

## Editor's Mail Confusing

Dear Editor:  
I agree with the Festival committee's decision to group the '86 events into a shorter time frame. This year, while I enjoyed the activities I attended, I thought there was too much of a lull between one main event and another, almost like the Festival was over when, in reality, there was more still to come. I think this confused a lot of people.

The outdoor worship service on the Sunday was excellent, also the Canada Day social, July 1. Both activities allowed people to meet their friends which, to many, is what 'community' is all about.

Sincerely,  
Lois Gillespie,  
R.R. 3, Stouffville

## Admired

To The Editor:  
Every Saturday, we drive through your town on our way to the Flea Market. This summer, my husband and I have often commented on the beauty and cleanliness of your Main Street. I've never seen it look so lovely.

The hanging baskets, once admired only in Victoria, B.C., add a touch of color to the business area. To the people or the organization responsible, I offer congratulations.

We hope some day to be permanent residents of the Stouffville community. Until then, we'll have to be satisfied with just 'passing through' one day a week.

Sincerely,  
Phyllis Davey,  
Allanhurst Drive,  
Toronto



# The Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1886

JAMES THOMAS Editor  
BRUCE ANNAN Publisher  
PAT PAPPAS Advertising Manager  
JENNI HUTT Distribution Manager

EDITORIAL DEPT: Chris Shanahan, Kelly Connolly  
DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEPT: Lois Wideman  
REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Joan Marshman  
DISTRIBUTION: 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 \$0.75; subscriptions \$17.00 per year in Canada, \$47.50 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 Acton 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 Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.

640-2100



649-2292

## Editorials

### No right to strike

Ambulance personnel, operating out of Stouffville and Uxbridge, have a reason to strike, but no right to strike. While these may sound like conflicting statements, separated they make sense. Ambulance operators are irritated by the fact their buddies, employed by the Ministry of Health, earn \$1.28 an hour more for doing the same work. What bothers them too is the fact they've been without a contract since Jan. 1. Also, Ministry employees are negotiating for a three per cent increase which, if successful, will widen the wage gap even more. The set-up, that sounds absolutely stupid, is the fact the ambulance here and in Uxbridge is operated by private enterprise. Just where Ministry jurisdiction begins and ends, no one seems too sure. These men (and women) operate regulation vehicles, wear regulation uniforms and pass regulation exams but don't receive regulation wages. Is it any wonder the province opts for an outside firm to

help handle the load? Under this set-up, the Ministry can't lose. But the operators lose. They do a first class job for second class salaries. It's grossly unfair. The reason to strike has been established. The right to strike has not. Ambulance personnel, like firefighters, police officers, doctors and nurses, school teachers, postal employees, (to name only a few), perform an essential service. When they choose these professions, they automatically forfeit the right to strike, or should. Let's be realistic. What will happen if a child is struck and seriously injured on Main Street, Stouffville? Will the picketing ambulance operators refuse to respond? Surely not, for the preservation of life holds priority over labor strife. At least we hope it does. This, we suggest, points out how ridiculous strikes are in essential services. They must be outlawed in favor of labor courts, with the decision binding on all parties.

### Reason to be proud

Stouffville's Main Street has become a town beauty spot. We've heard this said many times this summer, not only by people passing through but by local residents as well. Often, we tend to look to other towns, other communities, when handing out praise. We also tend to make comparisons such as "why can't Stouffville be like...?" We can still praise other places and we can still make comparisons, but this summer, Stouffville need not take a back seat to any town. The flowers are beautiful. The trees are maturing. The street and sidewalks are exceptionally clean. The painted lamp posts and fire hydrants are attractive. Our loss

Something's missing from The Tribune's editorial page this week. Undoubtedly most readers will have already noticed. For many, it's the first thing they turn to and have turned to for the past sixteen years. Yes, Pat Wheeler, our cartoonist, has retired, not entirely, but at least from cartooning for The Tribune. She'll continue her humorous masterpieces for the Toronto Star and for our sister paper, the Markham Economist and Sun, but time doesn't permit her to continue all three. We are the losers and we're the first to admit she can never be replaced. In her sixteen years, Pat never missed a deadline. With holidays pending, she'd complete several cartoons in advance. She never complained, even when we requested the impossible. Her cat and mouse symbols were a joy to all ages. But all good things must end. There's a space on Page 4 that can never be filled.

## ROAMING AROUND



### Good times recalled

BY JIM THOMAS

The month of August means the approach of fall and the approach of fall means the approach of—school?

For many, this is true. However, for many others, it also means the approach of plowing matches—Junior, Regional, International, Canadian and Ontario.

No area in Ontario becomes more caught up in match (matchless) plowing competitions than Whitchurch-Stouffville. The fever has involved whole families through several generations. And while threatened by urbanization, an antidote that has knocked the autumn epidemic for a loop in several communities, Town competitors continue to win more than their share of silverware.

Doubtless, it's something that gets in the blood. Only those bitten by the bug fully understand what this means.

To the urbanite, it's boring. To the ruralite, it's little more than ho-hum.

But to the professional plowman, the competition's so keen, entries will endure all sorts of hardships just to participate.

Just ask Jim Clark, Stouffville's 'man about town' who was raised on the ends of two plow handles.

Jim, now 72, and a resident at Elder-care Manor, O'Brien Avenue and Main Street, could fill a large book with plowing match adventures. And the names he recalls could fill a plowman's hall of fame.

Jim's association with the straight and narrow (furrow) goes back to age 13. As a Jr. Farmer, he was often an entry in what was then called the Home Plowing Competition. The Clark family farm was located near the corner of Hwy. 7 and Woodbine Avenue, more often referred to as Brown's Corners. He was a winner in classes 16 and under and 18 and under.

Jim came by his plowing skills honestly. His father, the late Bill Clark, (reeve of the Twp. of Markham), was one of the best in the business.

Like it was yesterday, Jim recalls the International Match on the Jail Farm property at Langstaff in 1927. The late Fred Timbers, (father of Stouffville's George and Carl Timbers), won first prize all four days and Bill Clark placed second.

Who was the best of that day? I asked.

"It was like a teeter-totter," replied Jim tactfully, "on any given day, one would beat the other."

However, names like Fred and Eddie Timbers were mentioned specifically along with Dave and Gardham Tran, Bert Kennedy and Herb Jarvis. Herb has since switched from horses to tractor and still keeps on winning. Win Timbers was mainly a tractor plowman. Jim says, and a mighty good one too.

Who's the best today? Jim's even more careful, claiming it's unfair for him to pass judgment on the present generation because he hasn't seen them plow that much. Still, he places Floyd Forsyth and Herb Jarvis up near, if not at, the head of the pack.

Jim can relate stories both humorous and hair-raising. He recalls Cam Kennedy, (now of Little Britain), driving a team home from a match at Edgeley, (east of Woodbridge), when the fog was so thick, he could hardly see the horses' heads. He didn't reach his destination until four o'clock in the morning.

Jim's plowed in snow, sleet and rain, conditions so bad, some teams refused to pull.

At Owen Sound in 1933, Jim and Rich Jarvis represented York County at the International. There were 45 in the class. Rich came first and Jim second.

"I never saw so many groundhog holes in my life," he said. The competitors slept in tents, he recalled. When they woke in the morning the ground was covered with frost.

While the weather was cool, no one ever went hungry. "All you could eat for 25 cents," Jim remembers. A brand new (horse) plow could be purchased for \$35 and the shears for thirty-five cents. "Probably cost ten dollars today, if you could find one," he said.

Jim no longer drives a car so travelling from match to match isn't possible. But he follows the progress of competitors closely and he remembers, the good days, the fun and the fellowship, memories that will live on forever.

## Editor's Mail

### His term too short

Dear Editor:  
Now that the fat's in the fire, (Fran Sainsbury has announced her quest for the mayoralty), I suppose it will be 'open season' as far as letter-writers are concerned. I wish to make my comments brief.

I don't know Mayor Wood personally, but I feel he's done (and is doing) a creditable job.

While the choice was his to make, following someone like Eldred King must have been difficult. It would have been difficult for anyone, even someone more experienced than Mr. Wood.

I feel he hasn't had an opportunity to show his 'true stripes'. Nine months is a relatively short time. Three years from now, we all would be better judges of his performance. I think he should be given a chance to prove himself.

Steve Archer,  
R.R. 3, Stouffville



JIM CLARK



A Summer Sports and Leadership Program, organized by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Parks and Recreation Department, has been enthusiastically received by the membership including, (left to right), Chryis Hurrell, Kelly Stewart Weir, Lori Upton and Andrea McGowan. —Jim Thomas

## Excellent program

Dear Editor:  
When I first learned about the Leadership Program, introduced for a first time by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Parks and Recreation Department, I had no idea it would involve so many interesting activities.

Our two children would have loved a few hours out on the golf course, not to speak of the trip to Centre Island and Cullen Gardens.

Through your paper, I'm wondering if the program could be advertised earlier next summer so people like myself could make plans well in advance. Most parents are thinking about camp, holidays, etc., long before school is out at the end of June.

For many kids, enjoyment and outdoor education can be found close to home through a Leadership Program as was provided in town this summer. If our son and daughter meet the age criteria, I'd surely like to enroll them in 1986.

Sincerely,  
Helen Higgs,  
Hemlock Drive,  
Stouffville