

Weekender

Comment

Housing response upsetting

For those of us who live in this, the most affluent area in the province, it's easy to be smug about the scarcity of affordable housing.

But people who work with York Region's less fortunate, say some residents are desperate for shelter. They estimate the 213 families and 180 seniors on the region's list for assisted housing represent only the tip of the iceberg.

The need for affordable housing doesn't stop with families in crisis. Affordable housing is needed by the grown children of local families and seniors who wish to stay in the area.

A recent region-sponsored seminar on the housing crisis served to air some strong community feelings. One young renter said the scarcity of affordable housing may be deliberate — that politicians may be holding the status quo believing they represent their public.

Where are the politicians who'll take a leadership role on behalf of those with no political clout? (None from Markham even attended the seminar.)

We as a community need to change our attitudes about integrated neighborhoods and communicate them to our elected representatives. If not, we may not be so smug when we ourselves or our children have to move away.

— Jo Ann Stevenson



Awaiting the Sting.....

MIKE BUXTON
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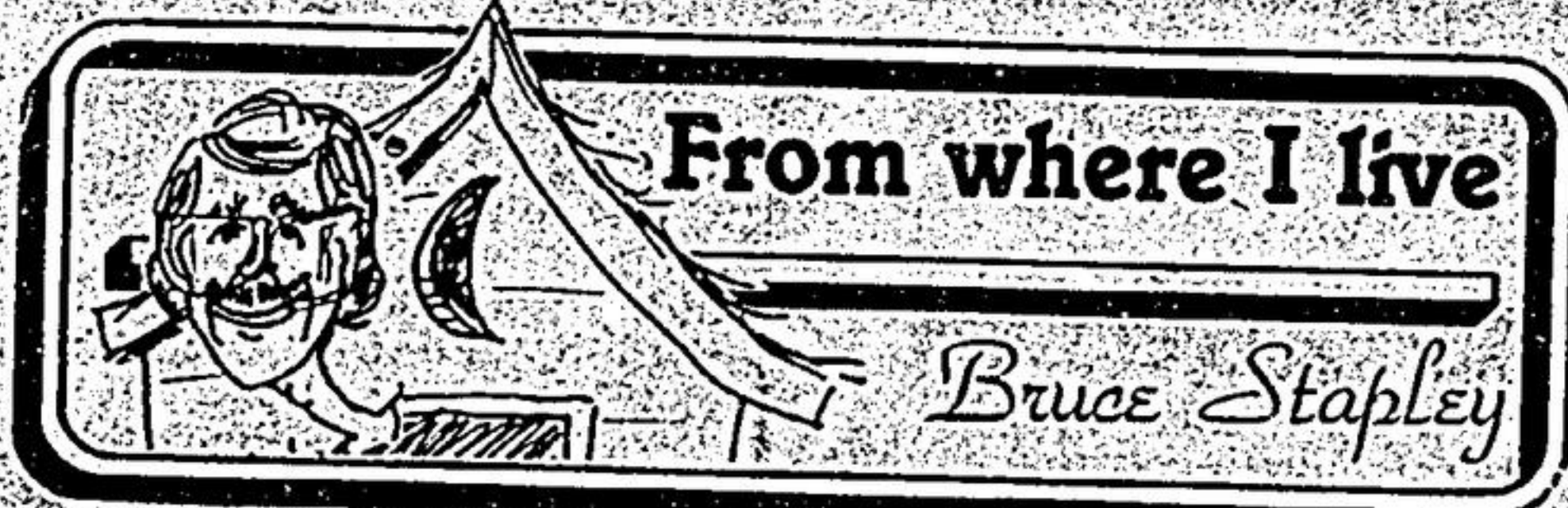
Grandparents score the human race

In what may well be the most dramatic last minute comeback in the history of scorekeeping of truly important events, the females have finally caught up to, and surpassed the males in Grampa Ray and Granny Maggie's collection of grandchildren.

It was a long gritty battle. And after all, they had been the sentimental favourite right from the start. At one point, it was considered a lost cause. But perseverance has paid off, and the Stapley girls now have a majority, due to last week's turn of events.

This classic matchup began back in 1968 when big brother Pete, utilizing football's famous shotgun formation, put the males on the scoreboard for an early 1-0 lead. This slim margin was increased in '72 when Debbie made her first march up field. Boys 2, girls 0.

Shortly after, however, Pete, along with wife Val, put the girls on the board at last. Ever the



opportunistic, Pete was simply responding to Grampa Ray's offer of \$100 in prize money to the team that could provide him with something with curls and long eyelashes that he could bounce on his knee and spoil rotten.

Rising to the challenge, the boys came back with a hat trick, three in a row, courtesy of Bruce, Pat, and Diane. At this moment, the outcome of the contest seemed to be rather academic.

But the girls regrouped during half time. Strategy for the second half was formulated and as the competition resumed, they struck quickly, closing the gap to 5-2 on

Bruce and Val's (different Val) rather spectacular effort. Pat and Keith kept the momentum going by contributing another female to the cause, and suddenly we had a ballgame on our hands. Diane and Ed got caught up in the excitement and narrowed the deficit to 5-4.

But time was running out, and the prevailing notion among the experts was that the key players had used up all their innings. All eyes began to focus on the untried rookie Chris, or Pinto as he is better known. There had been much concern that Chris might never compete, something to do with his

not being able to find a proper line mate.

But he finally paired up with Terri, and the drama began to build. Seems that Terri comes from a family noted for turning the double play, as in Minnesota "Twins." Well!

Sure enough, shortly after the contract had been signed, Terrie announced that, yes, she was going for the two point convert.

Friends and family alike held their breath in anxious anticipation of this, perhaps the last, play of the game.

The special teams were called in, as it was decided that the Caesarion approach would be taken for this all important manoeuvre.

Perhaps it was the element of surprise, the putting of the play into motion a month before it was expected. Or perhaps it was just sheer grit and determination.

Whatever it was, when the dust had settled, the girls had clicked

for two points, catapulting them into a 6-5 lead, a lead that may well stand up until the final whistle.

The crowd went totally wild. Chris, holding court in our living room the night of the big happening, had to be scraped off the ceiling such was his elation.

The family now has two new heroes in Chris and Terri. Secret weapons, as it turns out, that were being saved for just the right moment.

For surely, as sporting events go, even the recent World Series victory by the New York Mets failed to match the excitement, the tension, the sheer drama of the Stapley girls' incredible comeback.

I'm sure that somewhere out there, if we listen real hard, we can hear the words of the great baseball philosopher, Yogi Berra, as once again his old maxim is borne out. "It ain't over 'til it's over."

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