

Editor's Mail No risk

Dear Editor:
The Tribune's recent Community Focus story by Bruce Stapley under the heading "Hi-Tech Farmer, Ushers In The 90's" was very interesting and could very well be the future of vegetable farming in Canada.

However, one paragraph should have either been left out entirely or more fully explained.

It stated: "With some sprays used in farming today, it can rain three days and they won't wash off, so how will they wash off when the consumer runs them under the tap for only a few seconds?"

May I ask what are these chemicals? What are they used on?

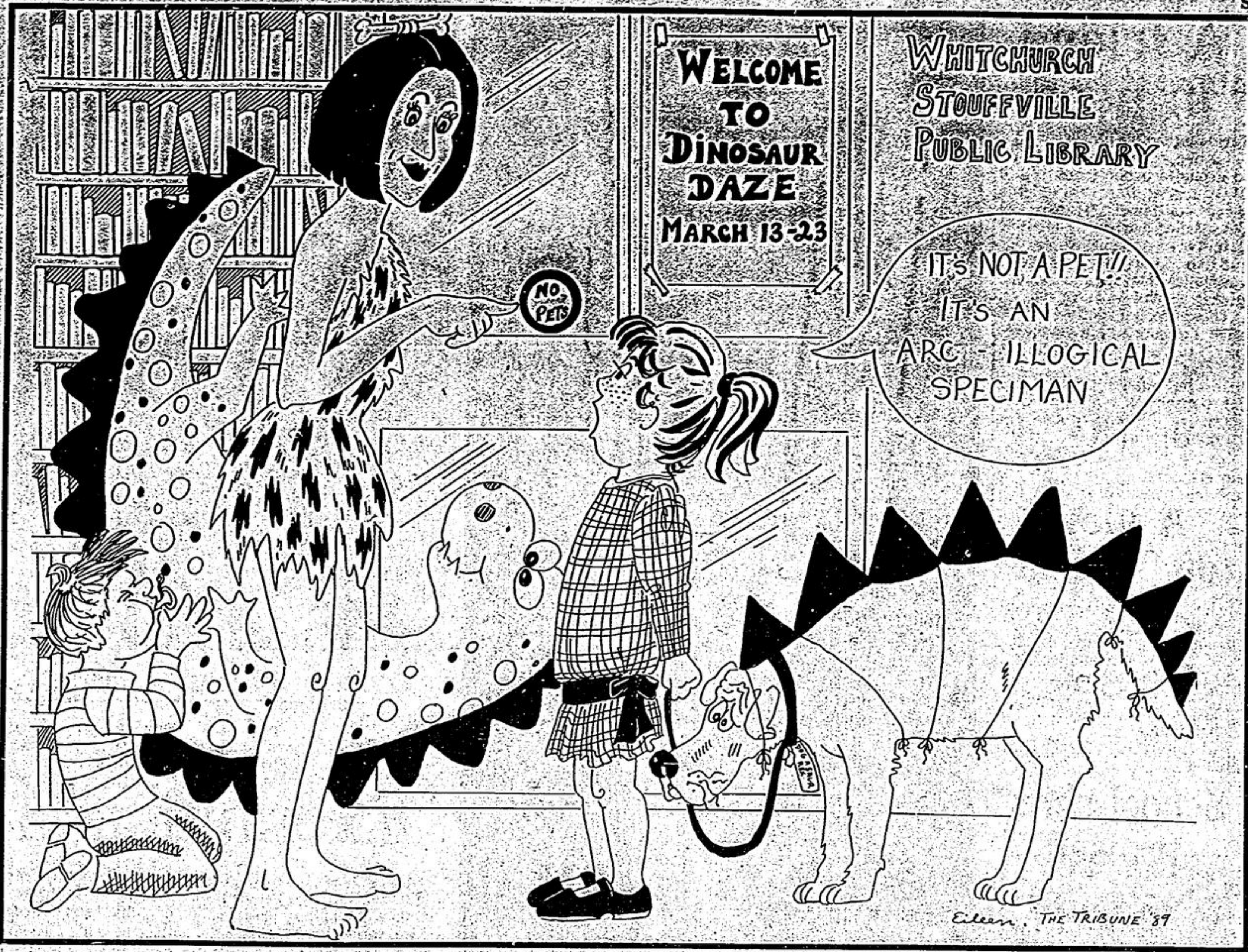
The statement implies that maybe some leafy vegetables carry these chemicals at harvest time.

The Department of Health and Welfare regularly spot-check all types of vegetables for parts-per-million of chemical residue.

This is to protect the consumer.

As a vegetable farmer over 40 years and a member of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association over 25 years, let me assure consumers that all growers are striving to deliver a fresh, wholesome, chemical-free vegetable to the supermarket. This is not to say we do not use chemicals to grow produce, but to emphasize we do not harvest vegetables carrying a dangerous chemical residue.

Sincerely,
Ted Barry,
R.R. 2, Stouffville



Eileen, THE TRIBUNE '89

The Tribune
ESTABLISHED 1888

JAMES THOMAS Editor
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DEBORAH WELLER Advertising Manager
JENNIFER HUTT Distribution Manager

RETAIL ADVERTISING: Susan Berry (Manager Charles Cairns)
REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Joan Marshman (Real Estate Manager Dorothy Young)
DISTRIBUTION: Sandy Kieley, Arlene Maddock
BUSINESS OFFICE: Manager Chris Bertram, Doreen Deacon
NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales 493-1300

The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday and Saturday at 54 Main St. Stouffville, Ont., is one of the Montreal Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Action Free Press, Ajax Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa Weekly This Week, Richmond Hill Times, Scarborough Mirror, York News Magazine, Willowdale Mirror, Westwood News, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. Single copies 50¢, subscriptions \$21.00 per year in Canada, \$25.00 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspaper Association, Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association, Ontario Press Council and Suburban Newspaper of America. Second class mail registration number 0896.

640-2100 649-2292

-ROAMING AROUND- Holiday time — again BY JIM THOMAS



Holidays! Whenever I mention the fact I'm taking a vacation, the immediate response is: "What, again?!"

This give me, (and perhaps others like me), a playboy complex; like my work is just one big, long holiday, fifty-two weeks a year.

Or, because I've rolled up a 40-year sojourn in journalism, I'm entitled to spend more time off the job than on.

Neither is true.

While the company's extremely generous when it comes to holidays, (five weeks after fifteen years), I've yet to take my full allotment of time off. Not last year, certainly, or the year before that.

Just to set the record straight, (and ease my own conscience), I took two weeks' holidays in July and a week at Christmas. That was it.

This brings me to the present. I'm leaving Thursday. If the teachers, (and students) need a March 'break', so do I.

Like thousands more, I'm heading South. No, not to Florida, Georgia or South Carolina, nothing as exotic, (and as expensive), as that. I'm going to Niagara Falls, with a side trip to Rochester.

Wow, I hear you say, isn't that exciting!

What's so unusual about Niagara Falls?

What's so great about Rochester?

It just so happens I love The Falls. Within the confines of my restricted vacation sphere, I consider it the most exciting place in the world.

Besides, after 29 years of repetitive marital nihilism, the time has come to remove the tarnish and put a little edge on an otherwise hum-drum existence.

What better place to do it than Niagara?

No, I'm not going alone. The first person I'm only a figure of speech. It's 'we'; Jean, Mary-Lynn and me. But it's my idea.

Selfish?

Not entirely. They're enthusiastic — about Niagara. But Rochester's another story.

They're only going along for the ride.

As most folks already know, I'm a fan of The Statler Brothers, an incomparable, (in my opinion), country and western group that hails from Staunton, Virginia.

Their latest newsletter indicates the closest they'll come to Canada is Rochester, New York. Then, after a stop-over in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, they'll head West through Arizona and on to California.

The Rochester date is March 16, (tomorrow).

While getting there should present no problem, seat reservations for the show have been an exercise in futility and frustration. Ten dollars worth of long-distance phone calls to the Temple Civic Centre Theatre has resulted in a repeat of the same recording: "I'm sorry, but there's no one in the office at this time. Please leave your name and number and someone will get back to you as soon as possible."

The 'soon as possible' hasn't happened.

The receptionist probably thinks Stouffville, Ontario is a non-descript island in Erobisher Bay.

Naturally, I shudder at the thought of driving all the way to Rochester only to discover the show's been cancelled or the place is sold out.

This being the case, I'm afraid the return stop-over at Niagara, will be something less than a second honeymoon.

Regardless, that's my plan.

Jean's not enthusiastic. That's putting it mildly.

First, she dislikes going anywhere unless our destination's assured. She knows my reputation for getting lost plus involvement in other major mix-ups.

She wants everything to be in readiness before we leave, including show tickets in my hot little hand.

All efforts in this regard have come to naught.

Also, she's not happy at the thought of withdrawing Mary-Lynn from school a day before the break's supposed to start.

The fact other parents do it, makes no difference.

"Thursday's a school day," she stresses, "and The Statler Bros. notwithstanding, school is where she should be."

She knows she's right and so do I. But what can I do? Leaving Stouffville at 3:30 and arriving in Rochester at eight, is pressing my luck, unless, of course, I equip the Pontiac with pontoons and travel direct.

My worst fear, however, is what will happen on arrival.

To be on the semi-safe side, I'm reserving a motel with an indoor pool. This way, Jean and Mary-Lynn can be pre-occupied while I watch The Statler Bros. through a 'reserve' key hole in the Theatre lobby door.

Editorials Top priority to 911

When the 911 emergency call system was initiated, the majority of municipalities voiced support.

Some, in fact, have since questioned its delay.

However, there's a cost side to almost everything. The 911 project will indeed be costly both in terms of dollars and identity.

For example, in order that the system's as foolproof as possible, there can be only one 'Main Street' in York Region.

The likely substitute here is Stouffville Road.

Is this acceptable?

To many, it's not. Nor to us.

But what's the alternative?

In our opinion, the 911 emergency system must supersede all arguments voiced in opposition, economical, historical or emotional!

The fact is, if the 911 system had been

in place three years ago, a Gormley area girl would be alive today.

Stouffville is not alone. Other towns are similarly affected. They too have legitimate beefs.

At this point in time, we're certain the name 'Main Street' (Stouffville) will go. But we're not so certain Stouffville Road should be its replacement.

Why not something entirely new? Let's be imaginative for a change.

More importantly, let's not confuse our priorities.

The 911 emergency system must proceed at all cost, yes, even at the risk of losing our Main Street identity.

It's a price we must pay; a small price in terms of human life.

Closure has merit

Councillor Wayne Emmerson has described the closing of a section of Stouffville's Main Street for a four-hour period July 1 as "a great idea", and we agree.

It's something we've advocated for years on such special occasions as Strawberry Festival weekend.

The request comes from the B.I.A. (Business Improvement Area).

The section to be (hopefully) cordoned off would extend from O'Brien Avenue on the west to Park Drive on the east.

In supporting the proposal, Councillor Emmerson sees no problem in directing traffic around the downtown via Millard Street.

"That's what it's there for," he said.

The downtown core will be transformed into an outdoor mall with exhibits close to the curbs.

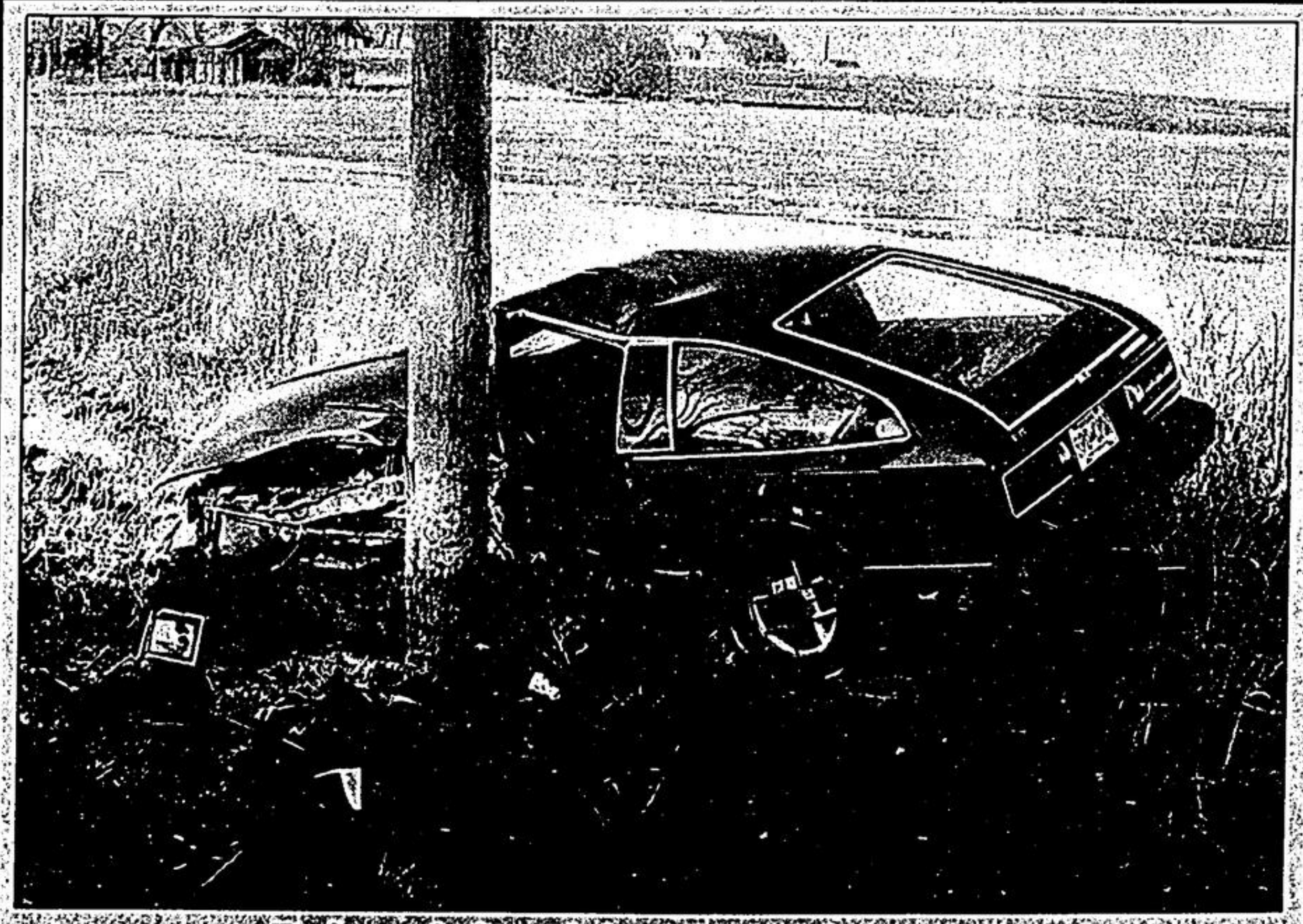
Emergency vehicles could still pass through.

"Let's try something new," stated Councillor Nick Tatone.

Sure, why not?

We predict the project will work so well, it'll be automatic in years to come.

But first we have to try



Driver injured in Ninth Line crash

The unidentified driver of this northbound Toyota remains a patient in hospital following a single-vehicle accident on the 9th Conc. of Markham at 17th Avenue, Friday. The car veered out of control, went through a ditch and hit a hydro pole.

The driver's name or his condition still weren't available from police at press time, Tuesday.

—Jim Thomas

Editor's Mail Smoking

Dear Editor:
Whitchurch-Stouffville's No Smoking Policy is good. But it doesn't go far enough.

It should include all public buildings as well as those under Town ownership.

I believe Councillor Margot Marshall is wrong when she raises the issue of enforcement.

Here's an area where people must police themselves.

Also, places such as restaurants should provide both smoking and non-smoking areas.

If the City of Toronto, (with close to three million people), can do it, so can Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Let's face it, smoking is (almost) a thing of the past. Pretty soon, people will be too embarrassed to 'light up'. But it takes time.

Sincerely,
Ruth Hayhurst,
Church Street,
Stouffville