



**The Tribune**

Established 1888

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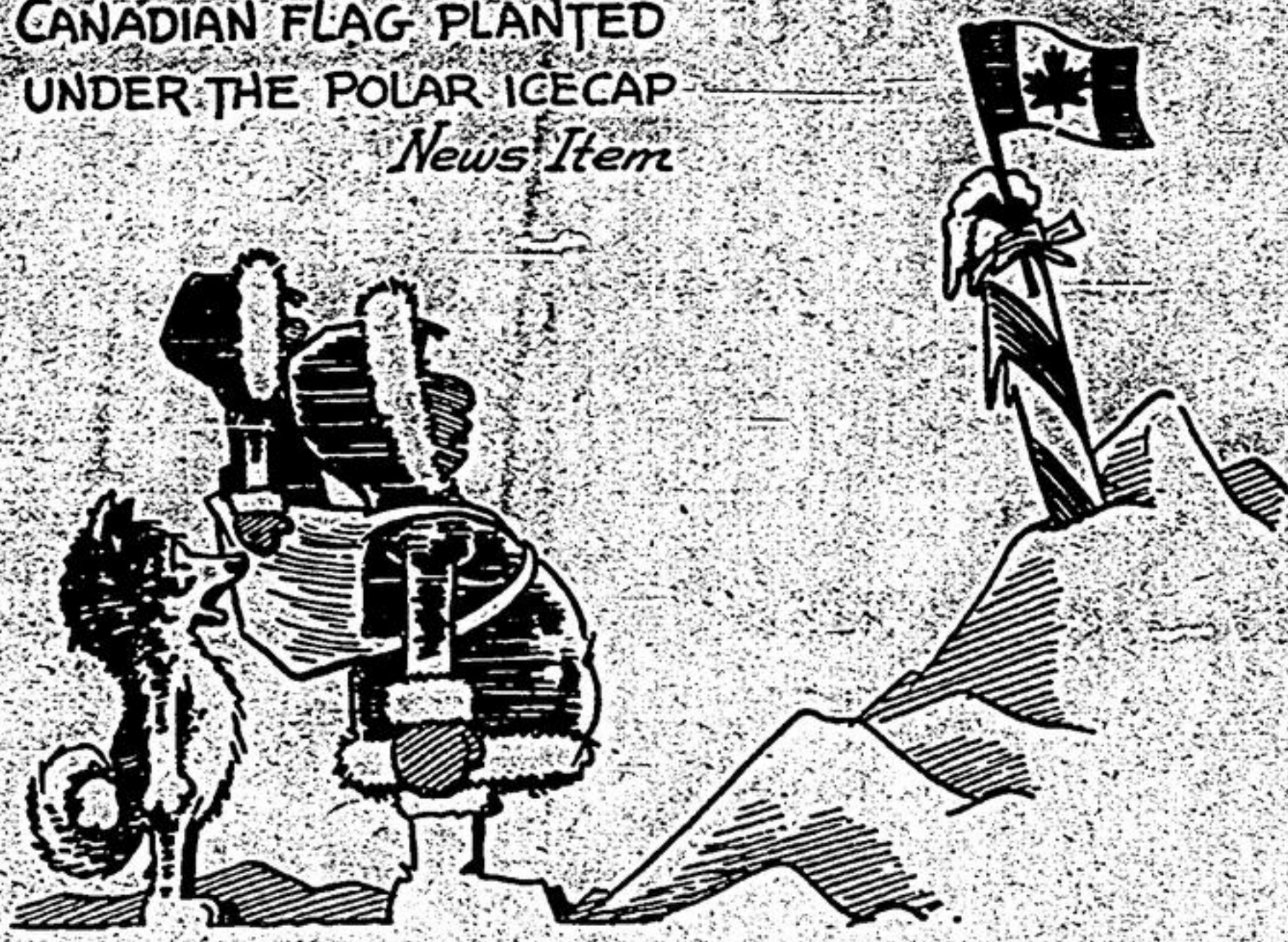
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**CANADIAN FLAG PLANTED UNDER THE POLAR ICECAP**  
*News Item*



"... THE TRUE NORTH STRONG AND FREE ... WE STAND ON GUARD ... WE STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE ..."

**Ratepayers will speak for selves**

Dear Mr. Thomas:  
Once again I must write to you concerning an example of "irresponsible reporting". This time it is your editorial "Branch fire depot costly", in your April eighteenth issue of The Tribune. You state, and I quote "The Whitechurch-Stouffville Ratepayers Association (in name only) and their spokesman, Jim Wong (Ward 2) are exerting pressure on Council, to establish a branch fire brigade at Ballantrae."

Now let us get one thing clear, Councillor Jim Wong, or any other political figure has not and will never be the "spokesman" of the Whitechurch-Stouffville Ratepayers Association.

Secondly, you state that Whitechurch-Stouffville Ratepayers Association was "exerting pressure" when in reality the Association was not represented at the meeting at all! At no time has the Association taken an official stand either pro or con regarding this fire depot issue.

At our next meeting this issue will come up and only then will know the "will of the people". Should a brief to the council be in order I assure you it will be delivered, as always by the Association President.

T.F. Wood, President

Whitechurch-Stouffville Ratepayers Association

Editor's Note: You are confused between 'news reporting' and 'editorial comment'. The item to which you refer was the personal opinion of this newspaper's editor who is as privileged to state his views as are the readers.

Dear Editor:  
When the 'Stop' sign was first installed at the intersection of Rupert Avenue and Winona Drive in Stouffville, I was skeptical concerning its purpose.

I am pleased to observe now that it definitely is working, aided, I might note, by timely surveillance by the police.

I believe councillor Cathy Joice was responsible for this 'safety measure' and on behalf of the pedestrians who use this street (Rupert Avenue) occasionally, I thank her.

Mrs. Jean Simms, Rupert Avenue

**Editorials**

**Soon we may taste it!**

It is seldom that a Council appeals to the electorate for assistance. Usually, it's the other way around.

Right now, the Town of Whitechurch-Stouffville requires the support of everyone in its fight to halt the mass dumping of Metro waste at a site north of the Bloomington Road and east of Hwy. 48.

The 'insult' to the intelligence of local residents was hard enough to take, when the refuse (hundreds of tons of it) was restricted to ground level. Now, authorities are seeking permission to begin stock-piling this waste, not 25 feet up, but 45 feet. Just how 'soft' do they think we are?

The request is unthinkable even under normal circumstances. But this is by no means a 'normal' situation. The artesian wells and reservoirs, that serve the former village of Stouffville, are located within a mile of this garbage site — one mile! Contamination of this water supply, even to a minor degree, would be tragic.

We cannot and must not sit idly by and allow this outrage to continue. On behalf of the Town, we appeal personally to the Minister of the Environment, Hon. William G. Newman, to step in and halt this indignity, once and for all.

To see it, to smell it is grievance enough, but to taste it, well — ! Let's not wait for that.

**Ignore pressure tactics**

We dislike 'pressure groups', the bandwagon organizations whose membership creeps out of the woodwork to contest issues of personal concern.

These are the people who, through sheer weight of numbers, attempt to alter government policy, even at the expense of the majority.

In many instances, they choose to bypass their own Ward representative or Area trustee and force their resentment on the Council or the School Board as a whole.

We detest this sort of thing. Recently, however, we witnessed examples of 'pressure' of a different kind. It was exerted in a proper manner and through proper channels with excellent results.

We refer first, to the intended closing of Marklee Public School near Milliken. Residents there, could have 'stormed' a Board meeting, issued all kinds of insults, threats and accusations, with a negative reaction.

But they didn't. Instead, they met first with their local trustees, discussed the problem, arrived at a decision, and had the policy altered.

A similar situation is now under consideration at Dickson's Hill. Here again, the 'soft sell' approach was used in an effort to convince area trustees that present Grade 7's should remain through Grade 8. The appeal was so effective, the Board will likely concur. And that's good.

That is the kind of 'participation' that Councils and School Boards are looking for and need.

This is the kind of 'participation' that produces affirmative results. The high pressure approach should be ignored.

**Editor's Mail**

Dear Jim:  
In The Tribune issue of May 2, you included a timely editorial concerning the Lions-sponsored Bike-a-Thon and the traffic hazard involved. You urged motorists to use extra caution on the route travelled by the cyclists.

Obviously, your request was not read by the right people. In the area I checked most frequently, the Bloomington Road between conc. 5 and conc. 9, the majority of drivers

used no common sense at all. Some, heading east, roared past at 60 and 70 miles an hour. Others refused to swing away from the riders, and missed a few of them by inches.

I just can't understand this type of irresponsible person. Even under normal circumstances, I tend to give cyclists 'extra room'. Saturday's procession was by no means 'normal', and neither are some of the 'nuts' who drive cars.

Mrs. Norma Ellis, R. R. 2, Stouffville.

**ROAMING AROUND**  
**Free-one badly used water tank**

By JIM THOMAS



It's dead. Yes, our old hot water tank in the basement, finally gave up the ghost and died, and peacefully too—a bit of a gurgle, then a gasp, and all was over.

So silent, in fact, was its 'passing', that no one even knew. However, we weren't long finding out. With six kids to bath, a bundle of diapers to wash, and me needing a shave, the accepted routine became a catastrophe.

But the demise of this overworked facility was not entirely unexpected. At the ripe old age of 19, it was long past its prime. In fact, electricians and plumbers who 'treated' it occasionally, never ceased to be amazed. They'd take its pulse, test its temperature and leave, realizing better than anyone that it's days (even hours) were numbered.

At one time, on advice from its attending 'physician', we considered casting it aside, putting an end to its suffering and replacing it with something more modern and new. But we

could not. For it didn't seem right that so faithful a servant should be 'wrenched' from this life in so cruel and merciless fashion. Therefore, it was unanimously agreed she should stay.

But we treated her badly, heaping both physical and verbal abuse on the poor old soul.

Like the time during a steaming hot shower, the spray suddenly turned to ice. I raced downstairs, two steps at a time, and unleashed such a kick, it broke one of the slats of her 'skirt' and nearly fractured my foot.

My wife was less violent. She would merely complain a little and plug in the electric kettle.

The kids? No, it never did matter much to them. Children, particularly boys, don't take much to bathin' anyway.

The worst treatment we bestowed upon this 'grand old lady' of the basement, was the winter we kept 'Brownie', the family's pet rabbit in the house.

'Brownie's diet consisted of carrot tops, celery, leaves, grass, cardboard and, most of all, insulation—the tin-foil type that they used to wrap around these old water containers. She chewed away at this stuff until she 'bared' the old girl clean up to her knees. 'Almost immodest it was!' And she remained that way to her dying day.

But now she's gone — in spirit anyway. But the 'body', lifeless though it may be, still haunts our household. For she's too big to shove out the window and too cumbersome (for me anyway), to carry upstairs. So there she sits, immobile, useless.

And that's really my excuse for this column.

It must serve as a combination 'thankyou', 'in memoriam' and 'give-away'.

Anyone looking for a no good, badly used hot water tank?

If so, she's yours for the (ugh) taking.

**Your Health**  
**Are you poisoning your child?**

By David Woods



There is another drug problem. It isn't new. It has nothing to do with marijuana or heroin. But it's pretty serious nonetheless.

Fifty per cent of poisonings in children are caused by drugs, and the principal offender, believe it or not, is aspirin — good for your head-ache, perhaps, but also potentially lethal to your toddler.

Of course, the child who poisons himself with too many pills can hardly be blamed for his actions. The responsibility must rest with careless adults who leave drugs, or other potentially poisonous substances, within reach of children.

The fact that nearly all child poisonings occur in the home points to negligence as a prime cause. This is particularly true when you consider that nine out of ten children poisoned are between one and five years old. This group is far too young to seek out harmful substances and experiment with them. They are simply inclined to place everything that looks remotely edible in their mouths.

The first preventive step, obviously, is to move all potentially harmful drugs and chemicals out of the reach of children. A good second precaution is to keep the phone number of the nearest poison control centre,

doctor, or hospital somewhere near the phone, clearly identified for easy reference, even by non-members of the family — say, your babysitter.

Ideally, drugs should be kept in locked bathroom cabinets. Various household cleansers that are potentially lethal should not be kept under the kitchen sink — but placed up high where safari-bound preschoolers won't start playing with them.

Aspirin accounts for roughly one-quarter of child poisonings. However indispensable you may find it in your home, it'll take something stronger than that to relieve the headache induced by whisking a child off to hospital who has swallowed a dozen or more tablets at one go.

Not all poisoning is preventable of course — children aren't always under the direct supervision of parents. Parents would be wise, therefore, to learn something about first aid — what to do in the case of, say, snakebite, or a child swallowing a coin or a pin.

Although parents must bear the main burden of responsibility, poison control outside the home environment is also improving. Drug bottles are now increasingly available with child-proof caps (they're often adult-

proof, too). Education programs (through government information and similar services) are improving — and labelling is now explicit and informative.

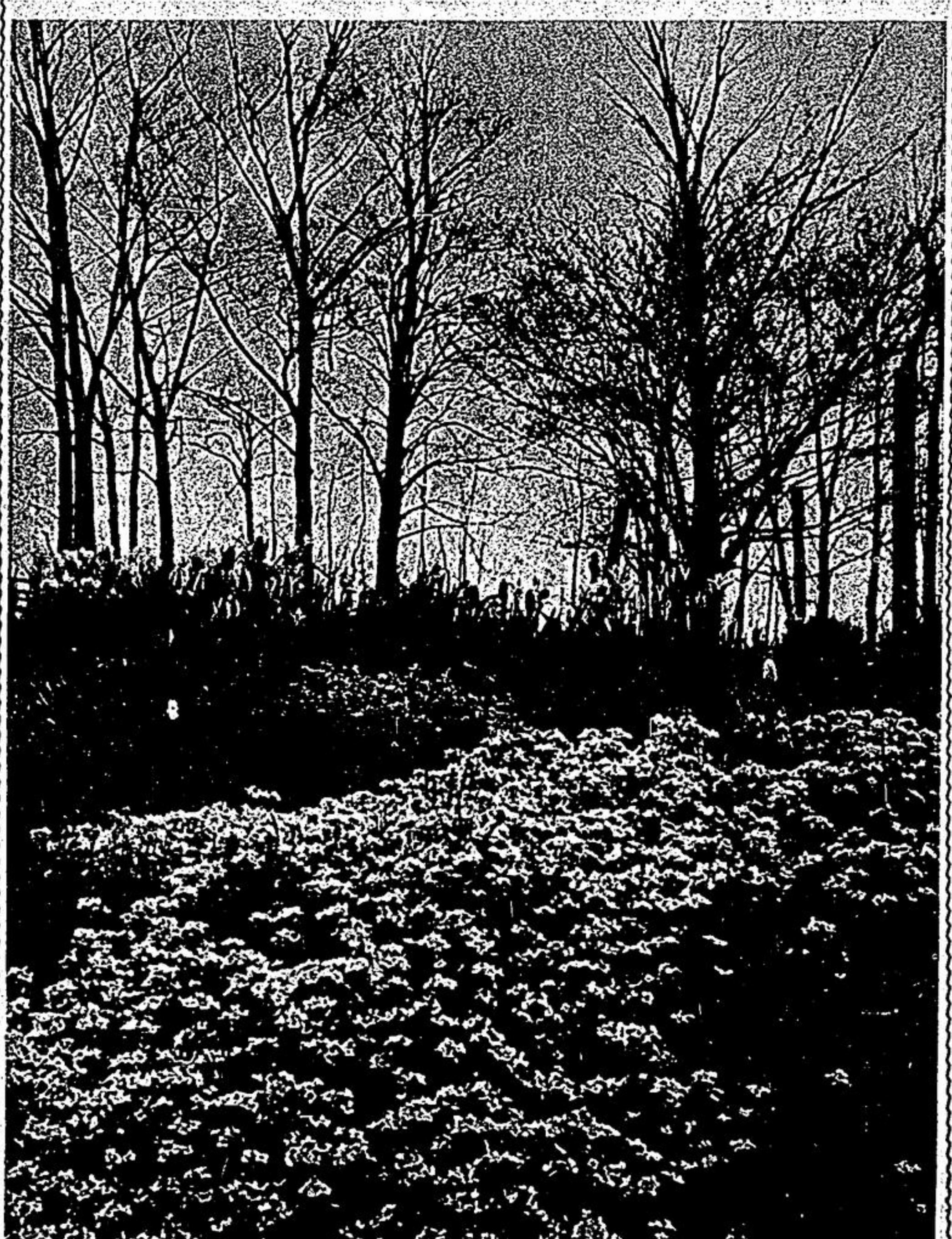
The latest available statistics show that tots one to four years old are far and away the most susceptible to accidental poisoning. Nearly nine times as many cases were reported in this group as among the 5-14 year bracket.

Tranquillizers, sleeping pills, vitamin tablets, birth control pills and many other drugs commonly found in the home figure prominently in child poisonings. In the under-five, cleaning and polishing agents follow aspirin as the most frequent cause of poisoning.

What can you do about it? Accept that preschoolers have an insatiable curiosity; they seek out anything within reach — to touch, play with, taste.

Then keep those substances that could be potentially harmful to them out of their reach — well out of reach.

David Woods is a former editor of Canadian Family Physician MAGAZINE. He has served on the medical staff of four medical publications, and written for several other in Canada and internationally.



**Spring is bustin' out all over**

Spring is bustin' out all over, as witnessed by a profusion of flowers in an area near the Old Greenwood Road, south of Hwy. 7, in Pickering.