

Editor's Mail Solution?

Dear Editor:
With the planned opening of a new public school in north-east Markham, the enrollment at Dickson's Hill will be reduced to about 150 students.

Facing such a problem, I'm surprised the Board doesn't have a contingency plan in readiness. It would seem members are content to "wait and see".

While there may be no immediate move to close this facility, it stands to reason 150 pupils isn't sufficient reason to keep it open.

It's unfortunate a building of such value was ever established in so small a community. Dickson's Hill will never grow to a size as to warrant so large a structure. A very similar situation exists at Whitchurch-Highlands.

With attendance at the Stouffville Christian School increasing every year, perhaps the trustees there might consider purchasing or at least leasing the building. If this isn't economically feasible, perhaps a shared arrangement might be worked out between the two Boards.

John Simmons, the Area 2 Superintendent is safe in saying Dickson's Hill School won't close. That would be a waste of an A-1 facility. However, it's not practical to keep it open either, not to accommodate 150 students. So what's the solution? Maybe Howard Johnson's would be interested.

Sincerely,
Norman Fraser,
R.R. 1, Unionville.

Obscenity

Dear Editor:
I question the publication of a nude photo on Page 1 of the Jan. 11 Tribune.

Ice sculpture or not, a woman or not, a nude is a nude.

An individual, minus its clothes is considered by some to be art. I consider it an obscenity.

Sincerely,
Merna Pringle



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ROAMING AROUND A hockey massacre

BY JIM THOMAS

If all the 'clicks' had occurred at the same time, Saturday, the vibration would have been heard from Moose Creek to Leamington and from Sudbury to Simcoe.

Cause of all the psychological commotion was the act of Maple Leaf hockey-watcher switching channels in unison, or cooling down: the tube completely. I elected to choose a less violent act. I simply left the room—in total disgust, leaving sons Barry and Paul to writhe in the misery of another Toronto torture.

My only reason for staying as long as I did was to see for how many periods 19-year-old Allan Bester could withstand the Montreal onslaught. When he sought, (or was beckoned to), the safety of the players' bench, I went upstairs to engage Mary-Lynn in a less rigorous contest called checkers. I find that easier to take than a video massacre; and that's what the Leaf-Canadien contest was—a massacre. In my years of watching and listening to N.H.L. broadcasts, I've never seen a Toronto team look so inept. In short, it was pathetic.

Mind you, Montreal aren't all that great either. They've been struggling all season too, but against the Leafs, with-

out-Salming, they appeared as legitimate challengers for the Stanley Cup.

No, it's not that the Canadiens are that good. It's just that the Leafs are that bad, terrible, in fact.

However, Harold Ballard and Company shouldn't take my criticism too seriously. I've never been a true, blue Toronto fan. Why? Because in my opinion, management completed too many dumb deals—Lanny McDonald and Inge Hammarstrom, to mention only two. But even long before that, I was never a dyed-in-the-wool Leaf supporter.

Barry and Paul can't understand my attitude; how I would stoop so low as to cheer on the likes of the North Stars and the Rangers over their beloved Toronto team. My stock answer is honest and simple: "I don't like the way the Leafs play hockey." Their shoot-and-chase style, in my opinion, is pure bush. They get rid of the puck because they don't know what to do with it when they've got it. At least that's how it appears from my vantage point.

out a dog-eared hockey scrapbook dating back to 1949-50. This, I tell them, is hockey the way I remember it, the way I'll always remember it.

Their groans of "not this again" are very audible, but I pretend not to hear. While I'll never downplay the heroics of a Wayne Gretzky or a Dennis Potvin, it's my honest belief there were at least a dozen Gretzky's and Potvin's "way back then" when the league consisted of only six teams.

Remember the likes of—Turk Broda, Bucko McDonald, Syl Apps, Gordie Drillon, Billy Taylor, Bob Davidson, Wally Stanowski, Sweeney Schriner and Johnny McCreedy of the Toronto Maple Leafs; Elmer Lach, Toe Blake, Emile Bouchard, Tony Graboski, Ken Reardon and Merf Chamberlain of the Montreal Canadiens; Frank Brimsek, Dit Clapper, Milt Schmidt, Bobby Bauer, Porky Dumart, Bill Holett, Herbie Cain, Bill Cowley and Roy Conacher of the Boston Bruins;

I remember. My age-old scrapbook won't let me forget. However, on one thing I'm sure we'll all agree, the Toronto fiasco of March 17 was a game we'd like to forget.

Editorials Perseverance pays off

Thanks to the persistence of the Business Improvement Area board and the co-operation of realtor Jack Baird, the way's been cleared for emergency surgery that hopefully will remove a 'scar' from the face of Main Street.

The downtown business site, formerly occupied by Card's Hardware, has been sold; to whom, Mr Baird isn't prepared to reveal. Nor does it matter. What's important is, some use will be made of the premises, once exterior and interior renovations are complete. There will also be two apartments on the second floor.

This news will bring sighs of relief throughout Stouffville's downtown core. For vacancies tend to breed vacancies, as numerous downtowns across Ontario know. New business ventures tend to shy away from situations of this kind and established merchants often get 'itchy feet' when they see signs of decay settling in.

The transition from disuse to productivity couldn't occur at a more opportune time. When spring housecleaning's the order of the day, this property's a good place to start.

An excellent program

The Town library staff recently concluded one of the most successful weeks in the facility's seven-year history. Hundreds of children, (and adults); visited the premises during March 'break' and participated in the many events offered there.

This represented a tremendous undertaking for local library personnel, not only in organizing the activities but in creating the many extra-curricular amenities related to the space age program.

While it seemed half the families in the area were away during the March 'break' period, the other half, thanks to the Library staff, had somewhere to go and something to do "at home". This would not have been possible had it not been for a few enthusiastic and dedicated Library people, prepared to "go that extra mile".

To them, from you, The Tribune says "thank you".

Aid Town brochure

Our Town has many positive things going for it, benefits that we, (hopefully), appreciate, but non-residents may not know about.

In an effort to put these points across, a committee of Council, headed by Fran Sainsbury, is preparing a brochure, made up mostly of photos; and they're asking for YOUR help.

They're seeking slides or prints, (in color), portraying the municipality's 'good side'.—Musselman's Lake, Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, the Sales Barn, McNeil Pharmaceutical, the Library and Museum, Vivian Forest, St. Mark's Catholic Church, Jim White's poinsettias, Music: Mania—photos that portray the 'uniqueness' of Whitchurch-Stouffville. The deadline is March 30.

Ten thousand copies will be printed at a cost estimated at \$8,500. All submis-

sions will be returned if the senders indicate they want them back.

But time is running out. March 30 is only a week away. The mail or drop-off address is Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, 19 Civic Avenue, (Box 419), Stouffville, Ont. (LOH 1LO). Your co-operation will be appreciated.

Love letters

The Tribune appreciates receiving letters from readers. While the identity of the writer must be known to the editor, the signature will be withheld upon request. Our address is 54-56 Main Street West or Box 40, Stouffville, Ont.

WINDOW ON WILDLIFE Ministry talks turkey

BY ART BRIGGS-JUDE

Down Niagara way a couple of weeks ago for the 54th St. Catharines Game & Fish banquet, I began to think I should have been up in North Bay at the Annual Trappers Convention. Stopping off at Stouffville enroute, the weather, was so balmy it was enough to make a pouter pigeon coo, but 100 miles around the Golden Horseshoe and a few hours later, all that changed. The snow just kept piling up in the peninsula until what should have been for me a one night stay, ended up being a four day leave of absence.

Closing the Q.E. highway for a couple of days made you realize what havoc can result, when a three foot fall of snow is pushed ahead of a swirling wind, and mixed with hundreds of vehicles. It didn't close a school or two, it shut down a city.

However all clouds have some kind of silver lining, even snow clouds. In this instance it was the good news; that the Ministry of Natural Resources has reserved it's policy and is going to begin to re-introduce wild turkeys to Southern Ontario: This could well mean that in the not-to-distant future we'll be seeing wild gobblers not too far from our area. In fact, the Quinte Wild Turkey Association at Brighton is already in the process of raising \$8,000 to help defray the costs of bringing in wild turkeys from Michigan.

You see, except for the small island-hopping flock barely holding their own in the islands of the St. Lawrence, all the other dozen reintroductions attempts have failed. Because of these negative results, wildlife managers are now looking south of the border for the successful

transplant formula. And there's no question, their counterparts in the U.S. have not only found the correct method, they're using it. Actually it was the state of Pennsylvania that first really took the tom by the spurs over thirty years ago. At that time, they finally conceded that this extremely wary, intelligent, and secretive game bird became a Dodo, if it were pen-raised or confined in any way. Worse still, the eggs and offspring of these restricted birds were all but useless as potential release stock.

There are valid reasons why wild turkeys will survive in Southern Ontario as they do in every state of the U.S. except Alaska. First and foremost we must want them. And our Natural Resources Minister took the first big step when he not only announced the project, but further stated the wild turkey programme would not be just a one shot deal. It is in reality a cooperative effort by the M.N.R., the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and the Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers. If all goes well, there may even be 100 wild-trapped turkeys released in Ontario this spring. And there in itself is another positive reason the plan will succeed.

Wild-trapped turkeys, captured in the morning and released in the afternoon. Why the only thing they lose, is their mid-day siesta. That's how it's done in the states, and another reason it will work here. Look at a map, and it will show many of the U.S. border states are actually situated on a more northern latitude than ourselves. Especially Michigan, where 90% of their 15,000 tur-

keys are prospering well north of that state's original turkey range.

Then too contrary to past beliefs, wild turkeys do not require large tracts of mature timber to flourish. The state of Iowa for example, supports more than 30,000 wild turkeys on a landscape that has only 4% of it's total land base in mature woodlands. Heavy snows do not present the problems either, that one might think they would. A wild 20 pound gobbler for example, can go for two weeks without food. And what would these big birds eat in our neighboring countryside. Acorns, beech and hickory nuts, sumac heads, mountain ash, multiflora rose and other persistent berries, tree buds, pine cone seeds, weed seeds, and the shoots and rootlets of wild plants gleaned from beneath rock outcroppings, in the winter.

Because the wild turkey is extra sharp-witted and can spot an eye blink at 30 yards, losses to foxes, coyotes, and raccoons would not be the largest limiting factor to their well-being. That leaves the two-legged predator man, as their biggest threat and enemy. So we suggest the bronze-backed birds be planted initially in such places as the Nonquon Wildlife Area, and Greenwood and Claremont Conservation Areas. Then we prevail on the Ministry of Natural Resources to have an open season on poachers. A legislation that's long overdue, and we like to think that our column in this corner a year ago, about these majestic birds got others thinking and talking turkey.