

# Sales barn twister brought out the worst

A little touch of urban America came to Stouffville Sales Barn in the wake of that mini twister that wreaked so much havoc there on

a recent Saturday. And when the dust had settled, it left many people wondering what ever happened to small town innocence.

The displays of human depravity that followed the storm's touching down were typical of what goes on in American cities

during times of urban crisis, when looting and a general callousness so often prevail. The whole thing left me shaking my head over how there are obviously some vendors and patrons at the Sales Barn who have a lot less class than the man who has worked so hard to portray an upright image for his weekend flea market through the years.

As the storm raged, an employee of the cheese shop on the market's east side noticed a man lying semi-conscious outside, the victim of a blow to the head with a flying steel pipe that had resulted in a severe gash.

Running to his aid, the young lady called to a vendor to pass her one of the shirts he was gathering up. His display, it seems, had been sent hither and yon by the elements.

The man ignored her, and continued his desperate efforts to minimize his own financial losses. The woman was shocked, her youthful innocence forever shattered by this incredible act of self interest in the time of another man's painful ordeal.

She yelled at the charlatan, "Give me the shirt!" The expletive was more than justifiable, given the man's misanthropy. She finally grabbed the garment, and went about the business of administering first



**FROM WHERE I LIVE**  
Bruce Stapley

aid to the casualty until help arrived.

I find it frightening to think there are people doing business so close to my home who feel so little compassion for their fellow man in his time of crisis that all they can concern themselves with is profit and loss in a market place setting. It sort of conjures up the image of Christ's anger upon seeing the money changers in the temple.

Another example of outlandish self serving opportunism involved the theft of the Stouffville Fire Department's oxygen machine, valued at around \$1,600. The apparatus was apparently left unattended, momentarily, by volunteer fire fighters who are obviously not used to contending with vultures at accident scenes. More innocence lost, I fear.

I can only hope this is not a sign of things to come for the 'friendliest town in Ontario'. This town has always been a place where you could leave your car,

and your front door, unlocked, night and day, without worrying that you might lose everything you have.

Stouffville has always rallied around those who are afflicted or in need. There has been a sensitivity to the plights of people in time of crisis.

And even though this nightmare at the Sales Barn could be written off as a few cases of inhumanity displayed by bozos from out of town, the fact that it still happened here in Stouffville.

Let's just hope its not a harbinger of things to come.

## No strain on hydro

Although a near capacity hydro drain was reported in Metro Toronto during the recent hot spell, nothing approaching an emergency situation occurred in Stouffville.

"Our capacity was sufficient to handle the load," Supt. Brian Carter told The Tribune.

While many air conditioners and fans were operating day and night in an effort to beat the 100 degree heat, Mr. Carter said the exact increase in hydro consumption wouldn't be known until next month.

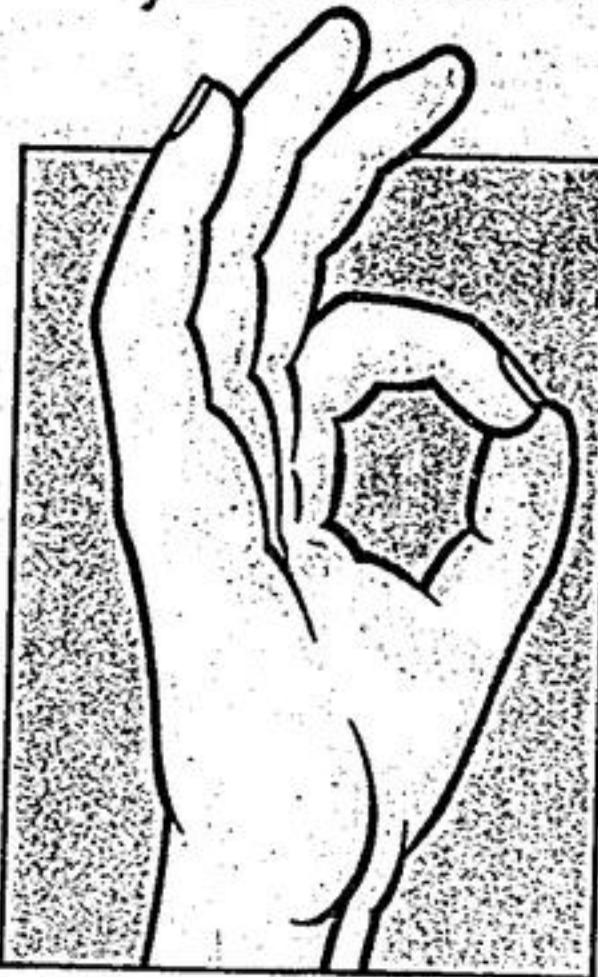
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