

Editor's Mail

Questions

Dear Editor:
I have a question, one I hope someone in authority can answer. What purpose does the man-made lake in the Stouffville Conservation Area serve?
Is it public?
Is swimming allowed? Is boating permitted?
Is it for Stouffville residents only?
Is it a wildlife sanctuary?
I've heard all kinds of contradictory reports. Personally, I think it's a shame this beautiful site isn't put to more practical use, other than a resting place for flocks of Canada geese.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Freda Danby
Ironwood Crescent,
Stouffville

Exception

Dear Editor:
In past issues of The Tribune, I have read numerous letters related to the practice of giving rides to hitch-hikers.

Personally, I always feel embarrassed when I drive past these people. Often, I point my finger in an opposite direction, indicating I'm about to turn off a particular road.

While the majority may be harmless individuals, it only takes one to turn a good Samaritan act into a nightmare. Who needs the aggravation?

I make one exception, however. If I see a man or woman standing beside a car with his/her thumb up, I always stop. These, I feel, are legitimate cases; people deserving help. There, but for the grace of God stand I!

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Irene Hamilton,
Stouffer Street,
Stouffville



The Tribune

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ROAMING AROUND



Legends in my time

BY JIM THOMAS

Those of us who lived through the hockey era of the 1940's and '50's (even the 20's and 30's), will never forget the excitement of those times, particularly for fans in Markham and Stouffville.

Throughout the winter, (and most of the summer), that's all folks talked about. Yes, hockey was the topic of conversation on every street corner, up and down every concession road and over backyard fences.

Never an in-season week went by that hockey wasn't front page news in this newspaper and the Markham Economist and Sun.

Before the Markham 'Millionaires' and the Stouffville 'Clippers' became arch rivals, the two towns politely tried to ignore each other. However, being only seven miles apart, this was difficult to do.

It was only a matter of time until sub-surface competition would break into open warfare. Everyone knew this, particularly hockey moguls in Stouffville. So when the town advanced from junior to intermediate ranks, the fat was in the fire. The in-fighting worsened when Stouffville raided the Markham camp and attempted to cohere several top players into switching sides.

The gloves were off!
The powder keg, ignited in the arenas' back rooms, spread onto the ice and into the stands: Every game between the two teams was a sell-out. When playoff encounters were switched to Oshawa, crowds in excess of 5,000 were recorded. Cars lined up for miles. All were headed in the same direction and for the same destination.

While the hockey was great, the rivalry made it greater. It's still talked about today.

I count it a privilege to have been part of this period. For I was just cutting my journalistic teeth when this hockey epic all came about. This placed me in the centre of the action: I seldom missed a game.

On occasions, I drove, taking carloads of players along. Other times, I was a passenger. Chauffeurs I remember included such hockey enthusiasts as Johnny Wegg, Morley Symes, Tom Birkett and George Allison. One time, I hitched a ride in the back of Raymond Brillinger's pick-up truck; nearly froze to death but that didn't matter.

Once, I walked from Stouffville to Markham, (via Hwy. 48), at three o'clock in the morning after covering a game in Collingwood. That didn't matter either.

Why these recollections, thirty-five years after the fact?

They all flashed through my mind at a Markham-Stouffville Hockey Reunion Wednesday.

It was an event unlike anything held in the area. Its success was due mainly to the determination and perseverance of three people — John Lunau and Bob Lawrie of Markham, and Bert Baker of Stouffville. Close to 140 former hockey greats attended.

While time has taken its toll, (a little wider around the middle and a little thinner up on top), the majority appeared in

fine shape, especially goaltenders Frank Carr, Norm Stunden, Blake Eatough, Bobby Forster, Jackie Rhodes, Dougie Moore, Ted Beatty, Jack Warriner and Carl Sellers.

The line of Bob Lawrie, Jack Watson and Harry Milroy was reunited. So also was the trio of Don Couch, Bob Hopper and George Sayliss.

The outstanding defence duo of Fred and George Scott was back together again; also linemates Mo Galand, Norm Gray and Erle Clements; Bob Bangay and Charlie Nesbitt; Keith Jewett and Bun Sellers and George and Jack Rumney.

Some travelled long distances: Waverley Wilson and Frank Carr from Florida; Murray Clendenning from Timmins and Chick Webster from Matawa.

At 98 years young, Markham's Reib Meyer was the reunion's elder statesman. He was accorded a standing ovation.

Honored as the hockey builder during the last half-century was John Bayes of Markham, and the hockey player of the past fifty years, Jack Watson of Stouffville; well deserved recognition.

For me, it was an honor just to be there; to rub shoulders with the hockey greats of yesteryears; legends in my time.

Editor's Mail

Driver learns lesson

In the April 8 edition of The Tribune, Bryan Donovan of R.R. 1, Gormley described the rather pleasant results of

rescuing a damsel in distress, hitchhiking in the area of the Stouffville-Gormley Road and Hwy. 404. Good for him. He's one of the lucky ones.

My story is much different. I too picked up a young lady at the corner of the Aurora Sideroad and Woodbine Avenue. It was broad daylight. She looked like 'the girl next door' type.

I told her I was going only as far as Hwy. 7 and she seemed pleased. However, as we passed through Buttonville, she said, 'take me into Toronto or else.' The 'or else' was a threat to call the first policeman she saw and tell him she'd been 'attacked.' She said she meant business.

I couldn't afford to take a chance. So I drove her to the Finch-Yonge subway and let her out.

I was so relieved to see her go, I didn't care that she couldn't bother to say thanks.

That's the last for me. I'll never pick up a hitch-hiker again as long as I live.

Gordon Murray,
R.R. 3, Newmarket

Praise

Dear Editor:
The sign on the Bethel Assembly church property north of Ringwood is beautiful. It stands out even on dark, stormy and foggy nights. More than once it's helped me realize I'm approaching the Hwy. 48-Hwy. 47 intersection where there have been many accidents.

Rather than condemn the sign, critics should drop into the former Ringwood schoolhouse and see what goes on.

Sincerely,
Elsie Boland,
Hemlock Drive,
Stouffville

Editorials

Co-operation the key

Ratepayers associations can prove themselves a benefit to a municipality. Too often, however, they're temporary roadblocks in the path of progress. Too often, they're organizations with axes to grind. Too often, they're isolated groups headed by residents with ulterior motives. Too often, they're too negative.

Initially, this was our impression of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Ratepayers Association. They turned us off and we turned them off. The reason? On the surface, at least, the membership appeared opposed to just about everything.

In some instances they had cause for concern; in others, their motives were strictly selfishness.

Further, the Association wasn't representative Town-wide. It dealt only with issues related to the rural area and a rather confined rural area at that. Stouffville didn't exist.

However, changes in attitude are occurring. The Association is broadening its scope. The 'rural' concept has been dropped and co-operation rather than confrontation is the means to an end.

While this may be only wishful think-

ing on our part, recent communication would indicate such a trend. We hope so.

We're not suggesting that Council is always right. We're saying only that Council's not always wrong. The Association should be as quick to compliment as to condemn. If it doesn't; if it refuses to see the forest for the trees, it's signing its own death warrant.

That's been the history of its predecessors.

We say Whitchurch-Stouffville needs a strong ratepayers' organization. Like most, the 'Green Tree Group' was born out of irritation. The membership appeared bent on the rural area staying the same.

It can't and it won't. At the same time, changes can be minimal and properly planned to serve the needs of present residents and newcomers too.

We stand opposed

The issue of Capital Punishment will be debated in the House of Commons next month.

Sinclair Stevens, MP for the Riding of York-Peel, (that includes Whitchurch-Stouffville), has indicated he'll support the death penalty when the question comes to a vote.

At the same time, Mr. Stevens has requested opinions from the electorate, indicating his mind can be changed.

If this is so, we trust it's been changed already. We're strongly opposed.

Arguments we've heard invariably use the Bible as a reference. Strangely enough, this reference is used by both those 'For' and those 'Against'.

We say, use commonsense. Killing is barbaric whether it's the taking of a life or the taking of a life for a life.

We haven't changed our mind but we trust Sinclair Stevens has changed his. Let him know how you feel. Write Hon. Sinclair Stevens, M.P., York-Peel, Room 426-N, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont. (K1A 0A6)



Music Mania's history dates back 27 years

Music Mania, the longest running variety show in Ontario, has a glorious history that dates back 27 years. The 1987 edition goes on stage this Thursday, (April 30), and continues May 1 and 2 at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

This picture shows four venerable past performers (left to right) — Bud Sanderson, Don Huxtable, Ted Topping and Lorne Roadway.

— Jim Thomas