



The Tribune



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Editorials

Artificial skating pad might relieve shortage

At the annual meeting of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Hockey Association the lack of practice time for the teams was one of the major items under discussion. No matter which way the available ice time was manipulated, some of the teams were going to be shorted.

The only solution anyone there could come up with was to press for the building of a new arena, especially as the town is still growing and girl's hockey is getting bigger every year.

When a man at the back proposed building some outdoor rinks, his suggestion was immediately labelled impossible and swept aside.

Now we realize as well as anyone that it would not be good politics to establish outdoor rinks, since, once they were installed, the need for a new arena would not be so pressing, but on the other hand, sticking to an 'all or nothing' approach might leave a lot of children with 'nothing.'

Maybe some serious consideration should be given to an artificial ice pad, with a view to enclosing it later.

Another less expensive way to provide extra ice time would be to build some natural ice rinks. While these aren't very practical at the beginning of the season, they could add

valuable practice ice later in the season, and perhaps provide the opportunity for a little shinny as well.

Profits don't reflect shares

In his desperate efforts to strike a blow against the Anti-Inflation Board for an alleged failure to curb profits, Ed Broadbent of the NDP has lashed out at a number of the country's prominent companies. Two of the number which might be mentioned are Imperial Oil and the Toronto Star. However Mr. Broadbent's broadside does not "wash" too well if one looks at present stock market share prices.

The question has to be, if the above named companies are making so much money, why is the price of their shares so low? Imperial Oil struck a new low of \$20 a share last week, down from \$30, while the Toronto Star, has crept back to \$16 after languishing at the \$14 level, down from \$25.

While it is well-known that to the NDP, profit comes close to being a dirty word, and this fact must make us give a little allowance for Mr. Broadbent's outburst, the fact remains that the Canadian public is not rushing to snap up the shares of a number of those companies which, we are told, are rolling in profits.

Letter to the editor

No farmland left in York by 1980's if trend continues

Dear Sir: The rapid disappearance of valuable agricultural land in York Region and in Ontario is crucial to all residents of the Province.

Statistics show that every hour of every day for ten years (1961-1971) 26 acres of farmland went out of production and the farm population declined by 40 percent.

During the same period in York Region 48,000 acres went out of agricultural production and, if the trend continues, there will be virtually no agricultural land left by the end of the 1980's. This will happen in what was once one of the best farming areas in Canada.

The Conservative government's policy is to let regional and municipal governments decide on their own land use policies. The result of this is typified by the Niagara Region's decision to zone 7,600 acres of prime grape and fruit land as commercial. Another example is the proposal to build a 'leisure park' near Maple.

The Ontario Liberal Party has no discernable land use policy and propose nothing to halt the trend which will eventually leave us dependent on outside sources for almost all our food supplies.

The Ontario NDP would preserve for agricultural purposes all lands of suitable

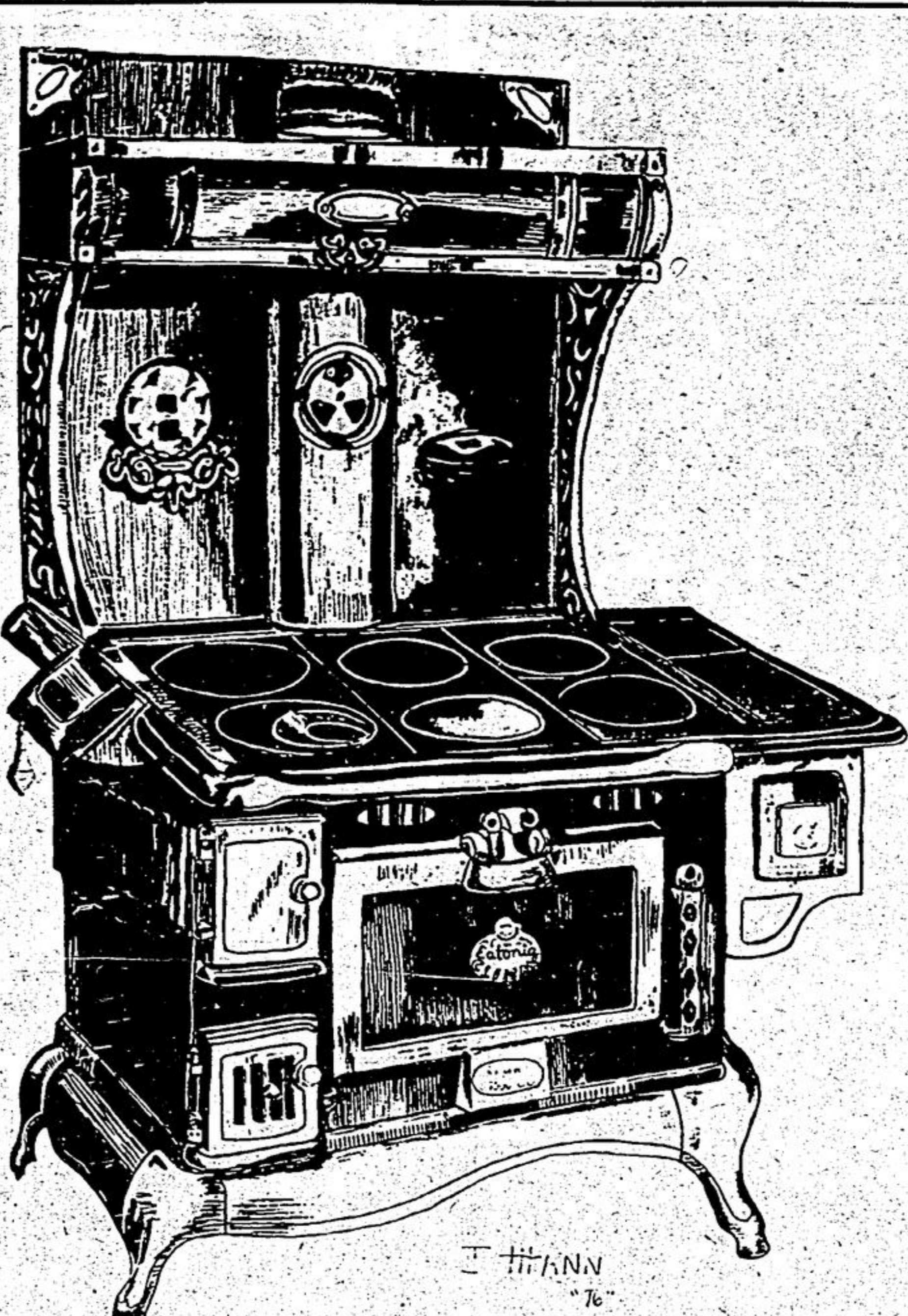
agricultural potential such as the Niagara fruit belt. It would initiate a soil inventory of all lands in Ontario, ensure that land zoned for agriculture is used for that purpose and, because of location, zone certain other lands for agricultural use. A New Democratic Party government would protect our agricultural land by land-banking, providing for environmental protection, and ensuring sound community growth and population stability in rural areas.

People affected by changes in land use would be fairly compensated within a comprehensive system.

The NDP would ensure the security of farm income as sufficient to return the cost of production, provide for capital needs and allow a fair return for investment and labour.

The disastrous depletion of our important agricultural resource must be stopped. It can only be stopped by a government firmly committed to sound land use policies. The NDP has publicly made that commitment and is determined to stop the wastage of the valuable resources of this Province.

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This sketch of an Eatonia wood stove was submitted for the Centennial Sketch Book by Joanne Smith of R. R. No. 2, Stouffville. Ms. Smith reasoned that although the drawing is not of a historic building of the area it is rendition of a common appliance of the period. The discrepancy in the name cited here and the one appearing on the sketch is

due to the fact that Ms. Smith still prefers to sign her art work with her maiden name. One last reminder about sketch submissions. All submissions have to be in by next Thursday, Sept. 30. With the sketches so far submitted we will be able to produce a high quality, but somewhat thin, sketch book.

SUGAR AND SPICE



Separate holidays good for marriage

By BILL SMILEY

"I HATE YOU, Bill Smiley! I hate you!" This line was not from a disgruntled student, an irate parent, or an ungentle reader. It was my wife talking.

The occasion was our parting for our annual separate holiday, and she was a bit irate, ungentle and disgruntled.

She had been up at seven, ironing my shirts and packing my bag. I was up at the stroke of 10, well-rested and ready for breakfast.

Quite a bit of planning had gone into our holiday. I was to fly to Halifax for a weekly editors' convention. She was to climb into the rusty old Dodge and head west to see her Dad for a few days. My daughter and husband were to come and stay at our place for a couple of days, with the grandsons.

It all seemed perfectly logical and simple to me. But nothing is ever simple to my wife, except on those fairly frequent occasions when I am completely baffled by something that must be fixed around the house, and she finally does it with an exasperated kick or a triumphant crow. We keep a lot of triumphant crows in the basement for such instances.

At any rate, on this occasion, it finally hit her, an hour before we split, that there was something rotten in Denmark. She had been shopping and house-cleaning for two days to leave everything spotless and well-stocked for the kids. She had been planning the meals and

the scrubbing and cleaning she was going to do at her father's. And she had been working like somebody in Upstairs, Downstairs to get me off on my jaunt clean and respectable.

She got a bit grim around the lips on that last morning, but didn't crack up until I came down, fresh from my bath and shave, and inquired urbanely: "Is my bag packed? The limousine will be here any moment to take me to the airport."

That's when she emitted the opening line of this column. I knew what it was immediately. I patted her back and said: "There, there, dear. You don't have to start scrubbing at Grandad's the minute you arrive. Take a half hour break after the drive and have a nice cup of tea."

As it turned out, everything worked fine. After pounding me a few on the chest, she had a good cry and we both felt better. She got the floor scrubbed at her dad's the very afternoon I was out on the Bluenose II in Halifax harbor. And she had cooked a good dinner and had the dishes washed at her father's just about the time I was slurping into my third lobster and listening to a good Dixieland band in Halifax.

And it took her only two hours to get the car started for her return trip, just about the time I climbed aboard to be coddled by stewardesses on my return trip. I think separate holidays like that are good for any marriage.

And it seems even better for the woman in the partnership. She got home rested, refreshed and looking wonderful. I got home exhausted and looking like a skeleton with white hair. It must have been that sea air that tired me out.

Another thing. Splitting like that is about

the only way we can get to see our old friends. She had a grand visit and some good talks and even went for a couple of drives with some of her long-time friends, and caught up on all the sensational dirt on everybody. And I went for a sail on the Bluenose, walked around Citadel Hill and sank the odd refreshment with some other old grumps as we reminisced about the days when selling a \$10 ad was the highlight of your week, and getting out a 12-page paper was about the equivalent of cleaning the Augean stables.

There was great fun, and not a little confusion as Don McCuaig of Renfrew, Per Hvidsten of Port Perry and Bill Smiley of Midland planned, well into the wee hours, the Grand Post-Convention Tour to Paraguay, starting on Nov. 12 from Pickering Airport in a Sopwith Camel.

And there was a very warm and unexpected experience for yours truly: No, it wasn't sitting next to Joe Clarke and Maureen McTeer and Robert Stanfield in the coffee shop. It wasn't listening to a speech by Howie Meeker, though both these things happened.

It was the announcement of a new award for Canadian community newspapers: Outstanding Columnist. It was a well-kept secret until this humble columnist was called to the podium and presented with a handsome plaque and an even handsomer cheque. I was so flustered I didn't know whether I was receiving a Standing Ovation or just a Warm Clap. Whichever, thank you, chaps and girls. There are some excellent columnists writing for your papers, and I'm glad you said it before you had to say it with flowers.



Partnership to preserve farmland

By WILLIAM HODGSON, M.P.P.

Education is a continuing concern to many people. Sometimes, the concern centres on improving curriculum standards. In other cases, parents are worried about their children's safety or the physical condition of the school which their children attend.

The Stouffville parents whose children attended Summitview School worked persistently to get major renovations made in this school. They have realized their goal because the Education Ministry has approved major expenditures for these improvements.

I was happy to have a t e n d e d their celebration last Friday, September 17, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Arends. These parents deserve full credit for their determination and effort in getting their school

improved. They have every right to celebrate.

Some press critics seem to believe that the future of Ontario's food lands "crisis" lies in a blanket freeze on all good, productive farmland throughout this Province.

Compare the farm productive capacities of the Soviet Union and Canada or the United States. Can you think of one year whereby either the Canadian or American government imported wheat from the Communist bloc? In fact, just the reverse is true. The Soviet Union over the years has imported most of its wheat requirements from North America. These trends are just not accidental, but can be attributed to good farm management.

So what is so surprising is the ease with which some people talk about freezing all good

farmland. To do so and yet ignore the consequences of such talk is disturbing, to say the least. Freezing all farmland means compensation to all farm owners affected. It means a tremendously high cost to society — a cost which cannot be pinned to exact dollars and cents. Certainly, it would be a tremendous cost to every taxpayer.

If you are getting an impression that your Ontario Government does not care about preserving quality farmland from development, pressures for future generations, it is a mistaken impression. We care a great deal, but we are not going out to freeze the farmer's land because of misinformation.

As Agriculture and Food Minister Bill Newman has often said, you can order land to be frozen but you can't order farmers to continue farming against their will.

The big difference between the N.D.P. and the present government on this issue is a question of approach. Instead of the N.D.P. blanket freeze, the Food and Agriculture Ministry has a heavy responsibility to review local government plans for commercial, residential and industrial uses of land and to ensure that agricultural uses are protected. This is a fairly new procedure.

With this Ministry working in partnership with the municipalities to preserve farmland, common sense prevails. This approach develops confidence in local planning officials and allows them to appreciate the basic intent of agricultural land-use planning at the provincial level.

It is a remarkably different approach to N.D.P.'s professed

respect for local autonomy which they often talk about. This government believes that detailed land-use planning is best done at the local level.

Aside from effective land-use planning and an up-to-date land inventory county by county, the 1976 April budget proposed a n e w t a x a t i o n arrangement on land. Only farm houses would be taxed at 50 per cent, whereas all farmlands would be paid by the province at 100 per cent. If the land were used for non-agricultural purposes, the Province would recover the taxes it had paid for a period up to ten years.

What must be remembered is that this proposal is still a proposal, but it shows a more imaginative approach than a total land freeze to protect foodlands. It demonstrates this government's

deep concern for balancing the different demands to which land will be subjected in the coming decades.

To freeze all farmland in Ontario is an unthinking and irresponsible proposal, for it would straight-jacket rural Ontario. Instead of freezing a farmer's land and then buying foreign produce, Ontario consumers must buy more Ontario produce. That is the best way of protecting foodlands.

Provide a climate of incentives and you will be guaranteed quality food at reasonable prices. The discipline and efficiency of the market place — despite its imperfections — is still preferable to absolute state control of agriculture.

Governments never have, and never will, produce food.

COUNTDOWN:

Stouffville Centennial 1877-1977



Early Reeves of Stouffville
Edward Wheeler was Stouffville's second reeve, holding the office in 1879-80. He successfully contested the office against Dr. S. L. Freil, one of the council's original members. Ratepayers took their local politics very seriously in these early days, and Mr. Wheeler's election was the occasion for a torchlight parade through town. In the absence of kerosene, bull rushes soaked in tallow were used.

The reeve operated one of the village's early developments, the Wheeler Mills which stood on the property where the new Imperial Bank of Commerce is being erected.

Long before the incorporation of Stouffville, Edward Wheeler had established himself on the Whitchurch-Markham townline and operated a saw mill and grist mill.

Edward Wheeler is buried in the Cedar Grove Cemetery, a burying place for the long established Reesor family. Edward Wheeler's wife was Anna Maria Reesor. Mr. Wheeler died in 1897 at the age of 84 and his wife in 1902 at the age of 91. The couple had three sons and four daughters; one son George becoming a member of parliament for Ontario riding.

The Wheeler family when in Stouffville lived in a residence which stood on the present site of the Dr. Wm. Murphy home, and Wheeler barns which were quite extensive occupied the present Baptist Church corner. Centennial meter stamps

Through the assistance of Stouffville's postmaster, Mr. Gary Fisher, special stamps are now available for those business places using postage meters, and which will advertise our town centennial next year.