

1974 PRIZE WINNER
CANADIAN COMMUNITY
CNA
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
UNITED NEWSPAPERS CONFEDERATION

The Tribune

Established 1888
CHARLES H. NOLAN
Publisher



Published every Thursday at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont. Tel. 440-2101.
Toronto phone 361-1480. Single copies 20c, subscriptions \$8.00 per year in Canada, \$16.00 elsewhere. Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation, Canadian Community Newspapers Association and Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association. Second class mail registration number 6984.
The Tribune is one of the Island Publishing Co. Limited group of suburban newspapers, which includes the Ajax/Whitby/Pickering News Advertiser, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Gazette, Markham Economist and Sun, Newmarket/Aurora Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa This Week, and Mississauga News.

Editorials

Residents must sue town

Three home-owners on Stouffer St. are being put in the position of having to sue the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in order to receive compensation for damage to their houses caused when sewers were installed on the street.

All three houses need extensive repairs, including new basements. For two residents in a semi-detached building the price tag last year was \$40,000.

The town has insurance to protect these people. If damage is done in construction, the town's insurance should cover compensation for the victims.

It appears that satisfaction for the three will only come after a protracted legal battle. The mayor suggested that the residents sue the town.

But wait a minute. Why does the town have insurance if the injured parties have to sue to receive compensation? It is certainly a miscarriage of justice if this is the case.

The scenario should be that the town pay the damages and then go after the contractor and the developer, who are the ones responsible for the mess.

Instead the three homeowners are carrying the full burden of the damage that was done, and also have to fight a court battle, for something that should be theirs without such a hassle.

We hope the council straightens this mess out. These people are enduring hardship unnecessarily. It is not only unfair but also unjust.

Protestors aren't going to give in

Barrage balloons to stop the airplanes. That appears to be the plan of the People or Planes group. They are calling tenders for barrage balloons. The spectre of these balloons floating around the perimeter of the Pickering airport is rather humorous, except for one thing.

There is an airport in Tokyo, Japan, which is brand spanking new. The runways and terminals are complete, but no aircraft has flown out of the facility.

Citizen opposition and various activities by residents near the airport have managed to stop it from opening. Whether one approves of that kind of extreme activity or not, it appears the anti-airport people will not give up easily.

Tide turns on regulations

It is rather a sad fact that housing is in short supply in Ontario and the politicians at one level of government try to blame their counterparts on another level. Programs designed to do something about the shortage are more talk than action thus far.

It is true that municipalities have strict standards for allowing housing developments to proceed. There are endless delays and various agencies to consult. Approvals must come from the regional, provincial and local levels.

The provincial government has recently been rather critical of local municipalities for the difficulties in having new housing approved. Especially a scheme called Ontario Housing Action Program.

The province has even said they will streamline the process for approval to boost the housing market. Well that's all very well and good, but the system of controls has been developing over a number of years.

There was a time when subdivisions in a place like Stouffville would be approved almost without question by the province and

without many controls by the local council. This resulted in some very bad development. Roads were narrow and standards were very poor. The subdivisions proved to be costly for the local town.

It was after this kind of development that municipalities started using written agreements between the developer and the town. These insured that work would be done to proper specifications and would protect the local municipality.

But the provincial government became more active as well. Standards were stricter and the Ministry of Housing took over the right of final approval.

Now the province wants to reverse the procedure because the housing shortage is acute. One wonders about the wisdom of such a move. It could mean a return to ill-advised and poor development.

We sincerely hope that it won't.

Circus romance shoddy, 3rd rate

The circus was a disappointment.

There is no doubt about that. The show, especially in the afternoon, was a disaster from start to finish. The bleachers gave away and the children and parents had to sit on the grass.

The show itself left much to be desired. The one group hurt most by the fiasco is the Kinsmen Club which sponsored the event. The club does fine work in the community and the circus appeared to be a good idea.

They might have learned from an experience the Lions Club had some years ago. They sponsored a similar circus and ended up with a myriad of problems, and vowed never again.

Somehow the circus with the big top tent appeals to our romantic instincts. Its too bad the reality is so shoddy and third rate.



"Now, THAT'S RESTRAINT"

--- THEY'RE NOT BUYING IT!

Thirty years ago this week

Excerpts from The Tribune from May 31, 1945. Pre-fabs.

A "factory-built" four room cottage — in appearance an attractive conventional bungalow, and to sell for \$3,300 with initial payment as low as \$300 — will be moving off the assembly line of the Fairchild aircraft plant in Montreal by early July at the rate of six or seven complete houses a day. Ground hog war.

The ground hog population which increased greatly in these parts during the war owing to the ban on firearms and ammunition, will suffer to some extent during the coming summer. With the lifting of the ban on guns and making ammunition available to the general public Stouffville district farmers will be able to make more pot shots on these nuisance animals. In fact we overheard two school boys discussing ground hogs last week, and one lad from the country was telling that his dad shot 38 pounds of groundhogs when another said they had destroyed 90 pounds, but neither knew how many groundhogs the weight represented.



VIEWPOINT

Christian school alternative

By DON BERNARD

The establishment of a Christian day school in the Stouffville area was the main topic of discussion last week when a group of people, representing various churches in the area, met at the Stouffville Youth Centre.

A panel discussion provided some food for thought and then the meeting was opened up to questions from the floor. The upshot was that a steering committee was to be established to look into the project further.

It was generally agreed that the public school system is not fulfilling the needs of the Christian child. But let me go over some aspects of this question that have become apparent to me in this regard.

Firstly, education is more than just reading, writing and arithmetic. Education involves the development of the whole person, the intellectual, physical and spiritual. Moral values are as much a part of education as the "3R's".

In fact the style of presenting material in a classroom is as important as the content of the presentation. Wrap something up in an attractive package and children will digest it more easily.

Rules of discipline, conduct and dress are also important, although these are taught in the schools in a less direct way. But all of these things are part of education.

Traditionally, the public school system in Ontario was synonymous with the Protestant school system. The values taught at home were re-inforced by what was taught at school. For all intents and purposes that was the Christian way of life.

As our society has become more secular, the public school system has had to reflect that change. One would not expect it to do otherwise. Thus the public school system has reflected, for instance, the basic relaxation of

moral values that is prevalent in our society. As this has happened, some Christian parents, who are truly concerned about what and how their children are taught have been put in a difficult position. The values promulgated by the school are in conflict with those maintained in the home.

This kind of tension makes it difficult for both the children and the parents. It is very hard to teach the idea of Christian humility and service to a child who is told at school that he can "do his own thing".

The centre of the public school system is man and the development of man. The Christian would say that obedience to God and serving Him are paramount values. One is man-centred the other is God-centred.

All right with that in mind there are some questions about a Christian school system. For instance — Will children brought up in a protected atmosphere of a Christian school be able to deal with the world?

That is the main criticism of such a concept. But let's be realistic. Children are generally protected and nurtured anyhow. Why is there all this fuss about violence on television? We protect children from the evils of the world until we feel they are old enough to deal with them.

Christians, then want to nurture their children in a way consistent with their beliefs. At some point the children will have to face the world and live in society. Education in a Christian school, I believe, will prepare children to deal with the world, but from a Christian perspective.

It appears that enough local people are interested in the concept and a steering

committee is being formed. The interesting thing about the people who organized last week's meeting is that they are almost all teachers in the public school system.

Many have found things that are disturbing in that system and would like to have an alternative school. The idea of starting a private school has both advantages and disadvantages.

A private school costs a lot of money. A building will have to be built and teachers hired. The standards of such a school must be at least as high as the public school system.

The advantage is that the school can set its own standard and regulate who is admitted. In that respect, the Christian community supporting the school would be able to know that a proper atmosphere was being maintained.

The money aspect requires faith. If a Christian school is truly in the will of God, then the Lord will supply the money to support it. It is this aspect that requires prayer on the part of those interested in seeing such a school.

Jesus said, "without me you can do nothing" and I believe that we must depend on Him. This is probably the hardest part of such a venture. It is too easy to run ahead and start organizing without seeking God and knowing His will in the venture.

From my way of thinking, a private school is the only alternative. It is up to us, who say we are Christians, to support it, especially with our prayers. Pretending the public schools can do the job will not change the fact that we live in a secular society that demands a secular school system.

TODAY'S HEALTH

Make sure of water

BY DAVID WOODS

More than half of Ontario's boundary abuts onto enormous amounts of potentially drinkable water, including four of the five Great Lakes.

That quantity constitutes a vast natural resource. But what of the quality of this province's water supply — is the stuff fit to drink?

Well, if you're on the public water system, what comes out of your kitchen or bathroom taps has been through a pretty rigorous filtration and purification process. Even so — and keeping in mind a variation of the old adage about many a "slip 'twix cup and lip" — local health units are constantly checking the final product to see that high standards of water purity are upheld.

Dr. Joseph Burkholder, the Niagara Region's medical officer of health, says that sometimes perfectly good water entering the distribution system can get impurities in it somewhere along the pipe-lines, although that's a pretty rare occurrence.

But just to make sure, local health units take monthly random samples of cold water straight from the tap. Samples are of water that has not undergone extra softening or filtering in the home. This is then placed in a 3- or 4-oz. bottle, refrigerated and sent to the lab for testing. If the tests reveal a coliform bacteria count, the medical officer of health's team immediately goes into action to track down the cause — and put it right.

All of this is vital preventive medicine,

since contaminated water can spread such diseases as polio, typhoid, hepatitis and dysentery.

Dr. Burkholder advises those with private water supplies to take extra precautions. Summer cottagers, for example, should not assume that the water in that idyllic lake is necessarily pure. When in doubt about the water, boil it. You can also do your own purifying by adding two drops of household bleach (which contains chlorine) to each quart of water, and waiting 20 minutes before drinking. Perhaps the safest solution of all, says Dr. Burkholder, is to take bottled water with you when you go to the cottage. This water, he points out, doesn't have to be the increasingly popular "spring water" sold in stores, but simply water from the tap at home.

In this connection, Burkholder says, the trend towards drinking bottled "purified" or distilled water may be self-defeating, because even though the chemical content of our public water supply must be monitored to ensure that it doesn't contain dangerous levels of asbestos, say, or mercury, we do feed some of the so-called trace elements in the water we drink.

Unlike the Ancient Mariner who complained "water, water everywhere — and not a drop to drink," Ontario has possibly more drinkable water than just about anywhere else. And engineers, health workers — and you — can ensure that what we drink is as pure as it should be.



Summer-like weather that has been with us for the past two weeks works his field. The unusually warm weather has provided perfect growing weather. Here a farmer on 17th Ave. — Don Bernard