



Len and Helen Buckland were up at 4:30 a.m., to watch the Royal Wedding on T.V. "Marvellous" said Len. "Sooper-dooper" agreed Helen. — Jim Thomas.

## The royal wedding was 'sooper-dooper'

STOUFFVILLE — Len and Helen Buckland, Main Street East, aren't usually "on the go" at 4:30 in the morning.

However, July 29 was an exception—the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana, an exceptional event indeed.

Millions watched "the show" via the media of television. However, for Len and Helen it was more than that, much more. For Len, while a Canadian

"and proud of it" is a native of Yorktown, Frimley, a 'borough' twenty-five miles from London. Helen's roots are in New Cross, only seven miles away. They were married in England and came to Canada in 1943.

"I didn't miss a bit of it—I even watched the re-plays until one o'clock the next morning," Helen said. She described the ceremony and the procession that followed as "super-dooper." "Marvellous,"

said Len, "a real live fairy-tale." St. Paul's Cathedral is familiar to both. So is the area around it. "I know the parade route like the back of my hand," said Len. "It's absolutely the same, nothing's changed, still as beautiful as ever," said Helen.

Len described the architecture in St. Paul's as "out of this world." Television cameras, he said, brought out the sculpture even better than the eye.

Helen admitted feelings of nostalgia as she re-lived memories of her childhood.

Len said he liked the atmosphere that prevailed. "Everyone seemed so happy—they were thoroughly enjoying themselves," he said. He pointed out that despite the fact millions of people lined the street, "I never saw a thing out of place."

Len said the ceremony so lifted his spirits, "I walked up to the office and paid the hydro bill and never took my cane."

### Editor's Mail

## Talent here

Dear Editor: I was pleased to read in last week's issue of The Tribune that two of our local junior ball players are representing Ontario at the Canada Games.

Chilvers, now with Agincourt. Surely, with a nucleus of such top performers, this town could have put together one of the best junior fastball clubs in the province, maybe even good enough to have gone to Thunder Bay.

In future, I would suggest that Stouffville work a little harder towards keeping its talent in town rather than waving them goodbye at the peak of their athletic careers.

### Hold-up man held by police

BALLANTRAE—A 23 year old Cedar Valley man has been charged with armed robbery following an alleged hold-up at Alexander's Gas Bar on Hwy. 48 near Ballantrae. According to police, a man, identified as Thomas A. Smith, Conc. 7, Whitechurch - Stouffville, approached the station, carrying a crowbar and demanded money from the cash register. Officers arrived on the scene and took the suspect into custody. A bail hearing was arranged on Monday.

### Editors Mail

## Via-Rail costly

Dear Mr. Thomas: I wish to comment on the proposed cancellation of Via-Rail. While a few in Stouffville may scream and holler, the truth of the fact is for the number of commuters to and from Toronto daily, it's not being used by very many people.

I'll continue to use Via-Rail as long as it runs. When it stops, I'll find other means. Maybe, in the months ahead, there'll be sufficient growth here to warrant it being continued.

On Thursday, there were 22 passengers. On Friday, there were eleven. There are several reasons for this. First, unless one works in the heart of downtown Toronto, the train goes nowhere. What's a person supposed to do when he (or she) arrives at the Union Station?

Our loss

Dear Mr. Thomas: The proposed cancellation of VIA-Rail on the Toronto-Stouffville line concerns those people who use it consistently. When the government talks about losses, the total, over a lengthy period of time appears staggering.

Second, the commuter's not the most reliable transportation in the world. On several occasions (including Friday), it's been late. This means (in many cases), office workers are also late. Once burned, twice wary. Some people (including myself) won't take the chance.

However, what transportation service, operated by government, isn't? I doubt if there's a passenger line anywhere in Canada that pays its way. All or most must be subsidized by government at some level.

Third, despite gasoline and parking costs, there's something about the independence of a car; one can come and go as he likes.

If the ticket price was raised to put the Toronto-Stouffville line on a break-even basis, the cost per passenger would be prohibitive. If no one could afford to use it, the end result would be the same—withdrawal of the service.

Fourth, Stouffville just doesn't have the population to support this type of service.

How much is VIA-Rail worth to communities like Stouffville, Markham and Unionville? That's what the government must decide, then weigh it against current losses.

I, for one, do not believe commuter service on this line will be cancelled entirely. But I believe it will be reduced.

At a time when commuter service is being encouraged, it seems strange to me that a cut-back is being considered.

### Bureaucratic devastation

Dear Jim, Once again we must witness the devastation devised by bureaucrats to seemingly justify the existence of their jobs. What possible reasoning could lead to the conclusion that making part of Island Lake into a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes and in the bargain destroying some beautiful trees could ever be worthwhile?

It would be interesting to see if the people responsible for this decision to spend what is rumoured to be between one quarter and one half a million dollars on this project would make themselves known to the long-suffering taxpayer.

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