

# Editor's mail

## An ulterior motive?

# Query raised

Dear Jim:  
I read with interest the press coverage given for the past two weeks in The Tribune about Durham Regional Councillor Stoner's fears that the curve on the 9th Concession is a hazard.

Several accidents have occurred on this curve over the years, one in particular where I offered assistance to an injured driver while the Stouffville Fire Department used a saw to cut through the door to free him.

The very nature of my business leads me to believe that all accidents are serious, particularly when bodily injury is involved. It is not my intention to downplay the happenings at this corner, but I take issue with the way the situation is being presented.

I have travelled this road about three days a week for 17 years, in both directions, and I drive approximately 60,000 kilometers a year. Having thus negotiated this curve more than 2,500 times, I feel my opinion should be given as much consideration as Mrs Stoner's (but I'm not running for public office).

At the speed limit or under, the curve is no more hazardous than 5,000 others in southern Ontario. If Mrs Stoner would take the time to investigate the occurrences that have taken place, I'm certain she would find that they all resulted from speeding, driving on the wrong side of the road, icy conditions or lack of attention—human irresponsibility, not the fault of the road.

My interpretation of the tone of your articles is that Mrs Stoner is trying to stir up enough response to create an issue. If she is

truly concerned about the accidents at this corner, then it would seem the logical move would be to make the corner more visible with a danger or a slow sign. The inference I read into the article is if enough noise is created by her, York and Durham will have to improve the road and Mrs Stoner will get the credit.

Notwithstanding the fact that politicians seem to have a voracious need to be visible, the cost to the public of her visibility could be very high.

I understand this is federal government-expropriated land. An engineering study, planning and design and reconstruction of this corner could cost \$200,000 or more according to road design engineers I've spoken to. This is a lot of money to pour into a road that may be obsolete now and more particularly if Ottawa decides to do something differently with it.

If Mrs Stoner was to quietly arrange for a "danger" or a "slow" sign to be erected in this area, then give some thought to educating motorists to be more cautious, I'd think more of her and of you for supporting her.

Promoting politics with large headlines and photos, may be good for votes and newspaper sales, but let's not lose sight of the fact that taxpayers must bear the burden of the result.

Sincerely,  
Donald Vale,  
Claremont

Editor's Note: Saving lives and not newspaper sales was the only thought we had in mind when we lent support to this issue.

## Investment--of sorts

# Start a rat ranch

Dear Jim:  
I'm not sure if you're interested in this, but it could make you a lot of money with a small investment of only \$50,000 cash. Since you are such a wise person and a prudent investor and have all that money, I figure you have enough to swing it.

I'm inviting a few good friends to invest with me in a large cat ranch in Whitechurch-Stouffville; near the dump. We would start with about a million cats. At the rate cats multiply, this will give us 12 million cat skins at the end of the year, with two million cats remaining for brood stock for the following year. White cat skins bring about 20 cents each, and black ones about 40 cents; realizing revenue of about 4 million dollars a year. This averages out to about \$11,000 per day, including Sundays and holidays.

A good cat man can skin about 40 cats, working part-time each day for \$3.65 an hour. It will take 663 men to operate the ranch (employment for all teenagers in Stouffville), so the net profit would be over \$9,000 per day. Your \$50,000 investment would be recovered in just 5.3 days.

The cats would be fed exclusively on rats, who, multiply four four times faster than cats.

We would start a rat ranch at the Dump, adjacent to our cat farm.

If we begin with a million rats, we will have four rats per cat per day; the rats will be fed on the carcasses of the cats we skin. This will give each rat a quarter of a cat. So, as you can see, this is a clean, self-supporting and automatic business; the cats will eat the rats; the rats will eat the cats, and we obtain the skins.

Eventually, I hope to cross the cats with snakes, so they can skin themselves twice a year. This would not only save the labor cost of skinning, but give us two skins per cat.

Let me know if you're interested. A deal like this won't last long and I'm rather choosy about who get into the skinning operation.

I'm reserving a very attractive engraved certificate for you on receipt of \$50,000 cash.

Looking forward to our partnership.

Sincerely,  
Alfons Rubbens,  
Stouffville.

P.S. If you don't like the cat-skinning business, how about a piece of York Sanitation

# Honors' certificates



Eight York North 4-H Homemakers received County Honors' Certificates at an Achievement Program in Keswick, Friday night. The four girls above are (left to right)—Crystal Allan, 15, (Vandorf); Joanne Allan, 14, (Vandorf); Suzanne Wong, 15, (Bogartown) and Linda Mineur, 15, (Bogartown). —Jim Thomas



The four other recipients of County Honors' Diplomas are (left to right)—Suzanne McLean, 15, (Mt. Albert); Gayle Bailey, 18, (Keswick); Jo-Anne Emsley, 16, (Keswick) and Donna Canning, 15, (Queensville). —Jim Thomas

## Awards

GOODWOOD—A wrestling team from Goodwood Public School, recently participated in the Junior Division of the Durham Region Finals, placing seventh out of nine entries.

Although relatively inexperienced, several individuals gave strong performances.

For the third successive year, Chris Winn captured the gold medal in his weight class (38.4 kilos). Scott Koogje won a silver medal for his second place finish in the 35.4 kilos class. Bronze (third place) medals were won by—John Humphries, Bradley Miller and Brent Gould. Winners of fourth place ribbons were—Daniel Humphries and Trevor Stewart.



Three 4-H members received Provincial Honors' Certificates. They are (left to right)—Danielle Gervais, 18, (Pine Orchard); Patricia Davis, 18, (Pine Orchard) and Wendy Grimmert, 18, (Vandorf). The presentations were made by York Region Home Economist Beverley Brook.

# Urges health study

Brigitta Gamm, Vandorf Road, Whitechurch-Stouffville, was one of several Concerned Citizens in attendance at the Mini-Cabinet meeting in the Newmarket Community Centre. Since then, she had written a letter to The Hon. Larry Grossman, Ontario Minister of Health, outlining the following concerns. A copy of that letter follows:

The Honorable Larry Grossman,  
Minister of Health,  
Queen's Park,  
Ontario.

Re: Health Study in Whitechurch-Stouffville

Dear Sir:  
At the Mini-Cabinet Meeting held April 27 in the Newmarket Community Centre, you were asked by Charles Parker of the Concerned Citizens of Whitechurch-Stouffville, when Stouffville residents could expect the promised Health Study to be completed. The \$1.2 Million study, Mr. Parker referred to, was approved by your predecessor, Mr. Timbrell, in 1981, as a result of an informal study carried out by our group. Our study revealed over 145 cases of various serious illnesses around Landfill Site No. 4 which prompted your Ministry to order a feasibility study which was subsequently carried out by Dr. Robert Steele. The results were finalized in December, 1982, and our group was informed by Dr. Owen Slingerland, the Medical Officer of Health for York Region, at that time, that indeed the feasibility study proved that the proper one could now proceed.

To our surprise, an article under the heading "Province Flip-Flopping on Stouffville Study", appeared in the Toronto Star of April 19. As a result, Mr. Parker asked you the question. Obviously you did not realize what study he was referring to and passed the responsibility of answering

on to Mr. Norton. He declined to answer, and as you will remember shortly thereafter, all questioners from Whitechurch-Stouffville were barred, myself included.

However, I patiently waited, and was able to redirect the same query to Mr. Norton after the question period. He seemed just as surprised that you referred to us to him as we were, but promised to look into the matter and report back to me.

On May 2, his Deputy Minister, Mr. Bannell, phoned and assured me that indeed the plans regarding the health study had not been changed and would proceed. However, he could not give me any further details since obviously health studies do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Environment.

I would therefore ask you to clarify the situation for the residents of Whitechurch-Stouffville and let us know in writing when

the study will proceed and when we could expect to be informed as to the result. Mr. Grossman, the fears of the residents that the dump is leaking and causing the illnesses reported to our group's illness-hotline are real and have not diminished just because the Ministry of the Environment, our Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce, for their own reasons, have signed an agreement with Waste Management.

The Concerned Citizens of Whitechurch-Stouffville would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to show you our own health study map which prompted your predecessor to authorize the scientific study.

Sincerely,  
Brigitta Gamm,  
Health Committee,  
Concerned Citizens,  
Whitechurch-Stouffville.

# "Co-operation"

Dear Jim:  
On behalf of the United Church Couples Club, we would like to thank the audience of over 2,000 who supported Music Mania '83—our 23rd show! Music Mania is a unique community production that involves over 100 local people working together to bring to the rest of the community a top-notch evening of entertainment.

Thanks to The Tribune for your support with pictures and comments.

Other groups in the community—the Boy Scouts and Cubs who helped with the parking; the Hi-C from the United Church who served refreshments at intermission; A. & S. Construction for use of their shop facili-

ties; Card's Hardware who sold tickets; stores that displayed posters—all made the show successful.

Proceeds from Music Mania '83 will be donated as follows: High School Award for Performing Arts—\$100; Marjorie Griffiths Sports Award at the High School—\$200; Markham Stouffville Hospital Fund—\$300 with the remainder going to the new Whitechurch-Stouffville Community Recreation Centre.

See you all at Music Mania '84 or, better still, become involved too!

Sincerely,  
Jim and Lovanna Sanders,  
Presidents, United Church Couples Club



## A saddle but no horse

Close to 125 young people and their parents attended an olde tyme square dance in the gymnasium at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, Thursday night. The event was a fund-raising project for Grade 7 students at Orchard Park. This pretty

little gal, in appropriate western wear, is a few years out of Grade 7, but she enjoyed the activity like all the rest. She's Jennifer Goldman, daughter of Vic and Daphne Goldman, Elm Road, Stouffville.

—Jim Thomas