

Editor's Mail Election

Dear Mr Thomas:

Our very competent mayor hasn't even been elected to the chairmanship of York Region, and there's already speculation as to who will succeed him.

Before present members of council (and others) knock themselves out vying for the position, let's wait and see what happens Sept. 20, (tomorrow), when the issue comes to a vote.

Even if Mayor King is successful (which I hope he is), his successor should be elected rather than appointed. There's still twelve months to run before the next municipal election, far too long a period to be saddled with a lame-duck representative at the head of council who isn't the choice of the people.

Sincerely,
Paul Kinsman,
R.R. 1, Cedar Valley

A hero!

Dear Mr Thomas:

Canadians are continually looking for a 'super hero', a miracle worker who, with one sweep of his magic wand, will improve their lots in life.

They didn't find it in Pierre Trudeau, despite the fact, history will show he was one of the most able prime ministers this country has ever had.

They won't find it in Brian Mulroney either, although present indications are he has the makings of a capable leader.

Government, at the federal level, is so far removed from the grass roots of society, it loses touch with reality. Not so, our provincial authority. Here in Ontario, at least, Premier Bill Davis has made politics a very 'personal' thing. People feel close to what's going on.

I hope Mr Mulroney can engender the same kind of confidence. If he can't, he'll be turfed out of office like his predecessor.

Sincerely,
Arnold Cooke,
R.R. 4, Stouffville



NEWS ITEM-Plan Music Mania anniversary reunion this fall



The Tribune

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ROAMING AROUND

Keep the memory alive

BY JIM THOMAS

The third annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Terry Fox Run is set for this Sunday, (Sept. 23), between the hours of 1 and 4 p.m.

Proceeds, that last year totalled in excess of \$6,000, exceeded most Ontario towns our size. Participation, however, was pathetic. We can do better!

This is the feeling of Run organizers Dixie Sellers, Barbara Schell and Beulah King. Rather than 40 participants, they suggest 400 would be appropriate. At least it would make their efforts seem more worthwhile.

Four years ago, when the Marathon of Hope was first introduced, our Town was caught napping. Communities around us like Uxbridge and Newmarket took up the torch while Whitchurch-Stouffville sat on the sidelines. I criticized our inaction. I also criticized myself and vowed it wouldn't happen again. And it hasn't, not because of anything I've done but because Dixie, Barbara and Beulah came on the scene and started the ball rolling.

It's undoubtedly mystifying to them why Whitchurch-Stouffville isn't gunning ho concerning this event, particularly

the young people for whom Terry Fox meant so much. Mystified also is 73-year-old Don Anderson of 92 Stuart Street, Stouffville. He's currently Terry's biggest booster and strongest advocate that the Run should continue.

Three years ago, this Stouffville senior citizen raised one hundred dollars. Last year, he increased this amount to \$45. To date this year, he's collected in excess of \$2,500 and still going strong.

Terry Fox remains an inspiration to all of us. Don says, "it was a courageous feat."

While heroes come and go, Don believes Terry's a national hero without equal whose memory will live on in the hearts and minds of all Canadians. His spirit must never die," he says. Don's doing his part to keep it alive.

Don was never a prolific athlete in his teens. But he was always active. And so he is today, jogging up to 2 1/2 miles every morning.

While the event, Sunday, isn't a race, Don enjoys running more than walking. "I ran half-way last year, (approximate-

ly three miles)," he recalled. "Harry Schell passed me, but I caught him on Orchard Park Boulevard," he remembers. They, along with Mayor Eldred King, travelled the remaining distance to Latcham Hall, together.

Don claims it hasn't been difficult raising twenty-five hundred dollars. "Folks have been very generous," he says. In a single night, he filled two pledge sheets.

First, he called on business places, then contacted friends and neighbors. Mrs Anderson's his co-partner, not on the Run, but in tabulating returns. "She's my bookkeeper," he says.

While proud, (even surprised), with his accomplishment, self-praise is the last thing on his mind. "I'm in it for whatever contribution I can make to the cause," he points out.

Don and Ruth Anderson moved to Stuart Street from Maxim Crescent, Scarborough, four years ago. "We left a wonderful neighborhood but selected one just as good," he said in an interview, Friday.

Scarborough's loss was surely Stouffville's gain.

Witness to an historic event

By Christine Koserski

While the sun slowly set on the Downsview mass in North York, about 10,000 hardy souls shivered in Victoria Square and waited.

When Pope John Paul II finally arrived, many were disappointed. He was there to bless a cathedral and that's exactly what he did, zipping in and out in an almost businesslike fashion.

Those who were hoping to feel the charisma and presence of the man which has been so much talked about throughout his tour, barely caught a glimpse of him.

He spoke in Slovakian, which was fine for the thousands of Slovaks at the site, but others had to settle for the few English words the Pope spoke at the end of his speech.

It was bitter cold. The Pope arrived at 7:30 p.m. and there had been people waiting at the gate since 10 o'clock that morning.

After warning people not to bring lawn chairs (although some managed to get in), organizers sold special Papal visit chairs which were simply cardboard boxes. They were a joke. After an hour on wet grass, the boxes soaked through and mashed to the ground under the weight of a sitting person.

Some people flattened them out and stood on them to keep their feet dry.

We were told before the event that these paper chairs would be available for \$5. However, they were being sold for \$3. A bargain.

Did anyone really think people would stay sitting once the Pope arrived? They didn't. Most stood up and rushed to the front hopping over the ropes used to 'corral' people into sections. I'm afraid to think what would have happened if the

50,000 people organizers had expected actually showed up.

A special platform had been built in front of the cathedral steps for the Pope to speak from. However, he declined and stood in the back near the cathedral entrance. The platform obstructed the view of many people. When he didn't come forward, they were disappointed.

"If only he had said even a few words from there so we could see him," muttered one person.

The plainclothes RCMP officers were scary in their efficiency. One grim-faced fellow stood in front of us, stern and unsmiling, his eyes never stopping roving back and forth over the crowd; his back never turned from the activities on stage.

At least it didn't rain. The grass was wet and many parts were muddy but the day was brilliantly sunny setting off the many beautiful, colorful costumes of the Slavic groups and performers. But as the sun dropped, it grew colder and colder.

After the coffee catering trucks ran out of coffee, there was a run on hot chocolate and tea.

One fellow was heard to say to another outside a Johnny-On-the-Spot, "I've never waited four hours for anyone!"

But with John Paul II's arrival in a limousine headed by what seemed hundreds of police motorcycles, people forgot the cold, the wet feet, and the long wait. They smiled, cheered, and hugged each other. The Slovaks were ecstatic.

His voice was strong and warm-sounding, but he sounded tired as indeed, he must have been after a day at Huron in Midland and the Downsview mass. And then, after the blessing of the cathedral, the

Pope still had to attend a banquet at the Toronto Convention Centre.

After the long wait, he seemed to be gone in a flash. People lining the road to see his departure called out, "Slow down. Slow down."

I was down the road by the time he got into his limousine, but observers tell me, that although his aides tried to hurry him into the car, he managed to shake a few hands before getting in.

Then everyone left at once and mass confusion ensued as thousands of people reached the intersection of Major Mackenzie Dr. and Woodbine Ave. to find there were no buses to take them back to their cars.

If there had been any more people, it could have been a dangerous situation as the crowd rushed into each other in a panic and grumbled, where are the buses?

When the buses arrived, they parked a distance away from the intersection and there was no way to tell what their destinations were. So we, like many others, walked down to each of the three groups of buses before we found the right ones.

Despite the confusion and the delay, once the buses arrived, the patient and stoic drivers managed to clear the area out quickly — within 45 minutes, in fact.

People on the buses were tired and relieved to be warm and moving. Happy they had at least seen the Pope.

Most said it was well worth the long, cold wait.

As one fellow put it: "Now, I'll be able to tell my grandchildren, I froze my butt off to catch a glimpse of the Pope."

Editorials

Promoted closer ties

Pope John Paul's visit to Toronto and Markham (Victoria Square), was looked on by many as an event with deep meaning only to Catholics.

Initially, this may have been so. However, before His Holiness had even set foot on Ontario soil, it was an event for all Canadians.

Media coverage of the papal tour made it so.

Both Protestants and Catholics were quickly caught up in the spiritual and the historical importance of the event. Like luke-arm ball fans during a World Series, we were swept off our feet by the excitement of it all.

However, excluding the pageantry now past, is the feeling of 'closeness' that

is the aftermath of this tour. Barriers, that appeared insurmountable before, now seem insignificant, almost trivial. And this is good.

For it was Pope John Paul himself who called for 'closer unity' between the Faiths, a welcome relief from the bias and bigotry that's so deep-seated among many of us still.

And Whitchurch-Stouffville is not immune. We've come a long way, that's for sure. But we've still a long way to go. Led hopefully by the Ministerial Association, this should be our goal in the weeks and months ahead. Pope John Paul has opened the door. Let's welcome the sincerity of his invitation and go that extra mile.

New mayor by election

We'll all be a little wiser, Thursday, (to-morrow), as to the political future of Town Mayor Eldred King.

The election of a successor to York Regional Chairman, (now M.P.), Anthony Roman, takes place at 10 a.m. Mayor King's a candidate.

Presuming he wins, this sets the stage for all kinds of 'jockeying' at the local-municipal level as would-be appointees vie for the chief magistrate's chair.

We want no part of this monkey business.

There are still fourteen months remaining in Council's three-year term, too long, we say, for someone selected from within, to assume a leadership role. Let the people decide.

While it's true, one of the present six

ward representatives, may indeed be the right man or woman for the job. We don't know and neither does the electorate. But we'd have an opportunity to find out if each was required to set out his/her platform in advance.

On the other hand, who's to say there isn't a better man or woman waiting in the wings? That person also deserves a chance, a chance he/she won't have if Council goes the appointment route.

Realistically, we're not talking fourteen months, but three years and four months. For, unless the successful candidate bobbles the ball between now and October '85, he/she will carry on another full term.

That's how important the choosing of a successor becomes.

Let the people decide.

Fingerprinting project

It would seem sad, even tragic that, in this day and age, there's a necessity to fingerprint children.

Yet, sad or tragic as it may be, this is the way it is. Perhaps it's a program that should have been started long ago.

This child identification project, instituted by an organization called Child Find and supported by the Police Department, comes to Whitchurch-Stouffville Saturday. It will be held at the Public Library from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The age range is 18 years and under. Babies will be footprinted.

Purpose of the program is to speed up the process of parents (and police) looking for missing children. Cases, (runaways, abductions, etc.), occur regularly, perhaps not in Whitchurch-Stouffville, but certainly in Toronto. The idea is to build up a national registry across the country. The cost is minimal, only \$1.00 per child.

Many parents here will consider it unnecessary, even abhorrent. The crime of abduction is abhorrent also. We hope it never happens. But should it, police have something positive on which to work.