

### Editor's Mail

## Not here

Dear Editor:

It would appear that Stouffville merchants and perhaps even Whitchurch-Stouffville Council are looking over their shoulders as to what will happen in Markham with respect to Sunday shopping.

I don't feel this should be a concern.

Markham and Stouffville are two widely different urban communities. Sunday shopping may be acceptable in Markham. It wouldn't be in Stouffville.

The amount of business transacted in Stouffville on a Sunday wouldn't pay the hydro.

Besides, Sunday shopping or not, all Stouffville merchants wouldn't comply. That was obvious from comments made at a recent Business Improvement Area board meeting.

People aren't going to Sunday shop in an area where half the stores are closed.

(Mrs.) Phyllis Chester,  
Stouffer Street,  
Stouffville.

### Praise

I had occasion to watch the parliamentary debate on Channel 2 Television Feb. 14.

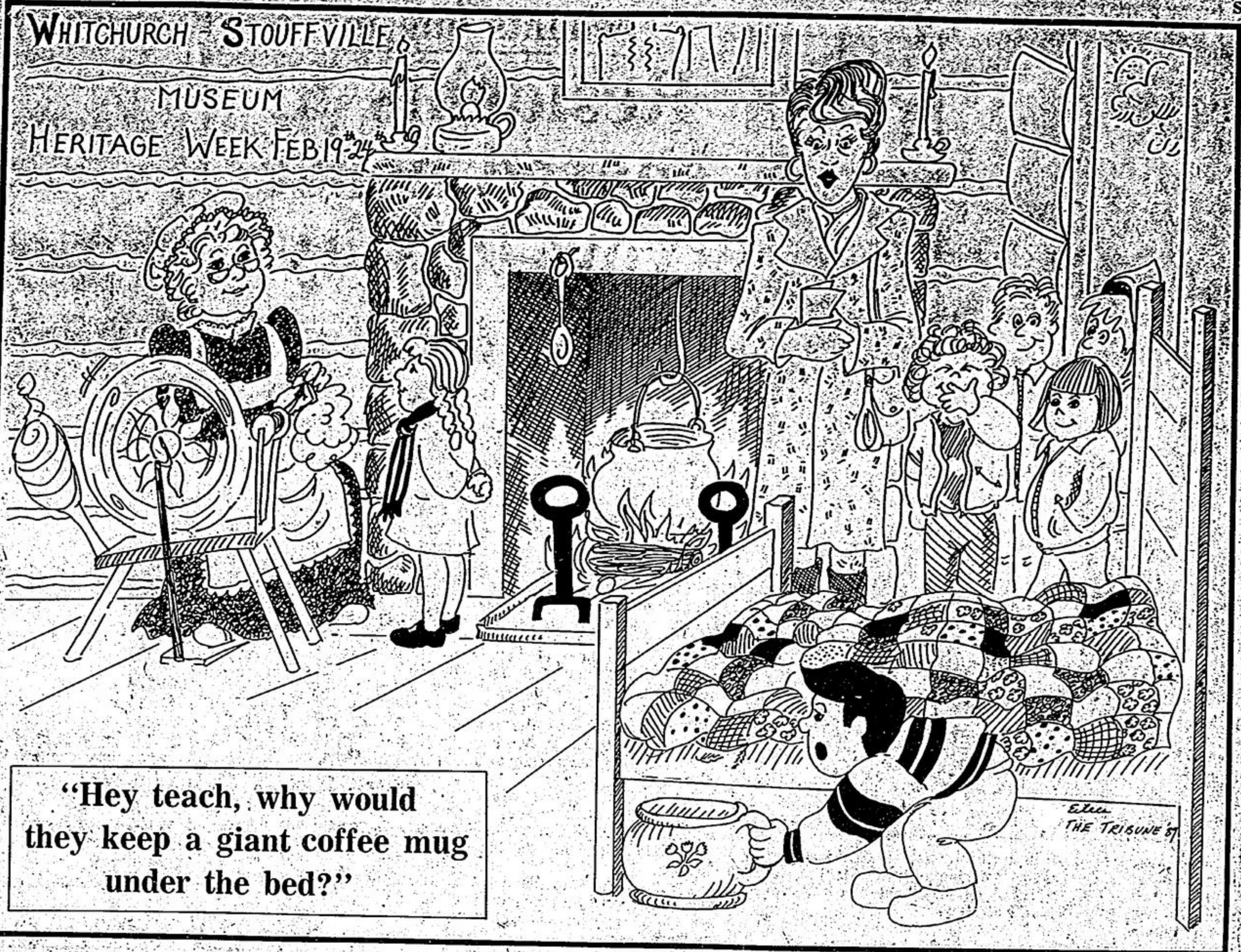
Ordinarily, these programs are boring. However, on this occasion MPP Greg Sorbara was front and centre.

I had to marvel at the way he handled himself, even under close scrutiny by the Opposition.

His replies were straightforward and concise.

And to think, Whitchurch-Stouffville was his training ground.

Gordon Thom



"Hey teach, why would they keep a giant coffee mug under the bed?"

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## ROAMING AROUND

# Hockey kids gone soft

BY JIM THOMAS



'The good old days'. Folks talk about them; me too. Some long for their return.

Not me. I'm too caught up in the wonders of the present to be concerned about the glories of the past. And while a trifle long in the tooth, I'm still looking forward to the future and what the 21st century holds in store.

I hope I make it.

Let's face it, the 'good old days' weren't all that great. Few, if given the chance, would want to turn back the clock.

Me either.

Our memories, however, have ways of playing tricks. They allow us to recall only the good, shutting out the bad. Believe me, the latter far outnumbered the former.

For example:

Would you rather read by coal-oil lamp?

Would you prefer to drive a Model T?

Would you want to heat your home with coal?

Would you choose to walk two miles to a one-room school?

Would you prefer an outside toilet? How about obtaining water from a backyard well?

Come on now, be honest.

If you are, you'll answer: "no".

It's unfortunate the pluses of yesteryears can't be combined with the

pros of today. This would give us the best of both worlds.

If you detect a tinge of regret in my writing, you're right. The main plus 'back then' was togetherness. People needed each other to survive. It was long before the advent of the combine, the GO-train, supermarkets and shopping malls.

Now, about the only time we visit is at the check-out counter or in church. Even then, the encounters are all too brief.

This is not a malady affecting only the old. Young people too are deprived of 'close encounters of the 50s kind'. And it's too bad.

Why the nostalgia trip?

On Saturday, various self-appointed assignments took me many miles around the Whitchurch-Stouffville countryside and beyond.

My first stop was Island Lake, Durham Road 30 and the Aurora Sideroad. The ice surface there was like 'glass' with only a few skiffs of snow to impede a skater's progress.

But where were the skaters?

There wasn't a one.

Next stop, Musselman's Lake. There, thanks to the energetic efforts of Councillor Ron Robb, a beautiful rink has been created. But there were few users. I counted two boys and two girls.

On to Aurora.

Immediately north of the Rec. Centre

there, was an outdoor arena covering almost half an acre. In a Town of 17,000 plus, I would have expected a crowd: survival of the fittest. But no. This nature-made ice pad had only five skaters, two boys and three girls.

And this was a Saturday!

Is outdoor hockey and pleasure skating a thing of the past?

Have custom-made facilities such as rec complexes and the like, killed the desire in kids to forage on their own?

Transportation to and from; warm dressing rooms and showers; polished ice and convenient snack bars sure beat frozen fingers and toes. But is the experience more fun?

I doubt it.

While my children heave sighs of disgust whenever I relate to 'the way it used to be', nothing will ever replace the exhilarating experiences of the old outdoor rink — or the memories.

That's where the Gordie Howes, the Max Bentley's and the Jean Beveveau's were born.

Ask Keith Acton, Doug Todd and Doug Feasby.

But riding in a warm car to a heated arena and skating onto ice without lifting a shovel is a pretty nice way to go. This is the kind of custom-made recreation we've created for our kids.

They'd be foolish to ignore it.

But are they missing something?

I say they're missing a lot.

What, for a century, Mother Nature has provided free of charge, we now ignore, replacing it with structures costing megabucks to build.

Nothing but the best, we insist, not realizing the best is what we had, and we gave it all away.

## Editorials

# Claremont teacher terribly wronged

A Claremont Public School teacher has been terribly wronged.

The convictions of sexual assault and sexual interference involving three primary pupils has shocked most followers of this case.

Little wonder.

For the repercussions are mind-boggling.

Regardless of sentence, the teacher's career, even his life is in shambles.

Why? Because he allegedly touched the bare buttocks of three Grade 1 girls. Hardy offences serious enough to prompt the laying of criminal charges.

The case and resulting conviction raise many questions.

We believe the matter was badly handled. The time period between the raising of suspicions and the laying of charges (almost six months) was too long.

Why should it take parents from March to August to make up their minds?

We also find it hard to understand why the school's principal wasn't taken into parents' confidence.

She should have been the first person contacted, out of respect if nothing else.

Yes, the school was closed for summer vacation, but the principal hadn't disappeared from the face of the earth. Besides, the fall term was to begin in four weeks. One more month wouldn't have mattered.

Prior to the laying of charges, the teacher should have been allowed an opportunity to defend himself in the presence of the parents and the principal.

His accusers owed him that much.

What of the children? If the alleged sexual interference was upsetting, think of the scars inflicted in testifying against their teacher! The former, they'd forget. The latter, they'll never forget.

The ramifications of Judge Woods' conviction go far beyond a single school in the Region of Durham. Every teacher in the elementary system across Ontario will soon shy away from the hands-on approach to students. With his career on the line, who will want to take the chance?

This is unfortunate.

For many teachers use it and many students need it.

Education is the poorer without it.

Corporal punishment is one thing.

Corporal caring is another.

We've gone from the ridiculous to the bizarre.



**Reunion will bring together hockey stars of yesteryears**

The third annual Markham-Stouffville Oldtimers Hockey Reunion will be held Fri., May 12 in the auditorium of Crosby Memorial Arena, Unionville. The event will bring together hockey greats of yesteryears including Bob Bangay, (left), and Charlie Nesbitt, linemates of more than 40 years ago.

—Jim Thomas

### Editor's Mail

## Support

Dear Editor:

I wish to commend Mayor Fran Sainsbury for her public stand against Sunday Shopping.

This is in the spirit of the community of Whitchurch-Stouffville. It is also Biblical.

If all residents of York Region will support Mayor Sainsbury's stand, the preservation of family life will be encouraged as well as respect for Sunday as a day of rest, peace and quiet.

For shop owners who remain closed, I venture to say your loyal customers will support you and not shop elsewhere. Your expenses will be lower! You and your staff will be refreshed on Monday for a new week of better and more cheerful service.

Your conscience will be clear, your spirit invigorated and your community will remain unique as a place where people prefer to live.

Let us shop six days only at stores that remain closed on Sunday!

Sincerely,  
Albert Drudge,  
R.R. 1, Stouffville