

Editor's Mail Privilege

Dear Editor:
As you are aware, Ontario's local government elections will be held Nov. 14.

Voter turnout in local government elections has traditionally been low. This year, because of the federal election Nov. 21, I'm concerned that the turnout for the local government elections may be even lower than usual.

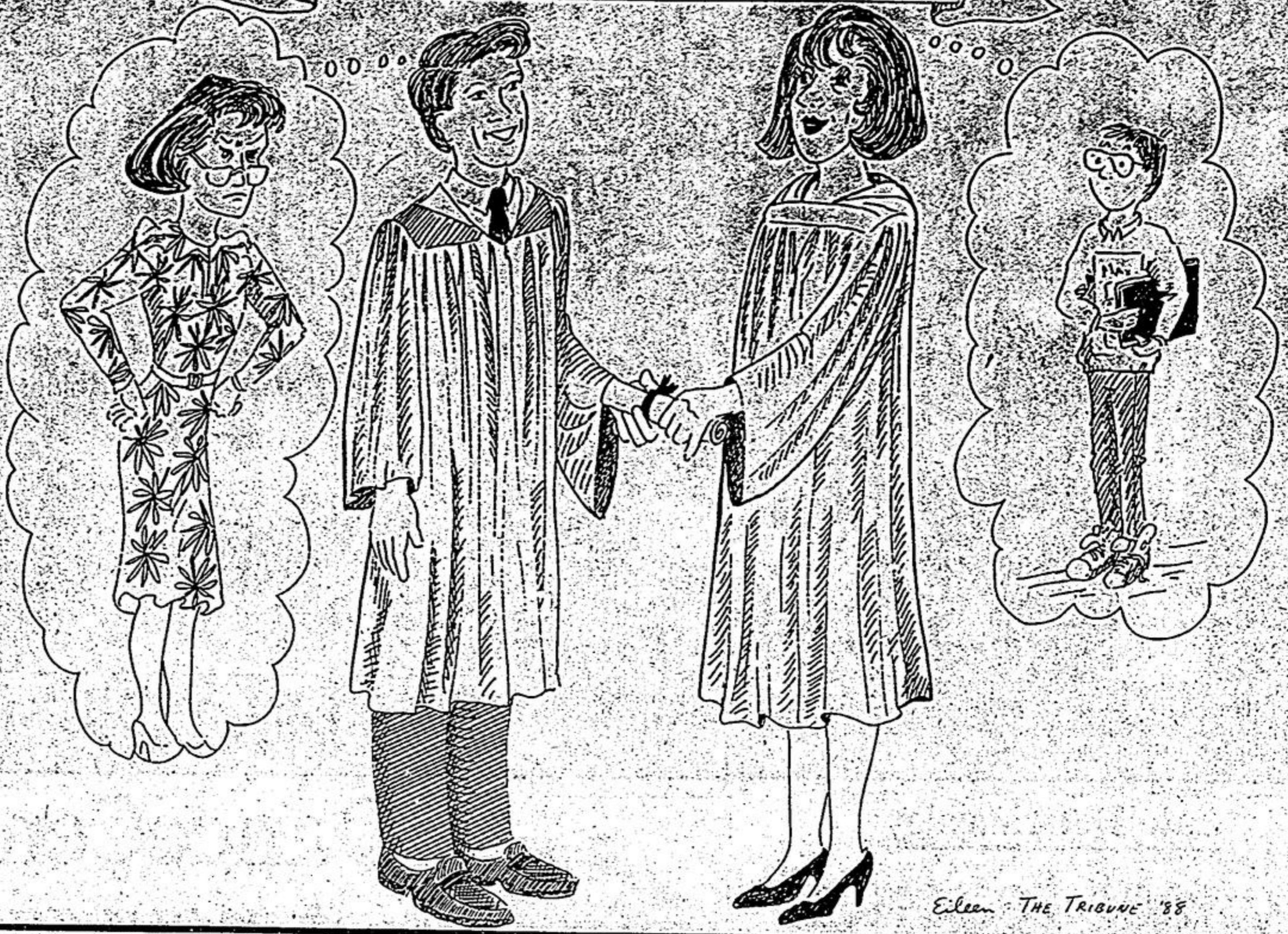
This would be unfortunate. Approximately 4,850 councillors and 2,100 school board trustees will be elected. They will spend about \$20 billion annually. The services they provide — education of our children, police and fire protection, municipal roads, social services, sewer and water services, garbage collection, directly affect the lives of everyone in Ontario.

I know you're already well into your local election coverage, and I applaud the work you've done so far. But The Tribune can play another important role by urging eligible voters to exercise their franchise.

I ask you to take every opportunity to point out that the future of Ontario's communities, (including Whitechurch-Stouffville), is too important to be decided by a small percentage of eligible voters.

Sincerely,
John Eakins,
Minister of Municipal Affairs,
M.P.P., Victoria-Haliburton
Queen's Park, Toronto

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ROAMING AROUND

It's best we forget

BY JIM THOMAS



On Sunday, I stood beside the cenotaph and among the row on row of crosses in the Stouffville Cemetery.

It's a beautifully maintained site, revering those who served and gave their lives in two world wars.

An additional cross honoring a veteran of the Korean conflict also holds a place of prominence there.

As I watched the laying of a single wreath, I couldn't help but wonder at the thoughts going through the minds of the small contingent of men standing so rigidly at attention.

Where were they when World War II ended?

Where was I?
During such times in history, people tend to remember exactly what they were doing and where. The event becomes firmly entrenched in one's mind.

I remember exactly where I was when news of the German invasion of Poland came through in 1939.

I also remember exactly where I was when news of Germany's surrender was radioed around the world in 1945.

The 43 years since, have not erased those memories. But I was only a kid in school, sixteen at the time. Think then, of the memories retained by those who served.

While figures are just that, just cold, hard statistics, it boggles my mind to read that seventeen million servicemen died during the second World War. That eighteen million civilians were killed.

Losses in human life during World War I and World War II exceeded sixty-one million. Staggering!

Little wonder the Peace Movement is so strong today.

The result of war we should never forget.

We can only hope and pray it never happens again.

While Adolf Hitler, the guy who started it all, will forever remain a devil in the minds of most Canadians, what of the others painted with the same condemning brush? Must the witch-hunt go on? The time has come to forgive and forget.

As a lad in my teens, I kept a scrapbook of photos and stories related to World War II. Every once in a (long) while, I haul it out. Prominent throughout this age-old rogues gallery are caricatures of Public Enemies No. 1, 2 and 3 — Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito.

Most are grotesque likenesses, the kind of pictures you'd use as targets for a dart board. Undoubtedly, many people did.

Thinking back, I wonder if German kids felt the same towards our heroes of that day — Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and Mackenzie King?

Perhaps their facial features were dart-board targets too.

War is strange. Each one thinks his side is right.

But should the loser continue to pay? This is what troubles me greatly for I can't help but question the deep-seated hate that still exists long after the guns have been silenced.

Will the witch-hunt end only after the aggressors have been annihilated by years? Or will their children and grandchildren be targeted too?

It's great to be a winner. Thanks to those who served, the Allied nations survived. But what if the tables had been turned? What if the Nazi forces had won. Would the same witch-hunt continue only with 'our guys' as culprits? Think about it.

I do, every time I hear the baying of

the bloodhounds and news that another war crimes' arrest is imminent.

War's a dirty game. Just ask the guys who 'played' it. Often, the 'supreme sacrifice' is paid by those far removed from the front lines.

Thirteen million civilians killed in World War I. Eighteen million killed in World War II.

Lest we forget. If revenge is the motive, the sooner we forget, the better.

Editor's Mail Fears

Dear Editor:
Rhetoric!
Statements divorced from the truth!

Charges and counter charges! All about the Free Trade Agreement. Other issues seem to be lost in the emotional utterances of the incumbent Ministers and other political candidates from all parties.

The 'pro dealers' frighten us with dire consequences of economic depression, etc., if the deal doesn't go through.

It is generally agreed that 80 percent of our trade today is with the USA and we're in pretty good shape at the moment.

So, why is it necessary for us to sign the Agreement when our economy is so strong? Why disrupt the status quo?

I believe one can justifiably ask: Is the Agreement really necessary? It has divided the country down the middle and stirred fears unless we do or do not sign.

Personally, I think it's a bad thing for us to tie ourselves to trade with almost exclusively one country. If there's a depression in the U.S., as could well happen in the years ahead, we go down too because we can't sell our goods in the United States.

Isn't it better to try and expand a percentage of trade to other countries, such as Europe, the Pacific rim and South America, so we don't have to rely entirely on the U.S. for our economic well-being?

In the United States, this proposed Trade Agreement had no trouble passing in a matter of a day because it would be very much to their advantage.

There doesn't seem to be the same enthusiasm for it on this side of the boarder. I wonder why?

Sincerely,
Adam Johnstone,
R.R. 1, Stouffville

Dear Editor:
Friends alienated — that's often the cost of speaking your mind, standing by your convictions and doing the job that must be done when representing people who have faith and trust in that person.

More power to that person.

In my opinion, we are fortunate to have such an individual in Fran Sainsbury, and others, who have this kind of courage, who are not afraid to stand up and be counted.

Who needs enemies with (alienated) friends like these?

Sincerely,
Claude Kerr,
William Street,
Stouffville

Editorials A personality choice

On Monday, Nov. 14, the electorate of Whitechurch-Stouffville goes to the polls to choose a new Council.

While three ward seats are up for grabs, much attention is focussed on the mayoralty where incumbent Fran Sainsbury is opposed by veteran Wil Morley and newcomer Crawford Thomson.

It's common in some communities for the local newspaper to publish a slate; to recommend who the people should support and why.

The Tribune has never adhered to this practice. And we don't intend to start now.

The choice is yours:

In our years of association with municipal politics we've never seen an electorate so confused. The two public meetings proved this. The forces pro and con were very subdued. Street-corner conversations say the same. Many, it would seem, won't make up their minds until election day, perhaps seconds before marking their 'X'.

Reasons for this are clear. Based on personal platforms, there's little to choose between Johan Aaltink and Nick Tatone; (Ward 3); Marie Adams and Doug Alles; (Ward 5); Don Bigioni and Jim Sanders; (Ward 6) and mayoralty candidates Wil Morley and Fran Sainsbury.

Crawford Thomson's lack of experience sets him apart.

Institution

We can't let it close. Seldom, if ever, has this newspaper published a plea on behalf of private enterprise. In the case of restaurants, service stations and stores, it's always been survival of the fittest. The best carry on. The second best drop by the wayside.

The DanceCentre, Main Street, Stouffville, is more than 'just a business'. It's an institution.

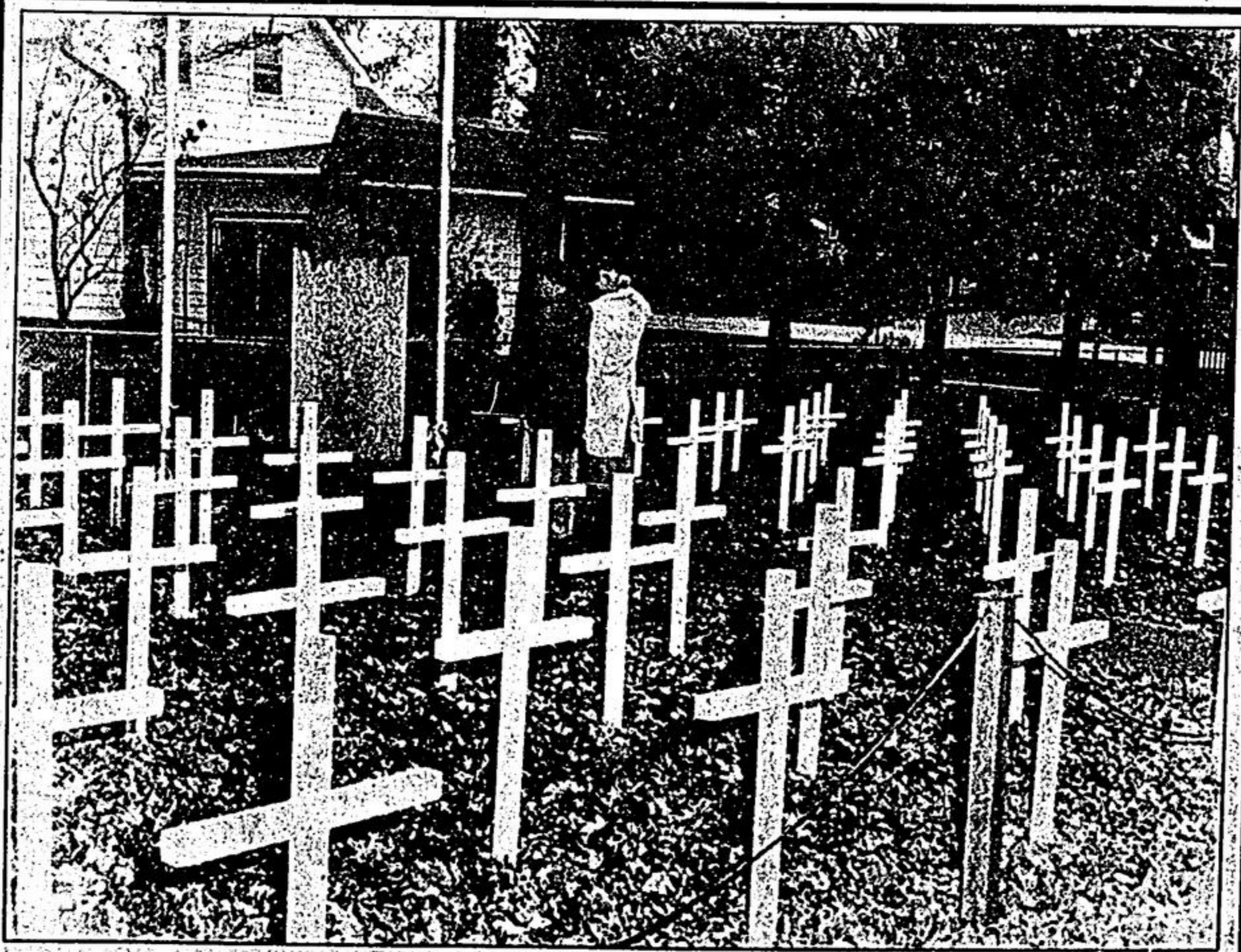
Three hundred children and 150 adults are enrolled.

The two-night recital held in June has become as much a part of this community as Music Mania and the Santa Claus Parade.

We can't let it close.

But the DanceCentre will close unless a new location is found. Both the present site and an anticipated new site have been leased.

On behalf of instructor Michele Green, The Tribune is requesting your help. If you know of a permanent place that can accommodate so large a membership, (at reasonable cost), call 640-6682. Mrs. Green, 300 boys and girls and their parents will be forever grateful.



For Town's war veterans—a time to remember

Members of Legion Branch 459 observed a moment of remembrance Sunday afternoon as wreaths were placed at the cenotaph in the Stouffville Cemetery. Later, a Remembrance Service was held at the Legion Hall.

—Jim Thomas