



The Tribune

Established 1888
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Published every Thursday at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont. Tel. 640-2101; Toronto phone 361-1680. Single copies 20¢, subscriptions \$10.00 per year in Canada, \$26.00 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspapers Association and Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association. Second class mail registration number 0896.

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, Mississauga News, Oshawa This Weekend, Acton Free Press, Milton Canadian Champion and The Georgetown Independent.

640-2100



361-1680

Editorials

Little children may lead us

This Saturday is "World Child Day" in Whitchurch-Stouffville. The occasion will be our Town's way of focussing attention on "The Year of the Child".

Much planning has gone into the program with the real thrust coming from the Family Life Centre here along with the executive of the Stouffville Nursery School and other participating organizations.

Activities will be centred at four main locations, the Public Library, the Arena, Latham Hall and the High School.

What does "World Child Day" mean? What is the event going to accomplish? Most adults we've talked to don't know. Even worse, most don't care. This Saturday (or any Saturday for that matter), includes such pressing commitments as a couple of rounds

of golf; going to the cottage; cutting the grass; washing the car — all sorts of things. Their time's booked — well in advance.

Town children, however, are viewing the day differently. They're excited, enthusiastic, full of anticipation. They've obviously been coached by their teachers, which is good. For the success of this project will rest on their kind of enthusiasm. And hopefully, a little will rub off on Mom and Dad.

What is a "World Child"? According to a prepared brochure, it's a child who knows that all children in the world are his or her brothers and sisters. Understandably, that's difficult for many adults to grasp. But not for kids. The majority seem to understand the concept correctly. Now, if they'll put it into practice, there'll be brighter days ahead. Let's hope.

Beautification is overdue

This week, The Tribune received a notice from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, telling of a meeting, Wednesday, (last night), for the expressed purpose of discussing "the rejuvenation and beautification of Main Street".

A government representative was expected to attend, to explain in detail, the benefits that could be derived from such a program.

While too late for coverage as to the project's reception and hoped-for results, we consider it important enough to warrant editorial comment now rather than later.

We wish chairman David Barthau and his committee every success.

This is a thing that's been talked about here for years; much talk but no action. It's something that can easily be delayed,

shelved, swept under the rug. For the idea's certain to run into opposition.

We would suggest, however, that its promoters should not be too easily discouraged, but rather press until the end result is achieved.

An example of what can be accomplished, is now visible within the Main Street business section of Markham. The transformation there is amazing; but it wasn't easy.

And it won't be easy here. But it will be a feather in the cap of the Chamber of Commerce if they can even get something started. Then, improvements, little by little each year will follow.

The current thrust by the C. of C. is vital. If the proposal dies on the vine again, it'll be dead for a good many years, maybe forever. We can't let it happen.

In doubt-throw books out

Some parents in the Whitchurch-Stouffville area, are upset over certain types of books approved for study within the English Department at the High School.

Have they cause for concern?

It's difficult to say. What is 'filth' to one, could be a 'classic' to another.

Principal Mervyn Witherow, faced with a difficult situation, has tried to be fair. If a parent queries the acceptability of a particular book, that student is permitted to study another. It's a prescribed policy that goes to every home.

This, in our opinion, places the onus on the wrong person. It is the English teacher or, better still, the English Department head, who should decide what is acceptable and what is not, considering of course, the kind of community in which we live and using a little professional common sense.

Certainly, there's a lot of good reading material available without digging up dirt. If, however, a question arises as to what is 'good'

and what is not, the school would be wise to adopt the policy of most weekly newspapers, "when in doubt, throw it out".

'First Lady' take a bow

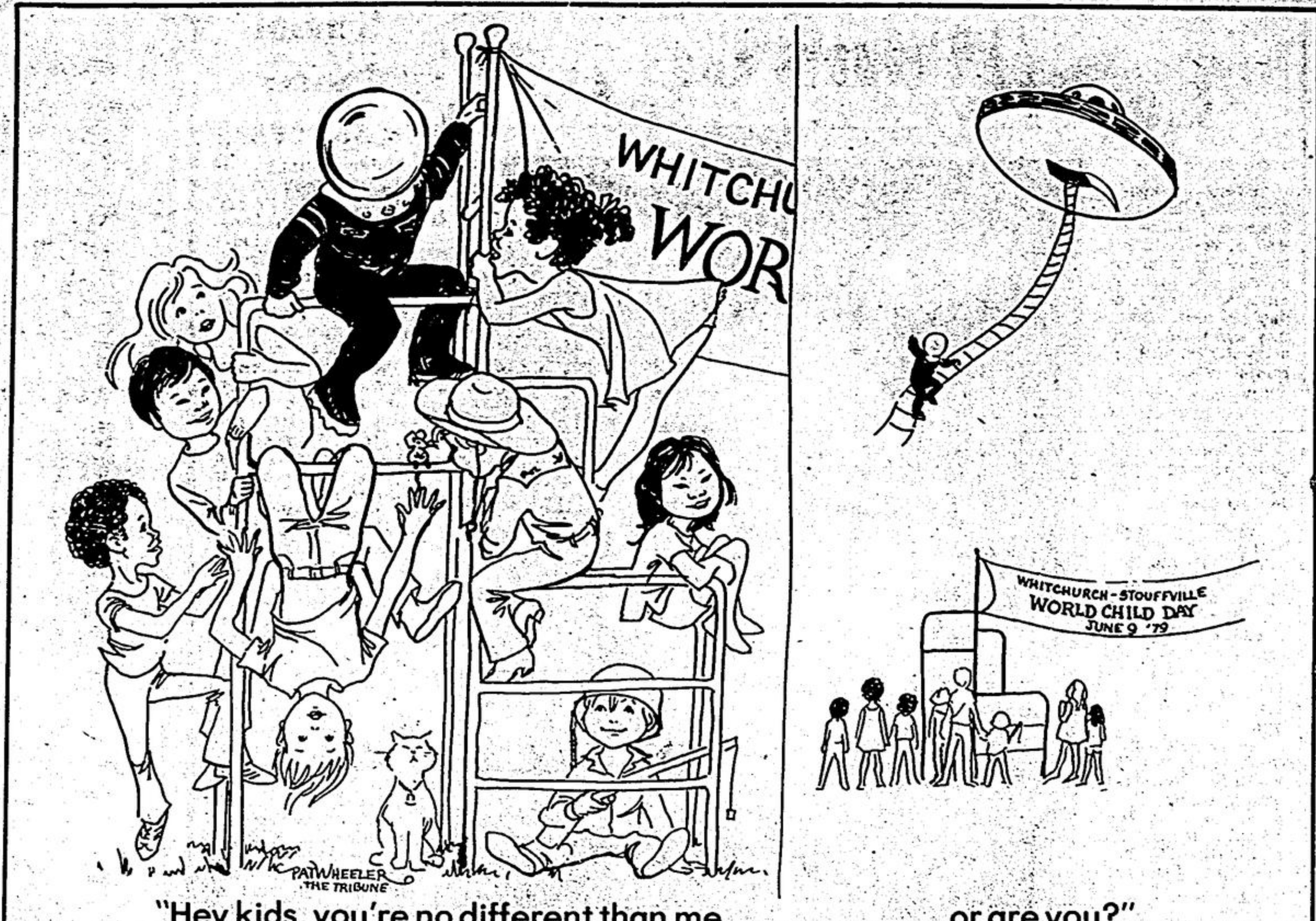
Alma Walker was the toast of the Town of Markham, Saturday night.

The event, one of the best organized functions we have ever had the privilege of attending, attracted an audience of over six hundred.

One thing can be said about Markham. When they take on a thing, they do it up big. Saturday's 'spectacular' was no exception.

From one who has known Alma for more years than most, our personal congratulations. Every compliment was spoken with feeling; every gift was richly deserved.

Alma Walker is one of a kind. Markham should be so fortunate.



Sugar and Spice

Where were the women politicians?

By Bill Smiley



One thing that was peculiar, among many others, in the recent federal election, was the shortage of female power. Where was it?

Oh, yes, I know. Thousands of women were out working for their local candidate, probably far harder than their male counterparts, or their reluctantly-dragged-along husbands.

And, yes, I know the NDP made a big bid for the women's vote by demanding all sorts of things for women — which already exist, except in the minds and businesses and hearts of the male chauvinistic empire that still rules this country.

Where was the women's movement? Where were the women candidates? Where was the surge of feminist emotion and rhetoric that could have swept the election? Did you hear the faint sound of a fizzle, as I did?

True, there was a scattering of women candidates, mostly, except for the few cabinet ministers, in ridings where they didn't have a hope in Hades of winning.

But when it comes to women in politics, this country is still in the boonocks, and election results show it.

What's wrong with the women on this continent? They talk a lot, but when it comes down to voting, they cast either: with their husbands, "Because I don't know anything about politics," for Pierre Trudeau because Margaret has deserted him or against Trudeau because she has declared her independence; for Joe Clark because he seems a bit slow and "needs a chance" or against him because he has jowls and no sense of humor; for Ed Broadbent because he seems like a younger, or older, brother who speaks out and is cute, in a sort of homely way.

Where in the holy world are the incisive, emotional, hard-thinking, straightforward-looking women of The Movement? They've

turned into a bunch of plain old women, that's where.

In the mysterious East, where women are supposed to cringe around in veils, subservient, waiting for a kick in the rear or another impregnation by the macho male, we have had a prime minister in Sri Lanka (Ceylon to you old-timers) and India. Both have been tough, charming, and ruthless.

In the not-so-mysterious Middle East, we had a tough charming and ruthless Golda Meir, who ran one of the most abrasive and beleaguered countries in the world — Israel — for a few years.

Even the ultra-chauvinist (male) Brits have elected their first female prime minister in history, and there's evidence that she'll do no worse, if no better, than her male predecessors. Maggie Thatcher.

Of course, the Brits brought up on the idea of a Nannie, respond well to a female boss. Elizabeth the First was probably their favorite monarch of all time — the Virgin Queen. Victoria established an era named after her: morals, manners, hang-ups. Elizabeth II is a model of decorum, good sense, and hard work, vastly admired despite the attacks of a few anti-monarchists.

Back to the point. Where was Women's Lib when the election campaign began? Leaders of all parties were males. At least as far as plumbings goes.

Is Canada a pale shadow of the U.S., where the thought of a female president would turn half a nation white overnight? Surely not. Then how explain the sound of silence from les dames de notre pays?

I just don't understand it. We males are harped at, and nagged at, and niggled at. And when the women have their big chance, what do they do? They make coffee and sandwiches.

If women could get organized, politically, they'd have more vote power than all the

farmers, unions, fishermen, and all the other groups the polls court so assiduously. Quirky, isn't it?

From personal experience, with sisters, a mother, a wife, a mother-in-law, a daughter, and various female acquaintances, I know, absolutely, that women could run this country far better than men. They are less sentimental, physically tougher, morally more integral, emotionally more compassionate, financially more able. At least my women are.

They are less concerned with making everybody happy. They go to the point, rather than around it. They probe. Oh, how they probe, into sensitive areas that most weak males skirt.

They are much better at organizing their time. None of these three-martini, three-hour lunches, at which nothing is settled except that everybody's a jolly good fellow. They'd probably open government offices at 8 a.m., which would immediately solve the problem of a swollen civil service. Half the incumbents would drop dead within a week.

They have a nasty habit of insisting that things be done; done right, and done right away. This too, would create, almost overnight, a new Canada.

They will fight like tigresses to look after their own. If we had a dominantly-female government, they'd probably hang on to the few industries Canada still controls, and barefacedly demand from foreigners that they give the others back.

And what a blessing to have them in Ottawa, running the country, and letting our weaker sex get on with a bit of golf, fishing, hunting.

Know who I'd like to have seen running in the election? Flora MacDonald, Maureen McTeer, and Margaret Trudeau. With no men allowed to vote. And no holds barred.

Window on Wildlife

Backyard pond-wildlife attraction

By Art Briggs-Jude



Among the many summer projects that should be considered at this season along with all the other gardening plans, is a small fish pond. While at first thought it may sound like a major construction job, modern materials have shown that in reality it's rather a simple undertaking. And of course when we mention materials today, we have to keep in mind the high cost factor involved. Here again, surprising as it may seem, and depending on the size of the project, the cost can be kept within the budget of almost everyone.

Probably the most expensive item to be obtained is a piece of 6 mil builders plastic. This polyethylene film comes in various shades however the black colour does show up the marine life somewhat better. It's available in widths of from two to 10 feet and can be cut to your particular length by your local dealer.

Choose a site for your little pond carefully and with a bit of foresight. If for instance water lilies are to be included, a full sunny location is necessary, while many other water plants such as arrowhead and wild iris thrive well in partial sun. An out-of-the-way corner, a site backed by a fence, or as the centre of a rockery are all good spots for your oasis. And while some shrubbery around the area may be acceptable don't crowd out your view with tall plants and foliage.

After you have decided on a location, place several stones or pieces of wood around the proposed area and look it over from all sides. If it suits your tastes, you can proceed with the next step, which is digging out the soil. This should not be just a hole in the

ground, but rather an excavation with curved or straight lines to fit the location. A sloping bottom from one end to the other will make a shallow place later on for birds to bath and frogs to sun. And again if water lilies are contemplated the water depth must be 18 inches from the root to the surface. So with this in mind go down to two feet near one end. Make sure all the edges of the depressions are rounded as with the bottom and check for any sharp roots or stones etc. These might cause a leak when the weight of the water presses the plastic against it. Sand is a good cushion for the poly to rest on, as is an old rug or some pieces of wet corrugated paperboard, with the stitches removed. Smooth down any hard corners or rough spots, then carefully lay the poly sheet inside the depression. Work out the biggest wrinkles but don't worry, those that remain will hardly be noticeable when the pool is complete.

It's very important you allow enough of the poly liner to come up and overlap the edge all around by about a foot. On this retaining sheet you can now place flat rocks, pieces of driftwood, or low planter boxes made of lumber slabs. These hold the sheet from slipping and by overhanging the edges give the pool a natural effect. It's a good idea to make a slight depression or trough on one side to act as an overflow in case of heavy rains or when you want to run the hose in.

Fill the pool with water, then add water plants by placing them in pots or other such containers. Small stones should be pressed into the soil around the plants to keep the earth from washing away. Also a covering of burlap or other dull material over these

receptacles will take away the artificial look as they rest on the bottom. You will soon see that little rootlets and sediment will form on this burlap and make them appear as rocks or part of the bottom itself. Try anchoring several pieces of suitable sized driftwood in weighted pots, allowing the stub ends to protrude six inches or so above the surface.

A handful of duckweed (from a country pond) placed on the surface of the pool gives a pleasing effect. But this tiny green-leaved plant has to be scooped off periodically to prevent it from taking over completely. The addition of a half dozen goldfish or chub minnows will give you many moments of outdoor pleasure, as well as keeping the larva of mosquitos from developing. So don't feed them while they are outside, instead let them work for you. Remember though when you first put them out, suspend them in their store-bought containers for a half an hour or so to let them adjust to the difference in water temperatures.

By now, you have a beautiful addition to your backyard scene, and actually a practical one too. For besides the flower or rock fringed setting, the wildlife in your area will welcome this source of water and visit it regularly throughout the coming seasons. In fact because of it many different birds will nest nearby; for water is one of the main keys to wildlife habitat. A small pool in your yard then, is more than just a pond for fish or lilies. Its presence often fills a local need and in so doing provides you with a summer long panorama of flitting colour, beautiful song, and interesting bird behaviour.



Firm leases land to Town soccer league

McNell Laboratories (Canada) Ltd., has leased eleven acres of its property to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer League, for a fee of one dollar per year for five years. The site will accommodate five regulation soccer fields. Shown here

signing the agreement is company president, Lester Gagnon (right) and Martin Johannessen, this year's president of the Town Soccer Association.

Jim Holt.