

NO WATER-BLAME HWY. 404

VANDORF — It was nine years ago that David Hooper purchased a house and property at Vandorf in Whitchurch-Stouffville. That was long before Hwy. 404 became a reality and work was started on that section of the throughway. Now his well's gone

dry, at least the water level's so low, the service is no longer available. He attributes this to major construction 300 yards to the west but so far, he says, the Ministry of the Environment denies all responsibility. When the trouble first

occurred (April, 1983), Mr Hooper assumed the problem was strictly his own. So he spent close to \$400 on well repairs. Later, he discovered others in the area were experiencing similar concerns. He decided to investigate further. Hooper claims the

right-of-way for Hwy. 404 was acquired nearly 30 years ago, but a proper study of soil conditions was never done. This spring, difficulties were encountered and huge diesel pumps were brought in control water overflow. "It was bubbling from the top of the

ground," he said. Following persistent complaints, the Ministry of Transportation installed a 2,000 gallon water tank in his backyard. However, Mr Hooper looks on this as a temporary solution. He wants his well returned to the same operable

condition as before. "I'm not knocking what they've done, but I fear for the future," he told The Tribune. A new drilled well could cost between five and ten thousand dollars, he says. Hooper claims that instead of getting together

and sharing their concerns, each home-owner acted on his own. This, he said, was unfortunate. But even now, the Environment Ministry is claiming no responsibility, he says, but instead attributes the problem to other sources.

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Suggests Sunday shopping

STOUFFVILLE — The issue of Sunday shopping will undoubtedly come before a meeting of the Business Improvement Area board, Dec. 7.

Main Street merchant Tommy Thompson, proprietor of The Villager and Josephine's, claims that with Metro boroughs moving in this direction, Stouffville must also, if business is to survive. He intends to introduce the subject for discussion, "not out of desire, but necessity".

Stouffville, he says, is particularly vulnerable, due to the density of traffic here Saturdays. "People living in Markham, Unionville, Gormley and Claremont won't come here; they go to Markham or Hillcrest instead". He sees the possibility of stores here closing Saturdays in lieu of Sundays. Opening hours, he suggests, wouldn't be until 1

p.m., so as not to interfere with Sunday worship. Mr. Thompson stressed he's not speaking for other merchants in town, but only for himself.

Some, he said, raise the problem of parking as a deterrent to shopping in Stouffville, but he sees parking as no problem at all. Only rarely are all parking places filled, even on Main Street, he said.

The local merchant claims the trend today is towards Sunday shopping and surveys indicate this. He says Toronto's Harbourfront is becoming a very popular Sunday shopping area. He visited the site to see for himself. While Markville is closed on the Sabbath, he's anticipating a change there also if the Scarborough Town Centre makes the switch.

Thompson admits to staffing problems, particularly in larger stores, but feels arrangements can be worked out.

Town Clerk Pat Muir said Sunday opening is not controllable by Council but comes under the provisions of the Retail Businesses Holidays Act. She pointed out, however, that if a community is declared a Tourist Area, then exceptions are permissible. Such applications are handled by the Region, she said.

In support of Sunday opening, Tommy Thompson refers to the results of a survey in Toronto and St. Catharines conducted by a magazine called Volume Retail Merchandising. In response to the question "which is the most convenient day to shop", the respondents gave Saturday as No. 1, Thursday as No. 2 and Friday as No. 3. As for "the second most convenient day to shop", Friday was No. 1, Sunday, No. 2 and Saturday, No. 3.



Turkey Shoot aids Rec. Centre Fund

In an effort to raise \$200,000 for a proposed Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Complex, various clubs and organizations are holding fund-raising events throughout the Town. One of these occurred Saturday,

a Turkey Shoot, sponsored by the Canadian Progress Club. Two of the participants were club president Glenn Brown, (left) of R.R. 1, Unionville and Mayor Eldred King.

—Jim Thomas.

Royal Winter Fair Champion

MARKHAM — Betty Reeve, Hawkridge Avenue, Markham, has added yet another top award to her already large trophy collection.

Betty's beautiful palomino, Sparkling Nuggett, won the Grand Champion Stallion Class at the 1983 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair just concluded.

The Reserve Grand Championship went to Gary Rutherford of R.R. 3, Fenelon Falls.

In other divisions, Betty also enjoyed excellent success. Results follow: Stallion Foaled Previous to Jan. 1, 1981, (first); Brood Mare, (second and fourth); Two Animals Any Age, The Get of One Sire, (third).

School messages 'Air mail'

STOUFFVILLE — Back on Nov. 3, students of Orchard Park released close to 350 helium-filled balloons with tags attached. It was part of a celebration marking the school's 25th anniversary.

As of Monday, eight had been returned, some from a distance and some close to home.

Kara-Lee McGinty of Montreal Street, for example, received a letter from Newfane, New York. Her balloon was found in a peach tree.

Chris Pennanen, Elm Road, received a note from

Dunkirk, New York. Chris is 12 and in Grade 6.

For a few others, the flights were brief. Two were found in a field near the Tenth Line of Markham. But the briefest trip of all was a balloon belonging to seven-year-old Debbie Knight of Market Street. Hers was found hanging in a tree—in her own backyard.

Others heard from belonged to Michelle Smith, Grade 1; Mathew Brillinger and Philip Pridham, Grade 2; Jason Bloye, Grade 8 and Grade 7 staff teacher, David Young.

Major moves

STOUFFVILLE — Council will assume responsibility for future Parks and Recreation decisions.

The resolution, approved on a 4-3 split vote, Tuesday, scraps the volunteer Parks and Recreation Committee and places the Town in full control.

Ratepayers packed the chambers, with many standing outside and down the stairs. Jack Watson, Tenth Line South, spoke against the move.

Later, it was agreed, again on a 4-3 split vote, that the Library Board be consulted with respect to George Schlukker, the Town's chief librarian, serving as temporary director of Culture and Recreation.



Kara-Lee McGinty of Montreal Street, Stouffville, beams with delight at receiving a letter and map from Newfane, New York, where her helium-filled balloon landed, Nov. 5. It and 350 others, were sent aloft from Orchard Park School, Nov. 3. The event was part of a celebration marking the school's 25th anniversary.

—Jim Thomas

Recalls near tragedy

GOODWOOD — One year ago, Nov. 13, 1982, a 23-year-old Goodwood girl had a brush with death when a truck, in which she was a passenger, veered off the Ninth Line Road and plunged into the icy waters of Musselman's Lake.

Terri Rowe, then a student in Graphic Arts at Sheridan College, and now a graduate, remembers the

accident well, also the weeks spent in York County and Toronto General Hospitals. Terri suffered fractures to four vertebrae in her neck. These had to be fused together, using bone chips from her hip. "I'm better now," she said.

Terri vividly recalls "the rough ride" as the vehicle plummeted down an embankment into the Lake. "I could feel the water

coming in," she said, "I tried to unlock the door but couldn't". Driver Donald Milley of Eagle Street, Newmarket, pulled her out the passenger side window.

While Milley sought help, Terri lay on a private dock, then somehow pulled herself to the edge of the road.

"I was afraid no one would find me—it was freezing cold," she remembers.

Police and an ambulance arrived quickly, she said.

Terri missed about seven weeks of school but still graduated. She kept up with her studies by working at home, returning to class in January.

It's all just a bad memory now, she admits, but never that bad that it couldn't have been worse. "I'm lucky to be alive," she concluded.

Town office overload

STOUFFVILLE — The Municipal Office is "bursting at the seams".

No one is more aware of this than Mayor Eldred King. He's also aware of the cost involved in building another. He says the Town lacks the financial resources to consider a new structure at this time. So stop-gap solutions are being considered.

The 'crunch', according to Mayor King, is in the Building and Planning Departments. He admits some changes will have to be made soon to accommodate additional staff.

Initially, he explained, a

third storey was considered, but investigations proved this impractical. Now, Council is looking at property nearby, but nothing yet has been finalized. The mayor feels it's not completely necessary to have all municipal em-

ployees "under one roof".

King claims the present office location is a "draw" for Stouffville's downtown. He doesn't want to see this removed. Further, the cost is "further than we can reach at the present time," he concluded.

Bus strike rolls on

STOUFFVILLE — The current Travelways School Bus strike is affecting attendance at Stouffville High, but not as drastically this week as last.

Principal John Nikifork reported 187 absent on Thursday. On Monday and Tuesday, this number was down to 70.

About 450 students depend on bus transportation daily, Mr Nikifork said, with about half of these travelling on vehicles operating out of the Markham division.

The Newmarket headquarters is not involved.

Principal Nikifork said parents are trying their best to cope. He pointed out, however, where several in a family attend different schools, the situation's more difficult.

The basic wage for a starting driver is \$7.86 an hour, The Tribune was told. The strikers are asking \$11.66.

Stouffville boy

Top acting role

STOUFFVILLE — A theatrical career has long been the dream of eleven-year-old Jason Brock, son of Robin and Margaret Brock, Duchess Street, Stouffville.

Now, it seems, this wish is coming true. Jason's been selected for the lead role in Tiny Tim at the Young People's Theatre, 165 Front Street, Toronto. There are 45 performances with the grand opening, Nov. 29.

About 35 boys auditioned for the part. Jason admits to being excited when informed he'd been chosen. Actually, he'll be playing three different parts, with the role of Tiny Tim the most notable. He's a member of the Young People's Theatre acting class.

credit must go to Principal Lorne Boadway and staff teachers at Summitview who provided him numerous opportunities to appear on stage in special assemblies.

"At Summitview, they encourage children to perform," Mrs Brock said, "it's been a big plus for Jason".



JASON BROCK

The handsome, dark-haired lad must miss numerous classes in order to attend rehearsals and shows, in fact, Monday is his only full day at school. However, a classmate brings work to his home and so far there's been no problem. Mrs Brock looks on the opportunity as a learning experience in itself.

So far, the demand for tickets has been excellent. All previews and Sunday matinees are already sold out.

Mrs Brock describes the entire family as "eager theatre goers". She credits this with creating an initial interest. Jason has two brothers, Aaron, nine and Nathan, five.

Jason's hopeful his role as Tiny Tim will lead to other performances. For some, careers start early—as early as are eleven.