

# Disturbed

A letter dated Nov. 8, 1988, over the signature of Lesley Van Veen, R.R. 3, Newmarket, has been written to York-Durham MPP Bill Ballinger with a copy sent to The Tribune. Mrs. Van Veen is vice-president of the Ballantrae Parents' Association. It reads:

Dear Mr. Ballinger:  
As a member of the Ballantrae Parents' Association, I attended an information meeting, Nov. 4, 1988, regarding the loss of provincial funding to the York Region Board of Education.

The first disturbing point is that provincial funding isn't even meeting the basic cost to educate each student on an annual basis, known as the per pupil expenditure ceilings.

The next thing we heard was a quote from the Premier of the day (July 1985), stating that the provincial government would guarantee no loss of funding to the public school system when the separate school system funding was extended to the secondary level.

It appears the Liberal party is not to be believed as this level of funding has significantly decreased.

My understanding from what I heard is that municipal taxpayers are the ones left to shoulder the burden for the loss of funding. I don't believe we can continue to support this increased tax burden.

I believe the education of our young people should be our No. 1 priority. They are our future.

The reports recently released regarding university students who cannot read or write, are scary and must be addressed. However, if the funding from the province continues to decrease instead of increase, the problem can only get worse.



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ESTABLISHED 1888

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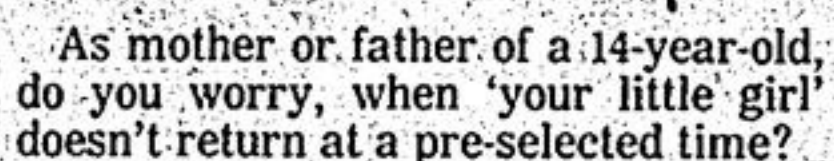
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## ROAMING AROUND

# Fears are well founded

BY JIM THOMAS



As mother or father of a 14-year-old, do you worry, when 'your little girl' doesn't return at a pre-selected time? You're expecting the phone to ring after a Friday night high school dance, but the call never comes. Is this a concern?

Her babysitting job is only two blocks down the street.

"No big deal," she says, "I can walk."

Does she? A morning goodbye, but no afternoon 'Hi'. Does this ever cross your mind? Sure it does. Me, too. Parents are chronic worriers. And for good reason. We hear so many terrible things, but always involving someone else's son or daughter.

Regardless, this doesn't lessen the concern, nor does age. Eight, ten, twelve, fourteen, sixteen years, what does it matter? They're ours.

Yes, the Christine Jessop case haunts Stouffville families every bit as much as those at Queensville. It could have happened here and, for all I know, very nearly did.

At least one similar. I get goosebumps thinking about it. The story, told to me by an eyewitness, follows: A girl, eleven or twelve, came running into the A&P Store at Stouffville's west end plaza. She was shaking with fright. She told of being followed. She provided a good description of the van. Georgina, the kindly lady on cash, could have ignored the complainant and gone about her business. But she didn't. She accompanied the girl to the

manager's office where her safety was assured. Then, she did some investigative work on her own, scanning the parking area for a vehicle meeting this description.

Sure enough, there it was. The driver was still circling the site, obviously waiting for his intended victim's return.

Georgina jotted down the license number. Police were called.

By the time officers arrived, the suspect had left. But he hadn't gone far. The truck was located on the Canadian Tire Store lot across the street.

The owner, a Toronto man, was subsequently questioned then released. There was insufficient evidence to lay a charge. It was one man's word against the accusing finger of a child. Police knew no judge would convict on such flimsy grounds. So a would-be child molester remains free, free to seek out some other innocent victim; maybe your daughter or mine.

It's scary. As much as I appreciate the benefits of living thirty minutes from Toronto, the city's seamy side is too close for comfort, and getting closer.

There are a lot of weirdos out there. Because of this, I'm a strong supporter of organizations like Neighborhood Watch and Block Parents. Each serves a purpose.

I would also praise people like Georgina, quick to offer assistance in times of trouble.

In a caring community, we are indeed our brothers' keeper. But parents can't live in constant fear. That would be no life at all. But we can take precautions.

Just remember, kids are easy prey. Warnings often go unheeded. To err is human. I've erred many times and been lucky. This latest incident has pricked my conscience. I pass it on for what it's worth — maybe someone's life.

### Editor's Mail

## Missed

Dear Editor:  
It seems strange to walk downtown and not meet or see Carl Watson on the street.

He was indeed an 'institution' in Stouffville.

If Mr. Watson had many friends, as the pastor said at his funeral, I'd like to know who they were and where they were.

It's true, he had several very close friends, but others only 'endured' him. He felt their critical looks and caustic comments very keenly.

I hope their treatment of Carl weighs heavily on each conscience.

Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Beulah Taylor,  
Main Street East,  
Stouffville

# Editorials

## Keep mates in line

Crystal ball-gazing invariably follows a municipal election. What does the future hold for Whitchurch-Stouffville?

We feel the month of December will chart Council's course for the three years ahead. And it will be up to Mayor Sainsbury to establish just who's captain of the ship. Otherwise, mutiny on the bounty will result.

Ward 3's Nick Tatone will be the hardest to handle. Why? Because he has the most to prove.

He's proof that a resident outside the ward can win.

He'll represent an area (Preston Lake), with deep-seated problems.

He was by far the most vociferous at the two all-candidates meetings.

He made no bones about the fact he's after the mayor's job, three, maybe six years down the road.

Time will tell if the roar becomes a squeak.

Margot Marshall is solidly entrenched in Ward 1. She continues to gain strength with experience and will undoubtedly show increased confidence with her acclamation.

Doug Alles will be Mayor Sainsbury's closest ally. If political persuasion at a higher level means anything, the two will remain compatible. Intentionally or otherwise, this mutual admiration society should continue.

Ron Robb (Ward 2), Wayne Emmerston (Ward 4) and Jim Sanders (Ward 6), will each pull his own weight without rocking the boat.

In other words, Nick Tatone's the man to watch.

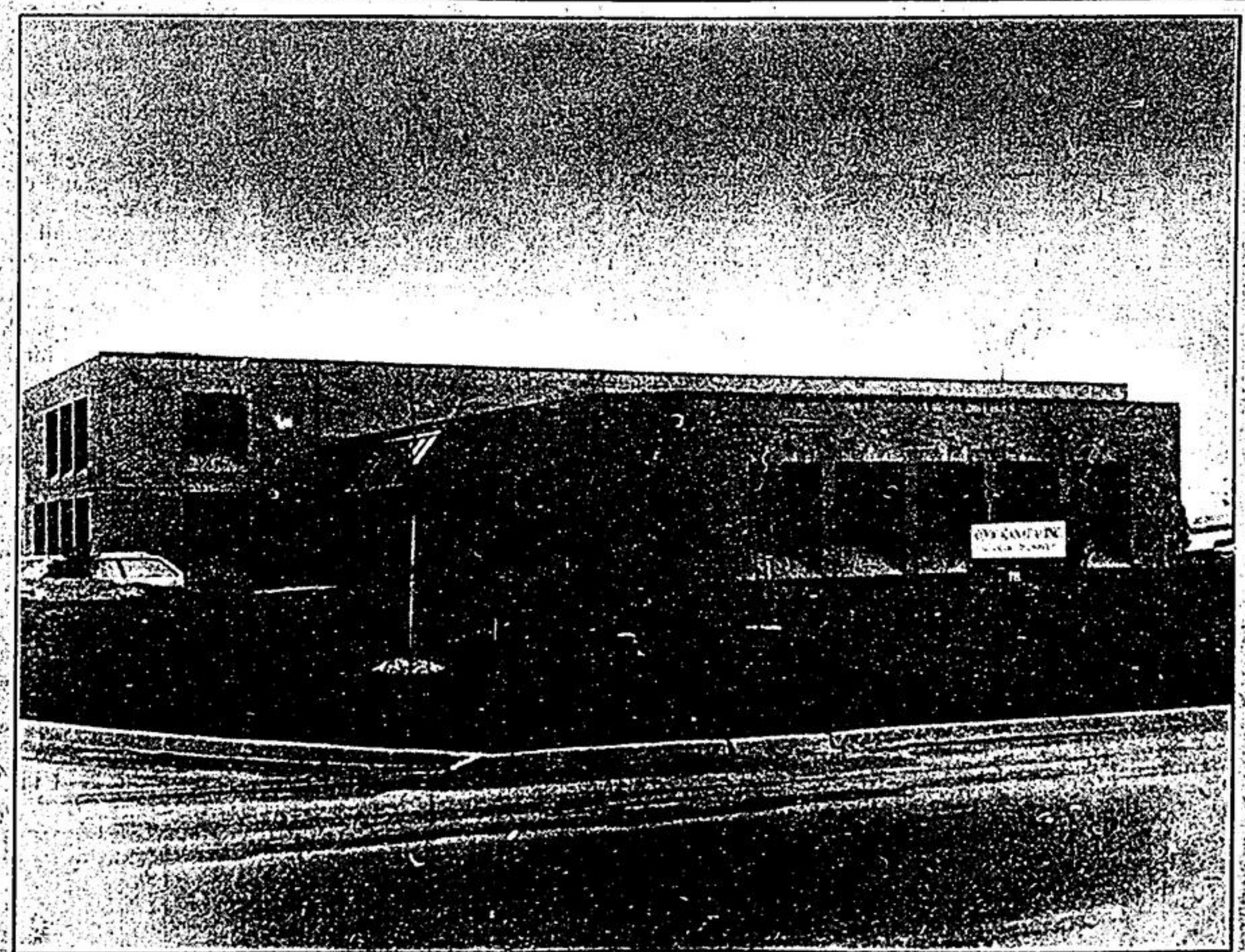
What does the future hold for Mayorality candidate Will Morley? Only time will tell. It goes without saying, he'll be missed. Mayor Sainsbury would be the first to admit

this. She knew and appreciated his strengths.

We hope he'll come back three years hence.

As for Mrs. Sainsbury, we see a higher calling. She shouldn't be satisfied with the mayoralty of Whitchurch-Stouffville. Unless the roof falls in, she'll have earned a promotion to a position with the province. If the opportunity arises, we trust she'll go for it. No one's more capable or deserving.

Before crossing this bridge, however, let's hope she solves Stouffville's current sewage disposal dilemma. This alone would be a feather in Council's cap.



**Handsome new plant begins business in Stouffville**

Stouffville rolled out the welcome mat this week to the management and staff of Cook (Canada) Inc. as they begin their operation at a new site on Sandiford Drive. The firm specializes in medical products with distribution points all across Canada. An official opening is planned for Friday, Dec. 9.

### Editor's Mail

## All lost

Dear Editor:  
I'm requesting space in your paper to comment on the result of the municipal election (Whitchurch-Stouffville), Nov. 14.

Admittedly, Mayor Fran Sainsbury is a tough political adversary. It would take an extremely well-organized and strong person to beat her. Be this as it may, when one makes the decision to enter a race, he/she should enter to win. I honestly don't believe Will Morley did this. I thought his campaign lacked drive and organization, not on his helpers' part but on his own.

I couldn't help but think if he didn't have the time to garner support, how would he have time to do the job.

Except for his two appearances at all-candidates meetings, I never saw him once.

On the platform, he appeared very capable. (I was impressed), but on the hustings, he maintained an extremely low profile.

From what I saw, I was prepared to give him my vote. From what I didn't see, I changed my mind.

If Mr. Morley wasn't prepared to put his all into the campaign, he should have remained where he was. As a result, he lost and so did the Town.

Sincerely,  
Robert (Bob) Cane,  
R.R. 1, Gormley