

Editor's Mail

Deterrent?

Dear Mr Thomas:
Police Chief Bruce Crawford of York Region, along with others from across Ontario, are advocating a return to capital punishment. I readily understand their feelings. In their position, I would probably feel the same.

I'm suggesting, however, that threat of death would in no way deter some of the senseless police killings that have occurred in recent weeks, including the 'suicide mission' that took the life of Constable Grant.

When I'm convinced capital punishment will serve as a deterrent, I'll agree to its reinstatement.

Sincerely,
Brian Wilson,
R.R. 2, Gormley,

Services

To The Editor:

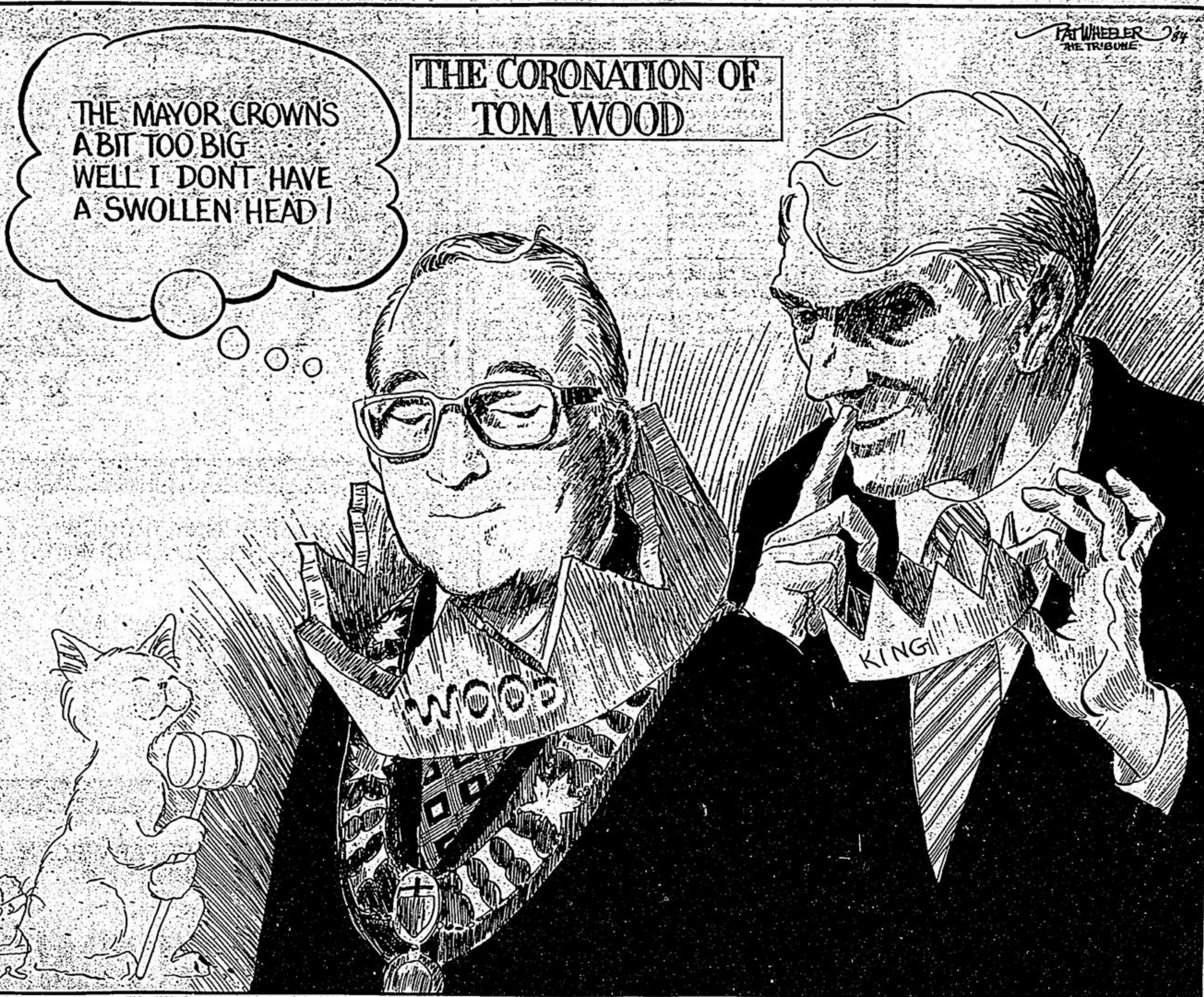
Contrary to the opinion of many, growth within a municipality is a positive thing. New people bring new friends, new ideas—and increased assessment.

Whitchurch-Stouffville, (Stouffville in particular), is haunted by the fact it must depend on a sewage system that's gone the way of the Do-Do Bird.

The sooner our politicians can convince the Region we must become a part of The Big Pipe project that extends across the southern part of Markham, the better our Town will be.

Until this happens, growth here, residentially and industrially, will be limited.

Sincerely,
William (Bill) Locke,
Stouffer Street,
Stouffville



ROAMING AROUND

Town's proudest day

BY JIM THOMAS

There are times, (many times), when I take on self-appointed assignments and, after sitting, standing or sleeping through two hours of monotony, I honestly ask myself, "what am I doing here?"

The gathering holds no interest for me personally or journalistically. In short, it's a bore. After itching and twitching through 120 minutes of nothingness, (all the time thinking of the important things I should be doing), I muster sufficient nerve to slip out a side exit, hoping no one, (still conscious enough to care), will notice.

Fortunately, these occasions are few and far between. More often, the opposite is true. I come away with the feeling "it was good to be there" and "I want to go back again."

Such an event occurred Saturday. Without exaggeration, it was the most gratifying assignment I've known in thirty-three years. I only wish more people could have been there to share my experience.

It was following a concert in London, Ont., Friday evening, that thirty-two boys and girls, all students attending a school for the blind in Sierra Leone, West Africa, stopped off in Stouffville for a few hours of fun and fellowship. Some of these young people had partial sight while others could see nothing at all.

So how is a town to handle this kind of situation? Ged Stonehouse, one of the best project organizers this community has ever known, hit upon a plan. He arranged a 'buddy system' whereby each guest would be paired with a host.

Thirty-two responded, the majority from Summitview School, the remainder from Orchard Park, the Christian School and Stouffville High. Never have I seen such an outpouring of love and affection as 'our kids' displayed during this five-hour, once-in-a-lifetime exchange.

They talked; they laughed; they strolled hand-in-hand and arm-in-arm through the park and down by the stream; they shared the advantages and disadvantages of two totally different cultures and shattered the barriers of race, color and creeds. More importantly, through the eyes of their hosts, these blind boys and girls could see. It was indeed an 'education' in community togetherness the like of which may never come this way again.

"We let them feel the ground, the leaves and the trees," said 14-year-old Amy Ness, a Grade 9 student at S.D.S.S. "It was a wonderful experience."

"It was a little scary at first," said 12-year-old Jennifer Giasson of Summitview, "yet it seemed like they weren't blind at all."

Things like snow and ice were all new to them; Jennie Ormson of R.R. 2, Stouffville explained, following a visit to the arena: "Chewing gum," she said, "was 'really neat'." They liked hula-hoops too.

"It was great," said Susan Bent of Church Street North. "A couple of times I slipped up and asked 'would you like to see...,' and then I remembered he was blind. Others made the same mistake, but they didn't seem to mind."

"I really enjoyed it," said Tammy Stonehouse, Fairview Avenue. Her friend, she said, could see only shadows. Colleen Whittaker of Glengall Lane, said she's thankful to Tammy for asking her "Helping someone else made me feel really good."

And "really good" was Christine Vliek's reaction to the music by the blind school choir, a sort of partial payment for the hospitality their hosts had shown. And they'll be back to sing again—at the Stouffville Missionary Church, Oct. 26.

"I want to be there," said 13-year-old Michelle Bower of Booth Drive. "I promised David I would." Melissa Gornik, 13, of Manitoba Street, is hoping to attend also.

And so do I. The association is reason enough!

WINDOW ON WILDLIFE

The missing moose

BY ART BRIGGS-JUDE



The day had been a scorcher that carried on into the dark hours. Arriving home from a late meeting, I parked the car and instead of going right into the house, strolled under the arbour behind the garage. As I paused there taking in the tranquility and slight cooling of the late hour, a menacing voice broke the silence. "Hold it right there. Put your hands on your head and turn around slowly." Just as I was beginning to comply in a somewhat shaky manner, another voice pierced the stillness. "We got him this time chief." Then there was a loud scream followed by the words, "tune in next week to the thrilling adventures of Boston Blackie, ace detective." I disgustedly headed for the back door with the commercials words "try Zambuck for heat rash," ringing in my ears.

Since my neighbor Earl Wideman put the radio in his cherry tree to keep out the ravaging robins, (and forgot to turn it off) I have discovered this Marconi magic works well on other forms of threatening wildlife too. In fact just a month or so ago at a remote parking place south of Algonquin park, vacationers were having their stops all pulled out by the resident porcupine population. You see these prickly-coated munchers were cutting into the campers holiday time by nipping the brake liners of their parked cars. However a transistor radio placed

under the threatened autos, curbed the porkies of their fluid drive. This season in our regular rotation planting, we found that our sweet corn was no longer afforded the protection of the electric fencing. So rather than reroute the jolting wires to keep out the rampaging raccoons, we simply ran an extension cord out to a radio in the corn patch. Placing it on a low wire stand and covering it with a pail kept the rain and dew off. And as the coons are mostly nocturnal foragers, we pulled the plug in the daytime. So far we haven't lost a cob and we're not sure whether that can be attributed to the talk shows coming out of WBZE Boston, or the french language programs that come in loud and clear from rural Quebec, under certain weather conditions. Lately, our large growing turkey gobblers have been getting a premature chop from foxes, coyotes, and whatever. When the casualty list numbered six over 15 pound birds, in broad daylight, something had to be done. Sitting in the barn loft with a high-powered persuader was not only time consuming but none productive. It was time to fight fur with fear.

A transistor radio was placed in a bluebird house on the line fence behind the barn, and the garden-based radio was moved to the base of the ridge. Of course these radios are going full blast,

so at times our fields sound like a hot-rodgers convention. But it seems to be working. Now if the predators don't get wise, we might even hook up a few more radios. Its even possible, that another year some loud speakers will be set up, so we can broadcast just the types of sounds we want amplified. I'm thinking of getting some tapes of the old "Gang Busters" radio programs, or the sound track from "The Battle of the Bulge." I must remember though to turn it off during the hunting season; I wouldn't want the neighbors to think they've been caught in the feuding crossfire, of the Martins and the Coys.

TIPS & CLIPS: The 22 hunting accidents in 1983 was the lowest ever recorded in one year in Ontario amongst over 450,000 hunters. While last season waterfowlers were asked to hold back on shooting of black ducks, this season it's in the regulations. You may still take 6 ducks per day, but only one may be a black duck. A folder issued with your migratory wildfowl permit at the Post Office spells out the reasons and identification tips. Local duck and goose season opens Sept. 29, along with ruffed grouse and rabbits. While prairie ducks suffered from a prolonged drought, our Ontario hatch looks promising. Brook, rainbow, and brown trout season closes on Sept. 30.

Editorials

Democracy eroded

A mayor by appointment! With a year still to run in the current term, the decision reeks of tyrannical arrogance; an insult to the intelligence of the Whitchurch-Stouffville electorate.

A Ward 2 councillor by election! The separation of the two, must be regarded as some kind of crude joke.

Why, we ask, should ratepayers in one ward have a say in who their representative should be, and the ratepayers in the entire Town have no say whatsoever in who their mayor should be?

Tom Wood could have been acclaimed. So be it.

Tom Wood could have successfully contested the position. That would be fine too.

Tom Wood could have contested the position and lost! Members of Council, we suggest, weren't about to take that chance. For an uninitiated outsider to break the ranks of the 'inner circle', would be unacceptable. For an election would present a risk; a risk four members of Council weren't about to take. So they thwarted the democratic right of the electorate to gain a dictatorial end.

Margot Marshall, was the lone councillor to oppose 'the system'. To her credit,

she condemned the appointment principle in the strongest of terms, but lost—for now. We can only trust the electorate will remember and respect her stand during the trek to the polls in '85.

In the meantime, an election's anticipated in Ward 2. What a barn-burner that should be!

Welcome

On Friday evening, Oct. 26, a choir of 34 blind and partially blind boys and girls from Sierra Leone in West Africa, will present a concert at the Stouffville Missionary Church.

This "Thank you Canada" tour is the school's way of expressing its appreciation for support provided through Christian/Blind Mission International, R.R. 4, Stouffville.

These young people, our 'guests', are in a strange land with strange customs. Let them not feel as strangers. We urge your presence at this program. They may not see you, but they'll know you're there.

Statement of support

The visit of Pope John Paul II to Canada; to Ontario and to the Town of Markham (Victoria Square), is now history. Even so, this historic event will long be remembered by Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

In this connection, a statement has come to our attention, written by J.M. Nighswander, the Administrator at Stouffville's Parkview Home, a statement that we believe bears repeating. For, it says, what we feel, and what thousands of Canadians feel, regardless of denomination attachment.

"I am writing this, the day following the visit of Pope John Paul II to the Toronto area.

While I'm not a Catholic and do not support some of the theology and dogma of the Roman Catholic Church, I have no hesitation in enthusiastically affirming the Pope in the effort he has made to visit Canada and in the words he has spoken in support of Christians and the faith. He has spoken effectively to the issues of peace and justice as an expression of God's love to humanity.

It seems to me; all of us, who call ourselves Christians, must be profound-

ly grateful for the way Pope John Paul has given his messages of peace, humility, social justice and faith in Christ to the millions of people who either saw and heard him in person, or watched him on T.V. Probably, never before in the history of Canada, have so many people been touched by the personal faith of a spiritual leader, or been exposed to one who is obviously experiencing the real joy and strength which can be found in the Christian faith.

It seems to me; it is a good time for us to think and talk about the things which unite Christians and draw us together, rather than about things that divide us. Our world needs Christians who are ready to demonstrate God's love in word and action, rather than Christians who are primarily concerned about matters of doctrine and theology.

It seems to me, Pope John Paul has helped us to understand what are really important spiritual truths and principles.

To these words, written by a Christian with roots in the Mennonite Church, we can only add "amen"