

Editor's Mail

Weary

Dear Editor:
While many people may be sympathetic to problems being experienced by residents of Westfield Estates, I for one am growing a trifle weary of all their belly-aching. They may indeed have a beef with the developer, but it seems to me they're coming down unbearably hard on Council.
In my opinion, the Town owes these folks absolutely nothing. The home-owners were allowed into their residences prematurely because Council was sympathetic to their plight. The subdivision has never been assumed by the municipality and won't be until the developer lives up to his obligations.
If these people were unaware of the 'strings attached' to occupancy of homes, then they should be hauling their lawyers up on the carpet, not the politicians.
It seems to me the time has come to tell the Town's side of this story. The squeaking wheel may indeed get the grease but all they give me is a pain in the neck.

Sincerely,
Geoffrey Hogan,
Booth Drive,
Stouffville

Amazed

Dear Editor:
Being a newcomer to Stouffville, the Ice Revue last week was a first opportunity to see this kind of show done locally.
I was amazed. From the first number to the last, it was a thoroughly entertaining and exciting experience.
I couldn't believe skaters so young could perform so well. It all goes to help make MY town the greatest!

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Gloria Coombs,
Geoffrey Crescent,
Stouffville



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ROAMING AROUND

Leeks mello with age

BY JIM THOMAS



I'm a slave to habit. What I eat, when I sleep, what I wear, even my hair — nothing changes. Kind of boring eh? Sure, I can be flexible, if forced. However, for the most part, I carry on doing today what I did yesterday and the day before.
Why change a good thing? I ask. A good thing? Sometimes I wonder. Take my eating habits for example. If I was a bachelor, living alone, I'd have bran flakes three times a day with oatmeal porridge for a midnight snack. For dessert, I'd alternate between oranges and apples.
Fish I'd reserve for Fridays. Pretty simple fare.
Thank heaven, (the kids say), someone else is doing the cooking, otherwise they'd have oat stocks sticking out their ears.
My excuse, of course, is speed. Bran flakes and porridge are quick to prepare. I can consume both on the run, and often do, when Jean isn't home. When she is, I never know quite what to expect, although, for the most part, she seldom departs from the 'straight and narrow' either.
Friday was different. She sprang something on us entirely new; new to eat but not new to see. I never believed I'd do both. They're called 'leeks'.
I remember leeks as a kid. They grew in the wild.
About the only times I ever came face to face with 'crops' of leeks was after Arbor Day. Our school, (all 14 of us), would troop over to Hoover's bush on Markham's Ninth Line. During this annual nature walk in the woods, one of the boys would invariably point out this single patch of leeks.
"They're good to eat," I remember him saying. But I always thought he was

bluffing. For they smelled terrible, like a skunk, as I recall.
"You'd have to be awful hungry," I remember thinking.
Little did I know, fifty years later, I'd come face to face with leeks in the centre of our dining room table. Oh the memories.
It was good friend Alex Davidson who conjured up the course. He too had come across a patch in the bush. But rather than give them a wide berth as I did as a kid, he picked an ample sample and sent them over for supper.
Jean was baffled. She wasn't quite sure how they should be served — fried, stewed, boiled, scrambled or raw (to the rabbits).
Not one to waste anything, she turned to her 'Good Housekeeping Illustrated Cookbook' and there, sure enough on Page 287 under the chapter entitled 'Vegetables' was the recipe.
Preparation, (even for me), seemed simple. It said: "Cook in saucepan over medium heat in one inch of boiling, salted water. Heat leeks to boiling, then reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 10 to 15 minutes or until tender. Drain."
The recipe suggested they could be eaten raw or finely shredded in salads. There was no mention of including nose pegs with each serving.
Unfortunately, I made the mistake of telling the kids my reminiscences of leeks as a boy. They all moved back from the table several inches, anticipating the worst.
Strangely enough, there was no odor at all, no more than with spinach, asparagus or broccoli.
"I was sure I smelled something when Mr. Davidson came to the door," Jean responded with surprise.
"Whatever it was, you left it in the pot," I said, admitting to how good they

tasted — and smelled.
A portion of the credit goes to the cook. Rather than serve the leeks raw, she immersed them in a bowl of butter sauce, adding a 'pinch' of salt and pepper for taste.
U-mmm good!
While the kids sat back in open-mouthed amazement, I consumed my share and their shares too. They couldn't believe it.
"But you said they smelled like a skunk," commented son Neil as the last shred of evidence was gleaned from the bowl.
"That was fifty years ago," I replied, "leeks have changed and so have I."
And how; so much so, I hope to transplant a few shoots from the Davidson bush to the Thomas garden.
In all fairness, however, I think the neighbors should be forewarned. A strong east wind could change that Monday morning wash from Rinso white to leeky-green.

Editorials

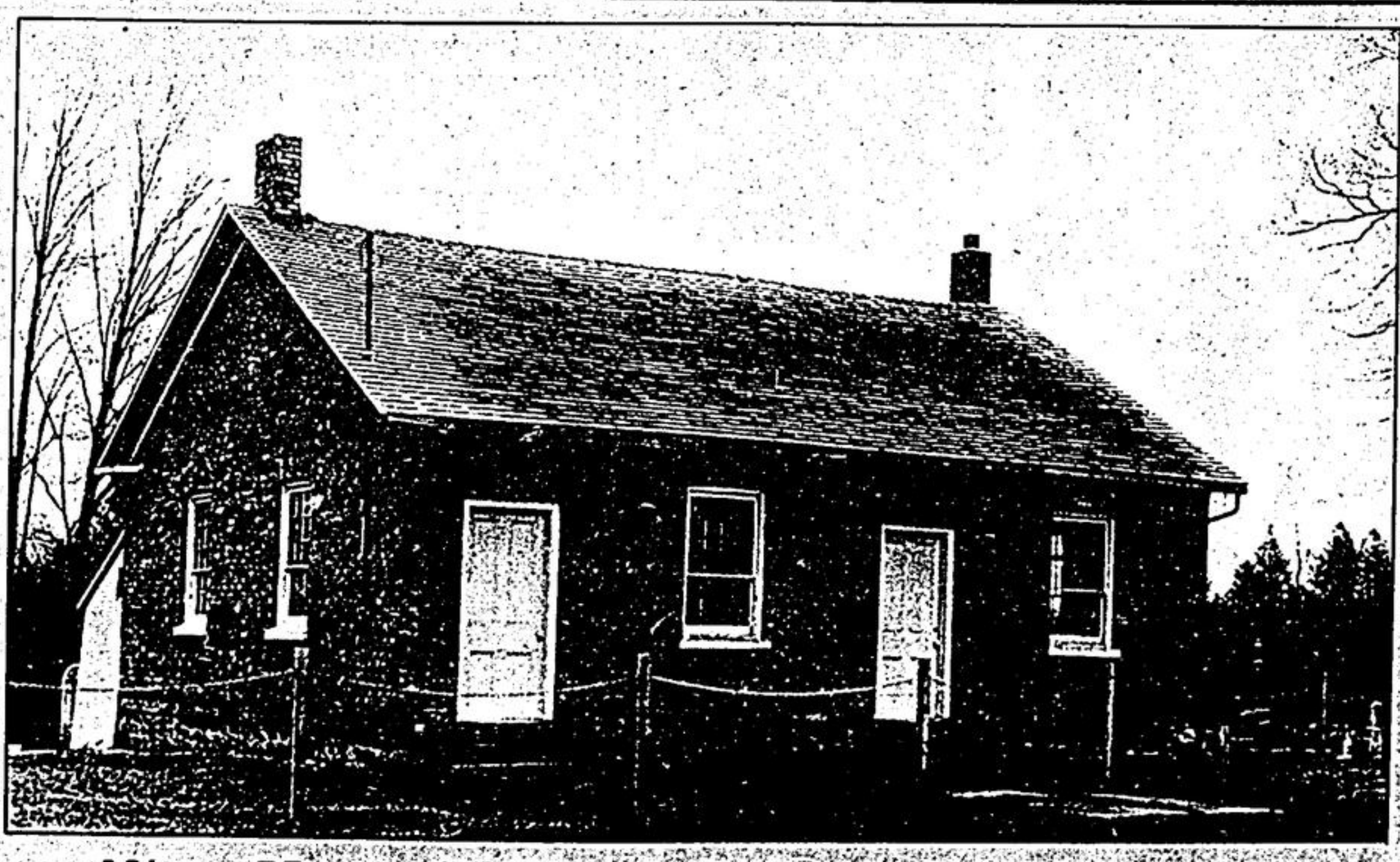
Cite traffic problems

Stouffville's Main Street's congested on Saturdays.
We didn't need a multi-thousand dollar Traffic Study to tell us that. It's something we've known for years.
We're also aware of the cause. We're personally pleased there is a cause — an attraction of such magnitude, (the Sales Barn), that prompts people to come to Town.
It's the cure Council's looking for. The Report, to its credit, contains several important recommendations, a number of which are not surprising. Some are. We agree with most.
The following should be high on the Town's priority list.
Removal of the pedestrian cross-over light in the downtown core and installation of automatic traffic signals at the intersection of Main, Market and Mill Streets.
Installation of automatic traffic signals at the intersection of Main West and Winona Drive plus a raised median.
A right-turn lane for northbound traffic and a left-turn lane for southbound traffic at the entrance to the Sales Barn.
Construction, (when build-up permits), of two new east-west roads running parallel to Main Street.
Installation of a left-turn signal at the intersection of Main Street West and Ninth Line North.
Elimination of the jog linking Stouffer Street North with Stouffer Street South.
Surprising to us is the description of street lighting in Stouffville as "general-

ly satisfactory". We feel it's "generally unsatisfactory."
The Report should have presented a stronger recommendation with regard to the future of Civic Street. In our opinion, vehicular traffic should be banned in this area completely. Neither should cars nor trucks be permitted in the narrow entrance-exit 'laneway' between Scotia Bank and The Bank of Commerce.
These minor criticisms aside, we consider the Study well detailed and easily understood.
The firm takes into account the cost of certain recommendations, obviously appreciating the fact long-range planning and financing are involved.
The Town, undoubtedly appreciates this fact as well.
It's our understanding, Council has already reacted to several suggestions and will continue to implement the Report's proposals in the months and years ahead.

Excellent

A great, great show!
We echo comments overheard from spectators attending Ice Revue '88 at the Town Rec. Centre last week.
Supporting Editor's Mail would seem to back these up.
It was truly an excellent production, one that gave all skaters an opportunity to participate and display their skills.
The presence of guest stars Gia Guddat and Gary Beacom putting icing on the cake.
To producer-director Agnes and Julia Faggiani; assistant producer Jan Percy and all others associated with this alternate-year event, our congratulations.
You did your Club and our community proud.



Altona Mennonite Church designated an historic site
The Altona Mennonite Church, Sideline 30, Town of Pickering, has been designated an historic site under the Ontario Heritage Act. A commemorative plaque has been erected on the property. The church, built in 1852, was closed in 1974. The first grave is that of Elizabeth Stouffer, wife of pioneer Abraham Stouffer of Stouffville. It is dated 1835.
—Jim Thomas

Editor's Mail

Question

Hardly a week goes by that I don't read an article in The Tribune with regard to the 'unhappy' state of affairs within the subdivision of Westfield Estates.
Not being all that close to the situation there are many things I, (and undoubtedly others), don't understand.
I pose only this one question. If problems are related mainly to landscaping, why don't the homeowners complete improvements themselves?
Surely to goodness, if a family can afford a \$200,000 home, they can also afford a few dollars for top soil, fertilizer and grass seed!
Problems like these become chronic. It's safe to say, two years from now, owners will still be complaining about being shortchanged by the developer.
In my opinion, these folks should stand back, take a look at their properties and thank God they purchased them when they did. Green grass not withstanding, they don't know how lucky they are.
Gordon Nealey,
Albert Street,
Stouffville

Great!

Through The Tribune to the Stouffville Figure Skating Club, I wish to say how much I enjoyed Ice Revue '88 Saturday night.
There wasn't a flat part in the entire show. The soloists were super; so also were their costumes.
The spotlighting was also superb, a real professional job.
While I dislike singling people out, I must mention the ability of guest star Gary Beacom. His performance alone was worth the price of admission. I've never seen his equal anywhere.
Thanks, skaters for a really great evening.
(Mrs.) Theresa O'Sullivan,
Lori Avenue,
Stouffville