

Editor's Mail No win

Re Busing Urged For Arts Students at Unionville High

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Arts York Advisory Committee, I see Harry Bowes' idea of accommodating French Immersion High School students and Unionville High Arts York students on the same bus as a positive step towards a future solution to the Stouffville Unionville Arts York students' transportation problems.

While the Arts York program is open to every student in York Region, the majority are from the Markham, Unionville, Thornhill areas. It's for this reason, the Arts York Advisory Committee asked the board to consider some form of busing.

With some transportation alternatives, students like the two from the Sutton-Keswick area, might not have to call it quits after a year-and-a-half at U.H.S.

The reality of the situation is that currently only students with certain geographic and economic advantages can participate in the Arts York program.

While the board makes decisions in principle to offer programs to the entire Region, they neglect the support systems that have to be in place to serve everyone.

It's a no-win situation. The Board of Education is continually underfunded; schools are overcrowded; costs appear out of control but special programs such as Arts York enrich the community. I would be sad to see them curtailed.

If ever we need compromise and creative thinking, it's now.

Margaret Brock,
Duchess Street,
Stouffville



"Would you be interested in a Free Trade?"

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Editorials

Credit to community

Keith Acton's a credit to our community.

Not just because he's a member of the Stanley Cup champion Edmonton Oilers. That's nice.

Not just because he scored two game-winning goals. That's nice too.

What's so great about the Keith Acton Story is the fact nothing's changed. He's still the 'kid from Burkholder Street' so many of us knew more than a decade ago.

Certainly, we admire his hockey skills and the all-out intensity he puts into every shift. There's no coasting with Keith, no 'dogging it' as coaches often say. He gives the game everything he's got; sometimes more. He's earned his climb to the pinnacle of success.

But apart from all this, the icing on the cake, so to speak, our admiration for Keith would be the same if he was still toiling for the North Stars in Minnesota. For it's the individual, not the individualist that counts, both on and off the ice.

A recent interview, published in the Toronto Sun, really hit home, not only with Stouffville supporters but hockey followers in general.

Keith wasn't playing at the time so, quite naturally, he was singled out for comment.

His response could have been derisive; down-grading the coach, the management and the team.

But what did he say? He described the Oilers as "a class organization."

Wow! That's what we call a response from "a class player."

Gradual growth

Politicians are playing with words at Whitchurch-Stouffville's expense.

With respect to growth, descriptives like 'explosive' and 'uncontrolled' are continually being banded about.

'Another Markham' is a comparison that's sure to attract attention. All are exaggerations.

Our Town wants none of these.

What we do want is 'controlled growth'; build-up that's gradual, not only residentially but industrially and commercially as well.

To describe Whitchurch-Stouffville's future growth plan as 'explosive' and 'uncontrolled' is a scare tactic that will surely influence people and win votes.

The opposite; stagnation, is equally scary. Let's take the middle road.

ROAMING AROUND Somebody's mother



BY JIM THOMAS

Recently, I had occasion to visit a nursing home, (not in this area), to see a close friend.

There were four other residents in the room. I was the only visitor.

Other than attendants, I saw no one anywhere.

Where is everyone? I wondered to myself.

That question was answered as I was leaving.

"So nice of you to drop by," a neatly attired nures' aid stated, stopping for a few seconds while making her rounds. "Some of our people have no callers at all."

She obviously detected a surprised look on my face. "Would you believe, Mrs. (---) hasn't had anyone in to see her since last Christmas? A daughter was here but only for a few minutes. She doesn't live far away either. Too busy, I guess. It's a shame."

Her descriptive was mild. "A disgrace" would have been more appropriate. And I told her so.

She gave me that "I don't understand it either" response and continued on her way.

In all honesty, I'm not the greatest volunteer visitor. I find it a difficult chore telling someone "I hope you'll be feeling better soon", when I know there's no hope. The patient probably knows it too. Such words seem so empty.

But at least it indicates someone cares, cares enough to call. Twenty-five years from now, (should I live so long), I trust someone will care enough to call on me.

If they don't, I'll try and understand,

just as Elsie struggles to try and understand why no one seems to care about her.

Elsie, now 78, has lived at Goodwood all her life, at least all my life. I first met her 30 years ago, when I covered a story related to dogs running at large.

Elsie must have had a dozen canines, some with tags but most without. Neighbors' complaints came to the attention of Council and the municipality took her to court.

Because the outcome was not in her favor, I fully expected I'd made an enemy for life. Quite the contrary. We've been friends ever since.

Elsie isn't one to waste words. If she dislikes something or someone, she says so. The opposite is also true. The word 'thank you' is very much a part of her vocabulary.

She said 'thanks' on Saturday. I agreed to place an advertisement in The Tribune for free.

Her request was a simple one, or so it seemed. She needed a place to live, and still does: Even a room, (without board), is as scarce as hens' teeth today.

I spotted Elsie standing outside our Office door. With the help of two canes, she'd made it that far. That was tough enough. Leaving, was tougher still.

Between times, she 'poured out her heart', a sad tale of being shunted about from pillar to post.

Right now, Elsie's home is the cab of her small pick-up truck. She sleeps there; often eats there. Most nights are

spent in the Goodwood Park.

"When it gets a little chilly, I turn on the heater," she explains.

Had the story come from a stranger, I might have shrugged it off as a hoax. But this was no exaggeration. Elsie looked me straight in the eye.

Thirty years ago, such tales were commonplace. But not today!

Elsie had news for me.

Stubborn, yes. She admits she could move to Sutton and live with her son and daughter-in-law. She might also gain acceptance in subsidized seniors' housing. But she doesn't want this. She's anxious to remain in Goodwood; even Stouffville, but not Sutton.

"The truth is," says Elsie, "I'll be glad when I die. At least then, I'll be at peace."

Such is the load on a community's conscience.

WANTED — a room in the Stouffville-Goodwood area. Phone 640-2249.

Please help!

Editor's Mail Too harsh

In response to The Tribune's May 25 Page 1 story concerning Principal Peter Bright's ultimatum over beer at school dances, I wish to provide a different viewpoint.

Undoubtedly, as principal of SDSS, Mr. Bright has every power and authority to terminate a school function that gets out of hand.

It is beyond my comprehension, however, why he opted to deal with the situation on May 13 with such measures.

Due to the irresponsibility of a few students, (possibly more than five, one of whom was a non-student), Mr. Bright cancelled the dance for the entire student body.

I'm sure this was not the only alternative that a principal of a secondary school could have pursued in such a situation.

Mr. Bright himself has noted that the majority of students are "good kids interested only in a good time."

There are always those who will attempt to spoil an entertaining occasion for all, but the few students who were intoxicated, May 13, surely did not represent a threat to the majority who were acting in an orderly fashion.

If Mr. Bright feels most students are in agreement with his actions, (with regard to the cancellation of the dance), he has quite apparently lost contact with them.

It is also confusing why in your newspaper, he attempted to make the problem of drinking at dances seem that of a growing one. There have always been students who insist on entering dances under the influence as long as I've been attending Stouffville High. To imply that the problem is growing is an exaggeration of the truth.

If Mr. Bright wishes to assist Mayor Fran Sainsbury with the creation of teen activities in Whitchurch-Stouffville, I doubt the cancellation of school dances will be of assistance to her.

I cannot argue with Mr. Bright's course of action with regard to those caught drinking, but in future, I feel our principal should be held more accountable to the majority of responsible students.

Ron Ormson,
Grade 12, SDSS



A self-portrait created by Uxbridge student

Nineteen-year-old Emma Croft of R.R. 3, Stouffville, a Grade 13 student attending Uxbridge Secondary School, recently detailed her own self-portrait. The work of art took three weeks to complete. Following graduation, Emma hopes to enroll in the Ontario College of Art, Toronto.

—Jim Thomas