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## Editorials

### Keeping trustees honest

An attendance record for Board of Education trustees? I guess so!

The motion, put forward by vice-chairman Michael Neill at a meeting, Jan. 12, should have received quick and unanimous approval. Instead, several members arched their backs in opposition, questioning what 'ulterior motives' had prompted the move.

Mr. Neill, in reply, put it to them straight. Too many times, he said, committee meetings had been called, only to have too few put in an appearance. He felt (and so do we), that by keeping track of who's present and who isn't, the unobliging 'no-shows' will tend to show up.

That a roll-call should be necessary is regrettable. However, some adults, like children, require regimentation to bring them into line.

The more industrious trustees, whose egos have been hurt by the move, can find some solace in the fact that the marking of attendance is not an unusual procedure. It's practised from the lowest to the highest administrative bodies in the land. So why not York County Board of Education?

While we'd be the last to suggest that any member is not giving full value to the municipality he or she is supposed to represent, it's oh so easy to simply slip out of sight on occasions, thinking one's presence will never be missed.

But it is, as Michael Neill's explanation pointed out. Only now, the trustees' presence will be missed by the electorate when the attendance figures are tallied at the end of each year.

### Hidden ownership expenses

Let's face it—housing costs are soaring beyond the reach of many Canadians. Now, families are beginning to explore alternatives to the housing and mortgage tradition. Some are purchasing lower priced homes like condominiums and townhouses. Others are joining co-operatives. Many continue to rent.

It's indeed frightening if one stops to think just what a home can cost apart from the traditional principal, interest and taxes. Added to these are - insurance, transportation, energy (heat and electricity), maintenance and improvements and services such as telephone and water.

When all these are considered, a \$700 plus

monthly payment on a typical \$70,000 house balloons into \$1,600 worth of housing related expenses.

Economist, Professor William Frisbee feels one's total housing expenses should consume no more than 30 to 35 per cent of the family's disposable income (that's income after taxes). Many house buyers, he explains, run into trouble when their mortgage has to be renegotiated and the interest has jumped from 10 per cent to over fifteen.

Professor Kathleen Brown advises would-be buyers to pay close attention to financial details. Care in selecting a mortgage can make hundreds of dollars difference over the long term, she says.

### Throwing up road blocks

A suggestion by the Ministry of Agriculture that the proposed move by Rennie Transport Limited to a site north of Stouffville and east of Hwy. 47 is contributing to 'urban sprawl', should not be taken seriously.

To our knowledge, the site in question hasn't produced a bushel of oats or a bale of hay in the last twenty years. Nor will it in the next twenty, whether the trucking firm locates there or not.

Urban sprawl in the Ministry's judgement, must be any extension of the present built-up area. Woe betide us if Stouffville's growth is tied to this policy.

As for Rennie Transport, the owner must be wondering if it really pays to "go by the book" when it comes to seeking a site. Prolonged delays imposed on legitimate firms make the operator of Stouffville's unlicensed pinball parlor look like a saint.



### Roaming Around

## A trial teacher for a week

By Jim Thomas



Sometimes I think I missed my calling. I should have been a school teacher. It's in my blood. My mother was and so was my sister and an older brother. Through the process of saturation, I come by the profession honestly.

It's not that I don't enjoy the work I'm doing; I do—it's my life. However, on occasions, I get the feeling there's an even greater challenge out there in the classroom, imparting knowledge to an eager (?) group of kids, all listening quietly (?) to every word that's said.

Far away fields look green, they say. Who knows, maybe there's a teacher out there somewhere who'd gladly trade places with me. If so, I'd have no objections to arranging a quick switch, for a week, a month, maybe a year.

That young thing, fresh out of university and experiencing a bad case of mid-winter blues, could take over as editor of this newspaper and I, equally despondent, could assume the duties of her class.

While it's unlikely that either Inland Publishing or the York County Board would sanction such a thing, in theory, at least, it could prove an interesting experiment.

I see benefits (and problems) on both sides.

The teacher-turned-journalist, for example, could report in at nine instead of 8:15. She would rub elbows with all kinds of interesting people—the mayor and members of town council, the fire chief, police officers, doctors, lawyers, principals, folks from every walk of life. She'd be able to see the results of her endeavors every week instead of waiting till June. And there'd be something different to do every day; nothing boring about an editor's job.

Of course, she'd have to acquaint herself with the operation of a camera, an interesting sideline.

There'd be banquets to attend, graduations, sporting events, school programs, church services, all sorts of things to make life interesting.

Unfortunately, on Mondays and Tuesdays, she'd come prepared to work until one and two in the morning. On a few occasions too, she'd be compelled (through dedication), to spring out of bed before dawn in response to a serious fire or accident. Since it's next to impossible to operate a camera wearing gloves, frozen fingers are a common hazard; ears too if, like me, she's unaccustomed to wearing a hat.

Invariably, irate callers vent their anger

on Thursdays. She'd have to expect that. Usually, it's because Johnny not Tommy scored the winning goal in Atom House League. He also, picked up two assists the week before, for which he received no credit. It's Mrs. McGillicuddy who's in the hospital, not Mr., and besides, Mr. McGillicuddy's been dead for fifteen years. She'd have to try and explain that it was a type-setters error and accept the fact that the ominous 'click' at the other end means she's talking to herself.

"You'll be hearing from my lawyer," could mean she'll be seeing the complainant in court; not a pleasant situation even if she knows she's right. She may have to prove it.

These difficulties, minor though they may seem, will tend to keep the teacher-turned-editor on her toes.

But by comparison, my role as editor-turned-teacher should be a cinch. A pre-arranged course of study, quiet kids, co-operative parents, an understanding principal, two weeks off at Christmas, winter 'break' in March, two months holidays each summer, in at 8:15, home at 4:30; sounds too good to be true.

And it is. Still the offer stands. It could be a learning experience for both of us.

### Viewpoint

## Strapping is humiliating

By Jim Irving



Just before last year went its harried way, I covered a little session one morning at Orchard Park Public School, at which a group of parents discussed discipline.

Was there too much? Too little? Was it a good thing, or a bad thing? Was it the responsibility of the schools? Was junior better off for it or worse? Were the teachers better off for being able to wield the strap, for example, in between telling the kids how many beans make five? Did the schools even have the right to administer corporal punishment?

The parents, all women, except for one two, if you count the school principal and arbitrator, John Hincks - were both intelligent and concerned. They recognized the importance of discipline in moulding young characters, but they also recognized the importance of seeing that it was administered with reason, and not just handed out in Auschwitz fashion. That, of course, brought the business of strapping to the fore.

The strap to tender young palms, can be a devastating thing. Do irate, and as I recall my early teachers, sometimes highly-neurotic adults, have any right to inflict their neuroses in the form of physical punishment on their charges?

The parents didn't put it that way, but perhaps they thought it. The matter never was resolved. However, the two most outspoken people there, both of European origin, favored discipline in all forms. The feeling was they never could be harmed by anything so routine as a strap.

That is often how we assess things. We look back on our own experiences and make them the norm for all that follows. What's sauce for the goose, we feel, should work out there in Gander. Which could be both good and bad.

Looking back on my own checkered

childhood, in which I suppose you could say I was an equal combination of inhibitions and outgoingness, I know I thoroughly resented getting the strap at school.

### Editor's Mail

## Recreation director

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Two years ago, The Tribune, in an editorial, advocated the setting up of an Events Committee in Town that, if I recall the terminology correctly, "would make things happen" in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The proposal, at the time, made sense. However, I gather, no one took your paper's advice.

Why not? I feel a five-person group of dedicated, community-minded volunteers could organize all sorts of interesting activities here—square dances, euchre parties, inter-town bowling and tennis tournaments, band concerts, box socials, country and western shows, the list could go on and on.

Team sports like hockey, softball and soccer are fine. However, I'm sure there are many who'd like to get involved in more passive forms of recreation like those I've mentioned above.

Maybe what I'm really saying is - WE NEED A RECREATION DIRECTOR.

With a recreational leader, the rest (hopefully) would follow.

Sincerely,  
 PERCY HILL,  
 Elm Road,  
 Stouffville.



### Winter haven for cross-country skiers

Trails—for snowmobiling, skiing, walking or jogging. Vivian Forest in Whitchurch-Stouffville has it all. In any season, the site is one of the most scenic

anywhere. Visitors are welcome providing they adhere to certain rules and regulations. Jim Holt