



**Council  
Comments**

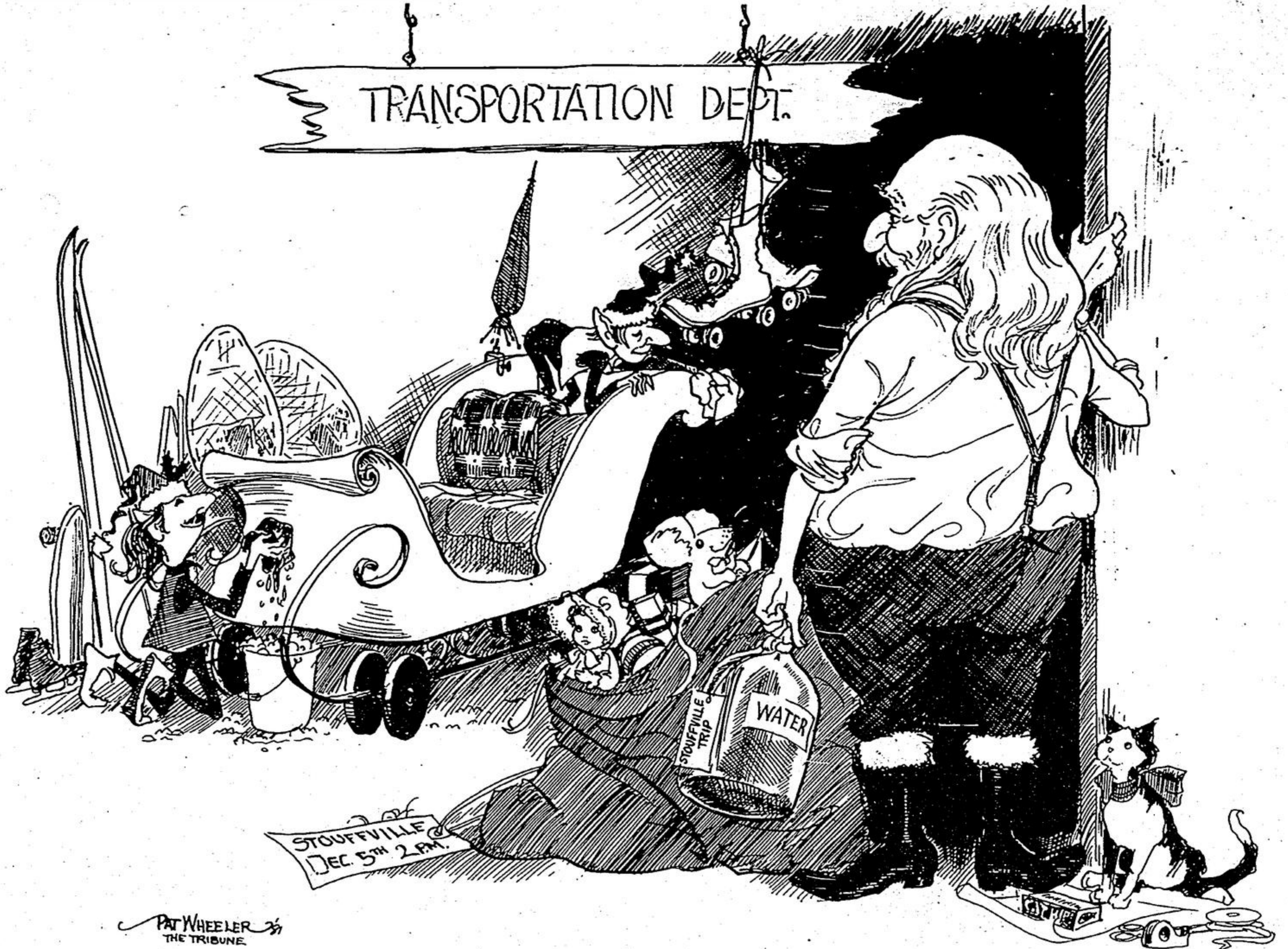
By  
**Jim Sanders**

**A little  
helps a lot**

During the past summer, Bell Canada applied for rate increases. Council was asked by the Consumers' Association of Canada (CAC) to support the association at follow-up hearings. According to a CAC report received by Council, the Bell request was reduced by \$182 million for subscribers in Ontario and Quebec. This saving will go primarily to residential and business services. Bell asked for increases of 30 per cent for residential and 40 per cent for business services. However, these were held to 12 and 15 per cent respectively.

Also, CAC submitted, and the hearing board (the CRTC) agreed, that Bell should be required to implement innovative long distance schemes including a "Saturday-Morning Discount" program. An expense claim by Bell for \$118,000 for a billing insert was also disallowed. These are some of the items that the CAC was able to gain for the benefit of the public.

Council supported the CAC with a donation of \$67.18 (that is 1/2 cent per person). I believe this was money well spent and is a proper role for Council to be taking. Frequently, local Councils deal with issues that involve large corporations or governments and far-reaching issues. Council often debates whether or not to take a stand on such matters that, although they affect each person in Whitechurch-Stouffville, they reach well beyond our municipal boundaries. By ourselves, we would have little or no impact on such issues. By joining forces with other municipalities and associations in a co-operative effort, we can make use of specialized accountants, lawyers, and scientists to present a case. On our own we could not afford such representation and the public interest would not be as well looked after.



PAT WHEELER  
THE TRIBUNE

**"A dual-purpose sled eh? Now that's good thinking considering my arrival in Whitechurch-Stouffville's only nine days away".**

**The Tribune**  
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JAMES THOMAS  
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BARRY W. WALLACE  
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ANDREW P. COOK  
Advertising Manager

EDITORIAL DEPT: Jim Holt, Jim Irving, Greg Coates  
DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEPT: Rod Spicer, Bryan Armstrong  
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING-CIRCULATION: Joan Marshman  
OFFICE MANAGER: Doreen Deacon  
BUSINESS OFFICE: Eileen Glover  
NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE: Dan Poyntz 363-1051

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640-2100 361-1680

Roaming Around  
**Rubik's Cube has me baffled**



By Jim Thomas

I'm no quitter and I pride myself in this. Mind you, it sometimes takes me awhile to get started, but once I begin, I seldom stop. This attitude even amazes my wife. Often she'll interrupt the task at hand and suggest I take a rest, finish up tomorrow or let her take over for a time.

But she knows the answer before she asks. Whether it be putting on storm windows, raking leaves or cutting grass, I stay with it till it's over, no matter how tedious the chore.

Being ambitious, if I may call it that, is not something of my own making but rather a trait I inherited — from my parents. No eight hour days and five day weeks "down on the farm". Nor dawn to dusk either. When there was work to be done, we did it, even well into the dark. The only relief came when it rained. Often I prayed for a flood.

Now that I have sons and daughters of my own, I try to impress on them the need to never give up, even when there's no end in sight. And I've enjoyed moderate success, even though, on occasions, they often complain. However, in the last couple of weeks, the tables have been turned. My kids are teaching me a lesson in endurance I'll never forget.

Their stick-to-it-iveness relates to a popular little gimmick called Rubik's Cube. This 'toy' comes in all sizes, shapes and colors. The idea is to arrange the squares so that the colors on each side are the same. Sure, it looks simple but it's not, at least not for me. I can't even come close.

Have I honestly tried? Yes, I honestly have, in fact, I work away the thing every chance I get, in private of course. I'd hate the kids to see their father's face turn from red to blue to purple within the space of fifteen frustrating minutes. Besides, it's downright embarrassing.

Our youngest, Neil and Mary-Lynn, are completely caught up in the craze; they love it. To them, it represents a challenge, so much so, I'm sure they'll be sorry the day they solve it if, in fact, they ever do.

It seems everywhere they go, Rubik's Cube goes along, even to church. And they're not alone. It's not uncommon to see kids twisting and turning the pesky little things at school, in stores and on the streets — they just never give up.

But I have. I had to — the pressure got too great. Last Thursday, I slipped the do-dad back under my son's pillow, never to retrieve it again — except on Friday.

That was when I visited Orchard Park where I'd arranged an interview with ten year old Tricia Ellis, a pupil in Grade 5.

Tricia, for those who don't know, is the Rubik's Cube expert at Orchard Park and maybe all of Whitechurch-Stouffville. As luck would have it, her Cube was broken, so I agreed to bring ours from home.

What skill! In a matter of minutes (her record is two minutes and four seconds), she had it mastered, her hands working so fast, her fingers were a blur.

That evening, I returned triumphant. Holding the conquered Rubik's Cube aloft, I marched it into the dining room and set it in the centre of the table.

"Dad, you did it, you did it," they chorused, jumping for joy. All that is, except Neil. He'd seen me at the school and quickly shot down my deception in flames.

So now I'm back where I started, bamboozled by a silly little Cube and a guy called Rubik who's driving me mad.

**Editorials**

**Town making right move  
in recreation overhaul**

Whitechurch-Stouffville Council, meeting in committee, Monday, took its first positive step towards implementing recommendations contained in a prepared (but not yet approved) Culture and Recreation Master Plan.

While discussions to date will not capture the imagination of the "man-on-the-street," we believe the Town is approaching the issue in a right and proper way — dealing initially with the "fringe benefits" and the major concerns later on.

Although no conclusions were reached (it wasn't a legally constituted meeting), it's plain to see the direction Council is headed — the formation of a 14-member Parks and Recreation Board with Community Centre committees serving in an advisory capacity.

We like the idea and we think the way Council is going about it is good. The metamorphosis should ruffle few feathers. Certainly the present system was in need

of change. There was no cohesiveness between the four Community Centre Boards and even less between the boards and the general public. The Recreation Committee served no useful purpose other than a fiscal rubber stamp. Enthusiastic members soon became discouraged and quit.

Such should not be the case under the new arrangement. The proposed Recreation Board will have tremendous responsibilities, most important of all "the implementing of new recreational activities across the municipality." We anticipate great things in this regard.

As for a Recreation Director or a Program Co-ordinator, we care not what the official is called. That's only window dressing. What's needed is a "take charge" individual with an ability to organize and pull people together, an ingredient that has been sorely lacking here.

**Zoning controls duplication**

Zoning (we've been told) is a trump card held by Council to control duplication of services.

Strange then, that the Town would agree to a zoning change at 363 Main Street East in Stouffville, knowing full well that a pinball and electronic games arcade was planned for the site. A licence application has since been approved.

We're not questioning the integrity of the operator but we do question the need of the

operation. Stouffville already has two such establishments. Need there be three?

Zoning and licencing are two different things, agreed. In this instance, to approve one and not the other, would have been folly. Perhaps Council realized this — too late.

While duplication of services may not be top priority here, we would suggest that, at very least, a representative might have been delegated to check out the applicant's operation in Port Perry, just to put their collective minds at ease.

Window on Wildlife  
**Few deer antlers ever found**



By Art Briggs-Jude

While poking around the northern woods a while back, we came across part of an old deer antler. To me it was a real find for in many years of forest travel, this discarded section of a buck's rack was only my second such discovery. But while the first lined horn I discovered was unmarked and a perfect half of an eight point buck's head dress, this latest piece of antler revealed why these items are not too often found. Coincidentally, it too was the remains of an eight point buck's rack, yet here the similarity ended. For this more recent part of a male deer's armament was already only a shadow of its former formidable self.

Already one of the sharp tines was almost completely gone while two of the other spikes were reduced to half their original size. Then too, the whole main branch of the horn from the bulbous anchor knob to the longest point, bore the deep incisor marks of many unknown animals. Only the leaf-stained under surface lying on the forest floor had escaped these various chisel-sized bites and gnawed scars. And therein lies the answer as to why, despite their shedding every late winter, deer antlers usually disappear without a trace.

In some ways, Nature seems to be extremely extravagant and the annual discarding of such protective bone-like structures appears to be a good example of this. A closer look, however, especially with a shed sample in the hand, reveals that many animals including deer themselves, eat them. In fact, in some regions where the water is low in bone-building material, the calcium content of these discarded antlers is regenerated back into the body-building processes. So, although these horns disintegrate more rapidly than normal bones, few ever have a chance to decompose due to this utilization by animals.

The old falacy of a deer burying its horns has finally been proven erroneous, although the bucks probably aid in this concealment by rubbing their racks in heavy cover. And as both sections rarely ever fall off at the same time, there must be an unknown period when the deer experience an imbalance. Picture if you will a large eight or 10-point buck suddenly dropping half its magnificent spread. It must, in some ways, be likened to a racing

sulky unexpectedly losing one wheel, for in both instances there must be some erratic manoeuvres for a time.

But if we think a big buck deer has problems losing this poundage on one side of its head, what must an old bull moose experience. For this huge monarch of the forest drops as much as 35 pounds in one lump when it loses half its gigantic rack. Little wonder these animals lay low during this shedding process.

And incidentally, there is one sure way to tell whether the horns you find are a natural shed or the result of some animals predation. For the annually dropped antlers have a socket knob on the heavy end, while the horns from a demised deer are probably still attached to part of the skull bone.

**A political point of view**

Dear Editor:

The Tribune is the most appreciated newspaper received in our home. We look forward to it every week. The excellence of its content will, in my opinion, be made even better through the inclusion of a 'councillor's column.' Jim Sanders adds a personal view to an often misunderstood area of local concern.

Sincerely,  
Edwin Cooke,  
R.R. 3,  
Stouffville.