Editor's Mail

No spirit

Mr. Editor:

I don't live in Stouffville, so perhaps my opinion doesn't count. However, if I did, I'm sure I wouldn't object to the sounding of a fire siren should one of the local teams be so fortunate as to win a regional or provincial championship.

How many times a year is this likely to happen? Maybe twice or three times if you're lucky? So why all the fuss?

Compared to the number of times the siren sounds at night for "legitimate" reasons, this is peanuts.

Rather than sit back and complain, I'd be out on the street, joining in the celebration. This, in my opinion, is what "community" is all about. Long may it last.

Sincerely,
Erik Jorganson
R.R. 3, Newmarket.

A privilege

Dear Mr. Thomas:

A decision by the Fire Chief to cancel "processionals" on Main Street after a sporting team wins a Title, seems to be the talk of the town.

Last Thursday (after your paper came out), I heard it mentioned in almost every conversation. Some of the opinions were interesting. Here's mine.

I feel a few blasts of the siren, heralding a championship, represents a minimal "inconvenience" for residents. For myself, I'd consider it a privilege to be awakened for such a reason, just as I consider it a privilege to live in a town like Stouffville where accomplishments of this kind are considered important enough to warrant a "spin up the street" on the fire truck.

I remember thirty years ago, when I was a lad of sixteen, our team won a provincial title. When we arrived home triumphant, there was nothing, not even the sounding of a single horn. I never forgot it. Don't let this happen here.

Sincerely,
Fred Wright,
Manitoba Street,
Stouffville.

The Tribune

Established 1888

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BARRY W. WALLACE, Publisher
ANDREW P. COOK, Advertising Manager

CNA Blue Ribbon Award 1980

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Published every Wednesday at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont. Tel. 640-2101. Single copies 25¢ sbuscriptions $13.00 per year in Canada, $35.00 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspapers Association, Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association, Ontario Press Council and Suburban Newspapers of America. Second class mail registration number 0896.

The Stouffville Tribune is one of the Metroland Printing & Publishing Ltd. group of suburban newspapers which includes The Acton Free Press, Ajax Whitby Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner Newmarket Era, Aurora Banner Newmarket Era Weekend Edition, The Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Burlinton Weekend Post, The Etobicoke Advertiser Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Thornhill Economist and Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Mississauga News Weekend Edition, The North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Friday Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, The Richmond Hill Thornhill Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, The Woodbridge & Vaughan News

640-2100

ROAMING AROUND

Honor Town's "Super Fan"

By JIM THOMAS

If every community had one thousand sports spectators like Stouffville's venerable Jim Clark, hockey arenas and baseball bleachers would be filled to overflowing every game.

Summer and winter, he's there—at the park or in the arena. There's no more dedicated fan in town.

Jim's support of local teams hasn't gone unnoticed or unappreciated. But what to do about it? That was the question. It was Joanne Steel who recommended Jim be accorded a "seat of distinction" in the arena, a place where he could sit and enjoy the competition in relative comfort. Sports editor Jim Holt heard the suggestion and passed it on to the Parks and Recreation Board through Programs' Coordinator Liz Lacoursiere. On July 27, the motion was presented and passed—unanimously.

For 68 year old Jim Clark, sports has been "a way of life" as long as he can remember. While living east of Brown's Corners, in the former Twp. of Markham, he would often 'hitch' a ride with the late Newt. Burr to hockey games at Markham and Unionville. When transportation wasn't available, he'd walk the distance, even in temperatures 20 to 30 degrees below zero.

Jim's recollection of names is like leafing through the gold book in a district Sports Hall of Fame—Jimmy Rattle, Roy Risebrough, Earl Cook, Jimmy Smith, Bob and Nick Bangay, George Stark, Jack Watson, Harry Milroy, Bob and Ernie Lawrie, Norm Stunden, Jack Rhodes, 'Ike' Harper, 'Buster' Lunau, Bobby Forester, Logie Stewart, George and Fred Scott, Max Reesor, the list goes on and on.

Who were the best? The question, a difficult one, prompted Jim to shake his head as if not wanting to answer. Still, he ventured these opinions. The best stickhandler-Bob Bangay; the fastest skaters-Harry Milroy and George Stark; the best defencemen-Fred and George Scott; the best goaltenders-Norm Stunden and Jack Rhodes. He would go no further.

There's history related Jim Clark's sports recollections. He vividly remembers talking to Ed Stonehouse after a hockey game in the Markham Arena. That same night, Ed was shot and killed in a service station robbery. "Jim Hunter gave it on the CFRB news report the next morning," he said.

Fisticuffs were not uncommon in those days. Jim recalls 'Ike' Harper's involvement in one such 'battle' "He had one man under each arm and was holding another by the neck".

The ball boys were rough and tough then too. Jimmy Smith, he recalls, never wore a glove playing baseball and Jack Watson could grab the hardest line drives (at third base), with his bare hands.

Jim Clark played some hockey, softball and soccer as a boy but never considered himself "big league". Still, he's always been a "big league spectator", a fact that's appreciated in Stouffville today. Their numbers are far too few.

Jim describes himself as "a hockey nut" who gets to know the game's players as well as he knows the game. At a hockey banquet last spring, he had his picture taken with Montreal star Keith Acton, a photo he displays with much pride.

For fourteen years, Jim was employed at golf courses around the area, including Brookside and Spring Lakes. In 1980, he retired. He has a room at the Mansion House Hotel on Main Street.

While even better known for his ability as a plowman, (he's won many awards at district matches), Jim Clark is looked on as Stouffville's Super Fan.

Why doesn't he watch it on TV like most? he was asked.

"It's more personal, being there," he replies. He enjoys the excitement as well as the companionship. The sports fraternity is the friendliest club in the world. He's known to everyone, players and spectators alike.

While appreciative of the recognition, the "seat of distinction", won't go to Jim's head. He describes it as "fine," then adds, "you know, I usually stand behind the glass, so I hope they don't put me out where it's cold".

Regardless of location, there's only one spectator who can fill this "throne of honor". That's Super Fan Jim Clark.

Editorials

Compulsory first aid

First aid courses, provided through St. John Ambulance, are invaluable. Yet what per centage avail themselves of the opportunity? Ten, maybe fifteen per cent at the most.

Such instruction should be compulsory.

We're all the more convinced of this after attending two serious (one tragic) accidents in Stouffville within three days.

At both locations, one "take charge person" was on hand to provide emergency assistance.

At the Ninth Line-Rupert Avenue collision, it was Susan Noble, a staff employee and RNA at the Stouffville Nursing Home. On Main Street East, it was Joy Barker, a St. John Ambulance course graduate.

While most of us must await the arrival of qualified medical personnel to render assistance, these people know what to do and do it. In certain situations, seconds can save a life.

If not already the case, St. John Ambulance instruction, should be part of the Health Study Course in every secondary school. It should also be included in Night School courses here, beginning this fall.

We have compulsory seat belt laws in Ontario—to save lives. First aid knowledge should also be compulsory, for the same reason.

Welcome flower entries

The Stouffville Horticultural Society is hosting its annual pre-autumn flower show, Aug. 18 and 19 in the lower auditorium of the United Church.

This is a spectacular event, one of the best floral exhibits in the area. However, it could be even better if more people would participate.

The Horticultural Society is not a "closed club"; quite the opposite. The executive welcomes new members and new exhibitors. Make this the year you enter your best.

Without fail, while looking over the many and varied entries, we've heard the comment: "We've flowers in our garden, just like those—if I'd only thought".

Think no longer. With flower gardens bursting with blooms this summer, the August show could set an all-time exhibit record—with your co-operation.

Request co-operation

A survey is currently underway in Whitchurch-Stouffville, related to the possibility of water contamination here and its effect (if any) on the health of Town residents. For comparison sake, a similar survey is being conducted in East Gwillimbury.

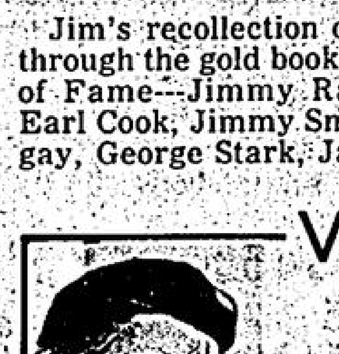
Strange as it may seem, the co-operation here has been something less than satisfactory despite the fact all information is treated in strictest confidence.

Two graduate students from Queen's University, are calling on fifty homes. There are no replacements allowed for those who refuse to co-operate.

The importance of this Study cannot be minimized for, if health findings indicate above-normal problems, the province has authorized more intensive investigations.

The Ministry of the Environment and the Regional Department of Health and Social Services are doing their part. It's up to us to do ours.

VIEWPOINT



All missed the message

BY JIM IRVING

It's been a long, long time since I ran around in the buff with impunity (she was the little girl next door); in fact, I think I was about 11 month's old at the time.

However, as with any of us sluggish mortals, I became conscious early in life - whether through observation or instruction - that baring one's self in public, was contrary to the social mores of the day.

One could go to jail for such personal revelations; unless one was one of those over-sized Doukhobor ladies in B.C., who was always parading around in the altogether to protest some affront to their behind — or thereabouts. Looking at them marching up and down a square, trying to catch up to their stomachs, was considered punishment enough to all concerned, and any charges that might have been contemplated were discarded, along with those pending against cabinet ministers and others not to be taken seriously.

Still, one learned soon enough the human body and its attendant parts, were just as they were proclaimed - private. Even Adam and Eve had to cover up, even though they were the only inhabitants of their particular village at the time. The human body, it seemed, while to be enjoyed in tender moments, was not to be put on public display.

This is a somewhat long way of defending those people who didn't find the recent display by Jack Dale at the Latcham Gallery, to their liking, and didn't hesitate to say so.

Some of those of a more "artistic bent," have scolded these people for being "hypocrites," trying to "set moral standards," and for being devoid of "humor."

Apparently they all missed the message contained in these photos of female nudes, enshrined like religious saints in stained glass.

And, the message, according to David Phillips, artistic director of the Gallery, is that these pictures, their various poses, and accompanying "biblical quotation," "underscored the basic humanity of women.

"Such contradiction between image and quotation creates irony; a type of humor found in much of Dale's work," Mr. Phillips said.

That may very well be. And, maybe with a second showing, and a third showing, and a fourth showing, it would be evident to all, and there would be no dispute as to its artistic, and therefore, spiritual merit, as well.

But that is the artist's job, and not the viewer's. While the latter must make some effort to comprehend, he shouldn't have to take a course in the subject first. One needs only to be a human being to suddenly feel one's breath being taken away by the sight of a beautiful sunset, or the joyous look of a delighted child.

If the people were upset by Mr. Dale's works, it was because they considered them an intrusion into their own private world. They said nothing to them, other than what was apparent. Also, the works were termed "polemical," which gave their critics the right, if any were needed, to debate their value right there. Should they then be criticized for it?

"Jack Dale's photographs constitute, if anything, a strong feminist statement," says Mr. Phillips, showing that "women are often reduced to or objectified as bodily parts...."

It is a common argument in defense of women, and we are all supposed to pay immediate homage to it. But women, just as men, have the power to say no. The circumstances we find ourselves in, are those of our own creation. If we want to change them, we can. If we wish to find a scapegoat for them, we can just as easily do that.

Perhaps the citizens of Stouffville know something the artist doesn't.