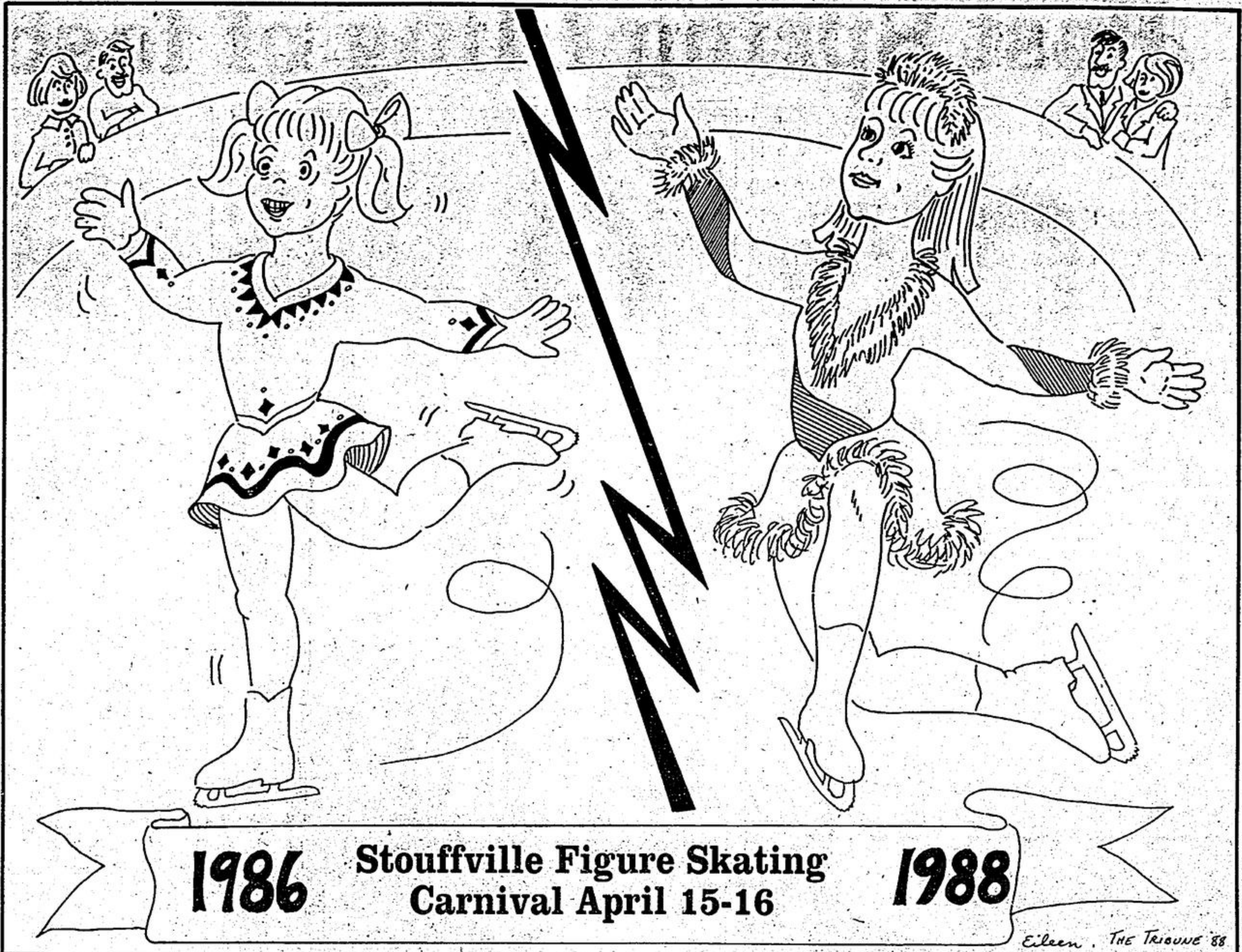


### Editor's Mail Confused

Dear Editor:  
The Whitechurch-Stouffville Committee on Affordable Housing is to be commended for its determination to continue a worthwhile cause.  
I'm somewhat confused concerning its goal, however.  
Are members talking affordable rents or affordable buys?  
Or are they talking both?  
The majority of people, (young people), I know, are looking to buy. But house prices here are out of reach.  
I feel that in approving subdivision agreements, our Council should demand a percentage of lower cost homes as part of that approval.  
Also, if Queen's Park is really serious concerning affordable accommodation, it should move now to buy up all available properties in and around Musselman's Lake, the same way the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Area acquired park lands back in the '60s.  
Sincerely,  
Gordon Brighton,  
Ironwood Crescent,  
Stouffville

### Support

Dear Editor:  
I wish to thank your newspaper for the marvellous support accorded Country Decorating Collectibles at Markham Fairgrounds. The exhibitors were extremely excited about the show, and when they saw the fantastic coverage accorded the event by The Tribune, it made them proud to have been participants in it.  
Sincerely,  
Debra Grose,  
Uxbridge



Eileen, THE TRIBUNE '88

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## Editorials

### Cramped for space

Whitechurch-Stouffville's present municipal office has had its day. Employees are so cramped for space, the situation's something of a joke.  
If conditions become any worse, staff will soon be sitting on one another's knees.  
Population increase has its benefits. It also produces problems. Town 'management' must meet these problems head on. It must also grow to keep pace.  
Council is marking time. This being an election year, members are hesitant to embark on a multi-million dollar municipal expansion project. They know the flak they'd receive.  
But let's be realistic. While there may indeed be a slow-down in build-up, it isn't going to stop; not entirely. Neither will the need for additional staff. So where are they going to go?  
We dislike fragmentation — a department here, a department there; offices scattered all over the place. This creates confusion.  
Sure, Roads and Works; Fire and Recreation can be separated, (as they are now); but most other areas are closely linked and should be kept together. Staff efficiency's another important

point. Council can't expect employees to work efficiently in space where there's barely room to breath. Productivity will suffer.  
Further, the Council chambers is much too small. Last year, several public meetings had to be shifted to Latcham Hall for lack of seating accommodation.  
While band-aid treatment will prolong the 'life' of the present structure, the building's days are numbered; or should be. So is the site.  
We opposed encroachment on the Park.  
We suggest the Town move immediately to acquire sufficient property for new municipal quarters. This doesn't necessarily mean an immediate start on construction. But it does mean that when construction time arrives, a site will be available.  
The land will never come any cheaper.


### Self-help

It's all very easy to sit back and let someone else cover the cost. You hear it everywhere.  
Let the Town pay. Let the Region pay. Let Queen's Park pay or let Ottawa pay.  
All levels of government, (we hope), have bottoms in their treasury barrels. None has limitless funds from which to draw. The larger the bureaucracy, the greater the demand.  
There comes a time when the 'let George do it' attitude must stop.  
While hand-outs are nice, and usually appreciated, we applaud the Stouffville BIA (Business Improvement Area) board for taking another route. They decided to help themselves. The result was an enjoyable 'Spring Fling' evening, Saturday, at The Maples of Ballantrae.  
Proceeds from the event will go towards assisting Stouffville's downtown improvement program, a project supported by a \$280,000 provincial PRIDE Grant.  
Certainly, BIA members could have sat back and said "we'll do what we can with what we have."  
But no. On this occasion at least, they implemented their own fund-raising project, to the enjoyment and benefit of all concerned.

## ROAMING AROUND

### Ode to an oldtimer

BY JIM THOMAS



Remember when you were 20 and your father was 50?  
He seemed old!  
Remember when you were ten and your grandfather was 70?  
He seemed really old!  
While I haven't attained grandfather status, (not in reality), through the eyes of my kids, I'm old, old, old!  
I can tell by the way they talk.  
"Oh dad," they reply, "that was way back then."  
— Or "times have changed. They do things differently nowadays."  
While I've never admitted to being wrong, I know down deep they're right. It was "way back then." And "times have surely changed. Things are done differently." And how.  
Still, I cling to age-old ideals like:  
Short hair — I insist on a 'clip' at least once a month. My sons don't listen, or can't hear. Their ears are covered by long locks.  
Wearing ties — Always on Sundays. The boys comply, but only while in church. Once out the door, the 'neck yokes' come off.  
Shined shoes — No way. Canvas loafers aren't made for Nugget.  
Country music — They hate it; leave the room if I'm watching the Nashville Network.  
Ovaltine — Yuck! It's Coke or coffee.  
Pressed pants — Jeans are in, no pressing required.  
So you see, we're years and worlds apart.  
So it was when I was a teen. But it didn't matter. I did what I was told. Father knew best. Times have surely changed.  
And time changed for me, Saturday. I turned one year short of the big 60.  
It was my 59th.  
Is it any wonder the kids give dad's likes and dislikes so little heed? To them, I'm a senior citizen, destined to live out my last remaining years in a rocking chair watching replays of 'I Love Lucy'.  
"Aha, not so fast. Polly and Fay must wait awhile yet. I haven't even reserved a plot."  
Sure, my bow's a little bent and the string's a trifle shrunk but, for the most part, I'm fit as a fiddle.  
I've still got a lot of livin' to do. And I intend to pack as much livin' as possible into the next twelve months before the big 60 rolls around.  
You're right, there's something about age sixty that's kind of scary.  
It's that time in life when many folks retire; put their feet up.  
Some even collect the Pension; join the Silver Jubilee Club; spend winters in Florida; get monthly check-ups and sleep. Yes, sleep!  
To each his own.  
You're right, all these things will eventually come to pass, but I'm not about to sit back and count the days.  
I may run out of fingers and toes.  
My 'new lease on life' began with a memorable birthday party, Saturday. Would you believe? I even blew out all the candles on my cake; with one puff. The cards were beautiful.  
One had a picture of a turtle that read: "Slow and steady wins the race. Here's hoping you cross the finish line."  
Another showed a drawing of a dog and said: "Your ears are big, your nose is long, Happy Birthday, what went wrong?"  
Still another had a picture of an age-

old locomotive with the wording: "Happy Birthday, you must be running out of steam."  
Real uplifting stuff!  
But, the most priceless birthday gem was penned by wife Jean: "I found it under my pillow, (of all places).  
It reads:  
Time and tide have left their mark. A shorted ignition but still a spark. Sometimes a prime, sometimes a tow, I'll gladly wait, just take it slow  
The mind is willing, the body weak, The hair is thin, the bones they creak. The gums are there, the teeth are not, A once trim waist has gone to pot.  
Your dead in bed, there's no doubt. A victim of the chronic gout. Yet when the pesky siren sounds, You're out the door in giant bounds.  
Country music is your thing With Dolly and Hank the rafters ring Statler tapes play on and on Nothing else from dusk til dawn  
A workaholic that's for sure Summer vacations are no lure All-night vigils you still keep While all alone at home I sleep  
For all your failures, I confess Our family home is truly blessed From each of us at this joyous time, Happy Birthday, fifty-nine



### History on area curling being recorded

John Lunau, (left), and Bob Lawrie, both of Markham, are currently writing the history of curling for the Markham, Locust Hill, Stouffville, Unionville and Scarborough areas. They are also seeking old photos and minute books related to the sport. Anyone able to assist in this regard is asked to call 499-1404 or 294-4463. The trophy (above) was initiated back in 1899 by the Ontario Curling Association. A rink from Wexford was the last to win it. The cup's now display at the Unionville Curling Club.  
— Jim Thomas

### Editor's Mail

## Celebrate

Dear Editor:  
Several people have told me they aren't yet aware of what's happening with regard to Claremont's Sesquicentennial Celebrations, (150 years).  
A number of meetings have been held and many activities are planned. However, there are opportunities for additional participation.  
Throughout the year, any organization can arrange its own event. But during the weekend of June 10, 11 and 12, we need YOU.  
On the Saturday morning, (June 11), a parade is planned, also a pancake breakfast.  
Fund-raising booths can be set up in the Park. Sales of sandwiches, hot dogs, pie, (by the piece); hamburgers, home-baking, plants, books and crafts are being encouraged.  
A tour of homes is proposed along with antique displays, ball games, a bingo, teen and adult dances, a beer garden, home decoration contest, a beef supper and a sesquicentennial church service.  
Please get involved. None of us will live to see another 150 years. Sesquicentennial costumes would be appropriate.  
Invitations are being sent out to former Claremont residents. Names and addresses would be appreciated. Please call Rene Rennie, (649-2312), or Jean Drake, (649-2309).  
Those wishing to participate in other ways are asked to call Lauri Roy, (649-2296), or George Johnson, (649-3468).  
Sincerely,  
Rene Rennie  
Claremont