

Meeting the need

You'll be mailed a letter Sept. 2, asking you to support the York Region United Way.

This year, perhaps more than ever, we hope you respond generously.

Demands on the 30 agencies serving York Region are increasing tremendously with continued growth.

At a recent press conference, statistics were cited to indicate that affluence in our community is paired with pain.

The Markham and the Stouffville Family Life Centres, counsel families, singles and youth on a gamut of social problems, whether in crisis or just beginning.

The centres aim at prevention, but increasingly are dealing with teenage suicide, homeless children, battered and stranded women and sexual abuse.

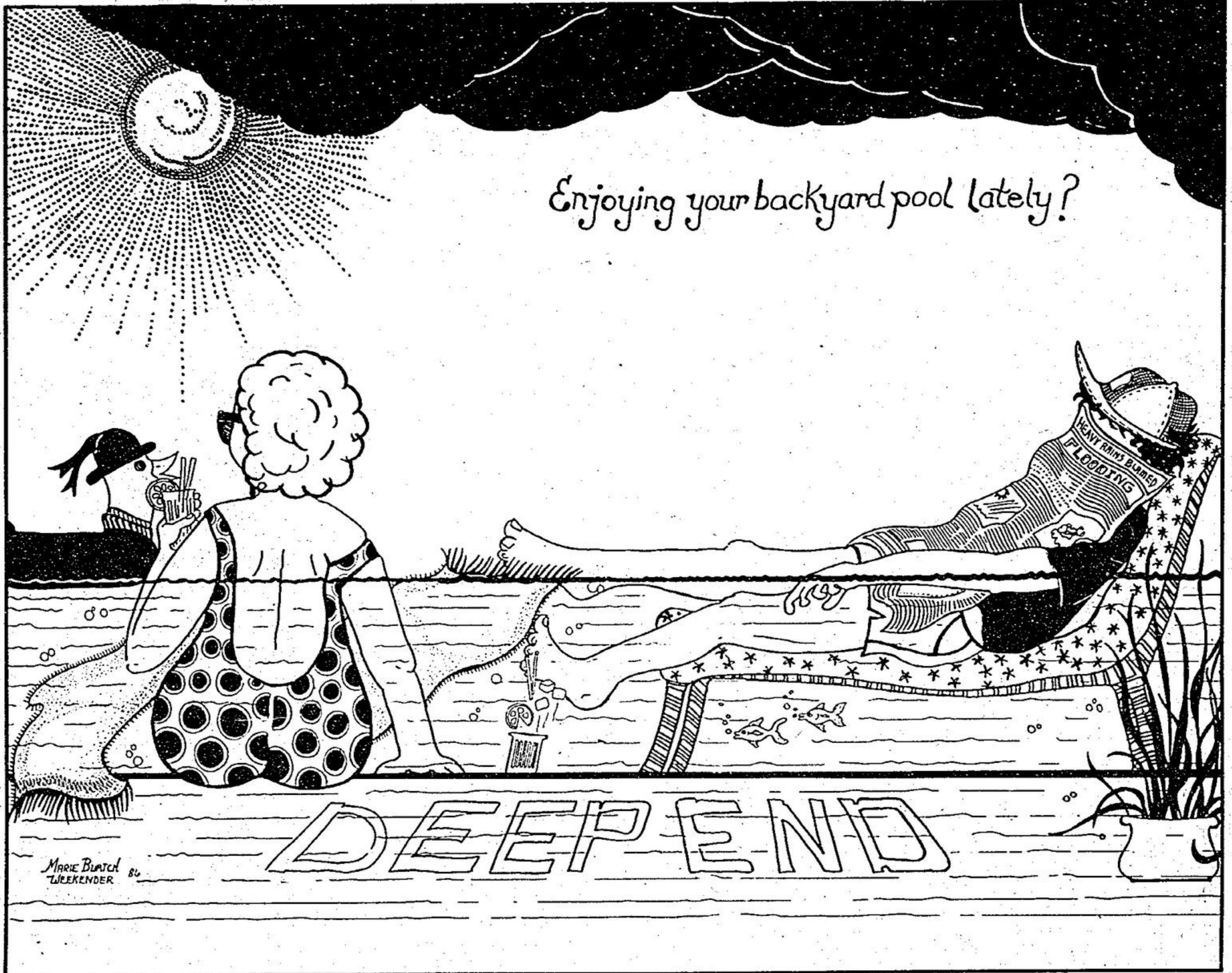
Information Markham and the Markham branch of the CNIB, are also financed by United Way, but regardless of location, all 30 services throughout the region are available to and supported by York Region residents.

To meet these needs, United Way must raise \$325,996 from Markham and \$40,834 from Stouffville. Ron Maheu chairs the Markham campaign this year and Hank de Groot, Stouffville's.

United Way is on the forefront of much needed people services not available otherwise.

If we value the quality of life in our communities, let's supply the preventative medicine we need.

Respond to your United Way letter personally.



Bank manager toasted and roasted

There comes a time in the life of every good company man when he has to make the decision to clean out the old desk and hang the "gone fishin'" sign on the office door for good.

When this company man is a bank manager who has served the firm for 36 years, there is no better way for his friends to mark the occasion than by planning the zaniest form of milestone recognition—the roast.

For the uninitiated, or for those too young to remember the old Dean Martin T.V. celebrity roasts, this does not involve charcoal and a spit. Even a bank manager deserves better than that.

What it does entail is a careful scanning of the roster of friends of the one who is to be roasted, in search of several "off the wall"

types who (a) know the poor unsuspecting victim well enough to be able to exploit some of his more vulnerable areas, without becoming downright vindictive; (b) are not afraid to stand up in front of a hundred or so people, with spotlights shining all over them, and in a relaxed fashion, rhyme off their zingers in the classic stand up comic tradition.

With any luck, you'll stumble across a frustrated comedian in the Don Rickles' tradition, who'll have them splitting their sides with laughter.

Which is exactly what happened at the roast held last week for Paul Roney, who recently retired as manager of Stouffville's Bank of Nova Scotia.

We had the feeling Jerry Young possessed the talent, and that he



could come up with some pretty good material. And he was pretty easy to convince, which must say something about the "ham" in the guy.

"Does he know we're roasting him?" Jerry asked me just days before the roast.

"I don't know," I responded. "Why? Does it matter?"

"Well", Jerry went on, "I was with him at the church dinner the

other night and he was being so nice to me. I felt like such a Benedict Arnold knowing all the awful things I was planning to say about him on Tuesday."

Jerry was simply dazzling up there on that stage, as it turned out. Great material, all original, all in good taste. His best line had to be his reference to the "roastee's" contribution of labor to the building of the new Catholic

church in Stouffville; "We found out that Paul was ambidexterous." Jerry proclaimed.

"He was useless with both hands."

For my part, I was picked to be the master of ceremonies for this auspicious occasion. To say I was "picked" is actually not quite true, I literally begged them to let me participate both as M.C., and as one of the roasters. That way, I'd be certain that this guy was given the third degree.

After all, as my bank manager, Paul used to get all concerned about niggling details concerning the financial well being of my business.

It'll get better." I would tell him: He would simply point to a few new gray hairs I had caused.

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