



The Tribune

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Editorials

From fish

to fowl

Our town's famous again

Twenty-five years ago, a most unlikely commodity — goldfish, put Stouffville on the map. Visitors here were continually enquiring as to the whereabouts of the Goldfish Factory, now the site of Testa Villa Apartments, Victoria Street.

When the daily press, both the Star and the Tely, had space to fill, they'd invariably search through their files and come up with a re-write of the same story they'd featured six months before. To local folk, well acquainted with the tale of the finny creatures, it all became a bit boring. Still, it made Stouffville famous.

With the sudden demise of this firm, the town's position in the spotlight of public attention also went sour; and remained that way for a time.

Now we're back in the thick of things again and by thick, we mean traffic; bumper-to-bumper traffic every Saturday.

The reason? The Stouffville Sales Barn; that's what we call it. The Stouffville Flea Market; that's what "they" call it. But for the local resident, attempting to inch his way out from any one of a half-dozen side streets, the applied name (or names) are quite unprintable in a family newspaper.

Regardless, this business that had its start in a small shed on Park Drive North has developed into the success venture of the decade.

It's a well-run operation, this is obvious. Otherwise people by the hundreds (or is it thousands?) wouldn't keep coming back. There are side benefits too. Town restaurants and service stations are only two.

But putting aside traffic problems (that can be endured with a little patience), all of Stouffville benefits through widespread publicity that can't be purchased at any price.

Election front-too quiet

With just over three weeks to go until election day (Nov. 13); there's little apparent interest in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

As the situation now stands, there could be an acclamation right across the board. This is bad, not because the members now holding office have done a poor job; they haven't, but because, after a period of two years, the electorate is entitled to a choice.

Earlier, there were rumblings of candidate enthusiasm in Wards 1 and 5. These have pretty well petered out. In Ward 6, Jim Sanders, the only definite nominee, could still face opposition. But time is running out.

Despite the fact only about 40 per cent of Town voters exercise their franchise, there's a growing feeling of resentment here over the thought of no vote at all. People we've talked to can't understand how such a thing could occur. It has and it will unless responsible

residents come out of the woodwork and offer a challenge.

Why the hesitation to serve in this capacity?

The missing ingredient is time. The majority refused to be pinned down to a position they can't serve well. Then there's the fear of making unpopular decisions — decisions that turn friends into enemies. Who needs the aggravation? There's also a hateful thought about being beaten. No one likes to be a loser. These things combined, causes would be candidates to cringe. Hence, an acclamation.

Still, a no-contest is bad — bad for the acclaimed and bad for the Town. Surely, out of more than 12,000, there's more than one new face to step out of the crowd. For the sake of good government, there should be.

Town lighting-unacceptable

Town Council has approved an expenditure of close to \$3,000 for the upgrading of lights in several 'black-out' areas of the municipality.

This is good news; money well spent. However, it goes without saying that such a limited expenditure will accomplish very little when one looks at the over-all requirements throughout the municipality.

A drive along some of Stouffville's back streets after dark points out a laxness in this regard; on some, virtually no lighting at all. And this is a town.

Consider then the illumination in some of the hamlets like Bethesda, Lemonville and Musselman's Lake; candlepower at best.

Look too at the top-sided lighting on Main Street; bright on the south, dark on the north.

"Like driving through a cemetery," one visitor put it. And she wasn't far wrong.

The Council of 1979 should double its budget in this regard and continue an updating of the service until an acceptable standard is reached.

Builder should fix faulty fireplaces

It's happened again. Another blaze in another fireplace at a home in the second phase of the Felray Subdivision at Ballantrae.

Damage has been estimated at close to \$2,000; important, certainly, but not a major concern. What is, relates to the fact that had the fire occurred at three o'clock in the morning instead of ten o'clock at night, the result could have been far more serious — even loss of life.

Before such a tragedy occurs, an order should go out from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, prohibiting the use of suspect units. This ban should remain in effect until all have been thoroughly inspected.

If, during inspections, faulty workmanship is discovered, the municipality should bring pressure to bear on the builder to correct all structural defects.

With lives as well as property at stake, no one can afford to play games with this problem. It should be remedied as quickly as possible, with the welfare of the home-owner a top priority.

Editor's Mail

Fire service appreciated

Dear Editor:

After reading in your paper of an invitation to visit the Whitchurch - Stouffville Fire Station, Thursday night, I dragged myself away from the TV screen long enough to accompany two of my children down to the Hall.

What was supposed to take fifteen minutes was extended into an hour. And one of the most worthwhile hours I've spent in a long time. I found the department volunteers exceptionally friendly and knowledgeable. My son and daughter appreciated them too. So thanks, men. You're a great bunch of guys and you do a tremendous job.

Glenn Beckett,
North Street,
Stouffville.



Veteran plowman, Anthony Featherstone of R.R. 1, Milliken, is a likely entrant in the East York-King and Vaughan Match this Saturday on the Howard

Burkholder farm, conc. 5, Markham, a half-mile south of the Stouffville-Gormley Road. Guardian Photo.



"This looks like a sure winner"

Window on Wildlife

Bird feeders for bird watchers

By Art Briggs-Jude



It's autumn again. There's a chill to the morning air, an artistic touch to the landscape, and a seasonal sound in the calls of the wild birds. And of the three most apparent signs of fading summer, it's the notes of the feathered folk, that often give us the earliest forecast of the changing season. In many instances, the prolonged cries of an inquisitive bluejay in August have triggered the remark, "Gee, that jay sure sounds like fall is here."

But gradually as the summer slipped into September, other voices in the bird world were heard from, almost daily. In a passing parade of impatient energy, the warblers flitted and twittered through our backyards and gardens. Robins headed for the hedgerows where berries were prevalent, uttering single chirps, not at all like their summer rain songs. In the evening, flocks of blackbirds swept across the horizon, sending down a series of short clicking notes to draw your attention. And who could fail to hear the traditional music of the wild geese, winging their way overhead in shallow "V" formations.

Birds then, have a particular appeal to most people. And whether you're a wildfowl hunter in the middle of a marsh, a bird observer out checking the fall migration, or simply a homeowner watching the birds arrive at your feeder, the attraction is there. Surprisingly, some folk like myself, are a bit of all these things. As an example, on the 15th of September we opened the duck season near Blind River, then spent the weekend of the 23rd at Point Pelee observing the southward movement of hawks. And this past week we have been busy building new bird feeders and restocking the old ones for the cold-weather months ahead.

Actually, this is a good time to begin your winter feeding program. The great general movement of birds at this season, makes it possible to attract some of these migrants to your feeding station as they drift by. And of course, if the pickings are right and regular, there's a good chance they'll stay on to entertain you in the sometimes drab days ahead.

A bird feeding station may range

anywhere from a single shelf with a raised edge (to keep the seed on) to an expensive redwood creation with glass panels and the whole bit. Again I'll repeat; once you have decided to set up a feeder, it's imperative that you keep it supplied. For it's cruel to have birds become dependant on your offerings, and then cut them off in the cold weather. So put your feed-tray in a sheltered spot out of the strong winds, and up high enough so the cats can't spring onto it. A bracket on the garage, a wire hung from a tree, or a pipe driven into the ground, all work equally well as a support. Only make sure you can see it from the window, for that's where all the action will be when winter's blustery days arrive.

And stock it well with sunflower seed and a mixture of cracked corn and maybe some rolled oats. Millet, or canary seed will often bring in goldfinches and redpolls, while nutmeats attract nuthatches and bluejays. And while on the subject of nuts and jays, a mesh bag filled with peanuts in the shell and hung from a tree will prevent these boisterous clowns from robbing your handouts as fast as you put them up.

Such bags, are also a great favorite of the

woodpeckers, especially with the addition of some chunks of raw suet. If you live in an area where there are lots of large trees, a long suet log works even better. Simply split the 4x24 inch log lengthwise, then make a series of hollows into the flat sides. Now from the bark side drill a number of 1/4" holes into these crevices. Stuff the hollows with chopped suet, nuts, peanut butter and old canned fruit, and you have a smorgasbord for sapsuckers and flickers.

With the addition of a feeder or two in your backyard, you have just joined a whole host of people who engage in this popular cold-weather pastime. And as the birds begin to arrive and accept your handouts, try making a check list. It's a good reference for next winter, and will give you an idea as to what to expect and when. And you'll be surprised to find how your list will grow from year to year. Quite often when a different bird turns up, it causes some excitement, not only in your household but in the whole neighborhood. At such times you'll begin to realize you're a confirmed bird-watcher. If not, how else can you explain T.V. tables at the picture window, and a pair of binoculars resting on a partially opened field guide nearby.

Council Capers

Privileges abused

By Ed Schroeter



When philosophers first popularized the notion of establishing justice for all men and women, they didn't realize what a costly proposition it would be.

It is certainly a very noble, if somewhat optimistic project. In fact, after the ink eraser, it's one of mankind's more worthwhile ideas. As a reporter, I won't deny that.

Unfortunately, after being pumped with rhetoric about man's "inalienable rights," the public has forgotten that justice is really just another basic service, provided by the government. It, like garbage collection, is expensive. It's added onto your tax bill at the end of the year. Make no mistake about it.

It seems to me some citizens are abusing their privileges, at an enormous cost to the general public. At the municipal level, for example, the recent increase in the number of Ontario Municipal Board hearings in our area has proved to be an enormous burden on the Town. I don't propose to do away with them. That would be like inviting the Son of Sam killer over for a quick round of fencing. It would be a very quick round, indeed.

At a cost of over \$1,000 a day, the OMB hearing should be a last avenue of appeal. They generally deal with opposition from residents, or the Town, to a proposed housing or industrial development. But it might be the case that a developer wishes to appeal a decision by the Town forbidding his subdivision.

Council has taken measures recently to offset the expense by asking developers who have the Town's support to share the cost of the hearing. After observing several recent OMB hearings, I'm not sure if this is at all fair.

I came away with the impression from one hearing that the residents who opposed one development had no case against the plan at all. They were tying up his time and money, and were abusing the judicial system.

They certainly raised enough valid concerns. However, an OMB hearing is not the time or place to dispel these doubts. They could be dealt with at the numerous public meeting and private sessions held earlier on the subject. There was plenty of opportunity for this.

It occurred to me the residents in this case may simply not have wanted the project located near them. If this were true, they certainly shouldn't have been allowed to abuse the system in that way.

There must be some kind of deterrent for those who might not have any valid complaints against a proposed development. Now if the loser of the battle was assessed the court costs, people might think twice before they called for an OMB hearing.

Editor's Mail

Dear Sir,

John B. Regan's advertisement in last week's Tribune, by which he proposed to "clear up the misunderstanding surrounding this matter" (of his gravel dealings in Uxbridge), does nothing of the sort. To my mind it was meant to further confuse the issue and mislead the people of this township.

His "6 1/2 cent-a-ton" assistance for the taxpayers is hogwash. This levy would only be payable until new Pits & Quarries legislation comes into effect, which the provincial government promises within the next few months.

He wants to haul a million tons a year for the next 40 years — of which 39-plus years would be under Pits & Quarries legislation which Uxbridge people haven't seen, can't guess, and have absolutely no control over. He would get 40 million tons of income, we would get to take the chances.

His offer to pave the 7th Concession to Durham Road 21 means nothing to the people who live here except an increase in the number of gravel trucks on our roads.

And his claim that "the total tonnage involved will not increase" is playing very loose with the truth. The facts are that Pit C would allow him to take out the full million tons a year he is licensed for. But at present he can't, because his Pit A is nearly exhausted and his Pit B isn't licensed.

Finally, his proposition would allow him to get around the Township's opposition to Pit B. In effect he would rub all our noses in it.

Randy Howard,
Uxbridge