

The Tribune
 Established 1888
 JAMES THOMAS Editor-in-Chief
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 OFFICE MANAGER: Doreen Deacon
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 Published every Thursday at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont. Tel. 640-2101; Toronto phone 361-1680.
 Single copies 25¢, subscriptions \$12.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 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.
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Editorials

Short on apartment units

For the Mayor Whitchurch-Stouffville to say that the town has provided a fair share of apartment units for the population is certainly straying a long way from the facts. Stouffville's retiring couples have been leaving this community on a regular basis because there are no suitable apartment houses in the area. Many have found what they require in Markham.

To these present residents can be added many who would like to make their home here and cannot. Whether it is the aim of the present mayor and council to make Stouffville as "backwoodsy" as possible is not clear but their continued reluctance to allow any

growth in the community would point in this direction.

There is little wonder that the Chamber of Commerce representing the business community is seriously perturbed. Council's continued "no growth" policy is a real drag on business to say nothing of what lack of sufficient housing is doing to community development.

Surely council has been hiding behind the Dulverton development inaction long enough. This excuse for turning down sufficient housing, most particularly apartments, is wearing thin.

Fire report not practical

The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office was requested to file a report on requirements, both now and in the future that, when implemented, would provide the kind of service needed in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

With one or two exceptions, the 45-page document gives Town Council the information requested. However, in our opinion, the submission falls down in one very important area — cost of implementation. The price, estimated at a minimum of one million dollars, is prohibitive for a municipality our size.

While the recommendations undoubtedly point to the ultimate in fire protection here, they represent a waste of time and money if there's no follow-up. And from the reaction

voiced by some members of Council, little follow-up is likely. Why? Because the Town can't afford it.

We foresee the placing of some type of fire vehicle in the Ballantrae-Musselman's Lake area to cut down response time in those communities. In fact, Council has already authorized the calling of tenders for such a truck, a single service that alone could cost close to \$75,000.

As for the rest, we see no action whatsoever, at least not for several years down the road.

So the report will be pigeon-holed to gather dust, the end result of any project where dollars and cents are not a consideration.

Plaza could start a trend

Metro-bound commuters from Whitchurch-Stouffville who travel Hwy. 48 through Markham, are surely impressed, as we are, with the appearance of a new shopping area on the east side of Main Street, south of the C.N.R. line.

This once controversial project, called the Station Plaza, is the most imaginative in architectural design we've seen anywhere in Ontario. Indeed, so impressive is the concept, we see it as setting a new trend in shopping centre plans across the province.

It has long been our opinion that such sites, both large and small, are cold, lifeless places; a group of stores surrounded by asphalt, concrete and little else. They emit a feeling of "like it or lump it, here we are." But not this one. It has "welcome" written all over it and that indeed is what it must be — a welcome addition to the Main Street of Markham that other towns, Whitchurch-Stouffville included could adopt as a future design.

We can recall, a few years back, when

this particular plaza was initiated. Adjacent home-owners were strongly opposed, and said so, at various meetings that followed. Undoubtedly, after viewing the completed project, they're well satisfied with the result.

Clean it up

The Duffin Creek re-channelization project has added greatly to the improvement of Stouffville's downtown. At a minimum of cost (to this municipality), the work completes a program of conservation and flood control that's been on the books for several years. In addition, it cleans up an area that's also been an eyesore for years.

Unfortunately, we've only gone by one summer and already there are signs of deterioration. In the section north of Burkholder Street, there are as many stones in the stream as on the banks.

The Town can't let this happen or we'll be right back where we started.



Mom's holidays begin --- teacher's end

Roaming Around

Thanks for the memories

By Jim Thomas

Dear Jimmy:

I hope you'll forgive the informality of this letter, but as a friend and neighbor who just returned from a marvellous visit to your great land, it would seem somewhat reserved to commence a personal correspondence along the lines of Mr. President or even Dear Sir.

You see, up in Stouffville, Ontario, Canada, we read and hear as much about you as our own Prime Minister. This being the case, the Mr. and Sir titles seem somewhat out of place.

Since neither you nor your lovely wife Ros were on hand to greet us at the White House, Aug. 23, I must assume that our postcard, telling you of our coming, was delayed in the mail. But don't feel badly, Mr. Trudeau didn't make a special point to meet us either when we last visited Ottawa.

Truthfully speaking, it was my wife who felt more let down than anyone. She had her heart set on checking out the decor of your home — all 135 rooms. After taking the night school course last fall, she considers herself a bit of an expert along this line. But not me. I was content (along with hundreds of others), just to peer through the wrought-iron fence. Besides, it gave us more time to see some of the other magnificent sights like the George Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Capital Building, Arlington Cemetery and the Aero Space Centre, places of historical importance none of us will ever forget.

That, I guess, is what impressed me most, your history. You tell it and display it in a way that creates an indelible mark on one's mind. We Canadians have a long way to go in this regard.

Your country impressed me in other ways too like the friendliness of your people. In the 1,200 miles we drove and the dozens of miles we walked, we never met a single impolite person, quite the contrary. We found your citizens extremely co-operative and helpful, particularly in Buffalo and Washington when, on two occasions, we were hopelessly lost. Sure, we encountered a few impatient hornhonkers on Pennsylvania Avenue, but no more than you'd find on the Don Valley Parkway any weekday morning here.

And the scenery — out of this world. Through both Pennsylvania and New York States, the completion of every curve brought new panoramic beauty unequalled by the scene before. Breathtaking.

Furthermore, I still feel more at home with your miles-per-hour and fahrenheit scales. However, your no-right-hand-turn-on-a-red-light ruling really had me fooled.

We appreciated your exaggerated highway signs, huge billboard-like indicators that helped keep strangers like ourselves on track. Only twice did we veer left instead of

right (or visa versa) which, for us, is something of a record.

Accommodation at all sleep-overs was satisfactory, particularly the Holiday Inn at Wilkes Berre, south of Scranton. Meal prices seemed reasonable.

All in all, we had a great time. We want to go back again. However, Mr. President, I do have one complaint. Our dollar in your country isn't worth a dime. In fact, even a lowly dime sends store clerks scurrying for cover.

What's wrong? Sure, I know it's value is fourteen cents less than yours, but even our willingness to accept that doesn't help. Our legal tender isn't legal any more, not in your land. And it hurts, both our pride and our pocketbooks. It sure hurt mine.

But don't let this minor irritation stop you, Ros and the kids from visiting Stouffville. We'd be honored. However, just remember, the speed limit's in kilometers-per-hour not miles; the temperature's in celsius not fahrenheit; you can make a right-hand turn on the light at Ringwood and our house at 381 Rupert Avenue is red not white.

Woods, Water and Wildlife

Rock-painting vandals

By RON REID

Bobby Voland, wherever you are, you had better keep your head low! And Tom, and Harry, and Jean, and all your other friends too! For Bobby and his cohorts spend their spare time engaged in a particularly irritating form of vandalism — painting their names on roadside rocks.

This deliberate marring of the landscape has been a problem for years along rock cuts in major highways through cottage country, such as Highway 69. But the plague is spreading — over the past two years, the craggy limestone cliffs of the Bruce Peninsula have begun to be littered with this multi-coloured graffiti too. Even in the wilds along the Spanish River, accessible only by boat, a magnificent rock face is crowned by residues from "Pat and Mike."

What kind of psychological quirk motivates these modern-day rock-painters? Is it their suppressed hostility, determined to inflict their frustrations on the rest of society by defacing anything of beauty? Or perhaps a way of conquering the wilderness by making

your mark, like a wolf staking out his territory by peeing on the bushes? Maybe its just good old-fashioned competition, American-style, to see who can scale the highest cliff or vandalize in the brightest hues.

The psychologists are welcome to speculate on these hypothetical causes at length. But the solutions, if there are any, are likely to be more pragmatic. The Ministry of Transportation at least tries to remove the symptoms, by painting them over in a neutral colour, but that's an uphill battle. In California, a proposed law would restrict the sale of cans of spray paint to anyone under 18, in an attempt to curb their graffiti explosion.

But if you catch anyone in the act, your choices are more limited. You could call the police to lay charges, or perhaps follow the lead of one of my acquaintances, who supervised while the youthful offenders removed their handiwork with wire brushes. Her cure may not have been pleasant, but I suspect it cured permanently the desire of these young vandals for any more rock painting.

Editor's Mail

Praises haulage firm

Dear Editor:

Only recently has the controversy concerning Don Anderson Haulage come to my attention. I hope it's not too late for me to put in a good word on his behalf.

Several years ago, I enrolled in a Defensive Driving Course at Markham. I can't remember where the instructor came from, however, during one evening lesson, he put forward a recommendation that has stayed with me to this day. He said: "Ladies, or anyone else, if you ever find yourselves in trouble, don't hesitate to flag down one of the

trucks operated by Donny Anderson of Anderson Haulage in Stouffville. His is a firm with a policy of helping motorists on all roads travelled by their trucks."

Mr. Anderson is not an acquaintance of mine, but I've never forgotten that little piece of advice.

This area would indeed be a poorer place without him.

Sincerely,
 Reta Assinck,
 Peter Street,
 Markham.

Show support appreciated

Dear Mr. Thomas:

On behalf of the Whitchurch - Stouffville Museum Board and staff, I wish to thank The Tribune for the promotion and subsequent coverage your paper provided our 7th annual Antique and Classic Car show, August 10.

It was a big event and the weather was

perfect. I trust you personally enjoyed the occasion.

Sincerely,
 Regis Alcorn,
 Temporary Curator,
 Whitchurch -
 Stouffville Museum.



Webb Public School (S.S. No. 4) Uxbridge Township --- 1909

Webb Public School (S.S. No. 4) Uxbridge Township, did not open its doors when classes resumed, Sept. 2. Instead, children from that area are attending at Goodwood. This picture, loaned to The Tribune by the late Robert Rawson of Stouffville, dates back to 1909. The principal is W.J. Phoenix and the pupils are: Rear Row (left to right) — May Rawson, Orville Roach, Libby Faulkner, Bob Roach, Rachel

Faulkner, Poyner Collins, Emma Reid, Morgan Hill. Centre Row (left to right) — Ansel Beverley, Robert Rawson, Orlando Alford, Garfield Priest, Talbert Evans, Ed Norton, Roy Crawford. Front Row (left to right) — Andy Middleton, Ross Watson, Ross Beverley, George Collins and Ed Beverley. Absent are Cora Mantle (Mrs. Walt Davis) and Bertha Pilkey (Mrs. Morley Symes).