



The Tribune

JAMES THOMAS
Editor-in-Chief

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CHARLES H. NOLAN
Publisher

BARRE BEACOCK
Advertising Manager

EDITORIAL DEPT: Ed Schroeter, Jim Holt
DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEPT: Lois Wideman, Art Dixon
BUSINESS OFFICE: Joan Marshman, Doreen Deacon, Eileen Glover

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Editorials

Slow growth is likely in '79

All indications are that development in the municipality of Whitchurch-Stouffville will be devoid of any sharp advances in 1979. For a starter we have Mayor King's statement that no additional residential development can be looked for for some years. This statement makes an exception of those subdivisions already agreed upon.

Some spot development has also been sanctioned at points in the rural area, Vivian being one in particular. However, immediate starts on housing in those areas already approved are not too promising. The largest of these, the Dulverton subdivision, the former Gar Lehman farm immediately north of town is rumored to be in the process of sale with no starting date available. Just south of Main Street and Success Square, the subdivision with some fifty lots still available may be delayed through a shortage of school facilities. The Summitview School which services this area is already employing a number of portables.

The other large area slated for residential development is the Harper farm at the south end of O'Brien Avenue, but no action can be expected here for some years.

In the commercial field, the Success Square Plaza still has a large number of vacant premises. Two more commercial outlets are available on the north side of Main Street and two on Edward Street, all only recently completed. In addition the Harding Gate Plaza has been approved without a food outlet or a theatre which will put still more vacant stores on the market.

Only tentative industrial expansion is the Volkswagen plant on the south side of Main Street just west of the new McNeil plant. Work on this plant is expected to begin this coming year.

Possibly the largest construction work to be undertaken in 1979 is the channelization of the stream which crosses Main Street in the downtown area. This work which is necessitating the removal of a number of buildings and their businesses will be handled by Metro Conservation Authority.

There are approximately 4,000 households within Whitchurch-Stouffville, containing some 12,000 persons, with 6,000 urban and 6,000 rural. When the sub-divisions, now approved within the municipality, proceed, the household figure will increase approximately 600 and the population 1800.

It is a well-known fact that there are many residents who would permit no development whatsoever, while there are others who would make the area wide open, allowing unlimited building. Both viewpoints have definite drawbacks. On the one hand no development at all brings stagnation and over the years an inability to provide up-to-date community facilities which the public expects. In addition good businesses will certainly not be attracted to a municipality of this type. On the other hand, the wide-open stance brings much higher than necessary expenses and a poor business performance.

Council's task is to find that middle road, to allow a balance of residential, business and industrial development to the extent that each can receive a just service. Housing should be kept in line with demand, and not be over-blown; business or commercial expansion should be kept free of the boom and bust cycle which it is tending to today; and industrial should certainly be encouraged to bring in plants which will provide jobs and keep the Town from becoming more and more a bedroom community.



"I hereby resolve to make Whitchurch-Stouffville The Perfect Community"

Roaming Around



I'm a chronic last-minute shopper

By Jim Thomas

Never again. Never ever again will I leave my Christmas shopping off til the last day; the last hour of the day to be honest.

I say this every year, but regardless of good intentions, the end result's the same; a race against the clock.

While little sympathy's shown slow-starters like myself, let it never be said that Stouffville merchants don't bend 'over' backwards to help.

Graydon Card, for example, even offered to make a delivery on Sunday. And David Barthau was tying a ribbon around the last of my gifts, six minutes past closing.

Although a bit behind schedule, my timing wasn't all that bad considering it was around three when I finally turned the key in the door and galloped off down the street.

First stop — George Ross Photography, where I picked up a Kodak slide projector. He had it all packaged and ready to go. Time.... 3:10.

Second stop — Stouffville Printing for a ball-point pen, some writing paper and a silver dinner bell for Jean plus three Sesame

Street drawing books for Mary-Lynn. Time 3:25.

While crossing the road at Civic and Main, I lost a rubber, several valuable minutes and nearly my life. In attempting to retrieve the worn-out 'ponton' I was almost creamed by a Cadillac. The close-call sent me scurrying into Murray Wilson's for replacements. Time 3:40.

With nothing to eat since the night before and nearly starving, I called in at The Regal restaurant for a western sandwich and coffee. Time 4 o'clock.

Then it was up to the Sales Barn where I purchased a Maple Leaf team poster for Barry and two large hunks of home-made fudge for Paul. Time 4:25.

At Card's Hardware, I found a Patti Page L.P. record for Jean and a flashlight for Paul. Time 4:40.

Things were going great; too great. With less than two hours to go, I had a feeling my luck would soon run out.

It did at Canadian Tire.

I asked for a portable in-car vacuum

cleaner for Paul. Sorry, sold out, the sympathetic store clerk said. I then enquired concerning a desk lamp for Neil. Sorry, sold out of those too. Then how about a miniature electric oil lamp for Jean? (They had at least a dozen the last time I looked). She shook her head.

Three strikes and I was out; on to Hamilton Automotive. Time 5:09. They were closed.

A mad dash to Barthau Jewellers saw other harried husbands and befuddled fathers lined up at the counter. So I joined the club.

I purchased five gold plate-holders and a beautiful beagle-shaped candle for Jean. The time 6:06.

In all the confusion, I forgot where I'd parked the car. Re-tracing my steps, I found it at Main and Church Streets where I'd left it two hours before.

The afternoon's greatest tragedy occurred while loading the gifts onto the back seat. The seam gave way on my pants, ventilating one leg and revealing a twelve inch expanse of royal blue woolies.

That was it. I promised myself I'd never wear the blasted blue things again anyway, and I won't.

This Christmas I received a new pair, very seasonal, Jean says. They're red with green trim.

The Fourth Quarter

Christmas not merry for all

By Leslie Holbrook

"Christmas Day had been lived through and was now nearly over; that was the main thing," says aging Miss Letty in Barbara Pym's novel about seniors.

I hope you are not finding your Yuletide "an occasion to be got through". It is for some, unfortunately.

"Christmas comes but once a year And when it comes it brings good cheer." So goes the old jingle. But for many who are no longer young and without close relatives or friends the Holiday Season can be a difficult time.

Opposed to those of us who, in our senior years, lead busy, interesting, satisfying lives are those who face only disheartening problems - magnified at this time of year.

Dr. Kevin Hartigan, psychology professor, Illinois Institute of Technology, says more North Americans feel depressed over the year-end than at any other time of year.

Editor's Mail

Phone link with Metro is progress?

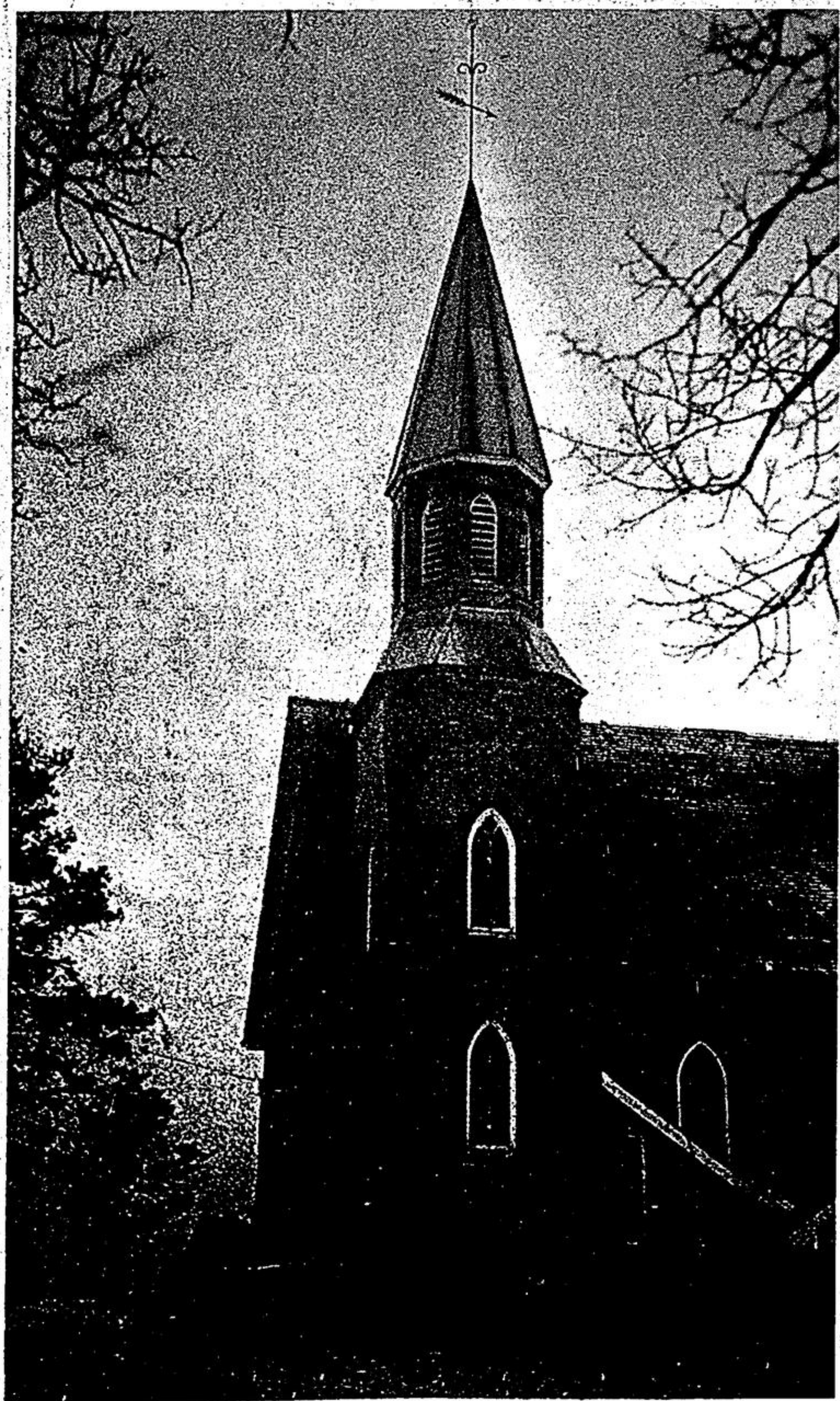
Dear Editor: With regard to the telephone link with Toronto and the subsequent hike in rates, I agree with your stand on the issue - strongly opposed.

My neighbor, on the other hand, is just as strongly in favor.

Here's the difference. We won't call anyone in Metro once in the entire year. My neighbor's mother-in-law lives in the city and his wife calls her every day.

So I'm required to help foot the bill. He calls it "progress". I call it unfair. He wins. I lose.

Ken Freedman, Main Street, Stouffville.



Pointing the way

A memorial unto the past — a symbol of hope in the year ahead is the imposing spire at Melville United Church, Kennedy

Road, north of 18th Avenue, Markham. The building was erected in 1845. The pastor is Rev. Gordon C. Hunter.

—Jim Thomas.

Resolutions

Priorities

By Jim Clubine, Associate Minister Stouffville Missionary Church

If New Year's resolutions were race horses most would never make it out of the starting gate. When we think of the outcome of past resolutions it is not much wonder the skeptic is so delighted.

The newness of the year coming tends to bring out an air of optimism. We will do this better, not do that anymore..we have such great plans. Alas, before the month of January is gone, pessimism once again has its way. Our firm decisions turn out not to have been very firm.

Many have despaired of making resolutions and have just given up the practice. What is the use? I will break it anyway. We might ask, is there any room for optimism? I say yes!

Most of our resolutions lack because they do not deal with the root of the problem. Each person is a special individual because he can choose between things. That which is most important to you will profoundly affect the choices you make.

The root of the problem is what we hold to be most important. Suppose that the acquisition of wealth is most important to us. It would be of no surprise to see people act greedily. To resolve 'I am not going to be greedy' will not be kept until we change the 'god' of our life.

A good question to ask is what is most important to me? Once we answer that question and know what is that is so important then we can decide whether or not it-is-worth pursuing. When we have something worth pursuing this is when we can have cause for optimism.

Our prayer for Stouffville residents for 1979 is that God may give to you His very best. We believe God's best is worth pursuing. Make 1979 a year when you will search it and know what God's best is.