

### Editor's Mail Clarify

With reference to the Page 1 story published in the Feb. 21 issue of The Tribune, re an Indoor Pool for Phase 2 of the Whitechurch-Stouffville Recreation Centre, I feel some clarification is required.

It is my understanding that 5,500 to 6,000 questionnaires were sent out to residents of the municipality. Out of this number, only six percent were returned. This represents the opinion of 330 to 360 residents.

In a Town of close to 17,000, it's hardly fair to say that an Indoor Pool is heavily favored or an overwhelming choice.

While the response was undoubtedly disappointing, facts are facts. The information from the questionnaire should have been reported in a more defined manner such as actual numbers rather than percentages.

In view of the above statistics, I ask: Do you feel Phase 2 of the Town Recreation Complex is required at this time?

Carol Davis, Ballantrae

### Thanks

Stewart and I want you to know how much we enjoy Bruce Stapley's stories related to individuals in and around Stouffville. We also enjoy your 'Girl Next Door' feature.

We find both you and Bruce have the ability to bring 'alive' personalities on paper.

Keep up the good work. The Tribune remains an excellent small-town newspaper.

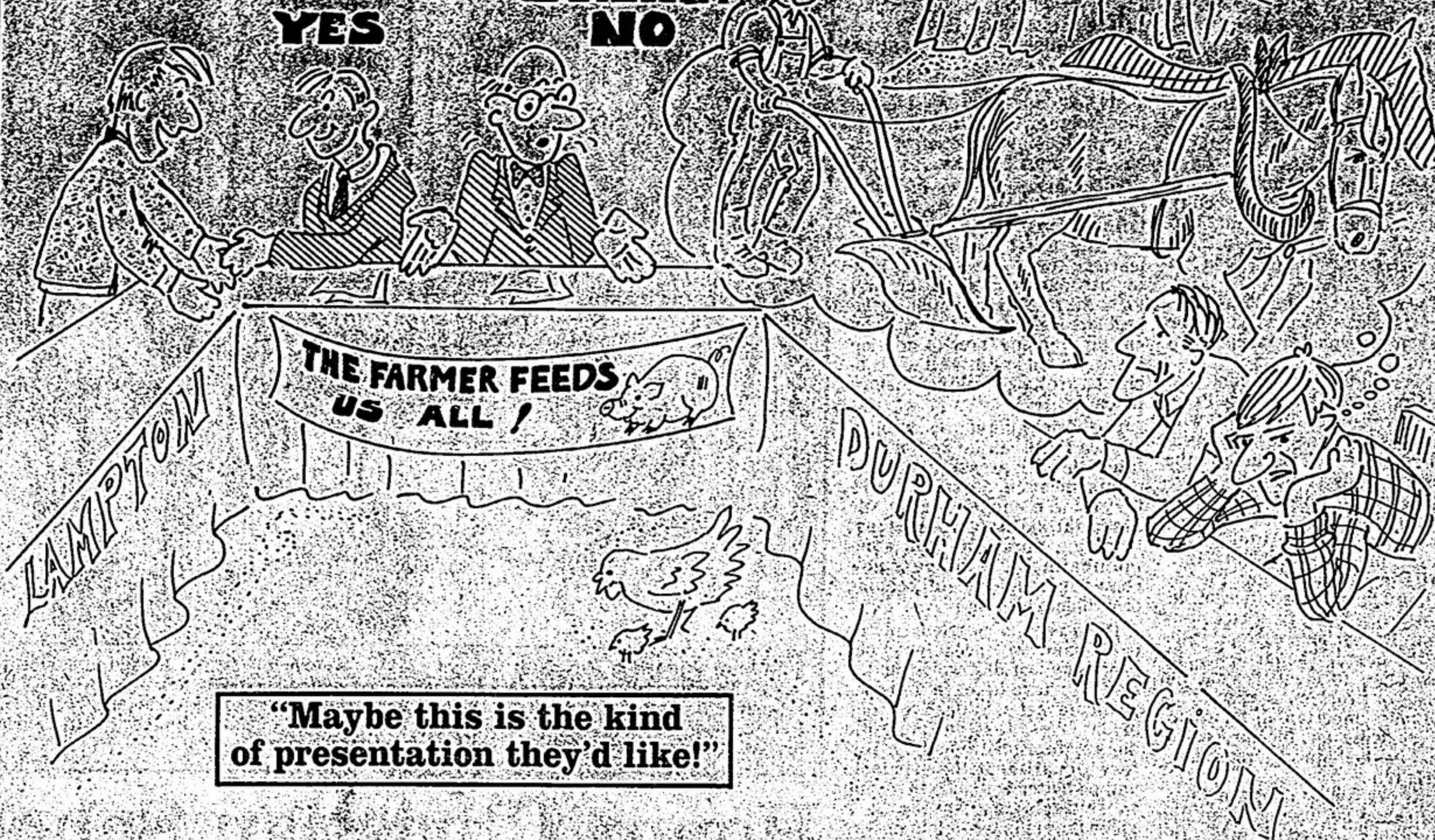
We very much appreciate the coverage you provide our church activities.

Thanks again.

Barbara Wideman, Ringwood

## ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOC.

LAMPTON CO. YES  
DURHAM NO



"Maybe this is the kind of presentation they'd like!"

## The Tribune

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## ROAMING AROUND

### False criticism hurts

BY JIM THOMAS



When someone comes into the Office and begins criticizing MY newspaper, I immediately become defensive.

"I shouldn't, but I do. Human nature, I guess."

"It's a throw-back to one's youth. Each of us, since old enough to walk, has been taught to defend himself, girls too."

"If someone sticks a fist in your face, you do the same. He pushes, you push back."

"You have to learn to stand up for yourself," a father tells his son, "give him what he deserves."

"Don't take that from her," a mother advises her daughter, "cut her down to size."

In some cases, retaliation is unwarranted. The critic means well. He/she's only trying to point out something we should have observed ourselves.

It can range from bad taste, to bad breath, from yellow journalism to yellow shirts. If we're never told, the fault can't be corrected.

Only recently, a subscriber, (requesting her letter not be published), took me to task over inability to differentiate between the words 'affect' and 'effect'.

So what did I do?

I tore the letter up and threw it in the garbage!

"Why? The writer was right. She meant well and was only pointing out something I've known for years. The proper use of the words 'affect' and 'effect' has always been a problem."

"Smarten up, Jim," I said to myself later, "you'll never learn any younger."

Just this week, I received a letter from a resident at Brougham. She was critical of my handling of the Supreme Court's decision on abortion.

"What happened," she asked, "to words like 'fair', 'balanced journalism' and 'the other side of the story'?"

Our survey, the writer pointed out, requested opinions from thirteen people, ten of them ministers.

But what about the man/woman on the street? The writer was asking, "What opinions does he/she have to offer?"

"My immediate reaction was: 'Don't tell me what to ask or who to ask. I'll ask who I like and write what I like!'"

However, after the smoke of indignation had filtered through my head, I realized she was right and I was so wrong.

The queries had been directed towards only a small segment of the town, and a rather prejudiced segment at that. The answers were known before the questions were asked.

What hurts most, however, is criticism when one honestly and truly believes, (even knows), he's right.

This cuts to the quick.

Under such circumstances, individuals, editors included, are justified in digging in their heels.

It was in this frame of mind I found SDSS Principal Peter Bright, Friday.

Mr. Bright's confident the many and varied programs offered at Stouffville High are producing competent, well-qualified graduates, young people with abilities to make their marks in the work force, at community colleges and universities. And the SDSS success figures would seem to bear this out.

Town Trustee Harry Bowes has the facts. The drop-out rate at SDSS is an extremely low seven percent. A far cry from the 32-33 percent mentioned in the Radwanski Report.

Further, Stouffville's technical program is looked on as one of the best in York Region and possibly the Province.

This being the case, Principal Bright had just cause to be annoyed. For Mr. Radwanski paints all schools with the same brush.

Perhaps SDSS should have been on the Radwanski check-out list. If so, his gloom and doom conclusions might have been less gloomy and doomy.

Regardless, I do give the author A-plus marks on three points:

(1) That standardized province-wide tests at least in reading comprehension, writing (including grammar, spelling and punctuation), mathematics, reasoning and problem-solving, and learning skills, as well as in other core curriculum subjects in high school, be administered to all elementary and high school students at appropriate intervals throughout the years of schooling.

(2) That the credit system be abolished or phased out and replaced with a common program of learning in the essential content areas for all students, with no optional courses in Grades 9 and 10.

(3) That automatic social promotion of children who are significantly behind grade level in learning accomplishment be replaced by enrollment in summer remediation programs, followed by evaluation as to whether sufficient progress has been made to enable them to keep up with the work in the next grade, with or without remedial help during the school year.

I honestly believe, from time to time, it's necessary for all of us to stop, take a look at ourselves and see just where we're headed and what we're attempting to accomplish.

This self-assessment applies to journalists as well as educators.

### Editor's Mail Protest

The following letter, dated Feb. 18, 1988, has been written to Whitechurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury, by home-owners in Westfield Estates, a copy of which is published in the Feb. 24 edition of The Tribune. It reads:

Madam Mayor:

We have learned that a motion will be introduced at the next Council meeting expressing confidence in Revenue Property's fulfillment of the contract and to rely on their co-operation again this year.

We (three) wish to protest this motion in the strongest possible way. Having lived here, through season after season of mud, noise, inconvenience and broken promises, we have no faith whatsoever that Revenue will return to finish the grading to an acceptable standard this year, and we urge you to refrain from such a naive course of action.

We realize the probable reason the Town has let our problems stretch out so long is the possibility that the Letter of Credit may not be sufficient to complete the work and the Town may have to use its own funds. As taxpayers, we deserve better than this.

Please reduce some of our disillusionment with Council by getting tough with Revenue, cashing the Letter of Credit, finishing our grading and other deficiencies, and let us get on with our lives and enjoy our premium priced properties on which you unblushingly exact full taxes.

Should you allow another summer to slip by without substantial completion of our subdivision, we will have serious concerns about the priorities and the competence of our Council.

John Dekker,  
Carol Dekker,  
Jennifer Dekker,  
530 Alintree Drive,  
Stouffville.

## Editorials

### Town should broaden industrial horizon

When it comes to development, particularly industrial development, we detest piece-meal planning.

The end result is usually just that — piece meal. Other municipalities bear the scars of narrow-minded thinking. Don't let this happen in Whitechurch-Stouffville.

The Town's Planning Advisory Committee proceeded properly in requesting the IBI Group draft a Land Demand Study with regard to future industrial requirements in the Gormley area. However, in our opinion, the parameters are too small. Three hundred acres is trivial when coping with the requirements of industry today.

If a thousand acres is available, go for it!

Even persons with restricted planning vision can foresee the day when industrial magnets will be clamoring for sites fronting on, or in close proximity to Hwy 404. The location's a natural — for transportation, for marketing, for many reasons.

This is good for Whitechurch-Stouffville. Our industrial tax base has long been a source of concern. This 'wall flower feeling' is about to change.

We fail to see what the industrial land demands in communities like Ballantrae and Stouffville have to do with Gormley. The Hwy 404 corridor is a separate entity entirely.

Randy Alcorn of Alcorn and Associates Limited, Thornhill, advised Town planners to work towards the development of the entire area, then phase in the applications as requests are received. This makes sense.

Councillor Wilf Morley, Planning Advisory Committee chairman posed the question on everyone's mind: "Do we go back and look at the 1,000 acres, or do we take the IBI Study verbatim?"

Go back, do it all and do it right, is our advice. Twenty years down the road, (or less), future planners will appreciate present planners' foresight.

### Parking for handicapped

A crowded plaza parking lot. Two open areas reserved for handicapped people. Pretty tempting.

Some motorists are finding them too tempting. They slyly slip into the spaces, if only for a minute.

This is a municipal offense.

We all should be vigilante in such cases and call police — immediately. A few hefty fines would cure the indiscretion in a hurry.

### Hibernating?

For Road Department employees, it's been a comparatively easy winter. Little snow to plow, little sand to spread.

For snow plow and sand truck operators, retained for this purpose, life must get pretty tedious. So tedious, they all obviously fell asleep Saturday night, at least the sand truck operators did.

Stouffville's Main Street was a veritable skating rink.

Motorists inched their way through town with not a sander in sight. Two hours and several fender-benders later, they were out in force. What service!



### This is Ringwood at turn of the century

The Ringwood community has undergone major changes since the turn of the century. This is particularly true of the road layout. The dog-leg turn at the 8th Concession, (Hwy 48), and the Townline, (Stouffville Road), will be remembered by many. Ringwood was a busy stop-off point for teamsters travelling to Toronto, with hotels on three corners.