

## Editor's Mail Snow job?

Dear Editor:

As a resident of Whitchurch-Stouffville (a short distance from the landfill site), I'm relieved to learn the health of residents has not been affected by liquid deposits at this location.

Had the opposite been true, the end result would have been disastrous.

I have a concern, however. What about all the horror stories that originated during the time of the landfill hearings? Cancer and other maladies were supposedly rampant in the area. It was assumed that the landfill was responsible.

Then, when the site closed, the horror stories suddenly ceased. Was this a con job?

Were these tales figments of someone's imagination?

Was Whitchurch-Stouffville's reputation as a fine place in which to live dragged through the mire for no reason?

I hope members of the Concerned Citizens' Committee have explanations. If not, then the group owes the Town an apology.

The Health Study indicates these alarmists pulled off the greatest 'snow job' this municipality has ever known.

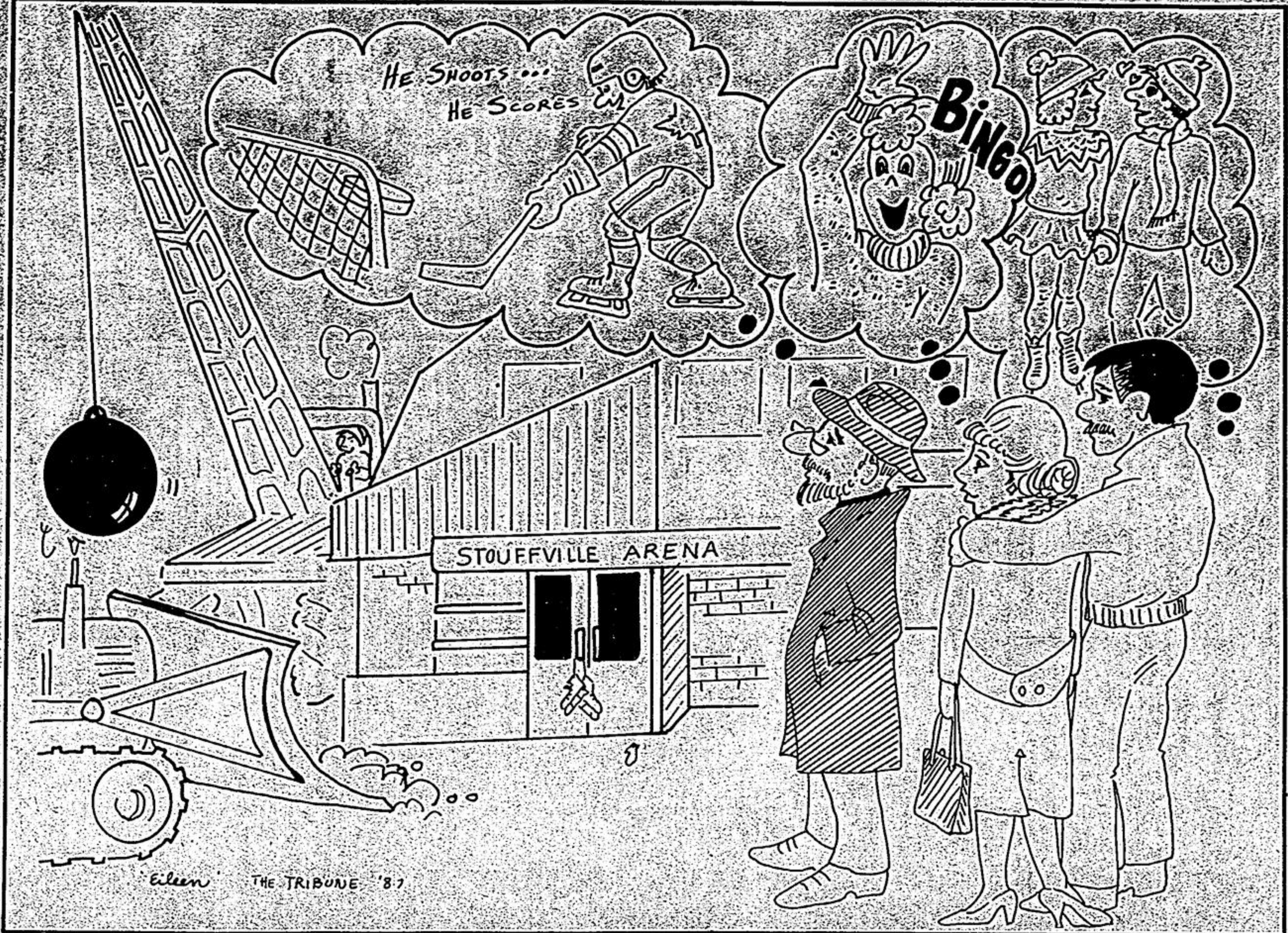
(Mrs.) Reva Chandler,  
R.R. 2, Stouffville

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I feel I must write a note to let you know how delighted were the students and parents of students at Whitchurch-Highlands School with the photos and story related to the recent fashion show held there.

Thanks for joining us for the evening.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Eiler



THE TRIBUNE '87

## The Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1888

JAMES THOMAS Editor  
BRUCE ANNAN Publisher  
PATRICIA PAPPAS Advertising Manager  
JENNIFER HUTT Distribution Manager

EDITORIAL DEPT.: Denise McDonald  
SPORTS EDITOR: Alan Shackleton  
RETAIL ADVERTISING: Susan Berry (Manager Charles Canning)  
REAL ESTATE/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Joan Marshman  
(Real Estate Manager Dorothy Young; Classified Manager Debra Weller)  
DISTRIBUTION: Lea Kitter, Doreen Deacon  
BUSINESS OFFICE: Manager Chris Bertram  
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 Action Free Press, Ajax Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser, Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa Whistler, 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, \$55.00 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspaper Association, Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association, Ontario Press Council and Suburban Newspapers of America. Second class mail registration number 9896.

640-2100 649-2292

## ROAMING AROUND

### Goodbye old friend

BY JIM THOMAS



In a matter of weeks, even days, a foreign mechanical monster will move onto the site of the Stouffville Arena.

In a matter of days, even hours, this once proud community project will be reduced to a pile of rubble.

Who cares?

Certainly those new to town don't. Recent arrivals here have likely never been in the building. They're probably wondering how it's lasted as long as it has.

To be honest, we've asked ourselves that very same question. What's holding it together? Certainly, it's the last of a dying breed.

The answer to the structure's longevity will come when the time arrives to pull it apart. Regardless of what the experts say, this building has all the permanency of the Rock of Gibraltar. It won't yield easily to the might of modern machines.

But it will yield. Nothing lasts forever. Nothing except the memories.

We talk about community togetherness today. But can you imagine the immensity of a project that saw a group of determined local citizens canvass the countryside for \$80,000 back in 1948?

Stouffville was blessed with people like George Allison, Bert Bell, Gar Lehman, Fred and Ernie Button, George Rodanz, Doc Bodendistel, Tim O'Neill, Les Wilson, Charlie Nolan, Morley Symes and more who put their collective shoulders to the wheel and saw the project through to completion.

Eighty thousand dollars may not sound like much. However, it took a good many contributions at \$100 a share to equal the funds required. The Lions Club and the Athletic Club gave the venture a big financial boost. So did George Rodanz, at a time when help was needed most.

When contributions fell \$20,000 short,

Ernie Button and Walter Billinger bridged the gap with a voluntary loan. A \$20,000 floor was added several seasons later.

Stouffville natives will recall the structure that preceded the one now condemned. It was located at the site of the present swimming pool. And a pretty nifty building it was, too. Unfortunately, the ice always gave way to water at times when local O.H.A. teams were heading into playoffs. Games had to be shifted from Stouffville to Oshawa.

This problem prompted a move towards something more permanent.

Yes, I attended the Arena's opening, not in an official capacity, more out of interest than anything else.

The year was 1949 and I was still cutting my teeth on the technique of writing sports for this newspaper. Ontario Premier Leslie Frost snipped the red ribbon at centre ice. It was a proud moment.

And there have been many proud moments since including hockey championships in almost every class, figure skating, pleasure skating, wrestling matches, bingos, trade fairs, the list goes on and on.

Over three plus decades, the Arena only had three managers — Ken Laushway, Telf Rennie and Joe Lewis. Each did an admirable job.

There was always something warm and friendly about the facility. This was partly due to the fact no one was a stranger. The rink was the centre of town activity, the place to be on a given night.

Strange as it may seem, the manager's office was 'public' as the ice surface. This was always my first and last stop-off point. Many a hockey game was replayed across the old glass-topped desk; why we won or why we shouldn't have lost. Discussions often lasted into the wee small hours.

What moments stand out in my memory?

There are many: The night 1,900 plus people stood shoulder-to-shoulder for a Stouffville-Markham playoff encounter; Stouffville's win over Port Colborne in the spring of '52 to capture the O.H.A. Sr. 'B' Championship; the wrestling match-up between Yukon Eric and Bulldog Brower; skating to the music of the East York Concert Band; the Stouffville debut of figure skating star Don Jackson and the beauty and grace of skaters like Christine (Robb) Hindson and sisters Joanne and Merna; Jean (Winterstein) Barclay; Gloria Taton; sisters Gwenni and Bonnie Kennedy; Jan (Smith) Percy; Cindy (Wilson) Todd; Debbie Wilkes and Guy Revell; and Peter Mellon; the district flower show hosted by the Stouffville Horticultural Society; there are many more.

There were some ugly moments too — the night an unruly crowd from Peterborough pelted the ice with beer bottles; and the game when a young player from Orillia went berserk and threw his stick into the west balcony of spectators.

The most humorous incident I can recall was the night Ernie Button discharged a starter's pistol and blew a hole through the Arena roof. Of course none of us will forget the post-playoff game when goaltender Jack Warriner burned his underwear and manager Ken Laushway thought the whole building was going up in smoke.

Lemonville's Ken Kirby was an employee of long-standing. He did everything from sweep the floors to sharpen skates, and always with a smile.

Likewise, Betty Grove whose dedication spanned two decades and two buildings.

Tim O'Neill and Jim Austin did much for hockey here, at the O.H.A. and O.M.H.A. levels respectively. Jim served on the O.M.H.A. executive for years.

Although the exterior of the 33-year-old Arena has deteriorated with time, the interior, during its useful years, was always immaculately maintained.

In its infancy, volunteers weren't afraid to grab a brush and apply the paint.

Yes, those were the days. Great memories.

So don't judge a book by its cover. And try and understand the tinge of regret that goes with the passing of a close friend.

For those, attendants at its birth and witnesses to its death, the Arena is more than four walls and a rusty roof. It's the realization of a dream, a dream that lasted through 35 years.

Glorious years.

## Pride

Dear Editor:

I have two confessions. I am a grandmother of one of the graduates at the Stouffville High School Commencement, Friday. I am also prejudiced.

However, speaking not (only) for my grandson but for all grandsons and granddaughters on stage; it was indeed a night for which to be proud.

A more immaculate group of young people one will never see; lady-like and gentlemanly too.

The credit belongs to someone. I like to think many played a part — the home, the school and the students themselves.

(Mrs.) Thelma Morris,  
Stouffville

## Editorials

### Town is treated fairly

For a second time in two weeks, the Region of York has been subjected to scathing criticism by Whitchurch-Stouffville Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb. The reason behind this verbal onslaught isn't clear. We think there's more here than meets the eye.

Why? Because, in our opinion, our Town has received its fair share of hand-outs from 'big brother' based at Newmarket.

Certainly, Markham and Vaughan receive more. And why not? They certainly pay more — a lot more. In addition, that's where growth is occurring. If our Council should suddenly decide, (and heaven forbid) that Whitchurch-Stouffville can accommodate 100,000 people, then 'Santa Claus' will look to our needs in a more generous manner.

Meanwhile, let's look at what we've recently received.

We have paved roads on the 5th, 6th and 7th concessions from the Gormley Road to the Bloomington Road. Three major trouble spots on the 9th Concession have been eliminated with more improvements to come.

A section of the Bloomington Road, (through Whitchurch-Stouffville), has been levelled and hard-topped. Plans are in the works to pave the townline from Lincolnville to Regional Road 14, (Main Street East). With respect to water and sewerage, the Region has been extremely co-operative, despite the fact Stouffville is still considered a slow-growth area.

Certainly, all applications aren't approved. York Region, like Whitchurch-Stouffville has budget limitations too. Nor can it establish precedence. Eight other municipalities are watching every move.

While indeed the squeaking wheel may get the grease, there are times when quiet backroom discussions can accomplish just as much; maybe more. This is the role our Town should play. Otherwise, we're just an irritating gnat nibbling on the lion's nose.

## Priceless

How many know that Captain Roy Brown shot down Baron von Richtofen in an air battle over the Somme Valley, Germany, during World War I?

How many know that Baron von Richtofen was Germany's most famous air ace during that conflict?

How many know that Roy Brown once lived at Bethesda in Whitchurch-Stouffville?

The answer to all three questions is probably, very few.

There are two reasons for this. First, Captain Brown was very modest concerning his accomplishment. Second, Billy Bishop, also a renowned World War I pilot, overshadowed Brown when it came to publicity. Bishop's exploits are still talked about today while Brown is all but forgotten.

Our Town has an opportunity to set the record straight through the purchase of a painting that depicts Capt. Brown and Baron von Richtofen in mortal combat. It's a piece of Canadian and Whitchurch-Stouffville history all wrapped up in one. The asking price is \$1,000. We consider it priceless.

The Town should not let this opportunity slip through its fingers.

We trust the Historical Society, to whom the request has been tossed, will respond with a unanimous "YES".



### In remembrance of years gone by

On Sunday, Nov. 8, the Royal Canadian Legion, Stouffville Branch 459 held a Service of Remembrance at the cenotaph in the Stouffville Cemetery. On Wednesday, Nov. 11, a wreath-laying ceremony was conducted at the cenotaph in the Town Square. This photo from The Tribune files shows Stanley Burkholder, Legion President several years ago, paying his respects to a fallen comrade. Mr. Burkholder died in November, 1978.

—Jim Thomas