

Editor's Mail

Too large?

Dear Editor:
Because Friday was a working day for me, I was unable to attend the official opening of our Town's expanded fire station. However, I did make a point to drop in on another occasion for a quick inspection of the facility.

While I don't wish to sound critical of this department (I feel they perform a fine service), I question the decision to buy a new truck costing in excess of \$100,000, that will stand idle maybe 300 days of the year.

For Council members who pride themselves in being frugal (they even wince at buying postage stamps), this expenditure is mind-boggling. Think of it, over \$100,000 for a vehicle that will gather dust much of the time. And when it does "venture" out, there's no guarantee it will ever reach the source of the blaze due to narrow entrances of some driveways.

I may be all wet (so don't turn your hose on me Chief), but I question the need for a truck so large in a municipality so small.

Sincerely,
Joseph Cohn,
Albert Street,
Stouffville.

No time?

Dear Sir:

My husband, a veteran of World War II and myself, a "war bride", wished to attend a local service on Remembrance Day—a day supposedly set aside for a few moments of remembering.

My husband's brother was killed in Europe in 1944 and my brother was killed at El Alamein in 1942 along with thousands of his comrades.

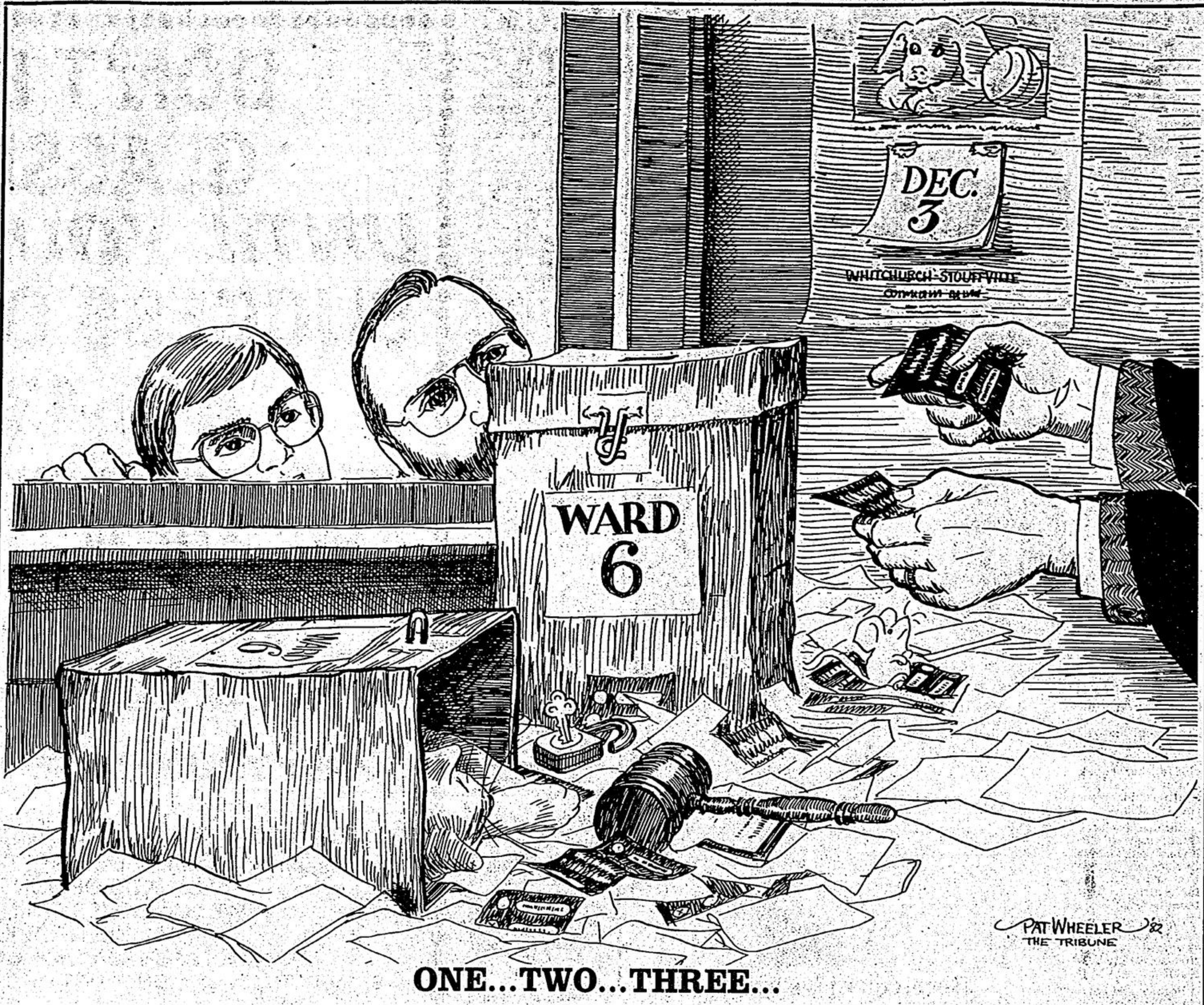
On Nov. 10, we telephoned the Whitchurch-Stouffville Municipal Office for information on the location of the service. We were told there was none; that the service had been held the previous Sunday.

We replied: "The municipal office will be open then?" The employee answered: "Oh no".

When we asked why, there was no reply.

For shame. I was born after World War I, but was taken as a child in England to the cenotaph for two minutes of remembering—everything came to a stop. It only takes a moment. Can't we spare it?

Sincerely,
Sheila Lloyd,
Church Street South,
Stouffville.



ONE...TWO...THREE...

PAT WHEELER
THE TRIBUNE

The Tribune
Established 1888

JAMES THOMAS Editor-in-Chief
BARRY W. WALLACE Publisher
ANDREW P. COOK Advertising Manager

EDITORIAL DEPT: Jim Holt, Jim Irvine
DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEPT: Rod Spicer, Bryan Armstrong
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING-CIRCULATION: Joan Marshman
OFFICE MANAGER: Doreen Deacon
BUSINESS OFFICE: Eileen Glover
NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales 493-1300

Published every Wednesday at 54 Main St. Stouffville, Ont. tel. 640-2100. Single copies 25¢, subscriptions \$13.00 per year in Canada, \$35.00 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspapers Association, Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association, Ontario Press Council and Suburban Newspaper 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 Ajax/Whitby/Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner/Newmarket Era, The Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Burlington Weekend Post, The Etobicoke Advertiser Guardian, The Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Markham-Thornhill Economist, 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

Window on Wildlife
To kill often makes sense
By Art Briggs-Jude



The other day an ad appeared in a large daily newspaper proclaiming Fur Week as "Horror Week for Animals"; an eye-catching heading with an emotion-stimulating picture of a raccoon badly mangled in a leg-hold trap. A two paragraph treatise also described what happens to such animals in the wild when they become victims of these heinous devices set by some inhuman backwoodsman. It further stated you could save these furbearers by not wearing furs or by using those made of synthetic material. A final caption stated trapping must cease and it was signed by The Animal Defence League of Canada.

Ordinarily, such a condensation of damning evidence and the suggested simple solution, could make most people jump on the anti-trap bandwagon. However, there are among us enough level-headed persons who fortunately want a few more facts than a simple ad can show before they form their own opinions on the harvesting of animals for the fur industry. And although it is always much easier to attack than to defend, I would like to present a few facts in defence of Canada's fur trade as it is today.

The Animal Defence League of Canada is made up mostly, but not entirely, of well-meaning people. They have in the U.S., a counterpart called Friends of Animals Inc. They too are mostly well-meaning citizens, but sometimes they get carried away and lose touch with reality. Now, because of some unfounded facts and malicious intent, this latter group currently faces a \$300,000.00 lawsuit brought against them by the Connecticut Trappers Association. I just hope the Canadian organization hasn't been rigging the evidence or they may find themselves facing a similar situation, and that's a lot of donation money.

When these people say "stop trapping", what in effect are they really saying? Stop trapping and 70,000 trappers in Canada have lost a source of income. That 12,000 Indians can no longer supplement their food supply with beaver, muskrat, lynx, etc. Why the food value of our furbearers alone exceeds four million dollars annually. I wonder how they think they are helping our native people who supply one fifth of all Canada's wild fur, when they come out with such statements. Do these well-meaning people also realize just how many of those new litre measurements of petroleum it takes to manufacture one synthetic fur? Yet, it's interesting to note that wild fur like timber is a renewable resource, and that despite continued trapping from the earliest times, no Canadian furbearers are on the endangered species list.

Aren't they really saying stop cruelty to animals by man? Because, in the wild, every creature is food for another and none ever dies of old age. It's nice to think of a lot of little Utopias where the wild creatures can live unmolested, but mankind has altered the face of the earth so much that such an existence is next to impossible.

What do you do for example when a family of raccoons moves into your attic? Nothing? You'd better do something, because you could

be faced with a thousand dollar refinishing job. Move them out in the country where they can run free? Wait a minute, don't the already resident coons have that territory? Now you've got a fight for possession on your hands and likely more coons than the area will support. So when we get too many in a given area, they suffer from food shortages and become susceptible to disease which is Nature's way of harsh control. Remember, rabies can only be transmitted when there's an abundant supply of warm-blooded wildlife. Similarly, mange and tularemia are also most prevalent when animal populations outgrow their supporting habitat. Isn't it better to manage and harvest the furbearers in an area so that the strong stock remain?

I don't particularly enjoy encountering a suspected rabid fox on my way to the barn or again worrying whether it came in contact with our horse or other livestock. Maybe I should have just let it go. But I'm funny like that, because some kid down the road might have misunderstood the animal's plight, and tried to help it.

Now let's look at the methods used to take these furbearers and to a lesser extent nuisance animals. Oh yes, beaver if not kept in control, will flood hundreds of acres of land. Now, if you live in a quiet residential city street that may not pose a problem. However, to a woodlot owner or farmer, that could mean a good part of his livelihood. And muskrats too can wreak havoc with earth-filled dams, caus-

ing eventual loss of water. I think if you were in the farmers' rubber boots you'd want your cattle to have a fresh drink in the heat of the summer too. The reason I mention beaver and muskrat particularly is because aquatic animals such as these make up 75% of the fur harvest, excluding seals. And despite the misinformation offered these water-dwelling mammals are actually killed in from two to twelve minutes. Most are taken underwater with instant kill Conibear or leg-hold traps attached to drowning devices. The real truth of the matter is that a trapper makes a set to dispatch the animal as quickly as possible (he has feelings too), not only to prevent suffering but also to ensure there is no scuff damage to the pelt. It's his product to sell so the better the condition, the better the price. And instant-kill Conibear traps, not leg-holds are being used more and more for the taking of mink, raccoon, fisher and marten. Then, too, the newly developed foot-snare for fox, wolf and coyote is due this year and it is so selective and easy on the foot that dogs, cats, or other unwanted animals may be released with hardly a sore ankle. So you see, while the trapping profession may be among the oldest in North America, it's methods are certainly not. And while some people get all concerned that trapping is causing fear and agony in the wildlife community, the true facts do not bear out this anxiety. And if people are going to pity the beaver swimming in it's own environment, maybe they should rather think about the lamb waiting in the chute at the slaughterhouse.

Editorials

Flowers for the living

It was three weeks ago that Hydro Chairman Ken Laushway visited our Office and announced quite casually he would not be seeking re-appointment to the Commission for another term.

We didn't debate his decision, in fact, we offered no comment because, in all honesty, we didn't feel he was serious. However, we now know that he was, and we regret we didn't attempt to "talk it over".

Not that any pressure we might have exerted would have altered anything. He had already made up his mind.

Stepping down from the town's top hydro post, is not, in the opinion of many, any cause for great concern. Most, it's safe to say, (except when their power goes off), aren't even aware the System exists let alone care who operates it. And, yes, we're much the same. Hydro in Stouffville, as in Ontario, is a service that's taken for granted; and so are the people who maintain it.

But Ken Laushway's resignation means more to this community than merely one man stepping down from one position. It marks the end of an era, an era of devoted political service that has spanned a total of 34 years. Few will ever come close to equalling his record and

fewer still will surpass it. However, community service should not be measured in time alone but in accomplishments. In this area also, there are few his equal.

As reeve of Stouffville and mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville, his record of performance could fill a thick book. Space will permit the listing of only a few: The Sr. Citizens' Apartment on Elm Road; the Conservation Area Flood Control Dam and the Town Square. There are many more, all projects that benefited the municipality greatly.

Ken Laushway was adept at working "behind the scenes". More than one project came to pass simply by speaking to the right person at the right time.

He was short on patience with people who refused to take their political positions seriously. His manner, sometimes abrupt, was irritating to those who didn't know him well, but he was never satisfied with being "second best".

An obituary? Hardly. Better, flowers for the living, we say. After 34 years, no one in our midst is more deserving of a bouquet.

Ken Laushway has served this community well. The least we can say is "thanks".

St. Nick brings smiles

Santa Claus comes to town this Saturday. The Kinsmen-sponsored parade begins at 2 p.m. from the intersection of Stouffer and North Streets at Tenth Line North. It will conclude at Westlawn Crescent.

This procession, that has seen both good years and bad, has been a success ever since the Stouffville Kinsmen took it "under their wing". This organization, as small as it is, has a way of putting a parade together. They are aided, of course, by the Kinetites plus the co-operation of the entire community. Without this, a project of such magnitude, would never materialize.

A Santa Claus Parade costs money, many thousands of dollars. In this regard, its oft been said that such funds could be used for a much better purpose. For what better purpose (than to make children happy), we're not sure. Until such time as someone comes up with a sensible suggestion, we say "let it be". With so much economic gloom surrounding us all the time, it's nice to see frowns transformed into smiles—for one afternoon at least.

So join the sideline smiles this Saturday. The remedy may be temporary but a little relief is better than no relief at all.

Editor's Mail

Democracy at work

Dear Editor:

As a comparative new resident in Whitchurch-Stouffville, I'm not wise in the ways of politics as it applies to a semi-rural community. Perhaps things are done differently here than in a city the size of Toronto.

Regardless, I'm dumbfounded at the thought of one candidate opposing another with respect to an election recount. This, as I understand it, is what occurred in Ward 6.

If this wasn't bad enough, Mr Sanders had the nerve to suggest that he only wished to prove "that the election process had been carried out fairly".

In my humble opinion, this is exactly what the recount will prove.

What, may I ask, would Councillor Sanders have said had the judge refused the recount application on the grounds that

his points in the eight affidavits were more conclusive than what Mr Stonehouse had presented? This could very well have happened, as I understand it. Fortunately, the judge in this case, must have seen through the Sanders' tactic and allowed the recount on the strength that "the result was too close for comfort". Had he not, I personally would have called for a new election in Ward 6, even though I'm not a resident in that area.

As I said at the outset, politics may be different in a semi-rural community as compared to a city. Regardless, I hardly think the democratic principles are altered on the basis of a municipality's size. I certainly hope not.

Sincerely,
Bernard Thompson,
Whitchurch-Stouffville.