

Letters to the editor

Former trustee defends board

Dear Sir: I read with considerable interest the article by Ted Wilcox re the aims and objectives of our new trustee, Colin Barrett, as expressed in your issue of Dec. 31. Although I can only speak from experience, perhaps I can add a few observations that may help to clarify some of the concerns that may be felt.

There is perhaps no one save the Ministry of Education who would not want to have Summitview replaced if possible but that is wholly dependent upon their findings as a result of their inspection of the structure made over one month ago. Regulations at present in effect state that no new structure may be built until 90 per cent of the students to fill the new structure are already on the site not merely on the prospect that there will be students to fill it at some future time. The intent here is to save the taxpayers any unnecessary expense as proven from past experience elsewhere in the province. Summitview is at present about 93 per cent of the required 90 per cent if the basement rooms presently in use are included in the calculation but about 113 per cent if these rooms are not used in the calculation since basement rooms are not always used. There is also the possibility that vacant pupil spaces in the area would also be considered. It is quite possible that they might say that the excess of pupils could be bused, to perhaps Whitchurch Highlands which has many such spaces. The Ministry has already suggested that students from Woodbridge High School could be bused to Langstaff and King City where space is available.

Teachers have been able to talk with their trustees, at least since last February, when I definitely recall a trustee stating that any source of input to the Board including direct contact with the teachers should be permitted since not all information always reached the trustees through regular channels and some teachers were reluctant to do it any other way. Of course such a route was not to be used for lobbying. As a matter of fact the first such meeting took place right here in Stouffville.

The present board committee system does not contain any "standing committees". Rather it is composed of committees that are selected from among the trustees to investigate or carry out a task within the guidelines imposed by the Board. The committee may carry out the task and report to the Board that it has been carried out, that it requires further clarification, or present recommendations for Board action. Once the task is completed, the committee is dissolved. The chairman and vice-chairman select and name the committee members. This method gives trustees a broader overall view of Board operations in addition to a wider experience for every trustee involved if he lives up to his obligations. Standing committees tend to create "tunnel vision" with trustees who are channelled into one small aspect of the total operation. It makes it easier if you should happen to be on a committee of this type if little is going on in that area. Some trustees have been able to offer worthwhile service in new areas of concern through the present system.

Master teachers or supervisors (whatever you care to call them) have a definite role to play in our educational system. They can be most beneficial and helpful to

new teachers and even the older, more experienced if they care to admit it. They are resource people who specialize in various subject areas. Properly used they can improve the educational system through updating methods or the presentation of fresh new ideas for all teachers to try for the benefit of all students. Some parents may have students who have been taught by some of these teachers...how do they feel???...were they worthwhile??? A sincere and long, hard look is needed rather than a hasty decision regardless of who says otherwise.

J. C. McMurray
Stouffville

Sculpture diverts from problems

Dear Sir:

I can understand and appreciate that each of us has our own sense of values, and can understand the criticism of the work of "art" in front of the new post office—to each his own.

I can also understand, but find it hard to accept the criticism directed toward the cost. There must be considerably more money being spent for the hearings re the garbage dump on Highway 48 (newspaper rating Page 5).

I can't help but think we have a strange sense of values when we consider the procrastination of a decision we're buying at the hearings that at best may only recommend that the owner may not expand his operation on to other adjoining properties.

I know of no other country that will go as far as we go to someone a fair shake. We get carried away sometimes and to allow continued dumping at the dump on Highway 48 is ridiculous. To continue the hearings is a stall (dumping continues). Since it is in the incapable hands of our government what else can we do? Winter is long and with little or no snow we get bored so the art work in front of the post office appeared on schedule.

I say the object of art in front of the post office has a purpose and does it well.

Anyone ask you where the post office was located? How did you explain without knowing the street names? Now try to describe where the new post office is located. Don't knock it—we live in an age of much brevity. New Post office? Yes—it's that way with a vivid yellow thing in front—can't miss it.

Bob Lewis
R. R. 2, Stouffville

Appreciation for children's show

Dear Sir:

What a pleasure to sit in the audience in Latham Hall on Saturday afternoon and enjoy "Harry and the Skinbonians".

The annual production for children by the Stouffville Players and written by Gord Ness was just tremendous.

A big thank you for a job well done to all the children and adults who participated in "Harry and the Skinbonians".

I can hardly wait until next year.

Lovanna Sanders
Stouffville.

Further facts on dead cows

NEWMARKET—A story in last week's Tribune describing the discovery of 19 dead cows by a Humane Society inspector contained two errors in fact.

The location of the farm was Don Mills Rd., correctly identified in the story as Lot 24, Conc. 4 Whitchurch, Stouffville. That farm is not located in or near Gormley as indicated in the article.

The address of the person in the incident was incorrectly given as R. R. 3, Stouffville. Charged was Ronald Goodfellow, 33, of R.R. 3, Newmarket.

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