

Editor's Mail

A concern

Dear Jim:

We are writing to share a matter of growing concern.

As you are undoubtedly aware, we are living in severe economic times. Nowhere is this felt more deeply or directly than in the inner city. There are 38,000 presently on welfare in Toronto. Christian workers there report a heavier than normal demand on their services.

Out of this great concern, we feel compelled to act. For those of us who have been blessed by much material abundance, comes the Biblical injunction to consider the poor with prayer and action. We are all well aware that this need will continue throughout the winter. Therefore, we are making the following proposal:

That the churches in Stouffville act together in collecting and distributing provisions to Christian agencies in downtown Toronto. By provisions, we mean, food (canned goods), good used clothing, blankets and bedding and toys for children.

Such agencies are—Evangel Hall, Queen Street West; Fred Victor Mission, Queen Street East; The Scott Mission, Spadina Avenue; Stop 103, St. Stephen's in the Field, Kensington Market; St. Stephen's, Downsview and The Downtown Church Worker.

One of the drop-off depots is Christ Church (Anglican), Sunset Boulevard, Stouffville. Others will be announced shortly.

A steering committee will be established to assist in distributing the provisions based on the needs of each agency.

Here's how you can respond. (1) Through prayer, considering the needs of those in our cities and those suffering this winter. (2) By serving as a volunteer on the steering committee.

Through individual congregations and The Tribune, we will be keeping in touch.

Sincerely,

Ted Green (640-3151),
Philip Poole (640-1461); (640-6752).



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Window on Wildlife
Autumn walk in the woods
By Art Briggs-Jude

A walk in the woods in these last days of autumn, can be an exhilarating experience, one that sometimes gives you an insight into what has been happening there during the past few months.

The rubbed bark on the exposed sapling shows where a big buck deer has worked the velvet from his rack, honing his formidable tines for the rutting season.

A torn patch of pawed moss and ground, signals the activity of a challenging buck.

But there are tracings of leavings of smaller animals too. Ruffled patches of leaves beneath an oak grove are sure signs black or gray squirrels have been busy salvaging their horde of acorns before freeze-up. And if you pick up one of these exposed kernels, more often than not it shows evidence of a grub inside. So the clever squirrel didn't really miss it after all. He probably set it aside for that very reason.

Under the evergreens, you'll likely notice miniature sprays of cone scales. These are all that are left after red squirrels and chipmunks chewed out their centres to reach the tiny winged seeds within. A protruding hollow limb at eye-level, you discover, is a virtual gourmet storehouse for these seemingly spring-loaded nutcrackers, as it contains everything from dried mushrooms and berries to wild hickory nuts. A closer look at these contents too may also give a clue as to what nut trees are in the area. Incidentally, this is how we first knew there were butternuts on our property.

Now that severe frosts have retarded the grass and weed cover, you're able to observe more trails and passageways though it. Mouse tunnels are at once apparent, but some of the other worn paths remain a mystery for the present. A little later in the year, though, the snow will help identify the more frequent trail users.

In a place where the soil is sandy or shallow due to surface rock, the dusting places of ruffed grouse and other woodland birds may be found. Look carefully around these dusting bowls and you may find a feather or two to help identify the dusters.

A pile of chips beneath a punky pine stirs your curiosity. Further investigation reveals the large rectangular-shaped workings of a pileated woodpecker. And though you can't quite locate its summer nest cavity, you know it's not far from this food source.

In a nearby stand of huge hemlock, little sprigs and tips of these coniferous trees litter the ground. A black burly ball, high in the upper limbs, draws your attention. Checking it out with your binoculars, shows it to be a fat old porcupine. But alas, as you discover later, it hasn't confined its chewing to the hemlock tips alone, for young maple, beech and birch have been girdled in many places.

It is while you are searching in these smaller trees that you notice several nests, from the previous summer. One large bulky mass was probably fashioned by a crow. The other, nest though, is a tiny woven cup made up of birch bark shreds, fine grass and slender rootlets. A red-eyed vireo's nest, you tell yourself, making a mental note to check it out with the book when you arrive back home. And on the way, more nests are visible, so easy to spot now that their leafy camouflage has left them. Of course, it's always a challenge to try and match these cradles up with the birds you observed in that area during the warm-weather months.

The sinking sun setting in a crimson sky gives a preview of to-morrow's weather. It also silhouettes a large football-shaped structure in the young hardwood ahead. It's the nest of a bold-faced hornet or maybe a yellow-jacket wasp. They're dormant now, but bring back memories of some summer excitement. Maybe next time around we'll mention a few of our encounters with these flying hypodermic needles.

Editorials
Let's not compromise on landfill site issue

While still unconfirmed, there's rumor of a compromise, related to the scheduled shut-down of the Hwy. 48 landfill site.

Originally, this blot on our landscape, was to have been closed out as of June 30, 1983. This was the ultimatum handed down by Environment Minister Keith Norton last summer. Even then, some thought the time period too long; that the shut-down of the operation should have been immediate. Now, we've been told (unofficially), that discussions are going on behind the scenes that, if approved by all parties concerned, will see the dumping continue another three years.

We're opposed. The Town and the Concerned

Citizens' Committee have come too far to back down now. The pre-arranged close-out date should still apply.

Apart from the claims that the operation poses a health hazard, the municipality, (Stouffville in particular), must rid itself of the stigma attached to its name, a stigma that's known from coast-to-coast—the town with the bad water.

As wrong as this belief is, we'll never play down the bad publicity, until the site is permanently closed. The set date for such action is June 30, 1983. Let there be no waffling on this decision.

An excellent parade

For a couple of hours, Saturday, problems took a back seat to a parade. Yes, for a short while at least, the landfill site, water pollution, job insecurity and inflation were replaced by old-fashioned fun.

And what fun it was, for the participants as well as the spectators.

Thousands lined the procession route, from one end of Main Street to the other—the largest

crowd to attend a singular event in Stouffville in years.

The weather, unseasonably mild, added to the enjoyment of the occasion. Would you believe, some marchers said they were "hot"? A nice problem for a date in December.

To the Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs; the schools, the churches, organizations and individuals, our congratulations on a great show.

Recount cleared the air

The recount in Whitchurch-Stouffville's Ward 6 was completed, Friday, with no change in the return—540 for incumbent Jim Sanders; 538 for opponent Ged Stonehouse.

We felt, due to the closeness of the return, that a second look inside the ballot boxes was warranted. Our opinion hasn't changed. That "second look" has cleared the air. The 1983-85 Council, duly elected, can now get on with the

job of handling the municipality's affairs for the next three years. All positive legislation will have our support.

Our editorial view on the recount issue was strongly criticized. This, we expected. When one sticks his neck out, he can anticipate a few cracks from the cleaver. However, any newspaper worth its salt isn't afraid to take a stand, regardless of repercussions.

Editor's Mail
Paper's criticism unfair

Dear Jim:

After reading your editorial of Nov. 24 and the letter of Dec. 1, I feel compelled to respond in the interest of both myself and the entire electorate of Whitchurch-Stouffville. I am doing so prior to the recount on Dec. 3.

The last two terms on Council have been productive and enjoyable. No matter how difficult the debate, when I have looked around at my fellow Councillors, I have always seen men and women who have had the best interests of the Municipality uppermost in their minds. Therefore, I find it incredulous that someone in your position would make a statement: "too often (unfortunately), the best men (and women), don't always win because of the wheeling and dealing that occurs behind the scenes." I also find your accusations of "dirty politics" destructive and scurrilous to myself, to Ged, to the election staff, to all elected representatives, and to our supporters.

This type of unfounded inuendo is only demoralizing and debasing to all concerned, including the press. I feel you owe both myself and the people of Whitchurch-Stouffville an explanation.

Your statement regarding the number of affidavits is both incorrect and misleading. Since you are making such a serious statement, I would have expected you to check with both lawyers as they and the Judge were the only ones present at the hearing.

I responded to the recount application for the purpose of determining that the election process was carried out fairly and within the bounds of the appropriate legislation.

Elections are basic to the democratic process and as such, are carefully bound by very exacting laws. The Judge, whom you also cast in doubt, was very careful to work within that law.

Whatever the outcome of the recount, I am certain that the people of this community will maintain their confidence in our laws and in the democratic process. We live in a small community and it is essential we make the effort to understand each other and that we work together.

Sincerely,
Jim Sanders,
Councillor, Ward Six.

What does Mr Cohn or any other non-fireman know about fire trucks? Likely very little.

Would I tell a farmer friend what type of tractor to purchase or a printer what kind of press to buy? Certainly not.

A figure like \$100,000 may seem like a lot of money, but it's peanuts compared to the value of some properties it may be responsible for saving.

I say let the fire chief run the fire department. I'm confident he knows what he's doing.

Sincerely,
Jordan Frazer,
Main Street,
Stouffville.

Editor's Note: The editorial's reference to the wheeling and dealing behind the scenes was related to leadership conventions at the federal and provincial levels ONLY, where, in our opinion the best men and women don't always win.

Stay silent

Dear Editor:

I wish to reply to the letter published in the Dec. 1 issue of The Tribune over the signature of Joseph Cohn on Albert Street in Stouffville. It was critical of the fire department's purchase of a \$100,000 tanker-pumper truck.

It seems to me, in letters I've read, there are people who set themselves up as authorities on everything, even the purchase of fire vehicles.

My thanks

Dear Mr Thomas:

I would like to express my thanks for the kindness shown by the manager of Stouffville A. & P. recently.

I had three bags full of groceries and no car. It would have been impossible for me to carry them from the store to Parkview Home or make three trips as I had planned.

The kind manager brought me home and delivered my groceries right to the door. I was very pleased and through your paper, wish to thank him very much.

Sincerely,
Hildegard Bremermann,
Parkview Home,
Stouffville.