



The Tribune

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Editorials

Electorate is out in the cold

Almost two years have passed since the last municipal election in Whitchurch - Stouffville.

What has been accomplished here during this period; by the Town Council as a whole or by the mayor and six ward councillors as individuals?

Is Whitchurch - Stouffville getting a "fair shake" at the Region?

Under the present system, unless queried by the electorate or questioned by this newspaper, there's no way of knowing. For public nomination meetings, where incumbents were once obliged to give an account of their stewardship, are a thing of the past.

The present system is wrong. Surely, after almost twenty-four months in office, it's not too much to expect of a Ward member, either seeking re-election or being acclaimed, to stand up in public and outline his (or her) accomplishments.

With the Act so lax in this regard, where does this put the 3 candidates for Ward 6? What are the planks in Jim Sanders' platform? What has Tom Lonergan to offer? Other than outlines in The Tribune and a door-to-door campaign, the public has no way of knowing. But the public has a right to know, otherwise it becomes merely a popularity contest. And this is bad.

While we bemoan the fact that nomination meetings should be but aren't, there's an alternative, one that's been adopted in many municipalities with considerable success. It's called a pre-election forum, whereby candidates are invited to participate. Here in Whitchurch - Stouffville, it would be a bit of a risk, since only a single seat on the 1979-80 Council is up for grabs. The speakers might address a roomful of empty chairs. But that's a risk we may have to take.

Think about it over the next few days. If you're interested, so are we.

Must apply for Utility posts

The day-to-day operation of the Stouffville Hydro Commission will never gain town-wide attention. This is because everything runs so smoothly.

The local P.U.C. area remains the former Village of Stouffville. However, the service will undoubtedly be expanded to take in rural Whitchurch and while still two, three, maybe four years away, much spade work must be done in preparation for this move.

How close members of Council are to the hydro operation here, is questionable. Regardless, the new appointments for 1979 are their responsibility, so they're naturally

anxious to select the best people possible for the job.

As the situation stands, they have more would-be commissioners than they have commission seats. So they're asking all interested parties to submit applications, a decision that has ruffled a few feathers in Stouffville.

In our opinion, the Council isn't asking too much, particularly when it's known that at least two 'outsiders' are waiting in the wings. When members have had an opportunity to read the 'credentials' of all concerned they'll be better able to assess who's right for the job.

We support the Bill.

Politicians, particularly those without legal experience, are "fair game" when it comes to charges. Costs, regardless of whether there's a conviction, can be extensive. These should be absorbed by the municipality.

The mayor of Whitchurch - Stouffville is paid \$8,700. Each ward councillor receives \$5,200. These stipends are for services rendered in running the affairs of the Town and hardly sufficient to cover 'contingencies' such as court actions.

Council deserves protection

Members of municipal council, like parliamentarians at the provincial and federal level, are sometimes targets for law suits.

Even at the present time, a case is pending in Whitchurch - Stouffville, but not against the Town, but against the mayor and local councillors.

Because of this, the council is making application through York North M.P., Bill Hodgson, to have a Private Member's Bill placed before the Ontario Legislature that, if passed, would exonerate the individual from any liability in this regard.

Scout leader honored

Mrs. Roy Ashbridge, R. R. 4, Stouffville, was recently honored for her distinguished service to the Boy Scouts of Canada. Mrs. Ashbridge received the Silver Acorn Award from The Honorable Pauline McGibbon, Lieut. Governor of Ontario at a ceremony at Queen's Park. Silver Acorns are awarded as recognition of especially distinguished service to the Scouts Movement. Presentations are made annually to Ontario residents as approved by the Governor General of Canada.

Isabel Ashbridge began her Scouting career with the 155th Toronto Cub Pack and has worked directly with Cubs for 18 of the 31 years she has served Scouting.

Along with her Leader's responsibilities, she contributed on District Staff and Training Teams in the Greater Toronto Region and South Lake Simcoe District. In the 1960's, when the Ashbridge family moved to Woodland Trails Camp in Whitchurch - Stouffville, her experience in Cubbing was readily available to camping Cub groups, enhancing the learning process for the boys involved.



The Honorable Pauline McGibbon, Lieut. Governor of Ontario, presents Scouting's highest award to Isabel Ashbridge, R. R. 4, Stouffville.



"How do you do M'am.....I'm here to inspect your fireplace"

Roaming Around

Duck pets in a pond paradise

By Jim Thomas



Neil cried. And for every big tear that trickled down his cheek, a bigger lump lodged in my throat.

I kept swallowing hard and it showed. But I didn't care. Heck, fathers have feelings too. But I guess ten-year-old boys are, different; at least they're supposed to be. Crying's for sissies and girls, not for the champion tree-house builder on the block.

Still, there are times.... He buried his head in his hands so his brothers and sisters wouldn't see. But they knew, and tried to understand.

It was Wednesday evening and Neil had just parted company with two summer-long companions; a pair of ducks called "Quacker" and "Scratchy". While only one was actually his (the other belonged to a boy across the street), he looked on them both as pets - his pets, and cared for them diligently without any coaxing.

Any of you who know anything about ducks will appreciate the kind of care they require; feeding and watering several times each day.

This pair responded dramatically, reaching maturity almost over-night. Friends who saw them back in May and later in October, couldn't believe their eyes. They were huge and this presented problems. We didn't have the backyard space to accommodate them. Even worse, with winter approaching, they would have to be accommodated elsewhere. And my wife, despite her tolerance, wasn't about to allow them in the living room.

On a couple of the colder evenings, we moved them to a make-shift box in the garage. But that couldn't be continued - the smell was horrendous.

So we had to make a decision, sell them or give them away, they had to go.

But to whom? The thought of them appearing on someone's table was more than Neil could stand. "Eat them, no way," he kept repeating, "they're too nice to kill".

And they were, particularly the male, with his green head and neck and grey-green

body and wings. The female was kind of homely brown but still treated as an equal. Beauty's in the eye of the beholder.

It was on my suggestion that we contacted the manager of the Claremont Conservation Area and yes, he agreed that "Quacker" and "Scratchy" could be accommodated there.

So that's where we went on Wednesday, to deliver Neil's pets to their new home.

But the story doesn't end there, for late Friday afternoon, Neil and I returned to the site to see if the pair had adjusted to their new environment.

They had, fully and completely. Better still, they were two of the most beautiful ducks on the pond, their feathers glistening in the sun. They waddled out of the water; ate out of his hand; then returned for another swim.

"They're happy here Dad, I can tell," said Neil. "I sure am glad you thought of this place". Then the clincher. Next summer, he says he's going to raise a whole flock.

We'll never stand it, neither will the neighbors.

Council Capers

A guide for the novice politician

By Ed Schroeter



After much time and labor, I've finally completed a brilliant essay, entitled, "A Guide to Electioneering." It's a very practical piece, containing useful hints for the novice politician. Outlined in it are the appropriate steps for conducting an effective political campaign at the municipal level.

The work itself is composed so that even a child could master the concepts put forward in it. Prospective politicians shouldn't have any problems understanding the text either.

With the municipal elections just around the corner, I expected there would be more interest shown in my work. I thought for sure I'd have the hottest selling item since some genius began marketing the Mickey Mouse Telephone a short time ago. Don't misunderstand me, please, I'm not comparing politics and Mickey Mouse, as some might think.

Much to my disappointment, no one has tried to break down my door to get their hands on a copy of my masterpiece. I haven't received so much as a single letter, or even a phone call about it. Of course, considering the Post Office's track record, and rates charged by Ma Bell, I'm not very surprised by this.

The fact that the budding politicians haven't sought me out personally for advice is distressing, however. Perhaps many of those who were initially attracted to politics have shied away from it, because they know so little about what is involved in a campaign. No doubt they've passed over the political arena for something they find equally as challenging, equally as stimulating - golf, poker...

Making the campaign easier is what my work is all about. In an attempt to encourage people to run for council in the future, I've decided to reproduce some of the most salient points of my article here. I hope they will prove valuable.

(1) THE SURE-FIRE APPROACH: The most effective way of getting into office is by acclamation. This makes the campaign

relatively easy for most politicians to manage, and cuts down on expenses. While difficult to accomplish in many municipalities, it is the only accepted method of obtaining a council seat in Whitchurch - Stouffville.

(2) DECLARING YOUR INTENTION TO RUN: It's important to get a jump on your opponents with your initial announcement, and that it leave a lasting impression in the voters' minds. Make a big splash, but don't get "all wet". Do this by taking a Tribune reporter to lunch. Wine him, dine him, and most importantly, provide a press kit complete with cute photos of you and your family, and a two page summary of your political platform. Taking out a full-page advertisement in the newspaper might also improve your chances.

(3) PUBLICITY: Though posters hand-drawn by your four year old son are certainly

cute and make you proud to be a father, they won't win any elections for you. Flood your yard with very expensive - looking campaign literature and signs. Professional - looking material impresses people. Purchasing an advertisement in The Tribune also helps.

(4) CAMPAIGNING: You've got to get the constituents in your ward solidly behind you. This is not as difficult a task as it seems, simply because less than 40 per cent of the population votes in a municipal election. You can guarantee yourself a seat on council if you are able to win over a key block of votes.

(5) FINAL SUGGESTION: Changing your surname to Abbot, Acton, or Adams is imperative! It's a national statistic that people whose names appear at the top of an election ballot tend to be elected more often than those whose names appear second or third. If your name is Zeller, you might be a great store manager, but you're doomed as a politician.

Editor's Mail

Pet's death a tragedy

Dear Jim:

There's something very special about a pet, be it a dog, a cat, a rabbit or a canary.

Even folks who don't own a bird or small animal, can recall the time when they did. It brings back pleasant memories.

Last week, when I read about the dog that died in a trap south of O'Brien Avenue, I was angry; and still am. Private property or not, this kind of "sport" should be banned, regardless of whether the intended victim is a fox, raccoon or a bear.

Funny, everyone I've talked to says exactly the same thing but all, like myself, are

at a loss to know what to do to bring such a ban about.

My heart goes out to the Jordan family who lost their pet this way. I appreciate Leona's courage in letting the newspaper know of this sad event and thank you, the editor, for giving it the Page 1 publicity it deserved. By bringing this heartless practice to the public's attention, something will surely be done to see that this tragedy is not repeated.

PETER J. MARSHALL,
 Manitoba Street,
 Stouffville.