

Editor's Mail Disagree

Dear Editor:
I vehemently disagree with The Tribune's editorial of Feb. 1 re the welcome mat is out in Stouffville for an airport in Pickering.
Be that as it may, the fact your newspaper gave over a page of space for individuals to air their views is commendable.
The result of that, I believe, speaks for itself — one in favor and five against!
Admittedly, the POP organization's voice does have a hollow ring. However, how many different ways can a group say the same thing?
Gordon Cosgrove,
R.R. 2, Claremont

Housing

With respect to revival of the Pickering Airport issue, I feel the time is right for the government to act, but not in the building of an airport.
What a marvellous opportunity to establish a government-subsidized low-rental housing community. The need is urgent, just as urgent as a second airport: perhaps more so.
Both Ottawa and Queen's Park own thousands of acres north and south of Hwy. 7. Either properties could be used for this purpose. I would suggest, however, that if such a venture is to be undertaken properly, it should be done by private enterprise. Otherwise, the initial cost and the subsequent rental rate would be prohibitive.
Fred Leggatt,
Claremont



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—ROAMING AROUND— Spelling is important BY JIM THOMAS

Spelling!
It's an ongoing problem within our education system.
Was it always so? Or is it a recent infectious deficiency brought on by an immune deficiency in the elementary curriculum?
Educators, at least most educators, admit there's just cause for concern. And I honestly believe they're trying to do something about it. Just what, at this point in time, isn't absolutely clear. Perhaps someone, in the hierarchy of the Ministry of Education will clue me in on what steps are being taken to correct this sorry situation.
But was it ever thus?
Sometimes, we tend to look with jaundiced eyes on current educational shortcomings, forgetting how things weren't all that rosy back in mom and dad's day.
In Grade 8, (Senior Fourth), I considered myself a better than average speller. But how was I to know? There was only one other kid in the class. Hardly a fair assumption.
Through high school, however, nothing changed. I coped with compositions and essays without difficulty. Or so I thought. However, either my English teachers didn't know how to spell, or I selected words of limited challenge, but a rude shock occurred on entering business college.
The very first aptitude test was spelling. No, I didn't fail, but my mark fell far short of a free-pass course requirement.
What a jolt!

Thirteen years of cruising along and suddenly, wham, a dead-end street. It brought me up short.
Some will honestly say I haven't yet learned my lesson all that well. They'll point to errors on Pages 1, 3, 4, 7, and 10, indicating I'm in no position to criticize the new crop of grads about to blossom forth into a work-a-day world. And maybe they're right.
However, for an education system that's supposedly kept pace with the times, in this one area, I feel it's been marking time; maybe even slipped a notch or two.
Some hard and fast guidelines are required.
I say this, holding to the opinion the learning process is fragmented by would-be 'specialists' who feel their way's the right way — and the only way!
This leaves teachers, (and parents), totally confused.
The most brazen example of this occurred one evening at Orchard Park School, (Stouffville), four years ago.
This 'learned' lady had the audacity to thumb her nose at spelling. She suggested 'understanding' was of primary importance. Anything less, she said, and a child might be afraid to 'experiment'; he or she would look for an easier way to say the same thing.
For example, if the student spelled phone, f-o-n-e; that was fine, as long as the child knew what it meant. The same would hold true, I presume, for beautiful, (b-u-t-i-f-u-l) or guitar, (g-i-t-a-r), or photo, (f-o-t-o) and so on.

By the time the speaker was half-way through her presentation, I walked out, unwilling to be brainwashed into thinking that maybe, just maybe, she was right.
Four years later, I'm saying she was all wrong and part of the cause of our current spelling problems.
Hopefully, no teachers on the Orchard Park staff took what she was saying seriously.
I sure didn't.
But there's a brighter side.
There are instructors within the system who still hold to the belief that spelling IS important.
How do I know?
On Friday, daughter Mary-Lynn proudly showed me her Grade 9 January test paper in Health.
Across the top, her teacher had written 'Excellent!' Her mark was 48 out of 50.
But something else was added. It said: 'Watch your spelling!'
Circled were the words — physically, mentally and poisons. Because of these errors, three additional marks were removed giving her a 45 out of 50. But get this: After she had written all the corrected words ten times each and handed them in, the three marks were added on.
And this was a Health test, not English.
Unfortunately, the teacher's signature was not attached. I'd like to shake his/her hand.
Where there's life, (and dedication), there's hope.
I still hope there's hope for me.

Editorials

Real estate gone crazy

Whitchurch-Stouffville's been discovered. Mayor Fran Sainsbury stated on several occasions prior to the 1988 municipal election.
And how!
Real estate in this area's gone crazy with property owners receiving prices considered absurd less than two years ago.
The inflationary spiral has even veteran agents and brokers shaking their collective heads in dismay.
Last Sunday, this newspaper office, (supposedly closed), was inundated by would-be property purchasers, all seeking 'the latest' in real estate ads.
One young man, holding a child, said he was looking for a farm.
As yet, it doesn't cost anything to look, but multi-millions to buy. The farm, as such, in Whitchurch-Stouffville, will soon be a thing of the past.
While a percentage of Saturday's traffic was headed for the Sales Barn, not all. Many cars were wending their way through Stouffville subdivisions, seeking out signs reading 'For Sale'.
Where will it end?
It won't. Certainly, there will be down-turns; real estate knows the roller-coaster ride. But this Town is ripe for the picking and people are grabbing 'fruit' far beyond their reach. Fears of a pending rate increase are partly responsible.

This is only February, not usually a prime time for real estate sales. Think then what the spring will bring. It boggles the mind of the home-owner who, but 25 years ago, purchased a house for a song.
How high is it up?
We predict residential properties soaring to \$500,000 by 1990.
Whitchurch-Stouffville isn't alone in this inflationary spiral. Communities like Bloomington, Ballantrae and Claremont are feeling it too. Uxbridge is also a 'hive' of real estate activity.
And still we talk of 'affordable homes'.
There's no such thing. It's whatever the traffic will bear. Right now, we're riding a rocket. To where, nobody knows.

Carnival a success

The sixth annual Claremont Winter Carnival was a great success, even without the snow.
Events, not dependent on the white stuff, were enjoyed to the full. And while the parade crowd fell short of expectations, the pancake breakfast, the ham supper, the Snow Queen Pageant and the Trappers Ball were largely attended.
Saturday's cold undoubtedly kept many off the parade route.
However, it was anything but cold inside the beautiful 4-Seasons Golf and Country Club, scene of the Winter Carnival dance. It was packed to capacity. Just as warm was the friendliness of the hosts and patrons — so typically Claremont.
May this annual event long remain a part of the Claremont community.



Stouffville's changing scene

The former Village of Stouffville has surely changed in the last 30 years. The location is Main Street West in the area of Ninth Line South and Fairview Avenue. The year is some time back in the early 1950s. The building (centre) is Fred Byer's John Deere Sales and Service, now Giles Chevrolet-Oldsmobile Ltd. On the lower left is Mole Motors Ltd., later acquired by Neil Patrick Motors Ltd., and now Stouffville Rental. At lower right is Earl Hoover's Machine Shop, now Hoover Welding. The Tribune thanks Muriel Hoover, R.R. 2, Markham, for the loan of this photo.

Editor's Mail Growth

Dear Editor:
It's obvious from your editorial, (Feb. 1), The Tribune has adopted a pro-growth stance with regard to Stouffville's future.
In doing so, I trust you, as editor, are aware of the degree of growth our town could be headed towards if water and sewerage services are provided from the south, either via the Pickering Airport project or hook-up with 'The Big Pipe'.
This semi-rural community will literally burst at the seams. There would be no reason (or excuse) for it not doing so. After all, without limited services and maximum investment, the Ontario Municipal Board would give the 'green light' to massive residential, commercial and industrial build-up.
Is this what Stouffville wants?
I personally don't know what the answers are with respect to servicing. That's why we hire engineers and elect councils. I do know that once we open the doors, the hordes will rush in.
As a home-owner, I feel it's too great a price to pay.
Sincerely,
Hugh McMillan,
Dorman Drive,
Stouffville