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Editorials

Uxbridge council legal move against gravel pit creditable

The legal action between the township of Uxbridge and John B. Regan Co. Ltd., Armbrro Materials, and others, is shaping up to be a pretty bizarre contest.

A couple of the more unusual aspects came out during the last meeting of Township Council. In a letter, municipal solicitor Alec McLennan warned that an injunction to stop the gravel pit from operating might not be granted. He explained that, because the material is being used for construction work on the 401, the court might feel it is "too inconvenient for the defendants" to issue an injunction before trial.

The point, frankly, escapes us. What has the convenience of the defendants to do with the merits of the submission? Many people might find it "inconvenient" to have to pay a

fine, or lose their driver's licence — what has that to do with the law?

It gets even more bizarre. Apparently the council has been warned that, even if an injunction is granted, the township could be responsible for all losses incurred by the defendants — estimated at \$10,000 a day. If this is common practice at law we suggest, my Lord, that it falls somewhat short of impartial justice. If such an order is made, it would obviously be to the advantage of the defendants; indeed, they could logically argue for the injunction to be granted.

As the case is presently before the courts, we are restrained from commenting on its specific merits. We can, however, applaud the action of council members in voting to persist with their case. Faced with a possible liability of many thousands of dollars, it took real courage to go ahead.

This is an election year for municipal politicians, and the public will be watching closely to see how this matter is handled. So far, it has been all to the credit of the council.

30 years ago this week

Excerpts from The Tribune — from June 27, 1946.

Dance hall riot

Whitchurch township's big cop, just sworn in a week ago, and whose weight-tipped scales at 225 pounds, wasn't a bit too big for the job on hand last Saturday night at Wilcox Lake, when a crazy crowd of merry seekers whom police said had too much booze, broke into a riot; when police attempted to make some arrests for assault.

Bystanders attacked police, and attempted to overrun their car when Constable Fleury, Kidd and Hamilton picked up two fellows who had assaulted a couple in a car, and this started the general free-for-all which was put down two hours later and only after ten policemen were on hand.

Ignition wires were torn from the police car and sand was put into the gasoline tank, police reported. Several rocks were thrown, but only one person was said to have been injured.

There was a brief lull in the battle when the band at the dance pavilion played the National Anthem, but resumed in full force as soon as the officers attempted to take away their prisoners.

Eight fellows have so far been charged, one was released on bail, but two couldn't raise bail at the time. One of those charged is accused of destroying wiring in the police car, while the officers were making an arrest.

Fish derby

Ken Laushway, well-known Ringwood garageman, received the second award last week, from the Veteran's Association in the Lake Simcoe area, who staged this year's Fish Derby there on May 24th.

Ancient goose

Following the publication of the age of a 25 year old goose on the farm of Mr. David Pugh, 6th concession of Whitchurch The Tribune has been informed of several geese that were said to have lived for more than 25 years, but so far no one has come forward with a living bird to challenge the leadership in age of the old veteran in Whitchurch.

Government attitude on Pickering will change with majority

The struggle between the people in the area of Malton and those in the area of Pickering is likely to go on for a lengthy time to come.

The Pickering lobby would have us believe that much more traffic can be handled at Malton than at present; the Malton area population are definitely not in agreement, while the government contends that Malton is already taxed to capacity.

The Malton protest is weakened by the fact that a great many of the residents moved into the area fully aware of the proximity of the airport.

The Ontario government in its minority position is standing firm because it has to. Should a provincial election return the Tories with a healthy majority some startling changes in attitude might be immediately forthcoming.

In the meantime while this tug-of-war continues, the big loser will be the travelling public. The "war" that continues does little but defeat the need for a solution to serve the general public interest.

Public to be ignored

The Canadian Parliament may get around this week to voting on the contentious question of capital punishment and it may be that the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, who are abolitionists, will rule the day. Should this be the case, the will of the vast majority of Canadians is to be ignored.

The Cabinet has already done away with capital punishment by short-circuiting the law on such a regular basis that any deterrent aspect has been completely removed.

The chances are the majority rule of parliament will win and the only way in which the majority of the citizens can have its way is to turf out the incumbents when the opportunity arises.



For many years a local landmark, the old Button Hotel is now remembered only by the senior members of the community. It stood at the northwest corner of what was then the 8th Concession and the Townline — now Highway 48 and the Gormley Road. Built in the 19th Century, the Hotel was run by the Button family for many years. After standing vacant for some time, it was torn down in the 1940's. This sketch was done by Stouffville High School student Cathy Langdon and is just one of many efforts recently received for the Centennial Sketchbook.

SUGAR AND SPICE — Welcome to the new Golden Age



By BILL SMILEY

It seems, when one looks around, that the Great Revolution of the 1960's has petered out, as most revolutions do. And, as usually happens after a revolution, the pendulum is swinging toward conservatism.

The Savage Sixties, featuring a vicious war in Viet Nam, student uprisings, draft dodgers, the growth of strident feminism, and the blossoming of four-letter words in the mass media, have simmered down into the Sacred Seventies, when inflation and unemployment are the bogey-men.

Most obvious evidence of this is the race for president in the States. There's not a liberal in sight. It's like a game of musical chairs in which every participant is striving to be a little farther to the right than the guy who made the last speech.

I'm not entirely unhappy about this swing of the pendulum. While revolutions often produce freedom, they also produce excesses, and that of the Sixties was no exception.

It produced a violence, a callousness and a viciousness that was probably unparalleled in western civilization's history.

Remember? The kids were on drugs. The parents were on the booze. Cops were called pigs. Language that would shock a sailor came out of the mouths of babes. It was fashionable to be filthy if you were young. Hard rock replaced anything resembling music to be listened to. Cults of various degrees of obscenity flourished. Muggings multiplied. Hijacking hit the headlines.

It was a nasty, nervous decade for society to grope through, and as a basically conservative person, I'm glad it's fading, even though it has left a fair bit of detritus as it ebbs.

Not all of it was bad, of course. Many of the old shibboleths were swept away and replaced by something saner. The social, political and economic status of women took a giant step forward. There was a new honesty, as much of the stuff our parents used to sweep under the carpet was pulled out, looked at squarely, and found to be merely funny, not frightening.

There was a new and healthy skepticism toward politicians, culminating in the not-so-incredible discovery that some were liars, some crooks, some both.

Our institutes of higher learning got a good shake-up, and their traditional stuffiness swung toward something verging on license.

In short, a lot of the phoniness of our society was exposed for what it was. A lot of rocks were turned over, and a lot of things crawled out from under them, and died in the hard, clear light.

That's all to the good. Every revolution must crack some eggs to make an omelet. And every revolution inflicts wounds, some of them savage.

But society is the sum total of individuals. And just as an individual who has been mugged, knifed, raped or otherwise abused, must retire and tend his wounds, so must society. There must be a healing time.

Perhaps the Sacred Seventies is such a

time. Certainly there is a trend. Hard rock music, hoist on its own petard, is being replaced by country and bluegrass music. Transcendental meditation is replacing the acid trip. Most people are fed up with the pure pornography that has flourished. Even that sacred cow, hockey, has turned people off, including aficionados, with the mindless, but contrived violence of its goon shows. Hijackers are harried and hunted down.

Maybe, just maybe, we're in for a brief Golden Age, in which the arts will flourish, ripoffs will become a thing of the past, excellence will be restored as an aspiration of the young, and children will honor their parents. But don't hold your breath.

Maybe, just maybe, movies will start having a plot again. And policemen will be pals, not pigs. And music will be enjoyable, not excruciating. And vandalism will vanish. But don't hold your breath.

Maybe, just maybe, town engineers will go around holding hands and singing, "I think that I shall never see, A sewer lovely as a tree." But don't hold your breath.

Maybe, just maybe, politicians will start letting their left hand know what their right hand is doing, and remove both hands from the pockets of the taxpayer. But don't hold your breath.

I'm a realist. I don't hold my breath. So, whatever it's worth, welcome to the new Golden Age.

Hanging — not an easily made decision

By JOHN MONTGOMERY

Personally I'm supremely grateful I didn't have to make the decision as to whether capital punishment will be abolished.

At the time of writing this column the news has filtered in that the vote came in favor of abolition but there still remains third reading before this will be final.

I wouldn't want to have to cast a vote because I haven't really made up my mind. Admittedly, every time I hear an account of some sadistic killing of children, murder during armed robbery or terrorist "execution" my immediate outraged reaction is that the perpetrators should die for it.

But then when I think things through to that actual brutal process whereby my fellow citizens, acting as officials of the state, actually take another human being and murder him by hanging him from the end of a rope, then I'm not so sure it's the right thing to do.

Hanging especially is a bloody grisly affair. If the hangman misjudges, the victim is left to strangle slowly or if the error is the other way the condemned man is decapitated. On at least one occasion in Canada the victim was hanged, cut down, he revived, and was hanged again an hour later.

A very unpleasant business indeed. Then there is the moral aspect. Is the hangman, although free of any legal guilt, not morally just as much of a murderer as the man he (or she in these liberated times) executes?

John Robert Radcliffe, who retired as hangman in 1899, was haunted by those he had taken to the gallows.

"I used to say to condemned persons as I beckoned with my hand, 'Come with me.' Now at night when I lie down, I start up with a roar as victim after victim comes up before me. I can see them on the trap, waiting a second before they face their Maker. They taunt me until I am nearly crazy with an unearthly fear. I can 200 times a murderer, but I won't kill another man," Mr. Radcliffe said following his retirement.

Canada's most famous executioner, and the one whose name has been given to all his predecessors, Arthur Ellis, was divorced by

his wife when she learned of his vocation and after his retirement he was treated as a pariah and found it impossible to get employment.

Another valid argument against executions is that where an innocent man has been convicted there is still room for restitution to the injured party if he has served some time in prison, but there is no way the state can make things right with a man they have strangled on the end of a rope.

Such miscarriages of justice, although rare, are not entirely unheard of. In one case a few years ago the British government granted a pardon to a convicted murderer, six years after his execution.

There also seems to be a basic hypocrisy when we say that murder is so horrible a crime that the only fitting punishment for it is murder. That sounds suspiciously like Catch 22.

If capital punishment is retained and I'm not sure it should be, then its use should not just be restricted to killers of police and prison workers.

I don't believe the lives of either of those

officials should be more sacred than the lives of innocent bystanders to a crime. In fact an argument could be made that these people are trained and paid to take the risk of being killed by criminals.

A reason I often hear in support of capital punishment is that it would soothe the sense of moral outrage felt against a particularly vile murderer by the public. There would be a feeling that justice had been done, that somehow the scales had been balanced.

But does taking the life of some misfit loser really compensate for the lost life of a constructive member of society, possibly a person supporting children?

On the other hand do hired killers, professional bank robbers or trained terrorists really deserve any mercy? I don't know.

I do know that I don't envy those members of parliament on whose shoulders the decision lies. I would think any of them who have conscientiously considered the issue would have passed a few sleepless nights thinking of the 11 men on death row who are waiting to learn whether they will live or die.

COUNTDOWN:
Stouffville Centennial
1877-1977

First Chain Bank
 Came in 1890
 Stouffville's first chain bank opened for business here in 1890. It was the Standard Bank, later to become the Bank of Commerce, and in more recent years, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

The Standard Bank first began business in Canada in the year of Confederation, 1876, and by 1890 had eighteen branch offices. Mr. J. Elliott was the first manager and the bank occupied the same site as today. Mr. Elliott was born in Northern Ireland and came to this country in 1881. He served at Newcastle, Markham and Cannington prior to being promoted to the management of the Stouffville bank.

Mr. W. F. Cowie of Oshawa was the president of the Standard Bank of Canada with assets of \$2,000,000. The head office was located in Toronto.

Largest parade
 Plans have already begun to hold Stouffville's largest parade ever on the July 1st weekend 1977.

Bumper stickers
 One of the early Centennial publicity items will be car bumper stickers which are now ready for distribution. It is expected that a house-to-house canvass of this item will be undertaken shortly so that as large a coverage as possible can be attained throughout the summer months.

Craft fair
 Representatives of the Library Board were present at the regular Centennial Committee meeting Thursday and their proposal of a family and craft fair for late May or early June has been accepted and added to the list of monthly events.

Bench donated
 An oak bench, courtesy of the Women's Institute, has been placed in front of the new post office. The bench is another Centennial project.

Stars concert
 The special projects committee is considering a TV stars concert for the arena for August 1977.

Government faltering
 By Sinclair Stevens MP

The present administration has a supreme capacity for getting into trouble.

Their programs are faltering.

Legislation progresses slowly and only after extensive amendments.

The economy is limp as it functions below capacity.

Scandals hover and buzz around those in power.

The Bilingual Program has been a cornerstone in Mr. Trudeau's approach to politics. Few have challenged the concept. Many agree in principle it is needed to strengthen confederation, but many more harbour a deep resentment to the concept in practise.

Now bilingualism may be facing its greatest challenge, a challenge that could have been avoided if the government had not been so obstinate.

The current hassle between the air traffic controllers, the airline pilots and private aircraft owners on the one side, with the federal authorities on the other is serious. It is the pilots who carry the clout. They are well off, well organized and they are in a good tactical position. How can you require a pilot, by injunction or otherwise to fly and jeopardize his own life and the lives of others if he feels it is unsafe to do (see Economy, page 7)