

### Editor's Mail Vitality

Dear Editor:  
I was extremely interested in your paper's lead story, March 26 under the heading "Town at crossroads".  
While my feelings may run counter to those of the majority, I hope our Council chooses the way of expansion rather than stagnation.  
Since moving to Stouffville, (three years ago), I've noticed a new vitality in the former village. I can only assume, (quite modestly), that the 'new blood' in the community is at least partly responsible for this.  
I want this 'new blood' to continue flowing through the veins of our town. Stouffville, I feel, is a much more viable place because of growth and our family is pleased to be one of hundreds to make this beautiful area our permanent home.

Sincerely,  
Cathie Burgess,  
Millard Street,  
Stouffville

### Still alive

Dear Editor:  
I'm pleased to see the Stouffville Motor Speedway project is still alive.  
This proposed venture will require some intestinal fortitude on the part of our politicians. Initially, members of Council have nothing to gain, (politically), by approving it and everything to lose.  
Are they mature enough to rise above the criticism?  
Time will tell.  
As with so many things, opposition often relates to lack of knowledge. I know from experience this would be good for Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Sincerely,  
Tom Creighton,  
R.R. 1, Unionville



"Open up, open up! I'm out of heart pills!"

### Editor's Mail Disturbed

I appreciate the fact Markham Fair had a profit of over \$9,000 in 1985. It disturbs me, however, to read of a 10,000 drop in attendance.  
What happened to the ten thousand people who were there in 1984? They didn't all die or move away!  
And what about the ten thousand additional people who've moved into the area? Where were they?  
To the knowledgeable Fair-goer this is an event he/she wouldn't miss. But to the 'outsider', it's something that must be 'sold'. They don't seem to appreciate what Markham Fair has to offer. Or is it offering enough?  
I think the Program Committee should circulate a questionnaire to every home in Markham and ask: "What new attraction would you like to see at Markham Fair this year?"  
The replies would serve as a guide to future entertainment planning.

(Mrs) Barbara Davey,  
Village Parkway,  
Markham

### Decrepit

While unable to attend the public meeting in Stouffville, March 5; I wish to protest in the strongest of terms further expense related to the old arena, south of Main Street.  
The Town is already saddled with a major expense in building and maintaining the new Recreation Centre. We don't need any additional cost for what would amount to as a duplication of programs.  
Let's tear the decrepit old building down and utilize the site for something practical!

Joseph Bambrick,  
Vandorf Road,  
Whitchurch-Stouffville

**The Tribune**  
ESTABLISHED 1888

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

EDITORIAL DEPT: Chris Shanahan, Kelly Connelly  
DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEPT: Lynn Moore  
REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Joan Marshman  
DISTRIBUTION: Doreen Deacon, Karen Heise  
NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales 493-1300

The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday and Saturday at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont., is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Action Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Topic News Magazine, Willowdale Mirror, Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.  
Single copies 50¢; 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.

640-2100 649-2292

### KELLY'S COMMENT



## My 'escape' from Cuba

BY KELLY CONNELLY

Rule number one when basking in the sun atop Cuba's remarkably white sandy beaches: Don't ask too many questions, like why isn't the sand red. Fidel Castro and his crustaceous communist affiliates wouldn't take too kindly to that inquiry.

Rule number two: Don't wear a sweat-shirt brandishing the American airforce eagle. Castro kicked out the Americanos, the mafia, and private enterprise for a good reason. Excessive capitalism can be as brutal as communism in the exploitation of an ignorant and destitute population.

And rule number three: Absolve yourself from any plane seige on the tarmac of a Cuban airport. The phonetics of terrorist and tourist sound dangerously similar to a Cuban airport soldier. Running across the tarmac towards a 727 is not smart.

The travel brochure promised white sand, hot sun and warm turquoise waters for an incredibly low price. My partner and I were sold — especially on the cheap. We booked, we flew, we burnt, and broke all of the above rules of conduct. Yes, we did storm an Air Canada 727, parked on the tarmac at Varadero airport in Cuba along with 170 other desperate passengers.

A major seating blunder involving our Alba tour cohorts and a suddenly bankrupt Unitours contingent swelled into a bitter first come-first serve marathon to the airliner. About 25 irate Unitour passengers, faced with the possibility of being stranded another week, threatened to storm the plane if they weren't given a seat.

Although my partner and I had first seating priority — our tickets said so — desperate Unitours passengers, informed their travel company had gone belly-up March 21 and wouldn't provide a plane to take them home, tried to sneak ahead of our Alba party at the ticket counter.

Their connivance was quickly exposed when my companion and I and 15 other innocent Alba travellers were told bluntly at the ticket counter, the plane was full. To rectify the situation, a very confused-looking Cubano (10' my problem) ticket man issued blank seating passes to us and attempted to siphon out the Unitour passengers from the boarding area.

We were then advised in a round-about way to hustle ourselves onto the plane the second the tarmac gate was opened. It seemed the 25 Unitour travellers were plotting to board the airliner at all costs. We hustled and fortunately grabbed two seats together.

For a communist country bent on stability and control, its transportation system is very chaotic. At least 20 people were left on the tarmac when the engines started to roar.

The plane seige may not have been a pleasant way to end our vacation, however, the earlier memories of our trip were worth the aggravation.

Cuba is a poor country no doubt, if judged by North American standards. Yet the Cuban society itself, the rotting apartment complexes, the putrescent egg smells in old Havana, the Spanish and Italian architecture, the uncanny complacency of the working class, the exorbitant and haughty Russian and German spectators who frequent the Tropicana (Cuba's Las Vegas-style dance show) — the flavor of this one-class island is irresistibly entertaining and remarkably subdued, from a tourist perspective anyways.

Castro's face is plastered everywhere — on the sides of buildings, on gas station windows, in offices and on street posts. People still drive immaculate-looking '57 Chevys and T-Birds — archaic reminders of the now banished American imperialist.

Everything has been nationalized now. There is no private enterprise. Ten-

percent of the proletariat's monthly earnings pay his shelter. The maids in our hotel were paid 90 pesos a month (the equivalent of 90 American dollars). A university professor earns 400 pesos considered a lucrative salary, we were told.

The Habana Libre Hotel (popularly known as the Hilton — another American artifact) forbids kissing or hugging on its premises. Forklifts instead of tow-trucks remove cars from an accident scene and dispose them in dump trucks.

Peculiar customs and morals indeed. It's obvious the Americans and capitalist ideology aren't welcome. But the rum, cigars, and Cuba-Libres (rum and coke) still taste the same as they did 25 years ago.

## Editorials Plan Town's future

Town Council had been accused of 'dragging its feet' with respect to future planning.

Not any more.  
The two-day study session, held at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, accomplished more than we had anticipated; perhaps more than even Council had anticipated. The proposals are far-reaching.

Yes, we viewed 'the great escape' with skepticism. This feeling grew when we learned the group was travelling out of Town; staying over-night and expending up to \$1,600. Just another posturing exercise at taxpayers' expense, we thought.  
How wrong we were.

The in-depth discussions dealt with everything from services to severances; from town and hamlet populations to suburban residential designations.

In brief, the Council now has a Plan, a document that, when approved, will set the course for the municipality ten to twenty years into the future.

We don't agree with everything contained in the thirteen resolutions. Neither will the public. At this point in time, nothing is etched in stone. There will be meetings; there will be submissions and there will be changes. Residents are advised to show interest. This is YOUR town we're talking about.

While some aspects of the document will escape the grasp of local citizenry, population levels is something everyone understands.

By 1991, five years' time, it's proposed that Whitchurch-Stouffville will accommodate 23,000 people. That's 8,500 more than now.

By 1991, five years' time, it's proposed that Stouffville, (only), will accommodate 11,000 people. That's 3,500 more than now.

By the year 2001, fourteen years from now, the total population target is 25,000 people. That's 10,500 more than now.

These figures sound reasonable. However, it's the means by which we reach these figures that affects us all.

### Smile of the week

Dear Editor:  
I had no reason to smile at the time but I look back and smile about it now.  
For more than twenty years, I was a teacher in several one-room schools. During that time, I experienced so many 'encounters' with children, (and parents), they'd fill a large book. I often wish I'd kept a diary.  
One day, a boy, (I suspect), captured a garter snake out in the yard. It was long, slimy and very much alive. During the noon-hour, he slipped it in my desk.  
Everything went smoothly during the afternoon until close to dismissal time. That's when this same boy, (I suspect), began to act up.  
To make an impression, I reached in my desk for the strap and that's when I saw it — the long, slimy snake, very much alive.  
The commotion that followed, I'd rather not describe. But it was bedlam.  
I immediately dismissed the whole school, (all sixteen pupils), including those destined for detentions. Naturally, the snake-bearer became an instant hero.  
As I said, it was no laughing matter then but I can smile about it now.  
Sincerely,  
Jeanne (Williams) Cohen,  
R.R. 1, Markham



Vivian Public School (S.S. No. 5) Whitchurch — 1952

The Tribune appreciates receiving this photo of S.S. No. 5, Whitchurch Twp., (Vivian Public School), from Harvey Lovelless, a former student, now living in Toronto. The teacher and pupils are: Rear Row, (left to right) Doreen Brink, Christine Anderson, Bill Longrigg, Wayne MacDonald, Maude Graves, George Ross, Muriel Lovelless, Georgina Smith, Jim Graves, Evelyn Breen, Elizabeth Jackson, (teacher). Third Row, (left to right) Valerie Whiting, Betty Colton, Claire Payment,

Beverley Clarke, Eileen Winchester, Mary McIsaac, Dawn Grose, Sharon Whiting, Norman Cox. Second Row, (left to right) Ralph Graves, Dennis McKay, Bob Breen, Hendrick Brink, Paul Grose, Jim Cook, Lloyd Graves, Bob Colton, John Neilson. Front Row, (left to right) Emile Payment, Gertie Brink, Harvey Lovelless, Charlie Graham, Bill Reynolds, Glen Fockler, Albert Bell and Erick Nielson.

### Editor's Mail Apology

Dear Sir:  
I wish to bring to your attention that the March '15 "Name That Building" contest published in The Tribune Weekender, was NOT the Quaker Hill Church as you claimed but the Fifth Line Church that is part of the Uxbridge-Scott Museum complex.  
The Quaker Hill Church is south of the Uxbridge Road on Conc. 6. The building featured in The Weekender is north of the Uxbridge Road on Conc. 6.  
There has often been confusion over these churches. However, since I was married at the Fifth Line United Church, and indeed, showed the ladies photos of myself standing on my wedding day by the very sign pictured in your newspaper, I believe you owe your readers an apology.  
I don't know how many people identified the site correctly. I know I did.  
If you desire, I can provide photos as proof.  
Sincerely,  
Mrs M. Goodfellow,  
Graymalkin Manor,  
R.R. 3, Stouffville

### Thank you

Dear Jim:  
Big Brothers of York wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to everyone who helped make our 'Bowl for a Boy' the most successful to date.  
From Celebrity Day held at Newmarket and Georgina, approximately \$35,000 was raised for our work with fatherless boys. Money is also being collected from leagues who bowled for us throughout the week.  
Our grand prize draw, a trip for two to The Maratimes, including flight, accommodation and car rental for one week, was held live on CKAN Radio, March 21. All pledge sheets and money collected had to be received at the Big Brothers Office by March 20 to be eligible.  
Sincerely,  
Tom Symington,  
Chairman,  
Bowl for a Boy, 1986,  
Big Brothers of York