

Editor's Mail

Trustees maligned

Dear Jim: As you are aware, I do not wage my campaigns in the newspaper. I can tolerate the sniping, the criticisms, and the insinuations that have been printed.

The majority of parents know me and are aware I'm always available to listen to their concerns and their complaints, and that I do my best to rectify them. Results prove parents have faith in me.

However, I must publicly object to statements criticising the Trustees of the York Region Board of Education for the caucus at Thornhill, Nov. 21. This meeting is mandated by the Board bylaws and must take place on a day in the latter part of November.

The order-of-business is set out and consists of planning the inaugural meeting, discussing Board priorities and inviting the trustees to bring forward their objectives and expectations for the coming year.

The meeting lasted approximately four hours with all twenty trustees in attendance.

As a long-standing active member of the Thornhill Country Club, I hosted the event this year as I have done for several previous years. The contribution by the trustees was considerable and the cost to the Board was minimal.

I think it would be desirable if a person investigated the facts before maligning the trustees of the York Region Board of Education, a position to which the young lady aspired just recently.

Sincerely, Harry Bowes, Trustee, York Region Board of Education, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville



Editor's Mail

Motive?

Much has been written concerning the assault on former Stouffville resident, Kenn Zeller, an assault so vicious in nature it resulted in his death.

Nowhere have I read the reason why.

I realize they'd been drinking, but they weren't drunk. I understand they were determined to 'beat someone up' but to kill?

On this occasion it was a teacher-librarian, living in Toronto. It could have been me or you?

A 'gang attack' is a terrible thing. And to think, in a few years, (less than nine), they'll all be out on the street again. I shudder at the thought.

Isabelle Hendry, Stouffer Street, Stouffville

Feelings

Since moving to town, I've seen lots of dogs on our street and elsewhere around Stouffville. Some are strays and some are not.

Never have I given any thought to 'inviting' one into our house. We already have one dog and that's plenty.

The Booth Drive mother who welcomed the stray into her home, and subsequently, welcomed eight pups, made me stop and think, and also write this letter.

Animals, like humans, have feelings. One can only imagine what was going through the mind of this four-legged creature, about to give birth.

It is people like Linda Clark that make Stouffville so special. Can you see such a thing happening in Toronto? There, folks would be hesitant to open their door to a person, let alone a dog!

I thank Mrs Clark for pricking my conscience and The Tribune for publishing the story.

Ethel Goodman, Millard Street

The Tribune logo and contact information including James Thomas (Editor), Bruce Annan (Publisher), Pat Pappas (Advertising Manager), and Jenni Hutt (Distribution Manager). It also lists editorial and advertising departments.

ROAMING AROUND Budget imbalance



BY JIM THOMAS

Who handles the money at your house? Do you have a budget? If so, is there always enough to go around? Do you sometimes cheat a little, spend more on some things and less on others? Do you occasionally keep a little back, a few dollars your wife/husband doesn't know about? Does your wife work? If so, do you pool your resources or does each look after his/her own?

And weakly, I venture in to cash my cheque. Of the total 'take', minus a host of deductions, I keep out \$350. The remainder, (what little remains), I deposit in No. 20028. Three hundred and fifty dollars may seem like a lot to carry around in my wallet, and it is. However, I don't carry it around for long. One hundred and twenty dollars comes off the top for groceries.

Submarine and hot dog comes close to \$10. The wad in the wallet has shrunk to \$105. The church holds top priority. After all, the minister has to eat too. Now, I'm down to \$65.

Do you purchase items on Charex or VISA, hoping against hope there'll be sufficient in the account to cover costs when payments go through? Do you pay, (cash), as you go? Does your bank manager own you, body and soul? I'm not expecting a flood of replies. These matters are personal and really nobody's business. However, since I'm bold enough to ask, I'll be bold enough to answer. I'll also explain that in the Thomas household, a major change is about to take place.

What a cheap skate, I hear you saying. And you're right. You can't feed a family of eight on \$120 a week. But Jean tries, oh how she tries. Unfortunately, by Monday, she's scraping the bottom of the barrel. The refrigerator is as bare as old Mother Hubbard's cupboard. So, hat in hand, she comes groveling back. By the time another pay day rolls around, my housekeeping 'donation' has increased from the original \$120 to an expanded \$160.

Incidentally, like Sunday Nuggets from Col. Sanders, feed for our backyard birds; payment to the paper boy, plus other odds and ends easily takes another \$20. This leaves \$45 for which I can't account. I could try and file it under such categories as hydro, telephone, taxes, insurance, fuel and clothing, but I can't. These items are paid by cheque.

Since marriage, I've handled the purse strings, Jean, if she spoke the truth, would probably call it 26 years of financial mismanagement. And she's probably right. There has to be a reason why the Scotia Bank computers wheeze, cough and choke every time they ingest my pass book. Yes, the situation's really that bad. Pay day is Thursday; weekly, thank

But this still leaves \$190. Driving an eight-cylinder Pontiac and the price of gasoline being what it is, this expense runs about \$65 a week. Now I'm down to \$125. Two cups of hot chocolate per day, (my self-imposed replacement for coffee), totals \$9.80 per week. Now it's \$115.20. On Tuesdays and Saturdays, I usually eat out. This practise, plus an occasional

Beginning Dec. 5, (to-morrow), Jean is taking charge of our banking business. That's the practise in many households and it seems to work out well. The husband, (that's me), simply receives an allowance. It's a case of 'make do' or else. So please be kind. No harsh words or rotten eggs. That transient, shuffling along Main Street, with the pack on his back, a pad in his pocket and a pencil behind one ear, could be me.

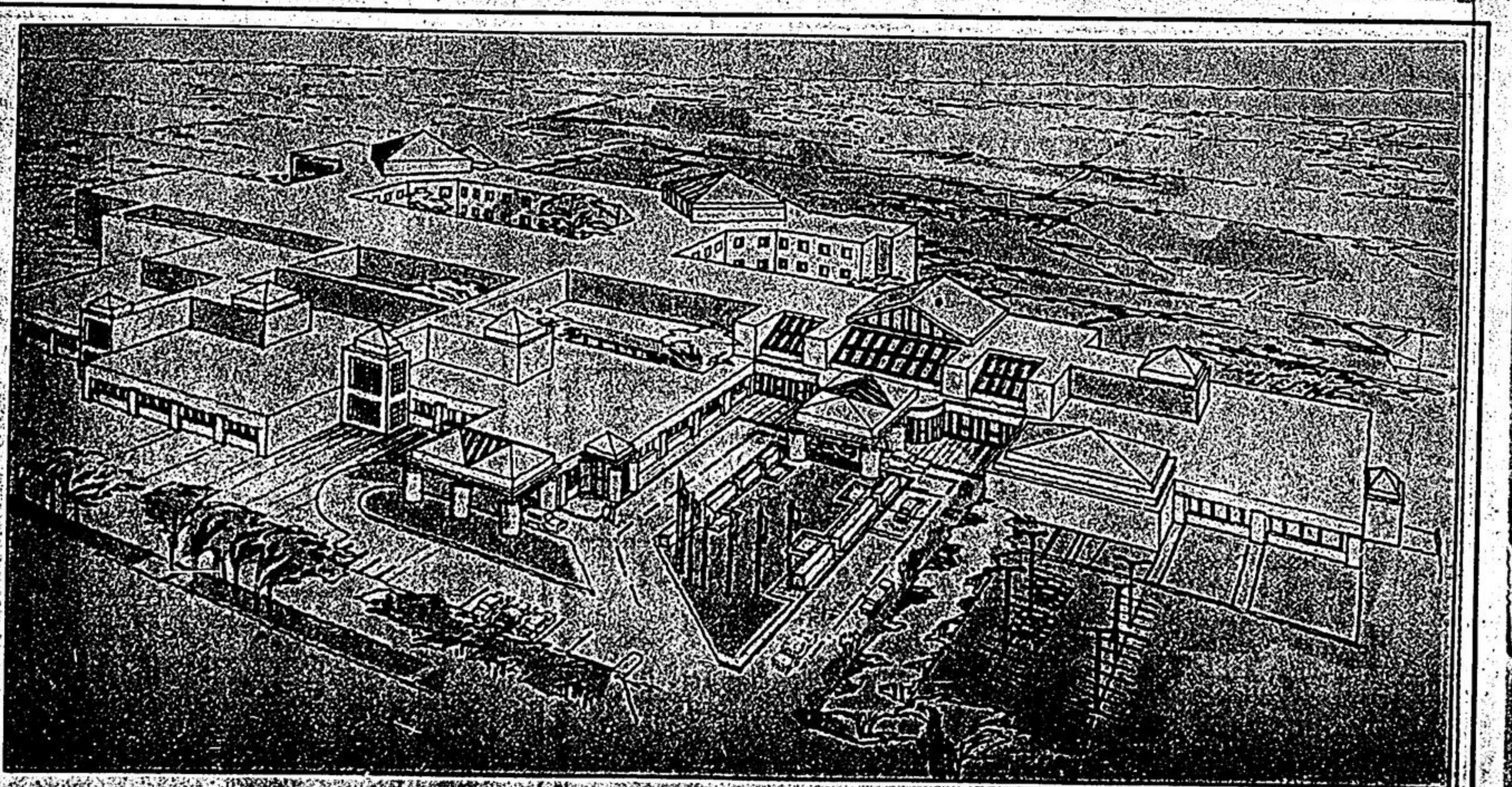
Editorials Proud to be Canadian

We Canadians are indeed fortunate. This fact was repeated time and time again as representatives associated with an organization called International Youth for Peace and Justice, addressed an assembly of about thirty students at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, Saturday.

These young people, from countries such as Guatemala, Tunisia and Sri Lanka, told of appalling conditions under which they were living. In a couple of instances, they were lucky to escape with their lives. Most expressed no desire to return although their hearts remain in the land of their birth. The teens, guests here during a weekend stop-over between Kitchener and Kingston, praised the role played by the federal government and expressed the hope that, through ongoing aid, conditions might be corrected. The interest shown by the Stouffville hosts was a learning experience for us. The responses to a multitude of questions was undoubtedly a learning experience for them. We left the assembly with a greater feeling of pride at being Canadian. We're certain everyone did.

We all sit in judgment

In every highly publicized court case, each of us is a Judge. We sit in judgment on the accused, on the Judge and sometimes on the victim. We reach our own verdicts and establish our own penalties. For the most part, we adopt an extremely 'hard line', sentences that range from life imprisonment to the electric chair. Yes, we all 'play' at having authority over life and death knowing full well we'll never be called upon to utilize such power. So it was with respect to penalties handed down following the senseless death of Stouffville native Kenn Zeller. Appreciating the fact human life is priceless, we felt the nine year imprisonments imposed by Mr. Justice Gregory Evans were fair. Our only question related to the term 'across-the-board'. We can't believe each of the accused was involved to the same degree. Nine years, (even three years for good behavior), is a long time for five 'boys' to spend in an institution. What will be the affect on their lives? Will they ever adjust to the outside world? Yes, our concern is for the family of the deceased. There is no return, however, for a respected former resident, a son and a brother. But does the killing of one really mean the 'death' of six? We wonder.



Initial sketch plan of new Markham-Stouffville Hospital

On Wednesday evening, the Stouffville Leo Club made a donation to the Building Fund of the Markham-Stouffville Hospital. In accepting the cheque, Dr. Donald Petrie, a member of the Hospital's Board of Trustees, made public initial sketch plans of the proposed facility. The location is Ninth Line, Markham, north of Hwy. 7.