

### Editor's Mail Interest?

To The Editor:  
With all the talk of Stouffville being 'hog town', I'm infuriated by the fact everything seems to go to the Yonge Street area—Richmond Hill, Aurora and Newmarket—including candidates' meetings. Surely such a gathering could have been held somewhere in Whitchurch-Stouffville.  
Why should it be necessary to drive to Aurora and Newmarket to hear the candidates? Doesn't Whitchurch-Stouffville matter or aren't we interested?  
With all the service clubs here, I would have thought one might have organized such a meeting.  
Three of the four candidates, I've never seen let alone know what they stand for.

Sincerely,  
Walter Babcock,  
R.R. 3, Stouffville

### For kids

Dear Editor:  
With friends like that, who needs enemies?  
This is pretty much the way most Goodwood parents feel concerning the decision to ban our teams from the Whitchurch-Stouffville House League tournament finals last weekend.  
The decision was stupid and unnecessary. No scheduling problem is that difficult that a solution, (with the children in mind), couldn't have been worked out.  
Did anyone try? If so, they should have tried a little harder.  
It's the kids who suffered and that's what House League ball is all about or is it?

Sincerely,  
Isobel Palmer,  
R.R. 1, Goodwood



"You'll have to wait, I have three other calls on long distance!"



## The Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1888

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Editor

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Publisher

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Advertising Manager

EDITORIAL DEPT.: Jim Holt, Chris Shanahan  
DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEPT.: Terri Bernhardt  
REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Joan Marshman  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Doreen Deacon  
NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales 493-1300

Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing at 54 Main St. Stouffville, Ont. tel. 640-2100. Single copies 40¢, subscriptions \$16.50 per year in Canada, \$45.00 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspapers Association, Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association, Ontario Press Council and Suburban Newspaper of America. Second class mail registration number 0896.

The Stouffville Tribune is one of the Metroland group of suburban newspapers which includes The Action Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Burlington Weekend Post, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Willowdale Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Friday Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Oshawa/Whitby This Weekend, The Richmond Hill Liberal, Thornhill Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, The Markham Economist and Sun and Woodbridge Liberal. Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing is a division of Harcourt Enterprises Ltd.

640-2100



649-2292

### ROAMING AROUND



## The squirrely season

BY JIM THOMAS

I'm probably Stouffville's only backyard bird-watcher who keeps a feeder filled all summer.  
Why? I hear you asking. Why feed the birds during seasons, (spring through fall), when they can jolly well fend for themselves?

A good question, one my wife undoubtedly asks herself every Wednesday when I haul home a ten pound bag of seed. With eight mouths to feed inside, (plus the dog), why burden oneself with eight hundred feathered squatters outside, especially on a Wednesday when all that's visible in the fridge are three trays of ice cubes.

While I'd never admit this to anyone but my closest friends, the bird feed isn't really for the birds at all. Oh sure, they eat it, but that's not my (only) reason for buying it.

I'm supporting a family of squirrels. Okay, call me 'nuts' if you like. But before you do, let me explain.

For several years now, a pair of squirrels, one grey and one black have been regular visitors. These bushy tailed acrobats were never invited. They just arrived, crashed the party so to speak.

At first, they were a source of extreme irritation for they bothered the birds, especially in the winter. Only the stubborn sparrows and snarly starlings could hold their own. The cardinals, grosbeaks and even the cocky blue jays would scatter to distant trees every time they came on the scene.

I tried driving them off, even tied 'Suzie' (the dog not our daughter), to the base of the tree, but this didn't discourage their return. They were soon back, more brazen than before.

This summer, it became apparent this backyard affair had produced more than two of the fattest squirrels in Stouffville. Four babies made their debut, two browns, a grey and a black, with appetites more ravenous than that of their parents. It was then I decided "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em." Now we're feeding an entire squirrel family.

However expensive and maybe even wasteful, this 'squirrely' second generation has provided us more summer enjoyment than all the birds on the block. I could sit by the hour and watch their aero-gymnastics as they leap from limb to limb. They're smart too, displaying an ability to lift the lid on the feeder roof, no matter how tightly I fasten it down.

While they undoubtedly appreciate my generosity, (I hope they do for it's costing me a fortune), I haven't yet gained their complete confidence, not to

a point where they'll eat out of my hand. Something tells me Mom and Dad have instilled in their offspring feelings of suspicion, like "don't get too friendly with those folks, kids, or you'll end up as squirrel soup." Anyway, so far, they've kept a tails-length away, a wariness I hope to overcome by fall.

Trouble is, my budget allotment for food may not hold out that long. We'll well over our weekly limit now even though half of what we consume comes from the garden.

But, squirrels, being clever little creatures, may be making provisions for that 'rainy day' ahead. Their storehouse in a nearby Chinese elm could be full to overflowing. I hope so. For the last thing I need is a family of six squirrels setting up winter accommodation in our attic. Eight Is Enough, thank you.

### Editor's Mail

## Farmers not divisive

Dear Editor:

The Tribune's coverage re discontent within the rural area of Whitchurch-Stouffville is interesting. Your paper's opinion poll of people in the fringe communities of the municipality seems to bear out the fact there's considerable dissatisfaction among these residents.

I took exception, however, to The Tribune's cartoon of Aug. 8 showing friction between the farmer of Whitchurch Township, (formerly) and the businessman in the former Village of Stouffville.

It is not the farmer who's 'at war' with urban Stouffville folk but rather the rural residents of Whitchurch who like to think they're farmers. Most, in my opinion, are 'squatters' on what was once farm land and most are recent arrivals in the municipality.

The legitimate farmer is quite happy with his lot in life and whatever part he can play in the expanded Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. The majority of complainants your paper consulted are small-lot owners who wish to have their cake and eat it too. My advice to them is, if things are all that tough in the country, let them move to Stouffville and participate in all the so-called 'benefits' you village folk enjoy. Most would never be missed.

Sincerely,  
Angus Blake,  
R.R. 1, Gormley

## Unforgivable decision

Dear Sir:

The minor ball teams from Goodwood enjoyed playing in the Whitchurch-Stouffville House League. While parks at Vandorf and Ballantrae were not too convenient, the competition, for the most part, was fairly even.

For our children to have been excluded from the championship tournament, Saturday, is unforgivable. That's why I've written this letter in the past tense. I doubt very much if Goodwood teams (House League) will ever be back.

Is it any wonder Stouffville is becoming known as 'hog town'? If Sunday competition presented a problem, other arrangements could have been worked out, even to the point of extending the tournament into a second weekday evening or a second Saturday. But to say "Goodwood, you're out!" is a way to turn friendly competitors into hostile enemies.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Sears,  
R.R. 1, Goodwood

## Editorials

### The same old story

It was a repeat, last week, of the same old story, more arguments against residential development in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

This time, however, the debate took a slightly different twist. The anti-buildup stance was related to a hamlet, the already established community of sorts at Bloomington.

This is the type of location where the Town's Rural Ratepayers organization has been telling Council growth should occur—not in the country but in the hamlets where small 'knots' of people already live. However, if the reaction by a cross-section of Bloomington folk exemplifies the feelings of others, they don't want residential buildup foisted on them either.

Strange isn't it, but some of the anti-development people in the Bloomington area are the very ones who, not too many years ago, purchased new homes in that

very community, considering it an ideal place to live and raise their families. Now, they wish to erect a fence around the place and shut all others out.

This protectionist type attitude won't work. It may delay development for awhile but it won't stop it forever, not at Bloomington, not at Ballantrae, not at Vandorf or areas in between.

Town Council can never be accused of 'pushing' development, quite the opposite. Their policies, in our opinion, have been ultra-conservative. But ward members aren't so naive as to think they can stop it completely. There is not the last word. Nor will present residents have the final say. If they do, we'll be bankrupt, socially and economically too.

### A forum for abuse

Give some people a forum for expression of opinion and a supporting audience and they immediately become abusive.

This irritating practice is occurring with ever increasing frequency in Whitchurch-Stouffville. We've witnessed it on several occasions—in Ballantrae, at Vandorf and in Stouffville. It's time to cut out the theatrics; to call a halt to this kind of conduct. It's boorish behavior at best.

Under new provincial legislation, Town Councils are required to hold such meetings. This is the law and a good one. Previously, municipalities were often accused of making decisions behind closed doors or discussing planning projects 'after the fact'. Rightly or wrongly, this is no longer the case. And ratepayers should be pleased that it's not. However, rather than show appreciation, some speakers display their asininity with accusations that reach a point of ignorance. They should hang their collective heads in shame.

Members of Council, attending these hearings, are merely 'listening posts'. But they are also human. To sit back and absorb this type of verbal abuse is too much to expect. The next time it happens, we hope the offenders are tossed out on their collective ears.



### Do you remember? Green River Public School---1918

This photo of students attending Green River Public School, was loaned to The Tribune by Jack Carter of Ballantrae. The date is June, 1918. The pupils and teacher are: Top Row (left to right) Mildred Hoover, Olive Routley, Gerlie Lester, Miss Spencer, Ida Gray, Fred Ferrier, Lester Ferrier, Fred Wilson. Second Row (left to right) Ruby Michell, Reta Madill, George Hackney, Donald Hoover, Henry Michell, Jack

Ferrier, Ralph Carter, Tom Postill, Archie Percy, Irene Hornshaw. Third Row (left to right) Ray Beelby, Albert Hackney, Ada Michell, Gladys Postill, Francis Kenney, Cliff Postill, Thorold Hoskins, Tommy Barnes, Mabel Routley. Fourth Row (left to right) Jack Beelby, Rose Beelby, Ruth Hutchings, Electa Manley, Anne Barnes, Vera Turner, Jean Routley, Marion Hornshaw, Alton Hagerman, Fred Beelby.