. This situation is rapidly changing and many more students here do not have home farms or home businesses to fall back on.

The problem is a by-product of an increased program of education, and a much-increased school population.

Many depend on summer jobs to help finance their studies and this has an even greater value as it provides practical experience so essential in preparation for adult life.

Government and industry seems willing to help but the tremendous upsurge in the number of jobs required makes the job a frustrating one.



Do you remember? S. S. No. 9, Uxbridge Twp. (Garibaldi) - 1947

The majority of these pupils will be familiar to residents of the Garibaldi area of Uxbridge Twp. The year is 1946-47. The teacher (centre rear) is Mr. Garnet Gray. Pupils are: Front row (l. to r.), Russell Degeer, Kenneth Jefferson, Dick Taylor, Garnet Bacon, Alvin Irwin. Centre row (l. to r.), Jean McGuckin, Bernice McGuckin, Marjorie Jefferson, Darlene Taylor, Gloria McGuckin, Margaret Tindall, Barbara Hewlett, Glenda Taylor. Rear row (l. to r.), Bill McGuckin, Wilfred Hewlett, Ruth Jefferson, Mable Tindall, Jim Hewlett, Clare McGuckin.

Editor's mail

Who really 'goofed' on new school site?

Dear sir:

I have read with great interest how the Stouffville Public School Board "goofed" on the purchase of the proposed school site at Westlawn and Elm Road. No doubt some "goofing" has occurred somewhere along the line but as far as I am concerned, regardless of the abuse heaped upon the whipping boy, when all has been finalized, I will be deeply satisfied.

Believe me, I am not interested in public acclaim or any form of prestige that might accrue, but I would appreciate the opportunity to permit people to judge for themselves — who "goofed," when and where?

It is most interesting to note that the site now being purchased is the exact one chosen by the board at the outset. Indeed, it is the one we agreed to purchase last year!

Originally we selected this site and one other in the east-end after a tour of the community, accompanied by the Clerk and the Board in 1967. With the impending development of the Ponderosa, the western site was deemed more essential and an option was planned for 1968.

This option was later drawn up and presented to council by the chairman of the board in the spring of 1968 to enable council to make application for debentures to be used as payment. Meanwhile negotiations were bogged down by a death in the family of the property owner and the legal matters that had to be settled before negotiations could proceed. When this matter had been cleared up, the owner became almost impossible to catch to consummate the proceedings. Then the land was sold to the new owner, Mr. A. Tombosso, and the board entered into negotiations with him through lawyer representatives of each. A plan of the proposed subdivision was presented to the board early in December. It showed the school site north of the Separate School property and not centrally located as we had planned. This made it unsuitable from a servicing viewpoint or for ease of accessibility.

By now it was December 21 and I was asked to meet with Mr. Tombosso on Monday, December 23 since I would be available at that time. This meeting proved very fruitful. Mr. Tombosso was very co-operative and anxious to complete the deal.

After a careful explanation and discussion why the site should be changed back to its original location, it was agreed to do so. As a result Mr. Tombosso agreed to have his engineers re-draw his subdivision plan to place the school site in its original location. It seemed to me that Mr. Tombosso was doing all the giving when I reflect on that conference and he WAS! The price was to remain the same although it was LESS than he had paid for it. On December 30, Mr. Tombosso presented the new plan and purchase was agreed upon with time rapidly running out.

Our lawyer was on vacation. A meeting with the clerk and the reeve produced little except who the land should be deeded to and the fact that

approval for the debenture had been received in October.

Accordingly I called the Interim Secretary (I.S.O.C.) to see if the deed could be made out to the Stouffville Public School Board when they take over our assets this year. He thought that it might be possible since both the deal and the debenture was approved before January 1. This was not acceptable to the Clerk. Everyone seemed to be righteously sitting on their hands except Mr. Tombosso and I who were doing our best to get things moving.

Finally I learned through a councillor that a letter to the effect that the land had been purchased plus the deed would result in the processing of the debenture to provide the money needed for the purchase.

Early in January I spoke several times with the chairman of the County Board and presented him with a map of the site and the proposed school area. At the same time I explained how it would affect the local school accommodation and emphasized the urgency of the situation. Since the site and the price was excellent action was commenced immediately.

Since that time County Board representative have been to the Planning Board and expressed the view that that was the site wanted. I have shown them the proposed site and the area concerned to emphasize the urgency of the situation. Incidentally I have also reminded them of the other future site. What appeared to have been an open and shut case has become prolonged and dragged out. I can fully understand the irritation felt by Mr. Tombosso resulting from so many delays. Mr. Tombosso is to be commended for his patience and co-operation. The idea of things being finalized within a week could have been a reality long ago if it had involved just the developer and the School Board.

It is up to the individual to decide who "goofed" — The developer was co-operative — the school board did its best — WHO didn't? Perhaps those who didn't, should stand up and take their lumps now. Fortunately the school board has broad shoulders and will take it easily within its stride for this is the price of progress.

By the way, what would you have done that we did not?

John C. McMurray, Trustee, Stouffville Education Committee (Stouffville Public School Board)

Dear sir:

For the past several months I have been engaged in attempting to compile a history of the Hoover family. I am tracing the descendants of Ludwig Huber, who came from Switzerland, to the Palatinate, to Rotterdam, to Pennsylvania, through three of his sons, namely John, Martin and Daniel Hoover. All came to Canada in 1804 and settled around Markham. John and Daniel's families remained here, and some of Martin's family as well. The rest of Martin's family went to the 'United States'.

These three sons had several children each. Their children married into other families, and the name, in some cases, was lost. Others like Wideman, Reesor, Byer, Steckley, Heise took its place.

I would like to get in touch with as many as it is possible. I have already contacted many people. Anyone else who would like to, can write to me at 25 Unsworth Avenue, Toronto 12, Ontario. Eventually, I would like to have this information published in book form.

Gerald Hendry

Dear sir:

I would like to tell you of an organization which could be of great service to many of your readers. Allergy Information. Since food allergies affect a large percentage of our population, especially children, this group could possibly help many of your readers who are trying to cope with an allergy diet.

Allergy Information comprises a group of women who are attempting to help those with food allergies. They do not give medical advice, but rather help individuals to cope with the restrictions imposed by a special allergy diet.

It is mainly through the work of Allergy Information that we now have milk-free margarine on our grocers' shelves for those allergic to milk. Now they are urging food producers to list all ingredients on their labels and are seeking legislation to make this compulsory, for the health, even life, of food allergy sufferers.

Many allergists now recommend that their patients contact Allergy Information for guidance. I know they have helped me considerably in feeding my young son who is allergic to egg, wheat, milk, beef, potato, peanut and coconut.

Further information can be obtained by writing to Allergy Information, 144 Clanton Park, Downsview.

(Mrs.) Mary L. Tutty, 155 Fairview Ave., Toronto, Ont.

ROAMING AROUND

The 'heart line' rolls on

By Jim Thomas

Any parent who has watched a small son remove the Christmas wrappings from a carton containing an electric train, has witnessed the ultimate in a little boy's joy.

There's just nothing — no nothing that can generate so much excitement. And while this product of the steam age is something new to many and merely a memory to most, the magic of its attraction lives on.

We don't have an electric train set in our home. The number one reason is that poor old Dad hasn't the know-how of putting such complicated contraptions together. Number two is, that I wouldn't find sufficient time to play with it.

It was with some enthusiasm, then, that I received a printed card in the mail last month announcing a model train show, the largest of its kind in Canada, at the home of Morley and Dorothy Sproule, 85 Clifcrest Drive in Scarborough.

Although the hosts were complete strangers as was the location of their residence, I made up my mind then and there that I would treat the kids to an on-the-spot inspection of this display.

The layout is a spectacle, so intriguing that one could watch it for hours.

Mr. and Mrs. Sproule and their nine year old daughter Laurie reside in a comfortable but modest home, just south of stop 14 on the Kingston Road.

The model train system takes up almost the entire basement, and for four days, the Sproule residence is a veritable 'Union Station'. From Thursday to Sunday, 1500 'kids', adults and children, flocked to the 'depot' to see this magnificent sight.

But the show doesn't end there. Throughout the entire year, Morley and Dorothy host hundreds of school classes, all pre-arranged by their teachers.

Morley Sproule, 47, a bus driver for the T.T.C., considers himself only the custodian of the line. The real 'engineer' was his son Robbie.

Robbie loved trains and he and his Dad would play with them together by the hour. But Robbie had an ailing heart and following several operations, performed in an effort to prolong his life, he died, May 19, 1961.

In the sorrow of that hour, a little bit of his parents died, too. Robbie's trains grew dusty. The flashing lights went out and the shrill steam whistle ceased its sound.

Robbie was buried with his stuffed white kitten that he had always cuddled beside him in bed every night and his red and black cowboy shirt that he loved so much.

His engineer's cap was placed on a peg like it would never see the tousled head of another boy in the whole wide world.

The basement became silent — like death itself.

But Morley and Dorothy soon realized that life must go on. They turned their thoughts toward the hundreds of other 'little 'Robbies' who had never known the joys of watching a double-header disappear into a tunnel or a ten-car freight puff its way across an overhead bridge.

The basement room was re-opened. On the very first day they welcomed two dozen visitors.

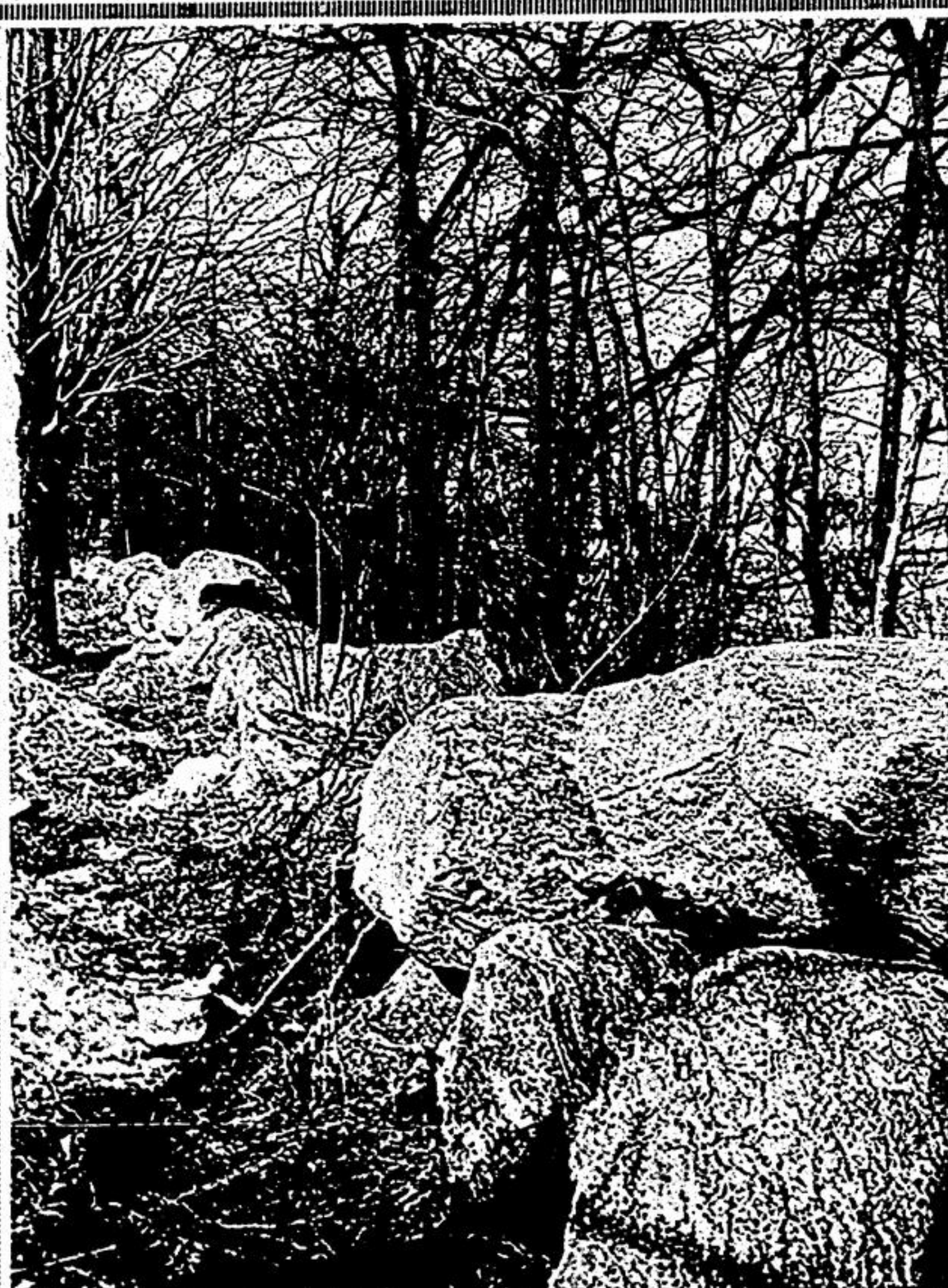
The word soon spread. On Sunday, they welcomed over 800.

Although school classes are admitted free, the general admission during the 4-day, once-a-year show is fifty cents per person. To date, close to \$7,000 has been raised — all for charity.

And so the 'Heart Line' rolls on as 12 locomotives puff up and down 500 feet of track and across 350 square feet of eye-catching countryside where the seasons never change.

Morley Sproule, the chief engineer of the project, also serves as travel conductor. His friendly face mirrors the pride of a successful venture.

But best of all, the sound of children's laughter once again has returned to Robbie's room.



A boulder fence near Brougham

The once-familiar stump fence is now a rarity but on the Brock Road near Brougham there's a fence made from boulders. Historian Bob Miller is writing the story into a prepared history on the hamlet. —Staff Photo

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