

The Tribune
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Editorials

Indoor pool first priority

Does Stouffville need a \$2.9 million recreation complex?

That's the question the residents of the area must ask themselves, now that a feasibility study has been prepared. The proposal calls for a combined complex that would include — indoor swimming pool, arena, curling rink, library and day care centre.

It would form an addition to Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

No one would argue that the facilities are needed and desirable for the town. It would certainly be convenient to have the facilities here. Now people have to travel some distance to swim in the winter time.

In fact the project could be phased in with perhaps the swimming pool first and other

parts added on as the need arises and as the area grows.

But that is the crux of the problem. If Stouffville grows substantially in the next 10 year, as it probably will, then the project would be realistic. But if things slow down, then it is too grandiose for a town of this size.

The Tribune advocates careful examination of the feasibility study, and then a breakdown of the costs of the swimming pool. That would seem to have top priority. The arena should come later as Stouffville already has an arena.

The whole total scheme should be held in abeyance until the growth of Stouffville justifies such a large expense. It may be that the town will grow quickly, but if it doesn't the taxpayers could be stuck with a white elephant that could put a heavy burden on local residents.

... AND FOR THE SKILL-TESTING QUESTION...
HOW ABOUT... WHAT GOVERNMENT WOULD YOU RE-ELECT FOR FEARLESS LEADERSHIP, SOUND PLANNING AND RESPONSIVENESS TO PEOPLES WANTS?

A cartoon illustration. On the left, a man in a suit holds a globe. On the right, a man in a suit holds a ballot box labeled "ONT. LOTTERY". Above them, text asks for a government that is fearless, has sound planning, and is responsive to people's wants.

Thirty years ago this week

Excerpts from The Tribune from Feb. 15, 1945.

Snow Harvest
A record breaking shortage of water has made snow number one item in the business of keeping house on many farms. Boilers and old milk cans are steaming on stoves day and night and family washes should be literally snowy white this winter.

Female Drunks
Beer rooms for women are a disgrace to Ontario and a reflection on the governing bodies who tolerate them. The old hotel days were better — we had no female drunks at least.

Transgressor
A former employee of the Oil Controller's office at Hamilton was sentenced to nine months in jail and a fine of \$3,500 for trafficking in stolen gas coupons.

SUGAR AND SPICE

Beefs that Bill can't stomach

By BILL SMILEY



With beef the price it is, most of us don't see much of it on the table these days. However, there's one type of beef that is as cheap as ever. If you can't afford the real thing, have a good beef about something that annoys you. It's not as tasty as the genuine article, but it's good for your blood pressure, even though there isn't much protein in it.

I haven't had a good beef about anything for a while, so here goes. First of all, supermarkets. Many of them are becoming more impersonal, more inefficient, and more sleazy, from day to day. The change has been most noticeable in the past couple of years.

Until then, there was a crackling efficiency in most of the big chain stores. The manager and staff would bust their necks to help you find what you wanted. The girls on the cash registers nearly always had a smile and a greeting. Packaging boys bagged your groceries and would carry them to your car if you wished. As a result, the stores were pleasant places to shop.

What a change! The only time you see the manager is on a television ad. Try to find a clerk, during busy hours, to tell you where the salted crackers are, and you might as well be in the Sahara, with an empty water canteen, looking for a nice, fresh spring.

The girls on cash don't smile enough, and are obviously overworked. The packaging boys seem to be an extinct species, and when there is one around, he's just going for his coffee break. And he wouldn't think of carrying out your parcels.

It must be that management is deliberately cutting back on staff and service. Why? To increase profits? Yesterday, I went into a supermarket to pick up a few groceries. About \$10 worth, or

one bag. I did my shopping in five minutes, and spent 20 minutes waiting in line to pay for it. Of six checkout counters, two were open. One girl was frantically punching buttons and bagging groceries. No packaging boys in sight. The other counter open was the Express counter (8 items or less).

And there's another thing that makes my hair stand on end and my temples throb with outrage. The Express counter. The very name is a laugh. They should be re-named the Snail counter. They are supposed to be for the people who pick up a can of beans, a loaf of bread and some bologna. They are supposed to zip you through smartly. They don't.

I stood in line for about eight minutes, wondering what the holdup was, as there were only two or three ahead of me. When I was close enough to see, I realized what was going on. Two places ahead of me was an old gal with a nearly full shopping cart, about 30 bucks worth of grub. I started to burn. Eight items is supposed to be the limit in that line-up.

When she finally got finished, and muddled around having a cheque endorsed, another woman took her place, and started unloading her cart. After she had placed eight items on the counter, I began counting. Aloud, in a clear, penetrating voice. Do you know how many items that old biddie had? Thirty-six!

I remarked, loud and clear, to the cashier: "I thought this was the Express counter, eight items or fewer." She had the grace to blush. I half expected the old bat to turn and pulverize me with a salami, but she kept eyes front and her ears were red.

I have a feeling there is room right now for some old-fashioned neighborhood

groceries, where you get personal service and your purchases are delivered, if you want to phone in an order. The big supermarket must be hell for little old ladies with arthritis who have to walk blocks with a couple of heavy bags of grub. Speaking of which, why do the baggers at supermarkets always put all the canned goods in one bag, and the kleenex, toilet paper and rice in the other, so that the customer goes out the door with a list like the Titanic going down?

Another sore point with me — and it's sore where it really hurts, in the hip pocket — is the ripoff at big, city hotels.

It was necessary that I spend a few days in one recently, and the prices nearly drove me into bankruptcy, a home for paupers, and insanity.

Single room, \$31.00 a day plus \$2.50 tax. Parking, \$2.50. That's thirty-six simoleons before you lay your head on a pillow. I was slightly stunned, to say the least, but my fault, I hadn't checked the rates.

"Oh, well," I thought. "It's only once in a blue moon, and I'll enjoy the luxury and the terrific service." It is to laugh.

Luxury? It was a hotel room, like 50,000 others. Except that this one was so draughty, you had to turn the thermostat up to 80 to keep from shivering.

Service? Oh, the service was great. Especially room service. Tired and frazzled, I decided I didn't want to seek out a dining room and eat alone. Thought I'd stay in my room, have a sandwich, read the paper, watch the news on TV.

That news was the only thing for which they didn't extract blood.

Hitch in fairground sale

Markham Fair Board has got itself into a jam with the sale of the fairgrounds property at Highway 48 and Main St. The prospective purchasers will not close the deal until the town of Markham agrees to a rezoning on the property.

The zoning is presently agricultural. The problem has developed because the Fair board and the Markham Council have been working at crossed-purposes regarding the deal. There has been a singular lack of communication between the two groups.

When the sale was announced in the first place over a year ago, it was presented as a fait accompli. There was no consultation with the town on what plans the council might have for the fairgrounds.

The sale was approved, but council gave no assurance that the land could be rezoned. No assurance was asked for. In the meantime, the fairboard completed a deal to buy the

Stanley Watson farm on 18th Ave. The money from the sale of the old fairgrounds would go toward acquiring the Watson farm as a new site.

Both deals were supposed to close Jan. 29. Now the closing date, has been extended to Aug. 1, 1975. The purchasers hope they can persuade Markham Council to rezone the property before that date.

The whole deal was poorly handled. The fair board was buying a "pig in a poke" so to speak, because the matter was never discussed with council. Instead of going on their own, the board should have consulted the council and worked toward finding a solution.

The fair needs a new site, there is little question about that. It has outgrown the present grounds. The deal however could have been handled in a more business like way and more investigation into the potential pitfalls might have prevented the present situation.

Dump stand is unequivocal

Last week, The Tribune carried an editorial that was somewhat critical of the local council for the manner in which it has handle acquisition of a new dump for local garbage.

The Tribune would like to restate its position that it supports the council's original decision to close the Highway 48 dump. There is no question about that.

The dump should be closed until the environmental affects can be fully evaluated and safeguards assured for both the residents surrounding the landfill site and

those in Stouffville who fear the town's drinking water might be contaminated.

Our position is however that council was short-sighted in not acting sooner to close the dump and find an alternative dumping site. It is possible that the town will have to use the Highway 48 dump past the April 1 deadline.

That could be very embarrassing as council has passed a bylaw closing the dump by April. It would be inconsistent for the town's garbage to be dumped on the site in violation of its own bylaw.

Earlier action in seeking an alternate site would have prevented such a situation.



VIEWPOINT

Big not necessarily better

By DON BERNARD

Big government is not necessarily good government.

Rather an interesting statement, but one that has come to be only so true, when applied by the way government acts, in relation to the people that it is supposed to serve.

If we look closely at some recent events, it is clear that government has become a force to be fought, rather than one to behave in the public interest.

Over a year ago, the Federal government appointed a commission to do a detailed inquiry into the feasibility of the Proposed International Airport in Pickering. The hearings took the odd form of the Ministry of Transport and its experts against the people. Very odd indeed.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville felt strongly about the threat posed by the airport and decided to hire its own expert to do a study on possible noise levels that would intrude on the former village and to some extent the rural areas nearby.

It was a considerable expense to the town. The total cost was in the neighborhood of \$25,000. But miracles of miracles, the inquiry commission listened to the town's expert and rejected information supplied by the Ministry of Transport officials.

On the basis of that information, the commission recommended that more land be acquired and that homeowners in Stouffville and Claremont should be allowed to sell their properties to the government if they so wish.

The expert hired by the town was listened to because he had solid credentials in the aircraft noise field and would not be budged at the hearings.

The commission findings could very well alter what would be done in Pickering and throws out the governments own expert information of the noise levels that will be experienced in this area.

If Whitchurch-Stouffville had not spent the \$25,000, the evidence would never have been presented to the commission. In other words the government experts were actually not interested in the affects of the noise surrounding the proposed airport. They were only interested in justifying the decision to build the airport in Pickering.

So much for government representing the people.

Another example of this same kind of thing has occurred recently, but the fault in this case lies with the provincial government.

Hearings have been going on for over three months into the operation of the York Sanitation dump on Highway 48. The residents near the dump fear the continued dumping of uncontrolled wastes could contaminate their wells and ultimately the water supply for the former village of Stouffville.

The provincial government has allowed the Environmental Hearing Board to conduct hearings into the matter, but the battle is uphill for the residents. York Sanitation is owned by a large American firm, Waste Management Inc., which represented by a smooth, sophisticated, highly-priced lawyer.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has its solicitor, and two different citizens groups also have their lawyers at the hearings. But the Ministry of the Environment, the arm of the provincial government that is supposed to be a watchdog over problems in the environment, has not shown much desire to stand up for the rights of the local residents.

The spectre of Fred Munroe, a retired chemical engineer, clashing with Murray Chusid, the York Sanitation lawyer, shows that the deck is stacked against the people and in favor of the large corporation. Mr. Munroe, by the way, has stood up to Mr. Chusid amazingly well.

The government here has played the part of observer in the battle. The hearing board will make a recommendation and then the minister of the environment will have to make the final decision.

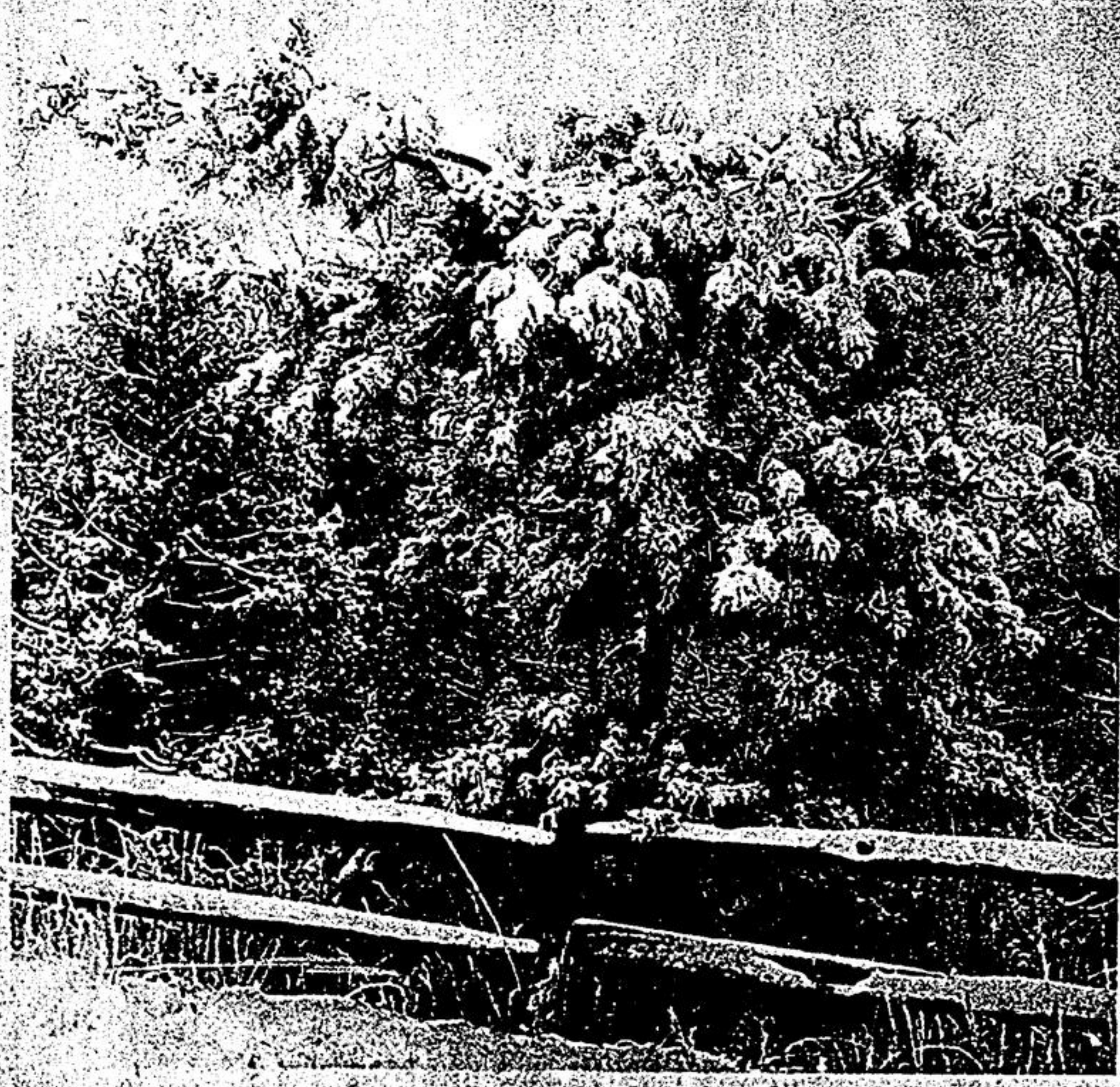
Meanwhile, the residents of the town and the town council are out considerable sums of money having to defend themselves, when as I have said earlier, government should be the defender of the "little guy" as well as the rich and the powerful.

It is no wonder that people are discontented with government. No wonder people feel that government is unresponsive. The fact is that government has become insulated from the problems that affect ordinary people.

Other problems can be pointed to. York Region had a teachers strike last year at this time. The problem was more than just financial, but salary levels were at issue. This year, the newly elected board of education voted themselves a 100 per cent pay increase. The timing was bad and it sets a poor example. Teachers after all must feel that they deserve a considerable increase if the trustees can get one.

It all stems from being insulated from the people. Regional government, while it is the level of government that most affects us in many respects has little or no impact on the people. When councillors at York Region gave themselves a \$1,000 raise recently, most people probably asked — What is York Region anyway?

Government of the people, for the people by the people. That's the only way our system can survive. Right now we are swamped by "Big government" and from my point of view that is the greatest threat to democracy in this time.



Trees take on ghostly appearance

Trees with snow weighing down their branches have an almost ghostly appearance just after a fresh snowfall. A stillness in the

air gives the eerie feeling that somehow Jack-frost is stalking through the forest with his magic paintbrush. —John Montgomery.