

**Editor's Mail**

**My thanks**

Dear Mr. Thomas:  
A few days ago, I had an accident with a power mower and needed help in a hurry. I must admit some confusion followed—who was to drive? To what hospital? Etc.

At that moment, my son Chris, an employee on the staff of your newspaper, arrived on the scene. He quickly announced help was on the way.

Only a few minutes elapsed when the ambulance zipped in the drive and two earnest young men, bearing a stretcher and a medical case jumped out.

They quickly cleaned and bandaged the wound and headed to the hospital.

I'll never forget the kind, caring, professional manner of these ambulance officials. While one drove, the other sat beside me and chatted—all very reassuring.

Now that the accident is history, (as are a few of my toes), I can sing the praises of the local ambulance service and the two young men in charge that day.

As we travelled down Hwy. 48, one asked "did I mind if they made a little noise, (with the siren), to clear away the traffic?"

Sincerely,  
Patrick Shanahan,  
R.R. 3, Claremont

**A lesson**

Dear Editor:  
Your Roaming Around column of Aug. 20 should be handed out to every coach in every league including softball, hockey and soccer.

It won't prick the conscience of most coaches but if it changed the attitude of one, it would be worthwhile.

Sincerely,  
Dianne Martin,  
R.R. 3, Stouffville



"It's those dad-blamed dirt bikers again Martha!"

**The Tribune**

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BRUCE ANNAN Publisher  
PATRICIA PAPPAS Advertising Manager  
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**Editorials**

**A tragedy averted**

Armed hold-ups are becoming all too common in Stouffville.

In February, 1985, two masked men, one carrying a hand gun and the other, a rifle, entered the Success Smoke and Variety Store in Success Square and made off with sixty dollars.

Six weeks later, a man, brandishing a knife, held up a clerk at the Becker's Store in the same plaza. He fled empty-handed when two customers came in.

Arrests in both cases followed a short time later.

On Saturday, a lone gunman grabbed \$2,470 from the Stouffville District Credit Union Ltd., 96 Main Street West, and escaped in a stolen car. Police have issued a province-wide alert.

While many people have many sugges-

tions as to what should or shouldn't be done in instances of this kind, no one really knows how he or she would react until placed in such a situation.

We feel the Credit Union teller did the right thing. She complied with the man's demands and gave him the money. Had she refused, tragedy could have resulted.

We believe the culprit was desperate. To rob a bank in broad daylight on a Saturday in Stouffville, one has to be desperate. And desperate people do desperate things. No life is worth a paltry \$2,470.

When the armed hold-up occurred at Success Square eighteen months ago, we predicted others would follow. Our town, (via Hwy. 404), is within easy reach of Toronto. Our close proximity to 'the big city', is both good and bad.

On Saturday, we witnessed the bad side. But it could have been worse.

**Support Terry's Run**

The sixth annual Terry Fox Marathon of Hope will be held in Whitechurch-Stouffville and Uxbridge, Sunday, Sept. 14.

The Tribune is co-sponsoring the event in both communities.

Why? Because we firmly believe in the cause, just as Terry did. We feel there are hundreds of people in both towns who believe in it too. All they need is to be stirred to action.

In Whitechurch-Stouffville, the financial response has been excellent. Last year, over \$9,500 was raised. However, participation has been poor. We can do better.

This year, The Tribune is appealing to our schools to 'get involved'. If filling out pledge sheets presents a problem, a five dollar entry fee is all that's required.

The route is only ten kilometers (six miles) long. The start and finish is Latcham Hall in Stouffville; Elgin Park in Uxbridge. The Uxbridge Run begins at 9 a.m. In Stouffville, it starts at 1 p.m.

Heading up the Stouffville event again this year is Dixie Sellers, Harold Street. Her assistants are Barb Schell and Beulah King. Chris Shanahan of The Tribune staff is spearheading the Uxbridge project. He's a Run participant in both.

Terry Fox has handed us the torch. It's ours to hold high. Let's make Sept. 14 the best Run yet.

**ROAMING AROUND**



**Don't argue with guns**

BY JIM THOMAS

Bank hold-ups! Nothing like that ever happens in Stouffville, I said to myself while standing in line to cash my pay cheque Thursday.

Why not here? I wondered. Why in Markham, Uxbridge, Richmond Hill, Aurora and Newmarket but never in Stouffville?

Only recently, while thumbing through a dog-eared copy of an old Tribune, I discovered a Front Page story of such an event. It must have been fifty years ago. While details were scarce, (it didn't even say how much was stolen), I can just imagine the excitement it caused on Main Street that day. Likely the subject of every conversation.

And so it was in Stouffville, Saturday; the subject of every conversation.

"Did you hear about the robbery at the Credit Union?" folks asked in hushed tones, almost as if the thief was standing around the corner.

"Not in Stouffville," was the repeated replies, "I can't believe it."

The descriptives followed, (fact or fiction, it beats talking about the weather), plus the response of what each would do if faced with the same situation as the victims.

What would you do? What would I do?

I always envisioned myself crouched behind a hydro pole, snapping pictures as the robbers emerged, their guns blazing. The photos would prove invaluable to police—the culprits, their car, a licence number, everything complete. Thanks to my on-the-spot coverage, the

suspects' arrest would only be a matter of course. In addition, I'd have a Page 1 picture for the paper.

So what DID happen. I wasn't around. Minutes before, I'd left for home to help Mary-Lynn deliver Tribune Weekenders (in the pouring rain) on Fairview Avenue. By the time I'd arrived back, most of the excitement was over. The thief was undoubtedly half way to Buffalo.

Sure, there were police all over the place and the Credit Union was still buzzing but there was no evidence of the real live action I'd so long anticipated.

But what if I had been there? What act of courage would I have performed on the morning of Aug. 23, 1986? I'll never know and (fortunately) neither will anyone else. But, in all likelihood, I'd have done nothing, just stood there in amazement and stared like the rest.

It's the element of surprise that catches witnesses off guard. Some folks freeze, no reaction at all. Others respond instantly, and foolishly, jeopardizing their own lives and the lives of others. Still others just observe, and live to tell what they saw.

There were many would-be heroes walking the streets of Stouffville, Saturday. Each, like me, was envisioning what he would have done. Each, like me, will never have to prove he could have done it. We're safe.

While fantasizing crime-stoppers will always be, my sympathies and praise go out to the real heroes in Saturday's true-life drama. To Dina, the 17-year-old student teller, forced to look down the barrel of a 12-gauge shotgun. To Mary, the staff stenographer, who responded so admirably in a crisis situation and to others on the floor who kept their cool and prevented, what could have been, a terrible tragedy.

Most of us won't witness an armed robbery in a lifetime. For Saturday's staff at Stouffville Credit Union, it'll take a lifetime to forget.

**Editor's Mail**  
**Offended**

Dear Editor:  
Given the scope of events with which your worthy paper concerns itself, I'm not certain that the 'small' point I raise will be of interest. It 'merely' involves human dignity and respect for one's elders. Reacting to an advertisement in The Tribune's Aug. 13 edition, my husband and I attended an auction sale Aug. 16 in a neighboring community. As promised, it represented an excellent selection of Canadiana furniture.

My objection centred on the fact that along with a steamer trunk of another era, were displayed the 'undergarments' presumably of the woman whose effects were being sold.

Knowing the modesty of ladies of that era, my sensibilities were offended on her behalf. Can this insensitivity be avoided at future auctions?

Sincerely,  
Julianne West,  
The Coach House,  
Stouffville



**This mighty elm was a Mongolia landmark**

This mighty elm tree was once a landmark on 19th Avenue, Markham, west of Mongolia. It is said that because of its height, militiamen used it as a look-out. Although the scene of several motor vehicle accidents, road maintenance crews 'worked around it' until its demise in the 1970's when, like so many other lofty 'giants' it fell victim to Dutch elm disease. —Jim Thomas