

Editor's Mail Right area for school

Dear Jim:
Alma Buckley (No Big Deal) obviously was not listening to the discussion at the meeting held at Dickson's Hill School, Jan. 30. Perhaps it did not concern her directly any more than it did me. There was, however, one specific point that could in no way be construed to pertain to any form of discrimination of French vs. English type education.

Simply stated, the concern would be that the students of Dickson's Hill School remain in Area Two because these particular students feed into the Stouffville Dist. Secondary School since they are a part of that family of schools viz. Ballantrae, Dickson's Hill, Orchard Park and Summitview. Removal from Area Two and placing them again in Area Four would remove them from the direct line of communication, common concerns, etc., ordinarily shared with their counterparts in the Stouffville Family.

How would knowing more about the more urban concerns of the Markham Family and its lines of communication etc., be of help to these students who will, by stated Board policy, be going to Stouffville under somewhat different conditions? Can this not be construed to be discrimination against a small minority group of students? Area Four suddenly wants the school not necessarily the pupils!!! No...Big...Deal...as long as you are not one of the students who must produce and achieve success in spite of everything. Perhaps "No Big Deal" is simply another group of words without any real meaning like "accident" which is just a word until you have one.

It is my understanding that the boundaries of the Dickson's Hill area were altered to accommodate the needs of E.T. Crowle while that school was being constructed in Markham. Perhaps, if the old boundaries were restored, Dickson's Hill might still have an excellent opportunity to provide high quality scholars for many years to come.

It is the right of the Dickson's Hill students to have some security and equality of educational opportunities in the education system. Perhaps, that is No Big Deal in the eyes of some but...let someone else pay the price as long as it is someone else!!! No objection was raised about the unused portion of the building being used for the French Immersion Program ("for possibly two years or so..."). Who wants to be juggled 'thither and yon about the Region on a temporary basis with little or no genuine security for those students either!!!

Unfortunately, the French Immersion Program is too tightly bound up in politics...trying to appear to please everyone, but creating at best a piecemeal flip-flopping around the Region while the teachers concerned attempt to do their utmost under extreme conditions. No doubt, when the smoke dies down a bit the phoenix will rise in its intended glory. There are in existence portable schools that are far more functional that could be utilized effectively. I would respectfully suggest that it might prove a possible solution to Area Four growing pains or anywhere else too. These schools consist of two classroom units with a hall between. New sections are added as the need arises or are removed and taken to other locations when no longer required on site. They are far more practical than isolated portables for convenience and comfort.

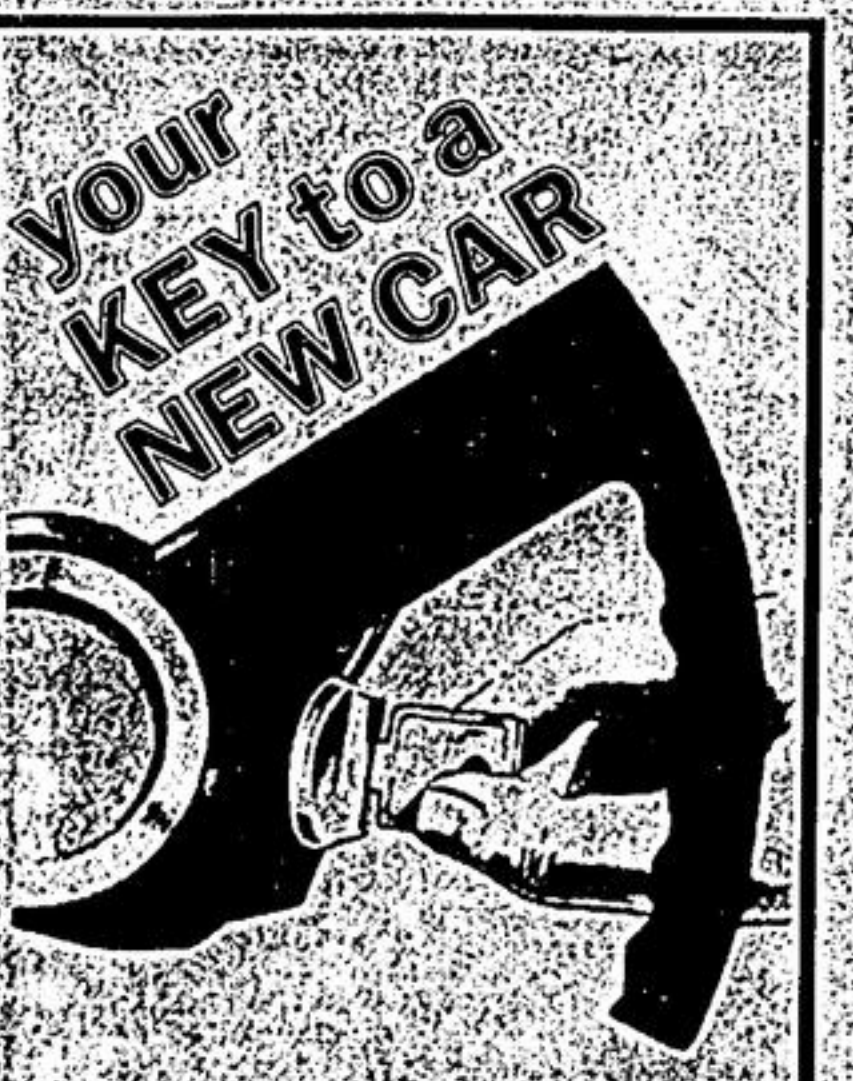
Such a school could likely be set up on the Marklee site where it would be centrally located for most of Markham. Since Milliken Mills School is now operational, Marklee would not perhaps be in as great demand as an education centre. Who knows, there may be a move afoot to close it for the second time. Personally, I feel the educational climate should be secure with minimal upheaval and consistent to meet the high educational standards and expectations of the students concerned.

Sincerely,
John McMurray
Elm Road,
Stouffville

Editor's Mail A delight

Dear Jim:
Hats off to the Stouffville Players for the delightful job they did in the two performances of "Marmalade and Gumdrops" at Latham Hall last weekend. It was appreciated by children and adults alike.

Sincerely,
Nora McElroy,
Leslie Zeck,
Stouffville Pre-School Program



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Realtor enters computer era



Debbi Mitchell, receptionist-secretary in the Stouffville Office of J.M. Farquharson Real Estate Limited, operates a computer that provides listings from across York Region in less than a day. The unit also aids in-office bookkeeping, a dual role that increases company efficiency. —Jim Thomas

STOUFFVILLE — Computers are everywhere. The business world today would seem to be one large computer network, each programmed to serve a specific purpose.

Real estate is not excluded. At J.M. Farquharson Realty Ltd., 114 Main Street West, Stouffville, the computer serves a dual role. It's a direct link to all computerized listings in York Region. It's also an inter-office aid, a mechanical secretary so to speak.

Tom Stephenson, Stouffville's branch manager, is sold on the system. New listings, he explains, are available within hours. Previously, it was necessary to wait a week to ten days for such information.

From the convenience of the Farquharson Office, staff people can ascertain in seconds what's available and what's been sold. A complete description of the property can also be obtained along with the asking price.

"It gives us quicker access to the market," Tom explained, "service to the client is important."

In one instance, a property was flashed on the computer screen one day and sold the next by a Farquharson agent. "That sale, in itself, almost paid for the unit," Stephenson said.

Lorne Sheridan of L.K. Sheridan Computer Systems of Uxbridge, provided Farquharson employees with basic instructions. All 24 staff members are involved in the operation, and have accepted it as a sign of the times.

Mr. Stephenson sees the possibilities as limitless. He suggests that while some, 'of the old school', are understandably apprehensive, they will become the system's biggest boosters once the benefits are fully understood.

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NEW ZEALAND LOIN LAMB CHOPS FROZEN 6.59/kg

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PILLERS LIONER OR FINE MEAT LOAF 4.83/kg

2.19 /lb.

FRESH CHICKEN LEGS NO BACK ON 2.82/kg

1.28 /lb.

FRESH CHICKEN BREAST 4.17/kg

1.89 /lb.

SCHNEIDERS REG. OR CHEESE SMOKIES 300g

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