

Editor's Mail

A joke

Dear Editor:
The opening of Stouffville's A&P on Sundays has created considerable controversy in town with both the 'fors' and the 'against' having their say.

I'm neutral on the issue in that I would suggest those who wish to take advantage of this 'service' will and those who don't won't.

The whole subject of Sunday shopping's a joke and has been for years. Sooner or later the government's ridiculous law had to be broken.

I personally see nothing wrong with attending church Sunday morning and grocery shopping Sunday afternoon.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Kinsley,
Ballantrae

A sinner

Dear Editor:
I was one of your Sunday 'sinners', I went shopping at the Stouffville A&P and didn't feel the least bit guilty.

What, I ask, is the difference between picking up groceries at a supermarket and going for a quart of milk at Becker's?

Surely God doesn't disapprove of one and approve of another.

The Government endeavors to establish laws as a guide to the public. However, when a law is known to be archaic to the point of being ridiculous, then it will be broken.

This is what's happening. People and business can only be 'controlled' so long.

Sincerely,
Gordon LeBlanc,
Churchill Drive,
Musselman's Lake



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ROAMING AROUND
Parlez-vous francais?
BY JIM THOMAS

In high school, French was my poorest subject. Well, one of my poorest. Latin gave it a close race with Geometry not far behind. It wasn't a case of not studying. I studied hard. However, my approach was all wrong. For the life of me, I couldn't figure out how French, Latin and Geometry could benefit me one iota. For I'd planned a vocation that would automatically eliminate all three.

And journalism has. Except for an occasional derivative, I've had no earthly use for Latin; Geometry or French. But this doesn't mean I'm pleased. Anything but. It irritates me no end that I didn't accomplish what I originally set out to do.

Back in 'the old school', we didn't have the subject choices kids have today. You took it or else.

For many, the 'or else' was the only way out.

I hung in there, as the saying goes, but only by the skin of my teeth. But the fact I flunked French has haunted me these past forty years.

Yes, I have failings. My wife and six kids will attest to that. However, a quitter I'm not. Beating my head against a brick wall only makes me that much more determined to bash my way through. And I've encountered a few brick barriers in my day. Unfortunately, the one break-through that's eluded my grasp is mastery of French.

But I haven't given up. Where there's life, there's hope.

Recently, I learned that Conversational French is offered as a Night School course at Stouffville High. It was Jim

Kennedy of Spring Street who tipped me off. He was ecstatic, saying all kinds of nice things about the classes and the instructor.

"It's fun," he said.

"Fun?" I wondered, "how could French be fun?"

He assured me it is; so much fun, in fact, the 'students' were sorry when the eight-week session concluded.

Jim explained that conversational French is far different from grammatical French. What's more, it's practical. You don't (necessarily) write it; you speak it.

I wonder how many of us have, at one time or another, visited Montreal or Quebec City and made perfect fools of ourselves trying to stickhandle through their native tongue?

I have.

In restaurants, hotels, even on street corners, I felt like a second-class citizen, jibbering away in a dialect of part-French and part-English that made no sense.

And I wasn't fooling anyone, only myself. True Quebecers can spot a phoney in a minute.

However, I'll give them credit. They appreciate an honest effort, even if prompted to burst out laughing in the middle of a sentence.

But laugh no longer mes amis. If my time schedule fits, I hope to be first in line when the Conversational French course resumes at S.D.S.S. this January. Instruction is to span ten weeks rather than eight, (I guess they know I'm coming), and the registration is a very reasonable \$32. That's what I call economy class.

I just hope the teacher's a very patient person. I'll surely put her endurance to the test.

But think of the surprise in store for her predecessor. My greeting on the street, (a la francais), may send her into shock. That is, if she's fully recovered from the shock related to our classroom 'encounters' of 40 years ago.

Editorials
Limit election expenses

The responsibility for limiting election expenses may be turned over to the municipalities.

The Provincial Government is moving in this direction; the right direction. We strongly suggest there should be a ceiling on how much a municipal candidate can spend.

We also feel it's up to the municipality to establish that ceiling, not the province.

In our opinion, election expenses, either in Whitchurch or Stouffville, and now Whitchurch-Stouffville, have never reached formidable figures. Frugal might be a better word to describe expenditures here. However, there were accusations of 'vote-buying' during the last mayoralty race and certainly, candidate Fran Sainsbury spent as much or more than her two opponents combined. Regardless, compared to what occurs in towns like Markham and Richmond Hill, hers was a drop in the bucket.

To spend and win is one thing. At least the successful candidate has an opportunity to earn the money back. But to spend and lose can be tragic. Politicians have been known to drown in debt for years.

On the other end of the scale, some people, often extremely capable candidates, refuse to take the chance. They

An end to smoking

Smoking's old hat; out of fashion. While a few oldsters buck the trend and some teens still think it's smart, the day is fast approaching, (and it can't come too soon), when the cigarette will be a thing of the past.

Boards of education, (that should have been first off the mark), are slowly coming on stream; better late than never. Mind you, they're not pushing too hard, but they are pushing. York Region's Roman Catholic School Board, for example, has set Sept. 1, 1988 as it's no smoking target date; anywhere on board property.

Just why it requires 1 1/2 years to implement the ban remains a mystery. We can only presume it takes some people that long to kick the habit.

Regardless, the decision shows purpose and for that members must be commended.

can't or won't afford the risk. Because of this, their services are lost.

However, if they know at the outset exactly what the cost limitations are, they can budget expenses accordingly. This way, it no longer becomes a 'survival of the richest'.

While the media and the sign-makers are the big gainers from election hysteria, there comes a time when common-sense must prevail. That time is now before election spending goes completely crazy.

Regardless of what transpires at the provincial level, we say Whitchurch-Stouffville should take the lead, pass a bylaw and place a lid on election expenditures prior to the next trek to the polls. Let deeds speak rather than dollars.



When Bobby Hull visited Altona

Prior to the federal government's take-over of property in Pickering, Fred Lewis operated a flourishing business called Altona Feed and Supplies. The location is now the site of the Stouffville Christian School. At an 'open house'

back in the 60's, Fred's guest of honor was N.H.L. superstar Bobby Hull, then of the Chicago Black Hawks. People by the hundreds were on hand to greet their hockey hero. That was twenty years ago.

--Jim Thomas

Editor's Mail
Create controversy

Dear Editor:
I believe an Education Columnist is a valuable asset to any newspaper. I read Lynda Williams' "Spotlight on Education" every week.

All of us have definite feelings on education whether we are teachers, trustees, parents or students. Nor do we always agree.

For this reason, I'd like Mrs. Williams to be a little more controversial; raise and discuss issues that will prompt people to THINK!

It may get her into a little hot water from time to time but that's the price a columnist sometimes pays for notoriety.

Isobelle Humphrey,
Ballantrae

Question?

Dear Editor:
The Whitchurch-Stouffville Rural Ratepayers Association is continuing to pressure Council with regard to development opposition in their part of Town.

On this subject, I wish to pose only one question. How did the majority of these people come to be here?

Sincerely,
Philip Metcalfe,
R.R. 3, Newmarket

Weather

At the Stouffville Christian School bazaar, Saturday, a novelty item was placed on sale called a 'Weather Wood'. It was simply a round piece of wood with a string looped through the centre. Instructions on how to use it and results from using it follow.

Hang six inches from the house. Through attentive observation, you should be able to determine the weather.

If it sways, it's windy.
If it's wet, it's raining.
If it's yellow, the pollen count is high.
If it's black, pollution is serious.
If it's white, it's snowing.
If it's difficult to see, it's foggy.
If it's gone, call the police!

Your Weather Wood's been ripped off!

Each was priced at \$1.00 and all sold within two hours.