

Editor's Mail Growth

Through The Tribune, I wish to commend Ward 3 alderman Jim Rae for arranging the public meeting in the Lemonville Community Centre, April 15.

As a comparative newcomer to the neighborhood, I found it extremely informative. Also, it allowed my wife and I to meet some of the folks we knew only by face and not by name.

Regardless of the outcome, I'd like to see our node grow, but not to the extent of Ballantrae or even Bloomington. New homes bring new residents and new neighbors. It makes for a more viable hamlet and could lead to future get-togethers such as the one I enjoyed so much last month.

Fred Edwards,
Whitchurch-Stouffville

Popular

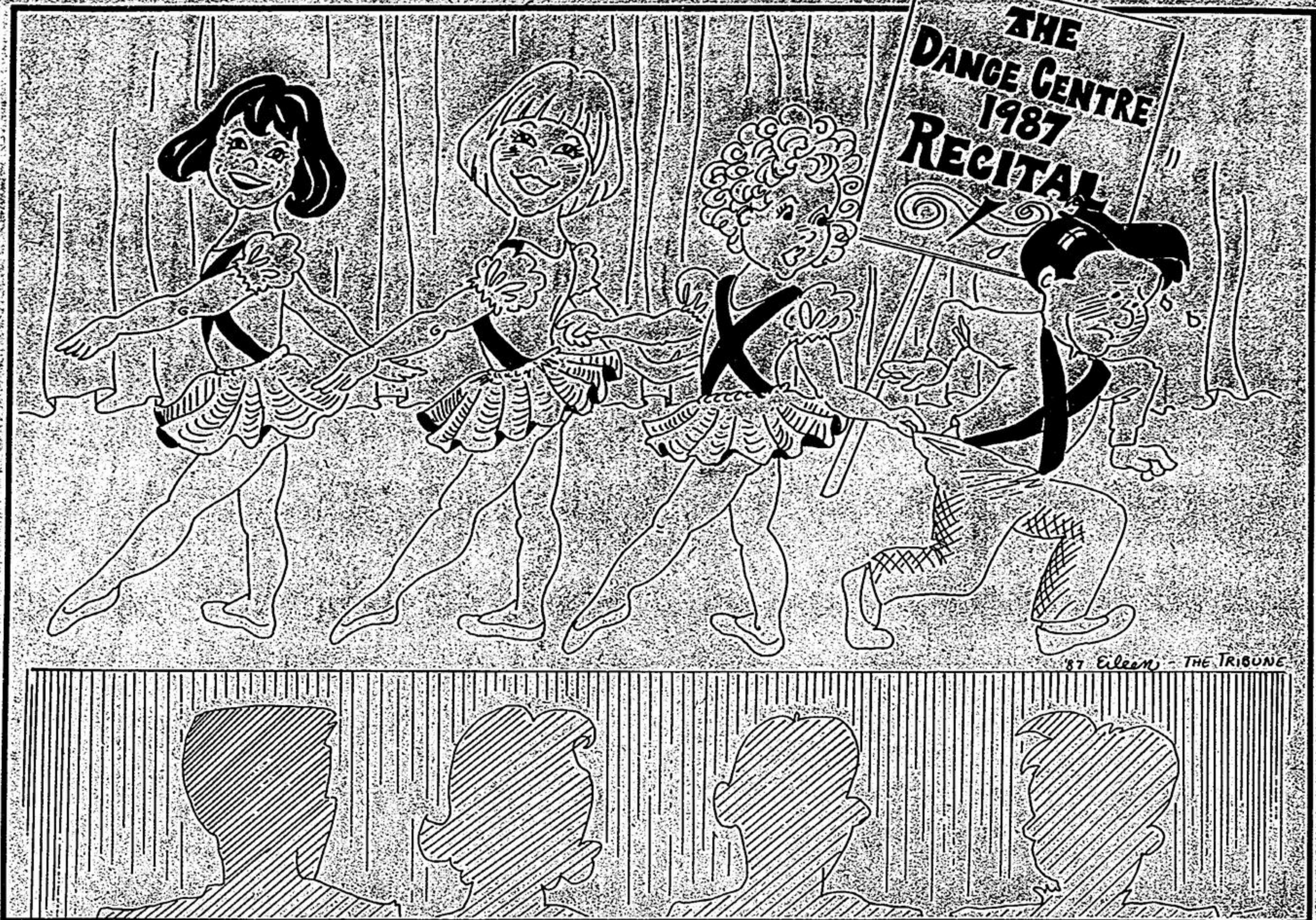
An earlier letter from Mrs. Joyce Edwards could start rumbly in Stouffville that will be heard all the way to Queen's Park.

While Mrs. Edwards made some good points, problems that deserve attention, I feel there's no reason to become alarmed over the use of portable classrooms.

A tour of school sites around York Region will show just how popular these temporary classroom facilities really are. My daughter's most enjoyable school year was spent in a portable.

Some parents seem to view such structures as a form of second class education. It's what goes on inside a portable, not the portable itself, that makes it first or second class.

(Mrs.) Gladys Ritchie,
Stouffville



ROAMING AROUND

Students a top priority

BY JIM THOMAS



I enjoy attending school events, all kinds of school events.

It can be an operetta, a band concert, a graduation, track and field, any one of a dozen different activities. I don't care. To me, each is top priority.

Many times, people have asked: "Don't you ever get tired of seeing the same old thing?"

Never, is my reply, first, because nothing's ever the same, and second, the programs never grow old. Sure, the songs, and the dialogue may be repetitious, but the participants are always fresh and new.

The world of education never stops turning.

But what's the attraction?

First, young people, teens and pre-teens, are co-operative. They enjoy being interviewed. And their replies are straight-forward and honest. They don't have the hang-ups common to we oldsters.

And they don't forget, once seen, always remembered. It gives me a great feeling to walk into a school or onto a playground and have children call out everything from "Hi Jim," to "Good Morning Mr. Thomas," to "Hello Sir." That's a reception usually reserved for church.

They're sincere, nothing put on about a five or six-year-old.

They give it their best, a 100 per cent effort. Sure, on occasions they hit sour notes and botch their lines, but who cares? Not I. No one's perfect.

It's great experience. Performing on stage is an opportunity many of us never had. That's why most, (myself included), are so nervous speaking in public. But not the Class of '87. They take it all in stride.

They possess great skills. When it comes to singing, playing and acting, this generation's superb. And they're

getting better all the time, thanks to the patience of those who provide direction. Oh yes, let us never forget the instructors, those folks behind the scenes who bring out the best in kids.

Without their help, there would be no operettas, no band concerts, no music nights.

When I attend one of these activities, I look for two things. One — performance on stage. And two — reaction by the audience. Usually, the level of acceptance is equal to the quality of the presentation, usually, but not always.

Admittedly, Stouffville crowds are ultra-conservative when it comes to responding to anything. Don't ask me why, they just are. This doesn't necessarily mean they don't like it, or they detest it. It means they find the seats more comfortable when sitting on their hands.

Unfortunately, this type of reaction's disheartening to student stars. The stage might just as well be set up in a cemetery.

This is what I observed at the Orchard Park operetta "Monster Madness," May 6. And I said so.

Some of the children, (and maybe the staff), took exception. They seemed to think I was criticizing them. Believe me, kids, (and teachers), this was the furthest thing from my mind. I thought the acting, the dancing, the singing, the costumes and the scenery were excellent. And I said so, at least I thought I said so.

One student in particular didn't think so.

First, he came in and spoke to me. Then he wrote me a letter.

While I'm not sure the personal appearance and the correspondence belong to the same boy, (he didn't tell me his name and his letter wasn't signed), the writer let me know, in no uncertain terms, what he thought of my report. It reads in part:

"I'm disturbed by the way you criticized a school play that young people worked so hard to practice and perform to their best efforts. The cast had to get up great courage to perform in front of adults. How do you expect them to learn and expand if you criticize them so harshly? You put down the best performance by children, my family, and I have seen in a long time."

So there! That should hold me for awhile!

I thank the writer, whoever he/she may be, for the rebuttal.

But I repeat — Most (parents) were there in body and maybe in mind, but certainly not in spirit!

My praise of the participants and criticism of the audience still stands.

Editor's Mail

Similar

Dear Editor:

Variety may be the spice of life, but when it comes to home-building, look-alike houses are a necessity.

In the 'good old days', large and small homes could be tossed together because they were located on large lots with wide frontages and spacious backyards.

Not so now. Rather, residences are crammed together with barely sufficient room to walk between.

Imagine the unsightliness of a subdivision if the houses differed radically one from the other.

No, Mr. Editor, it won't work.

Rupert Avenue West and Park Drive North were developed in a different era. You can't compare the old and new neighborhoods of town, any more than you can match up a 1987 Cadillac with a 1939 LaSalle.

In my opinion, close co-operation is the key to a happy community. That's all we're asking.

Sincerely,
Gordon Paule,
Stouffville

Examples

Dear Editor:

There are those who laugh, (I've seen them), at your anti-alcohol editorials and columns.

They think they're part of the in crowd because they enjoy boozing it up with their friends.

If they only knew what some of these same so-called 'friends' were saying about them; not to their faces, but behind their backs.

Believe it or not, there's a trend AWAY from alcohol consumption. And believe it or not, the students are leading the way.

I wish to praise young people like Jane Anderson, Jane White, Janice Peterson and Doreen Chee for the example they're setting for their peers. And I wish to commend you also for giving them the editorial support they deserve.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Mabel Boyle,
Stouffer Street,
Stouffville

The Tribune
ESTABLISHED 1888

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NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales 493-1300

The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday and Saturday at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont. is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Aston Free Press, Ajax Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora's Banner, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill Thornhill Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Topic News Magazine, Willowdale Mirror, Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. Single copies 50¢, subscriptions \$21.00 per year in Canada, \$58.00 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspaper Association, Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association, Ontario Press Council and Suburban Newspapers of America. Second class mail registration number 0896.

640-2100 649-2292

Editorials

Taxes keep climbing

The average home owner, with a property assessed at \$20,000, will pay an additional \$21 taxes in 1987.

Doesn't sound like much does it? Cigarette money, as some politicians would say.

Don't be fooled. A \$20,000 assessment isn't average any more. This means most will pay more.

And the buck doesn't stop here. This is only the Town's share, what Council requires. The Board of Education will consume another \$78. Now we're up to \$99. York Region's been kind. They nickle-and-dimed us by only \$1.94; just enough to put the average owner past the \$100 mark — increase.

What does this mean in total taxes? In round figures, we'd say \$1,500; some more, some less.

Admittedly, Council worked long and hard in an attempt to hold the tax hike to

5.4 per cent. This, they would have done except for a one per cent slush fund for roads; totally unnecessary in our opinion.

Road work is a service that should be geared to income. If the money's available, you do it; if it isn't, you don't. It's unjust to create a financial cushion at taxpayers' expense.

Also, demolition of the old arena should have been put on the back burner. As a place for storage, it's presently serving a valuable purpose, and could continue to do so. Nothing urgent in this project, but it will cost us money, money we don't have.

Excluding these needless expenditures, all proposals warrant the priorities received — the Library, the Complex, the clock tower, the swimming pool, Community Centres, the Museum, the Fire Department, Latcham Hall, sidewalks and so on; all things people see, require and appreciate.

A site for people too

We visited Stouffville's flood control site, Saturday.

The area lies north of the Millard Street extension.

Our on-the-spot inspection was prompted by a discussion held earlier with Mayor Fran Sainsbury concerning the future of this project. Adjacent residents, new to town, had questions too. Mayor Sainsbury was straight-forward in her replies. On some points we agree, on some we don't.

Mrs. Sainsbury says the property still belongs to the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. It's operation, however, was subsequently turned over to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Conservation Authority. This latter organization, as well-meaning as it once was, obviously needs a shot of Geritol. We've seen little signs of activity, at this location or anywhere else.

Mayor Sainsbury sees the site as a wildlife sanctuary. So do we. We contend, however, that wildlife and humans should share the property. At present, few residents venture near the place. It's too rough.

We feel the Town must assume control. A portion of the site should be seeded, treed and transformed into a public park. The remainder should stay as it is.

The dam should be painted, a task that could be associated with other community projects during Strawberry Festival Week.

In short, a general overhaul is required to make the property habitable for animals, birds and human beings.

Right now, there's a scarcity of all three.



Celebrate Arbor Day with tree-planting ceremony

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville celebrated the return of Arbor Day with a tree-planting ceremony, May 8, on the site of the Recreation Complex. The event was organized by the recently established Tree Committee with several school children taking part including eight-year-old Cameron Ribble of Dickson's Hill.

—Denise McDonald