



# The Tribune

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Established 1888  
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Published every Thursday at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont. Tel. 640-2100; Toronto phone 261 7880. Single copies 25c. subscriptions \$18.00 per year in Canada, \$26.00 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspapers Association and Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association. Second class mail registration number 0696.

The Tribune is one of the Inland 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.

640-2100



361-1680

## Editorials

### A Fair that had everything

Markham Fair '78 is over and there's little to be said that tens of thousands of people haven't said already.

We enjoyed the variance of the programs — something for everyone. And we marvelled at the precision with which each was carried out.

A tremendous show. It was a Fair that had everything, including good weather. However, apart from displays, undoubtedly exceeding previous years, there were things; little things but important things, that attracted our attention.

We were excited at the involvement of this community, the Town of Whitchurch - Stouffville. We look on it as "our" fair too, due in part to the close proximity of the site.

We liked the spirit of co-operation so apparent within the directorate; everyone working together to give dollar plus value for every dollar received at the gate.

We appreciated the admission from some of the Board's severest critics that this is IT, a location exceeding all expectations; truly "The Fair with a Future".

Last, but certainly not least, Markham Fair's success was another feather in the cap of Alma Walker, one who's seen and done it all. Congratulations.

First, there was the involvement of children; almost at every turn, children were taking part; from ribbon-cutting ceremonies to spelling bees to gymnastics. Their inclusion added meaning to the motto "A Family Fair".

We liked the treatment accorded senior citizens; bus transportation to and from the site; even free-rides to and from cars parked some distance away. These thoughtful acts, minor though they may seem, are appreciated.



### Roaming Around Neil's duck was a loose goose



Pet shows, they're great; for spectators as well as participants. I feel I can speak with some knowledge on the subject for, one way or another, I've been involved in a few.

It must be twenty years ago that I recommended the holding of such an event here in Stouffville. But would-be organizers threw up their hands. "Dogs and cats in one place at the same time — it will never work," they protested.

But it does work; pet show promoters at Markham Fair have proved this. Theirs is one of the best.

Would you believe it? Fifty-nine entries, Friday; birds, animals, even a crab and a snapping turtle; all sizes and descriptions. I've never seen such a menagerie in all my life.

While definitely a supporter of this kind of thing, the hazards involved have been known to prompt premature greying among parents; this one included. I spotted a couple of wisps on Saturday morning.

The real problem as I see it is selecting a suitable entry, for there are pets and there are pets. Some are meant to be paraded in public and some aren't; some are tame and some are uncontrollably wild.

Ours, a duck, while partially domesticated, was never meant to be led on a leash. We found that out the night before; too late to change anything. Son Neil was determined.

"Quacker" (that's what we call him (her)), was introduced to our household last May. Neil brought "it" home inside the sleeve of his coat; bought it at the Sales Barn for a dollar. His friend, Gerald Heikens, bought one too.

For the past five months, "Quacker" and "Scratchy" have been living in the lap of luxury — together. On a couple of occasions, we tried separating them, but each time, the

one that was left, drummed up commotion enough to wake the dead.

For that reason, we agreed to enter them as a "team", but the dual-hitch arrangement didn't work. When "Quacker" would walk, "Scratchy" would squat or vice-versa. We finally gave up, deciding to go with "Quacker" or not at all.

The most frustrating experience was getting "it" there. If you've ever tried to transport a live duck in the back of your car, you'll appreciate what I mean. Their bathroom habits are atrocious.

I'm still not sure what Neil fed his pet at noon-hour, Friday, but for sure, we had the loosest goose in Stouffville. To make matters worse, she insisted on flapping her wings after every ill-timed "movement", sending a spray of secretion over everybody and everything.

By the time we reached the grounds, the car was a mess. So was Neil.

Naturally, it was my fate to lift the webbed amphibian out of the back and into a basket. That's when she let go a huge "plop", right on my shoe.

How we ever made it from the parking lot to the show ring, I'm not sure. We both (the duck and I) could have succumbed to heart seizures. Anyway, we arrived just in time for the signing-in ceremony.

The rest was simple. "Quacker" adjusted to his new surroundings quite quickly; even waddled off with a ribbon; third prize for Best Farm Animal. Beaten out for top spot by a cow and a goat.

So that was our contribution to Pet Show '78.

As for next year, I'm attempting to talk the Domestic Science committee into establishing a brand new category — Duck Pie.

### Council Capers They talk too much



As a recent product of our educational system, I feel well acquainted with all its faults, and its merits. Certainly there is room for improvement.

Being grateful for all the assistance and training I've received during my schooling, I've been searching for a way that I, in turn, could help other students, who are interested in learning.

Because I'm so fascinated with education, I was naturally excited when our editor assigned me the task of reporting schoolboard meetings. I felt I could make a contribution simply by keeping the public informed about the quality of education their children are receiving.

I came to the Board of Education Offices in Aurora expecting that great things would

be accomplished for the welfare of students. I had a good rest, instead.

For the first few minutes of the session, I was attentive, eager, and interested. As the evening wore on, however, I found I had written nothing in my notebook. I panicked! Two or three other reporters were scribbling away furiously.

When I studied them again, minutes later, I realized they weren't taking notes at all, but were passing the time by playing tic-tac-toe. They were as bored as I.

After about an hour in the chambers, I began to understand the problem. Too much was being said, and nothing was being accomplished. With 20 members sitting on the board, the discussions drag on interminably; they're like slow poison for onlookers. The Board is just too unwieldy.

I haven't attended a meeting yet where they've managed to examine more than half the items on the agenda. It is said that the wheels of government turn slowly, but this is ludicrous. The Board's wheels are flat!

Attending these sessions is like returning to a grade three classroom, where everyone has an opportunity to "show and tell". Each trustee has to put his or her "two cents worth" in.

They can hardly be blamed for having differing opinions, or harboring their own special concerns. We wouldn't have a very effective political system if there was no debate among our elected representatives. The Board, however, debates for too long.

The political process is slowed down even more by a few politicians in the crowd, who feel bound to say something, just to go on record. They aren't content to sit silently if they have nothing to say, but throw out any kind of statement simply to give the appearance they're doing a good job. This kind of activity is probably more pronounced now than it's election-time.

The fellow who keeps winking at all the reporters in the room doesn't lessen my suspicions any about the existence of this type of person. Of course, I don't know for certain whether he wants good press, or a good time.

After sitting through a schoolboard marathon, Stouffville Council is refreshing. That's not saying much for schoolboard meetings.

### Editor's Mail Fair rates best bargain

This brief note should be addressed to the Markham Fair Board. However, since I'm probably speaking for thousands of others, just like myself who visited this rural exhibition, I'm sending it through to you.

I was at the fair, not once, but four times, and enjoyed it more each time. On each occasion, I saw things I had missed before; not to speak of old friends I hadn't seen in years.

While some may complain about the cost, I say the admission price to Markham Fair is the best bargain going. I also found prices on the grounds quite reasonable too, particularly the apple pie at the Markham Lions Booth. I had four pieces.

To the program organizers, both in and outside the General Exhibits Building, my congratulations. An old-timer like myself could enjoy the day without having to move but a few feet.

Markham Fair is an institution and while the location is changed, the tradition lives on. May it always be this way.

CLIFFORD WILLIAMS,  
Mount Albert,  
Ont.

### United Way is truly united

This year's United Way campaign in the Region of York is truly UNITED.

Sparked by an enthusiastic chairman in Bob Shea and assisted by area co-ordinators like Whitchurch - Stouffville's Gary Fisher, the fund drive is destined for success.

However, success doesn't come through wishful thinking. It requires co-operation, not just at the executive level, but at the "grass roots", the man-on-the-street.

Here in Whitchurch - Stouffville, the "selling" of the United Way is difficult because, unlike Markham, Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Georgina, there's no "direct"

benefit; that is, no organization located within our borders, will be a recipient of campaign funds.

That's unfortunate. However, as in so many things, organized on a regional basis, one must look beyond municipal boundaries and appreciate what can be accomplished in the region as a whole, rather than a part of the whole.

What we like best about the current campaign is the lack of "hard-sell". There'll be no arm-twisting for funds, simply a "give what you can" request.

We trust you'll do just that.

### Let's revive the trade fair

The wind-up of an extremely successful fair in Markham, Sunday, reminds us of the years, not so long ago, when Stouffville also had a fair; an exhibition by merchants of their wares that attracted several thousand visitors.

While we're not suggesting anything on the scale of Markham's show, we feel it's time the Trade Fair here was revived — at the Arena and even the area beyond.

If properly organized, we're certain local retailers would support it. We're sure local

residents would.

Previously, the Legion assumed this responsibility and, with the exception of the last year, all floor space was sold out. We'd like to see this same organization take on this project again. If not, then the Chamber of Commerce should give the venture due consideration.

Regardless of who puts the wheels in motion, everybody benefits. Let's get something started while there's still plenty of time to plan ahead.

### Town Band deserves support

A concert and marching band is in the process of being organized in Whitchurch - Stouffville.

Practices are held once a week.

The Tribune strongly supports this project. It's good for the participants and good

for the community.

There's still room for additional players. Interested members are asked to call 640-1702. You'll be doing yourself a favor by signing up and, at the same time, provide a much appreciated service in Town.



The "original" Stouffville 'Clipper' hockey team --- 1948-49

Thirty years ago, the original Stouffville 'Clipper' hockey team was born. Players with the club of 1948-49 were: (left to right) Bert Bell, (manager); Keith Jewett, Vic Sluce, George Rumney, Norm Legge, Bob Lawrie, Bill Johnston, Jack Rumney, Ross Hochberg, Ernie Lawrie (coach). Front Row (left to right) Bill Bradbury, Don Smith, Bill Muholland, Austie Baker, Don Campbell and Les Clarke. Absent are Jack Harper, Gord Lewis, Herb Rose and Allan B roadway.