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## Editorials

### Impressed with graduates

Three over, one to come. So far this month, we have attended three secondary school graduation ceremonies — at Uxbridge, Nov. 1; at Pickering, N.W. 7 and at Stouffville, Nov. 14. Only the Commencement at Markham remains on our itinerary. It's this Friday, Nov. 21.

While staff teachers, students, even the system itself come in for public and media criticism from time to time, it must be said, at least from this vantage point, we've been impressed. Without exception (and we've no reason to think Markham will be any different), we've observed an attitude of responsibility and respect for the students towards their schools and the students towards themselves.

Many of the Uxbridge and Pickering graduates we will never see again. Yet their presence on stage, however brief, left us with a deep-down feeling that our country's in capable hands. The same for the grads of S.D.S.S. (who we hope to see again) — fine young people, every one.

Friday's ceremony here was excellent, well organized behind the scenes by staff teacher John Marshall and efficiently carried through by Students' Council President Carolina Dervaric. There wasn't a flaw in the entire proceedings.

Parental pride, of course, is always prejudiced. We, however, cannot be accused of bias. We viewed the program strictly as an interested spectator and liked what we saw.

### Gravel gouging to spread

At present, 1,237 acres of Whitchurch-Stouffville land is legally licenced for the mining of gravel.

This is considerable for, a check of the gravel-mining areas adjacent to Metro Toronto finds us sixth out of sixteen.

However, this isn't our current concern. The problem as we see it now, is a little-publicized Cabinet policy directive that will, if implemented, open up 3,551 additional acres in Town for this purpose.

That, in itself, is a shocking revelation. Even more disturbing is the fact this acreage extends along a ridge of land now bordered by the Bloomington Road, the most scenic portion of countryside in the entire municipality.

While the proposed acreage increase in Whitchurch-Stouffville is less than half that

which has been designated in Uxbridge, the percentage here is considerably higher.

We readily appreciate the need for gravel in the construction industry. However, we do not agree with a plan that could inundate 4,788 acres in this municipality for such a purpose.

Take a look at our neighbor to the east: Uxbridge Township has been devastated by gravel firms. And while some, with a conscience, have restored worked-out sites, the scars are still there.

What counter action is planned here? We're not sure. Certainly, no vast amounts of money will be spent (a la disposal site). Town Mayor Eldred King knows what power the province can exert in this regard. But neither should we do nothing. A terse letter of disapproval should be sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources, indicating in no uncertain terms, our opposition to such a plan.

### Jail the drinking driver

With more than half the carnage on our highways being attributed to the use of liquor, one needs to take a hard look at the penalties being meted out. For someone to get behind

the wheel of a vehicle while under the influence of liquor can easily be equated with someone going on the rampage with a loaded gun.

Canada's Criminal Code states in no uncertain terms that jail sentences shall be automatic for those convicted of second or subsequent offences of impaired driving. It is a simple and direct declaration. The results of such driving can be just as terrible as murder.

If harsh measures are required to curb such actions, then that's the way it should be.

However, we know that jail terms are anything but automatic and enforcement varies from province to province. This loose approach to punishment and deterrence of impaired driving goes far beyond reason.

There seems little sense in having stern provisions in the Criminal Code if such provisions are to flout right and left. Impaired driving is a major cause of accidents and fatalities and deserves to be punished to the limit of the law. Our governments, both federal and provincial have a responsibility to see that it is.

#### Editor's Mail

### Slow growth won support

Dear Editor:  
 I am a regular reader of The Tribune and congratulate you for producing an excellent community newspaper.

As you have indicated in your lead editorial in the November 13 issue, the recent municipal election was indeed exciting. I do, however, strongly disagree with your comments that Eldred King "must alter his stand pat policies...."

You seem to have overlooked the fact that his policies were supported by more voters than were the policies put forward by his opponents, and it is the opinion of the voters that is important.

Your reference to the main issue as being "grow and stay alive: stand still and stagnate" is in my opinion a complete misrepresentation of the true facts. The real issue was "rapid growth at any cost to benefit business or controlled quality growth to benefit everyone."

We have seen provincial and federal governments in recent years spend our present and future tax dollars in a reckless manner with complete disregard for ability to pay. It's about time that some parliamentarians displayed a sense of responsibility by putting a "price tag on services"

Eldred King was clearly re-elected as a result of the policies he proposed and therefore has a mandate, if not an obligation, to continue those policies.

Gordon Watt,  
 Stouffville.

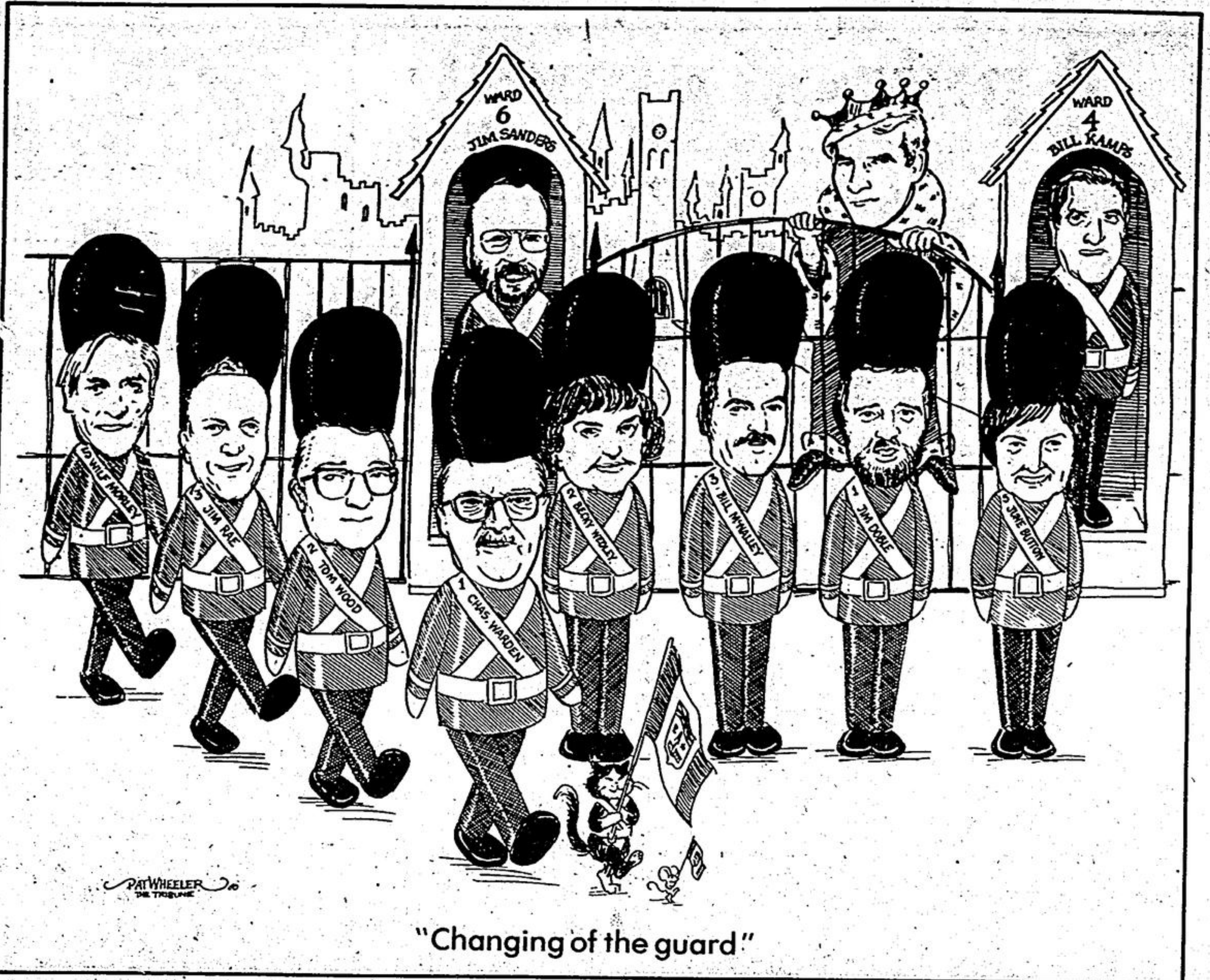
### Denies urban - rural friction

Dear Sir:  
 My congratulations on your paper's coverage of the municipal election, both before and after.

While the turnout at the polls (less than 50 per cent) was far from good, it would have been less had it not been for the publicity provided.

Let us hope the new Council will work in closer harmony than was the case in 1979-80. The rural vs. urban issue that was raised became a 'fact' only because some councillors made it so. In my opinion, such is not the feeling of Whitchurch or Stouffville residents.

Colin Weber,  
 R.R. 4, Stouffville



"Changing of the guard"

#### Viewpoint

### Let Town grow in harmony

By Jim Irving



The tumult and the shouting have died, the captains, but not the King have departed. No, Mayor Eldred is back for his second term after a head-to-head battle with upstart, Ged Stonehouse, the local travel man.

Mr. Stonehouse, perhaps tired of arranging intriguing tours for everyone else, decided to embark on one of his own this election. He almost made it, too, falling just 342 points short of the town hall he was headed for, and its first office, just inside the door.

It was a good battle, with both parties attacking the issues and not each other. The main issue, of course, being whether development could come out of the closet and be discussed in the open, along with the cost of Polish sausage, and the latest edict from the Board of Education on the possibility of teaching sex education in the schools and, maybe, in mixed day care classes as well.

The election proved that it could. And, those who advocate development, are once more considered just as good citizens and as inclined to go to church on Sundays and return their library books, as those who rail against it.

All in all, it would seem, a most positive result.

Perhaps, Ged Stonehouse doesn't think so at this moment, but he is a young man, and, if he wants to badly enough, can come back. Maybe he'll get himself appointed to some committee of the town, both for his own sake and for the benefit of a cautious electorate, which likes to see its representatives hep - or, is it hip - as well as high spirited, before bestowing its blessing.

"I've never been so wound up in all my life," said Mayor King, after the final results were in. "I'm glad it's all over. I'm just afraid, however, I'm going to be plagued with every sort of development." But, if

development is the issue, "it will be quality development and will benefit the town," he added.

The mayor has been criticized for his slow growth policy, but that was the mandate given him when elected two years ago, and he did his best to uphold it. Now, that it's obvious there are just as many for moving along, as there are against, he's in a good position to push for worthwhile projects and not feel he's letting down the side.

And, the citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville, who are all split down the middle on this thing, will just have to remember that nobody is going to have it exactly his way; at the same time they've got to remember the town's big enough for both factions.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is not exactly a melting pot; the prejudices can run deep. Which is okay; that's its privilege. By the same token, it is no longer the isolated community it probably always considered itself to be.

Right now it's a good mixture of those who would and those who wouldn't. Between the two, they should be able to effect a balance. And, if not a balance, at least a realization that the place belongs to everyone; even if more sometimes to one than that other.

But, that's all part of a democracy, and, moreso, part of the mandate Mayor King and his council seem to have been given.

I'm glad Mayor King is back. One term isn't long enough to get everything to the point where one can always stand back and be consistently objective.

I think that, with his experience of the past two years, along with the decisive picture painted by this election, Mayor King will be at that point, and will be as flexible as is

humanly possible in the many issues that will confront him and his council in 1991-92. Let's hope that citizens here, will be every bit as flexible.

#### Editor's Mail

### My appreciation

Dear Jim:  
 Thank you very much for your coverage of the event honoring Jean Mann. Everything went well and I'm pleased we have pictures of the presentations.

Thank you also for the advance notices re Registration Day.

Our community is fortunate to have a newspaper that's so interested in its people.

Sincerely,  
 Kathy Brillinger,  
 District Commissioner  
 Stouffville Girl Guides.

### Urges candidate to try again

Dear Mr. Thomas:  
 Now that the dust has settled, many people, including myself, have been reassessing the Whitchurch-Stouffville election results of Nov. 10.

What comes out of it all (with respect to the mayor's race), almost boggles the mind — at least my mind.

Here we had a freshman politician, whose only 'experience' was being President of the Town's Chamber of Commerce, literally come out of the woodwork and grab more than 1,900 votes. Agreed, he was quite well known in Stouffville and obviously quite highly respected too, but in rural Whitchurch, he wasn't known at all. Yet he still fared well in both areas.

Ged Stonehouse is an unknown to me, but he obviously has "something on the ball" or he would never have garnered that kind of support. What I'm saying is, he shouldn't give up the ship because he lost an initial engagement. Many of our country's greatest statesmen first suffered defeats and then came back to win great victories.

So keep pitchin' in there Ged, my boy. Two years down the road you could win by a landslide.

Sincerely,  
 Eric Wilton,  
 R.R. 1, Gormley.

### Candidate claims was misquoted

Becky Wedley, one of three candidates in the Town's mayoralty race, says she was misquoted by The Tribune in a post-election follow-up story.

Mrs. Wedley said her attempt to uphold the moral standards of the municipality had NOT been undermined by Mayor Eldred King as reported in the paper but rather by one of the ward councillors. She said too that councillor-elect Tom Wood had been critical of her stand, leading her to believe this was not what most people wanted.

Mrs. Wedley said she had contacted Mr. King on the matter to set the record straight.



York-Durham corn harvest continues into early winter

City residents often think it strange to see corn being harvested in late-November. But there's nothing strange about it, at least not in the Regions of York and Durham. Very often the work

continues through until Christmas. This big machine (above) was doing its job on property, north of the 9th Concession of Pickering. Dry or frozen ground makes the operation much easier.