

Editor's Mail

Lack controls

It looks like our Main Street is finally getting the class of business we so desperately need! The two new 'arcades' are a typical example of how our council lacks power and direction in providing balanced entertainment and activities for the people of Stouffville.

Whitchurch-Highlands

Fine Fair

We truly believe Stouffville cannot be spared this fast-growing electronics industry. However, if we had a central recreation facility, a business like this could be attracted to such a location, instead of providing numerous (four thus far) places on Main Street.

WHITCHURCH — A successful Science Fair was held at Whitchurch-Highlands School, Feb. 18. Results follow: Andrea Uzars (Experiments With Liquids); Lexie Waite (Christmas Butterfly); Sarah Gatien (Whales); Erica Noble (Telephone); Nicky Gall (Magnets); Cindy Ogrzylo (Rocks and Minerals); Chris Murray (Light); Nicole Ireland (Surface

Tension); Darren Gornall (Town Landfill Site); Stacey Lefevre (Soap); Jonathan Clarke (Photo Cells); Wendy Williams (Thymus Gland); Christina Schulte (Space-Age Gardening); Kelly Campbell (Atoms) and Kim Murray (Fertilizers). Displays completed by each of these students were exhibited at the Area 2 Science Fair in Aurora, Feb. 24.

Sincerely, Philip and Loretta Lavell, Rose Avenue, Stouffville.



Going my way?

Doug Hackert, Stuart Street, Stouffville, is anxious to leave the cold weather behind and head for The Bahamas. And two people will when the Stouffville Lions Club holds its Elimination Draw, Fri., March 12 at Cedar Beach Pavilion, Musselman's Lake. Only 220 tickets are being sold at \$35 apiece and this includes admission to the dance and an opportunity to win \$500 in other cash prizes. Jim Holt

Baby showered

By Evelyn Milsted GORMLEY — A baby shower was held Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Ressler in honor of Curtis John, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dewzaan (Karen Wideman of Gormley). Mr. and Mrs. Russell Heise have returned from a two-week visit with their son-in-law and daughter, Rev. and Mrs. Doug Wightman and baby daughter in Killarney, Manitoba. Velma and Jean Brillinger have returned from a holiday in Florida. They also visited relatives in Pennsylvania. Fern Doner of Edmonton, Alberta is visiting relatives here. Mr. and Mrs.

Lawrence Pitcher and son Chris are moving to Brighton. Mrs. Pitcher has worked at the Gormley Post Office almost two years. Mrs. Luella Klinck is visiting her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Rondall Klinck in Cambridge for several days. Mrs. Gertie Baker and Mrs. Ken Baker spent last weekend with Mrs. Ern Baker at White Lake. Mrs. Edith Stickley entertained a number of women at a quilting bee, Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Neal Sider of Wainfleet had lunch, Monday, with her mother, Mrs. Martha Wideman. David Flook has

been appointed assistant pastor at the Gormley Missionary Church. The M.Y.F. will meet in the Missionary Church at 7 p.m., Saturday, February 27. Pastor Ed Sparks will speak on "Abortion". The young people will also enjoy bowling in Richmond Hill followed by refreshments. Plans are underway for the annual Missions Conference at the Missionary Church March 11 to 14. Rev. Bob Eagle from the Dominican Republic will speak March 11; Rev. Gene Ponchot, March 12; Rev. Ron Fay of Brazil at 11 a.m., Sunday, March 14, and a Missionary Film will be shown at 7:30 p.m.

To Area Fair

STOUFFVILLE — (Hydroponics); Carmen Lopez and Monica O'Connor (Plants); Monique Gilbert and Angela Kilmartin (Light); Tonia Trentadue (Candu-Nuclear Reactor); John Turco and John Blommesteyn was a display on Natural Fibres prepared by Dorothy Ireton and Sonya Klein. Successful participants will now advance to the Area Fair, March 5 at St. Patrick's Separate School, Markham. The over-all winner

Ford dealer's farewell

By Jim Holt STOUFFVILLE — After 27 months in business and over \$200,000 later, Bob Franks will quietly close the doors of his Northeast Ford car dealership this weekend and try to forget he ever entered the automobile business. It is not that Franks is a poor businessman. He isn't. In fact, he transformed a rundown premises on the corner of the Ninth and Main St. into a model dealership. He spent considerable money refurbishing the property, introducing up-to-date workshop equipment and employing top-notch staff. The day he opened, the economy was stable enough to predict a bright future for his franchise. Unfortunately, the reality fell short of the dream. Rising interest rates, and a marked reluctance on the part of the public to buy new cars, any new cars, has resulted in the demise of several dealerships in Stouffville and surrounding areas. Hooker's at Kinsale; Lauria of Sutton and Beare at Port Perry, all G.M. franchises, along

with French Ford at Uxbridge recently went out of business. Northeast is the latest victim to fall by the economic wayside. No doubt, many more will follow before the battle-scarred industry gets back on its feet. For Bob Franks, the story ends somewhat differently. Not for him the trauma of receivership and the financial death knell of the auctioneer's hammer. He cut his losses before it was too late. Despite his heavy financial loss he can walk away with head high and his pride intact; his creditors will be paid in full. Although he puts the blame for his failure squarely on the economy, Franks is not without opinions regarding the structure, attitude and running of the North American automobile industry. He firmly avows that Japanese and European manufacturers have better quality control, making their cars more durable and reliable. This reflects in the small number of factory recalls; the bane of domestic manufacturers in recent years.

He feels that Canadian workers expect too much and give less effort in return for their salary dollar. "Our work ethic is wrong. You get nothing for nothing" he said, "What we are now seeing could be the demise of the North American car industry as we know it. The poor work ethic, along with the imposition of socialist-style policies on industry will curtail investment and growth; particularly in the auto manufacturing and supply field", he concluded. On this point he may well be right. After spending millions of dollars on the now almost defunct car industry, the British government has allowed the Japanese to build their own cars under license and Honda will soon have their 'Accord' models on the European market. Could this happen here? During his short time in business, Franks hit only half his projected 350 new car sales a year, plus used never forced to carry large inventory, the high interest rates on half a million dollars

worth of stock swallowed his profit margin. Within three months of opening, the rates skyrocketed from 12 1/2 per cent to 18 1/2 per cent putting the company in the hole almost every time it sold a car. Ford was sympathetic, but made no effort to ease the company's financial burden by deferring payment or letting them have cars on consignment. Although far from

destitute, (he has other business interests), Bob Franks has no plans for returning to the car trade. When asked his opinion of the future, and if he thought that there would be other dealer failures on the scale recently witnessed, he replied "Absolutely. More dealerships will close before this is all over. I can't see any bright light on the horizon for the auto industry".

Franks maintains that despite his losses he is "still master of my own destiny". As for the ten members on staff, their destinies are not so certain; only two have found other employment. Back in the '50's and '60's, the company's slogan was "there's a Ford in your future". Disgruntled workers in a beleaguered and ailing industry might well ask "what future"?

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Town of Markham

New 'home' for hydro

MARKHAM — The Markham Hydro Commission has awarded a contract to Bradsil Limited of Toronto for construction of new headquarters on Warden Avenue, a half-mile south of Hwy. 7. The total price is \$5,430,000 with provision for an additional \$120,000 if approval can be obtained from the government for in-

clusion of solar energy features. The decision to proceed at this time was based on the urgent need for facilities and the recognition that escalating construction costs could far exceed potential interest savings if the project was delayed. The complex, designed by Sievenpiper

Architects & Planners, was tendered in Dec. 1981, but all thirteen bids exceeded the Commission's budget. Later, reductions were made and a cut-back in the price was agreed upon, amounting to \$700,000. Occupancy of the warehouse and garage is anticipated by October, 1982 and the office by the spring of '83.

The 32 acre site is adjacent to the Woodbine Industrial Park, Milliken Mills, Unionville and midway between the former villages of Markham and Thornhill. The location will reduce the Commission's operating costs in serving an area that extends from the 11th Concession on the east to Yonge Street on the west.

Share science skills

DICKSON'S HILL — "Congratulations to all students for a job well done," was principal R.G. Guyatt's direct and apt comment at the wind-up of the Science Fair at Dickson's Hill Public School. The one-day exhibition, attracted entries from kindergarten to Grade 8,

and drew a standing-room only crowd of parents at its conclusion. Winners in the various categories, who will now advance to the Regional finals, are: Partners: Grades 1-3 - (1) Sherrie Fraser and Kim Pagliaro; (2) Tonia Wilson and Julie Jackson; (3) Glenn Williams and Ted

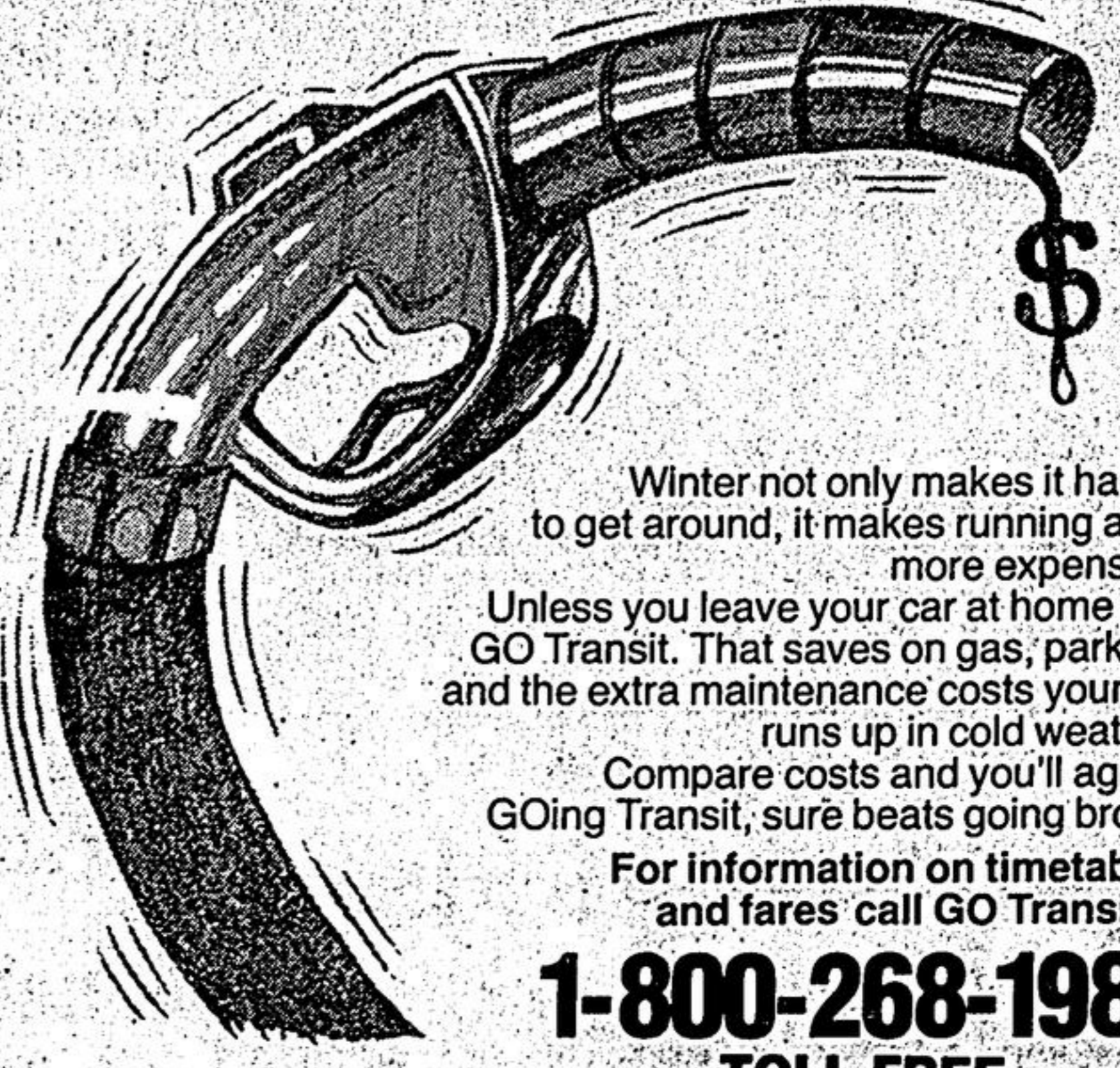
Sfetkopoulos. Grades 4-6: (1) Kathy Sarris and Gus Sarris; (2) Scott McMullen and Karsten Henze; (3) Shona McWilliams and Kristina Hoover. Grades 7-8: (1) April Johnson and Tammy Anderson; (2) Amanda Colyer and Karen Lanning; (3) Heather Cameron and

Christopher Cameron. Individual winners: Grades 1-3 (1) Jordan Lee; (2) Jimmy Christodoulis; (3) Kristine Simon. Grades 4-6: (1) Andy Asa; (2) Shanda Lee; (3) Mike McGee. Grades 7-8: (1) Marsha Miller; (2) Holly Passafiume; (3) Paula Preffling.

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