

Editor's Mail

Barbaric

Dear Editor:
The result of the Stevens' poll re 'The Death Penalty' was extremely interesting and not surprising. It's very easy for most of us to say 'kill him (her)!', knowing full well we'll never have to pull the switch. I'm sure the result would be much different if we were once witness to an electrocution or a hanging. Whatever the chosen form of death, it's barbaric. Regardless of what the politicians decide, I doubt we'll ever see it carried out. Only the threat of death will be on the books, giving the electorate peace of mind and letting the elected off the hook.

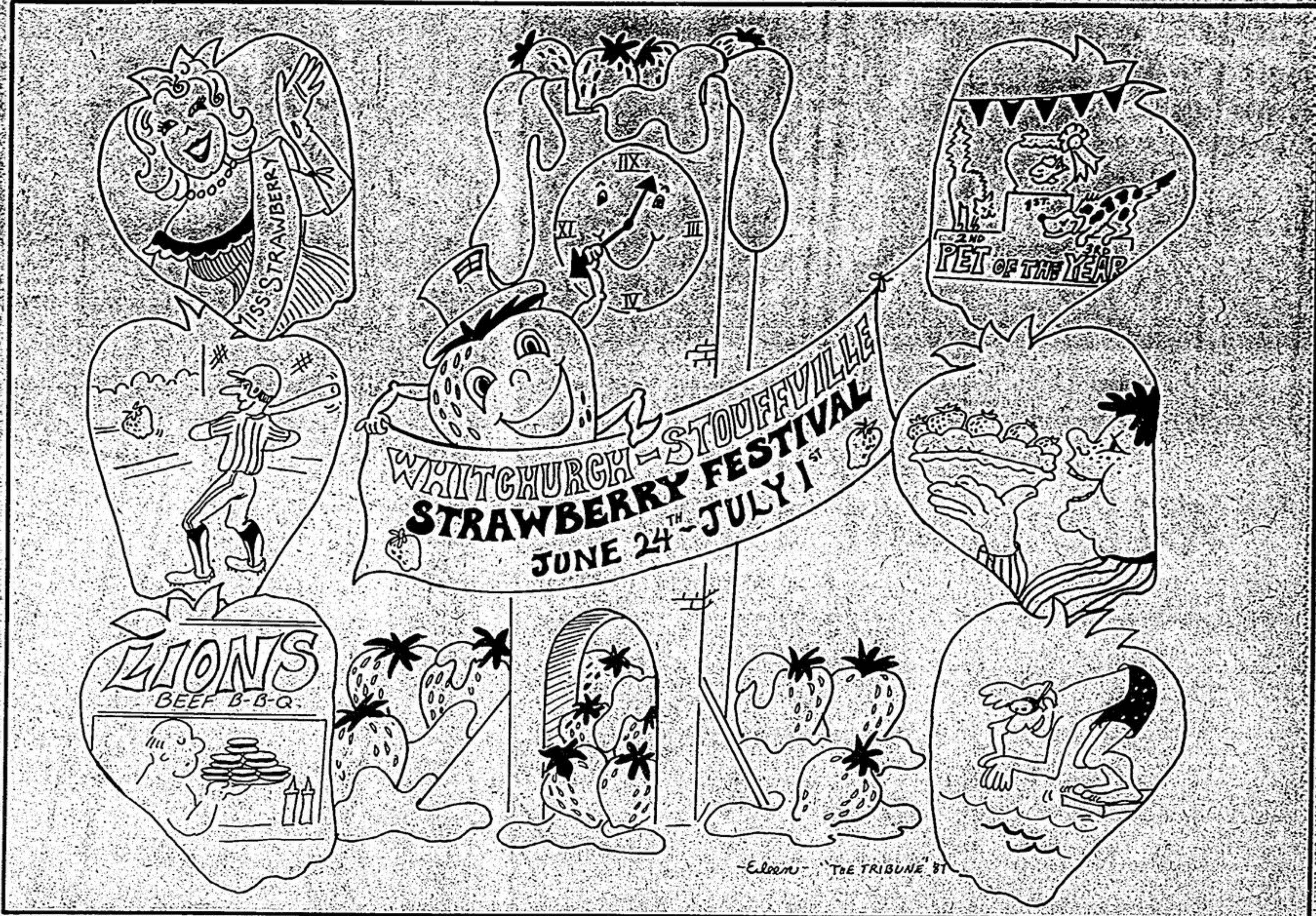
Sincerely,
Gordon Dickson,
Thicketwood Blvd.,
Stouffville

Fortunate

Dear Editor:
A brief note to say how much I appreciated your Roaming Around column of May 27 related to Toronto's Sick Children's Hospital. It is truly a 'caring place' as any mother or father will tell you. The fact a staff nurse would attend the funeral of a patient, tells me even more about Sick Kids. Your write-up brought tears to my eyes.

Thank you for sharing this personal opinion. I agree with everything you said. How fortunate we are to have an institution of this calibre so close at hand.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Andrea Dawson,
R.R. 1, Claremont



The Tribune

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GUEST COLUMN

No match for 'Big Red'

By DENISE McDONALD

While Whitchurch-Stouffville's vast array of motorcycle enthusiasts are finally standing up and proclaiming their rights to individuality, it's sad to note one man no longer has this opportunity.

On June 24, Stouffville area resident Mike Walton's 1983 candy apple red Harley-Davidson, valued at over \$15,000, was stolen from his Ninth Line South residence. After years of working and saving to fulfill a lifetime dream of owning an exceptional motorcycle, he no longer has anything to show for it.

I'm sure many people never having owned a motorcycle or known the joy associated with riding one, will find it hard to sympathize.

Too often, the newspapers are filled with accounts of deaths and accidents resulting from crashes involving such vehicles. In most cases, readers are quick to blame these collisions on the motorcycle, rather than the rider. 'Murdercycle' is a common expression used by the uninformed.

Personally, my sympathy goes out to Mike.

Not only is he a close friend but his 'decker' was the source of admiration and adulation among many.

Mike and I are only two in a large group of friends who own or ride Harley-Davidson's. We're not 'clubbers', but rather, a group of people who share a common love — motorcycles.

Usually, just mentioning the name Harley-Davidson is enough to bring to mind visions of motorcycle gangs such as Hell's Angels, Par-a-dice Riders, Black Diamond Riders and the Outlaws. However, anyone would have difficulty branding a group of people consisting of a foster mother, an electrician, a mecha-

nic, an insurance agent, an electrical engineer, a journalist and an auto parts mechanic to name a few, with the same iron.

Not once have we been labelled "just a rowdy bunch of bikers". Not once have we been considered a public nuisance. Not once have we caused destruction to other people's property.

In fact, we're looked upon as the exact opposite by anyone knowing us.

Very few places will you find a more charitable, considerate and giving group. In fact, many of us are proud to say we've participated in the Metropolitan Toronto Toy Run to help gather games and stuffed animals for needy children.

It's in this respect, we find accepting the theft of Mike's Harley-Davidson doubly hard to swallow.

Both Mike and wife Georgette feel the person or persons responsible knew him and his activities very well.

How else would anyone know the Harley was stored in a barn, rather than up near the house as is customary for most motorcycle owners?

Why would they leave behind a 1968 Triumph Bonneville, stored in the same place, unless they knew exactly what they were after?

It's sad to think many future Harley-Davidson owners, myself included, will now sit anxiously wondering whose bike will be taken next.

When once our group would have scrimped and saved to put extra chrome and custom parts on our motorcycles to make them stand out in a crowd, maybe now we'll think twice.

After all, Mike's Harley was fully customized and extremely distinctive on the street. Maybe that was it's downfall.

According to York Regional Police, there's little, if any chance the bike will be recovered. By now, it's probably in a thousand pieces, with the serial numbers ground off, waiting for an unsuspecting buyer looking for parts.

I hope the person or persons responsible can sleep well at night.

As for Mike, I'm sure he'll soon buy another Harley-Davidson. But somehow, it just won't seem the same without the 'big, red decker' leading the way.

Editor's Mail

An indoor pool

Dear Editor:

I am writing on the subject of the Stouffville Recreation Center which was built just over two years ago. Although it is quite large, the only facility there is an ice rink. I feel there should also be a swimming pool and courts for games such as squash and tennis.

I find it difficult to go for a swim in the colder weather because I need transportation to Markham which is the closest pool to where I live.

If there was a swimming pool and other facilities you could charge admission and eventually make a profit. Because Stouffville is growing so quickly, there will be more and more people using the center, so it would be appropriate, if the Recreation Center was larger.

Thank you for your time. I would appreciate it if you would give me some information in regards to the expansion of the Recreation Center.

Sincerely,
Jenny Hart,
161 Second Street,
Stouffville.

Lions to celebrate

Dear Jim:

The Stouffville Lions Club is planning a number of local activities in the coming year to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

These will focus attention on the Club not only in the Stouffville area but internationally as well. The highlight will be our 50th Anniversary Banquet at Spring Lakes Golf and Country Club in June 1988.

The Lions Club is a non-profit organization that, through fund-raising events and volunteers, earns money for community services and needs. Each Lion enjoys promoting the Club. We accomplish this by visiting other clubs and exchanging 'pins'.

We are hoping to receive from someone, a colored sketch depicting something or somewhere local in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. We also hope someone will portray his/her thoughts of what he thinks best represents the area.

The prize for the best submission is \$150.

For additional information, please call me at 640-2264.

Sincerely,
Ivan Harris,
Pin Contest Chairman,
50th Anniversary Committee,
Stouffville Lions Club

Editorials

Applaud smoking ban

Four times and out! The York Region Board of Education, after side-stepping the issue on three previous occasions, has met the school property smoking problem head-on.

And approved a ban.

To the eight members supporting the motion, a standing ovation.

To the seven members opposed, six hisses and a boo.

While we don't wish to dwell on the negative reasons given for not supporting the ban were pathetic.

"More education," said one.

"I don't think we should compel anyone not to smoke," stated another.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Harry Bowes fears the ruling can't be enforced.

It can and it will! Principal Peter

Bright has assured us of this.

Markham member Margaret McDonald even went so far as to suggest smoking, (on school property), is not a Ministry of Education matter but a problem for the Ministry of Health. Talk about passing the buck!

But enough of the negative. We slapped their wrists before.

We commend those eight trustees who voted on the side of the majority, and gained a majority vote. As close as it was, (8 to 7), majority rules.

The York Region Board of Education is back in our good books again.

Our only regret, (we're never totally satisfied), is the fact the no-smoking policy doesn't come into effect for an entire year — September, 1988. But better late than not at all.

Festival fun for everyone

It's Strawberry Festival Week in Whitchurch-Stouffville, a time to let down your hair, kick up your heels and enjoy activities planned for the days ahead.

While 'something for everyone' is a worn-out cliché, the description truly fits the many events arranged between June 24 and July 1.

On Wednesday, (to-night), for example, there's the Lions-sponsored beef barbecue from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the Stouffville Park. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Concert Band will perform from 7 to 8 p.m. with a Street Dance to follow from 8 until midnight.

If lawn bowling's to your liking, catch some of the games until 4:30 in the afternoon or from 7:30 until 9 at night.

The feature attraction Thursday is the Miss Whitchurch-Stouffville Pageant at the High School, (7:30 p.m.); and a tribute to Lorne Bowday, the Town's 1987 'Citizen of the Year' at nine.

A Euchre Tournament is scheduled for the Silver Jubilee Club from 1 to 5 p.m., with free swimming at the Town Pool from 3 to 5:30.

The list goes on and on, culminating in a monster Fireworks Display at the Town Park July 1, (Canada Day).

Between times, there's a Teen Dance, (Friday); a People Parade; a Baby Contest; a Pet Contest; a Pie-Eating Contest; a Big Wheel Contest; a Bike Decorating Contest; a Pancake Breakfast; a Dance in Latcham Hall and a Slo-Pitch Tournament; (Saturday); a Community Worship/Service and a Strawberry Social (Sunday).

There's even more.

While we don't expect everyone to take in everything, we urge you to attend at least some of the things and make the Festival worthwhile.



Their voices were heard around the world

Back in the 1950's, the Stouffville Youth for Christ choir was a dominant musical force in the community. Not only did they sing locally but their voices were heard on several radio stations around the world. Several years ago, members held a reunion. Shown here at the organ is Gladys

Ratcliff and standing, (left to right), Marion (Gostick) Hadow, Barbara (Hisey) Wideman, Shirley (Schell) Doner and Jean (Brown) Doner.

—Jim Thomas