

Editor's Mail

It's sad

Dear Editor:
It's sad to see so many of our good farms (and farmers) disappearing from York and Durham Regions.
It was only a matter of time. Rural property is worth more as real estate than in producing oats and barley.
Doubtless many farmers had to do a great deal of soul-searching before reaching a decision, especially those with sons in their families who could eventually take over the operation.
There's a point, however, when dollars make commonsense. While I personally regret this trend, I'm pleased to see our local country cousins with a few extra bucks jingling in their jeans. They've earned it.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Freda Crane,
R.R. 3, Stouffville

No time

Dear Editor:
The municipal election in Whitchurch-Stouffville is now history. The result was not surprising. What was surprising was the fact close to 60 percent of the electorate didn't care enough to vote.
If I was a councillor and someone appeared to vent a complaint, I'd ask him or her to swear on a Bible that he/she cast a ballot. Only then, would I listen to what he/she had to say.
Many of those who do the bellyaching are the same ones who don't vote. I have no time for this type of person.

Sincerely,
Peter Allison,
R.R. 2, Stouffville



Eileen, THE TRIBUNE '88

The Tribune

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—ROAMING AROUND—

Oh what a party!

—BY JIM THOMAS—



Several years ago, there was a song, popular on the country and western hit parade that told about a housewife, anxious to kick up her heels on a Friday night after a week of washing, ironing, sewing and cooking.

Alas, hubby arrived home in a state of shock following five hard days at the office. He wanted only to put his feet up, glance at the newspaper and watch TV. He was in no mood for tripping the light fantastic, taking in a movie or meandering through a mall. A little peace and quiet was all he asked.

Naturally, little wife was dumbfounded and disappointed; to the point of jumping in the family car and taking off on her own.

"And I don't blame her," scream hundreds of misunderstood Stouffville moms, plagued by those same Friday night blues.

The situation's a difficult one. No one knows this better than I.

It was last Saturday rather than Friday, but everything else was the same. After three hours of following a flighty Santa — from the Parade, to the Library, to Canadian Tire, I was beat; I mean really beat, to the point of complete exhaustion.

When I crossed over the threshold at precisely 20 minutes past six, Jean was already ready.

The occasion was The Tribune — Economist & Sun staff Christmas party at Meadowbrook Golf and Country Club, Warden Avenue.

"Oh come on," she called out from the boudoir, "you'll feel better once you get there."

"Not very likely," I replied, collaps-

ing in front of the TV to watch King and Queen Kong engage in a fertility romp through the African underbrush.

"It wasn't until fifteen minutes before the party was about to begin that I mustered sufficient energy to don my dancing shoes and suit. But my heart wasn't in it. Neither were my feet. Both were dog-tired.

"This'll be a night we'll live to regret," I prophesied as we headed west past Ringwood.

Everyone who knows me well, including my wife, appreciates the fact I'm not a social bug; anything but. A drink for me is a hot chocolate at Peter's Restaurant, Main Street West and a night on the town is a trip through the drive-in at Markham's McDonald's.

That's as far as I want to go. Don't ask me why. That's just the way I am. Too many years down on the farm, I guess.

The evening was just 'warming up' when we arrived. Although fifteen minutes late, Publisher Pat was still making the rounds, shaking hands with employees and guests alike. A Merry Christmas atmosphere prevailed.

In passing, I wish to compliment Meadowbrook proprietors and staff on the beauty of their new-look facility and the excellence of their service. Company presidents, who haven't yet finalized pre-Christmas party plans, would be well advised to check this place out. You won't be disappointed. We certainly weren't.

All went well.

Okay, so I spilled a spoonful of horse radish down my tie and my feet got all tangled up in a 'Rock Around, The Clock'. So what? Everything else was

perfect.

Would you believe, in the select-a-gift draw, I picked a Konica EFP 3 camera with automatic focus and flash? Almost too good to be true! And Jean was the lucky recipient of a \$70 ladieswear voucher from Marbles of Markham. Wow!

At long last, she'll have that frilly lingerie she's always wanted. And I can take her picture!

While no Arthur Murray on the dance floor, Jean and I 'tripped' the light fantastic til almost midnight. My apologies to Kate, Arlene and Sue for skinned shins and bruised toes.

They suffered through the ordeal without complaint.

Even said they enjoyed it.

I sure did, best evening out in weeks.

And to think, I almost elected to stay home and watch King Kong. As for dancing the light fantastic with Queen Kong, the bruises would have been on my toes, not hers. Besides, she's not my type — too hairy.

Editor's Mail

Teachers 'turned off'

Dear Editor:
York Region Board of Education is abandoning its Early Teacher Retirement Program, according to The Tribune issue of Nov. 30.

For good reason, I would suggest. There's apparently a shortage of teachers.

If this is so, and it was news to me, why should this have come about?

I would suggest the Ministry of Education and the media too, are to blame.

For several years now, there have been more teacher graduates than positions. Many aspirants to the profession were 'turned off', even gave up. It was extremely discouraging that, after eighteen years of book-learning, a dream could not be realized.

Now, it seems, the wheel of fortune, (or misfortune) has turned full circle. Teachers are now in demand.

I feel the Ministry should employ preventative measures so such a nightmare should not recur. Surely, the bureaucracy of education has sufficient insight into supply and demand to know what the requirements will be five years down the road.

Two years ago, teachers were begging for jobs. Now, the jobs are begging for teachers. The inconsistency of the profession is appalling.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Hopkins,
R.R. 1, Gormley

Editorials
An excellent program

The benefits of instrumental music programs at both the elementary and secondary levels of education cannot be over-emphasized.

Admittedly, the cost is great. But so are the advantages. At Stouffville, Markham, Pickering and Uxbridge, the careers of many graduates have been channelled in a single direction due to high-profile music instruction.

Not that other courses aren't equally influential. They are. We draw attention to this fact only after attending Winter Concert '88, hosted by the Grade 9 and Sr. Bands of SDSS at Markham Theatre, Thursday.

It was an exciting experience.

We wish to commend instructors Peter Samuelson and Douglas Walker on the high degree of perfection expected and obtained from band enrollees.

Unfortunately, for Stouffville High, Mr. Walker is leaving to accept yet another challenge at a new school in Vaughan next September. His influence, however, will not soon be forgotten at SDSS.

We're certain both Mr. Samuelson and Mr. Walker will admit their tasks are made easier due to excellent instrumental programs at the elementary

level. Few, if any band members come in 'green' as once was the case. Some, as early as Grade 10, have graduated to the senior level of instrumental proficiency.

Apart from the subject itself, there's another ingredient to band participation we feel is important. The association or fellowship promoted through a single interest is gratifying, both to young people and their parents. It's a kind of fraternity-sorority relationship that often continues through graduation; sometimes beyond.

When it comes instrumental music at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, we like what we hear and also what we see. May the Board of Education continue to give this course of study the top priority rating it deserves.

Next Year!

Stouffville's Festival of Bells is growing.

Friday evening's event attracted the largest crowd to date. And the singing program was excellent, both the Summitview School choir and the chorus from Music Mania.

There are several planning loopholes that need to be filled.

The Civic Square must be better lit. This part of the project should be the responsibility of the Town, not for a single night but for the entire Christmas season.

The lighted tree should also be relocated in the centre of the Square, not facing the street. Few could see it.

For this one night, Stouffville's downtown should be blocked off to vehicular traffic. If it's possible for the Parade, it's also possible for the Festival. Other towns do it, why not ours?

We predict bigger and better things next year.



'Beanie' climbs aboard Town's new recycling truck

Recycling is a fact of life in Whitchurch-Stouffville. The pick-up program commenced Dec. 1. Its sponsors and promoters are confident of success. One of these is Don 'Beanie' Lehman, Boyer Street, Stouffville. 'Beanie' is a former waste disposal contractor in the village preceding the Spademan firm and now The Miller company. A Little League Theatre play entitled 'Rip Van Beanie' was produced and performed in his honor. —Jim Thomas