

# Opportunity Page

## Editorial

### Opportunity exists for abattoir lands

A recent move to redevelop Stouffville's controversial abattoir lands spells good news for the 9th Line North area near the Recreation Complex.

The abattoir, where it is currently situated, is an unsightly and incompatible operation. More contemporary buildings and neighborhoods have been built up around the site, pointing to it as an ugly reminder of days gone by.

The site begs more of the same calibre of development that sits nearby. A commercial plaza or building will further enhance that part of the community and will encourage more use of the Rec Centre itself.

The opportunity exists to bring the area up to a more acceptable — and visually appealing — level.

Gone should be the sight of rats that were visible from 9th Line North last year as motorists passed by.

A public meeting is being held June 27 to hear the new proposal, while the potential buyer of the land has until November to fulfill conditions set out in the agreement.

It's important that the sale proceeds, and it is important that an agreement is reached between the town and the potential purchaser to determine what will be built on the lands.

Opportunity is knocking. It would be unfortunate if no one answered the door.

### Study shows foresight

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Library and the town is showing foresight in preparing for a study that will carry the library in the 1990s.

The study, organized to determine future needs and the adequacy of current facilities and services, will give library officials a chance to prepare a blueprint for years to come.

And the study comes at a time when the results will be most beneficial. Growth and technological changes in recent years have changed the needs of library users who now seek not just books but videos, talking books and "how-to" manuals.

Today, the library is a vital part of the community — and the figures prove it. By preparing this study, the Town will continue to ensure that the best services possible will be made available to residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville tomorrow.



at random

steve houston

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## SDSS dispute brings each side together to reach agreements

The following are open letters to, first, SDSS students and, second, SDSS Principal Peter Bright:

Dear Student,  
Your actions in past weeks are both commendable and disappointing. While I applaud your youthful energy and desire to change certain elements of your daily school life, I think it's important you don't become mired in the elements of one issue: Use those same talents and drive for other projects. You'll be surprised how little changes will seem like a lot.

Dear Mr. Bright,  
Your actions in past weeks are both commendable and disappointing. While I applaud the steps you have taken to open communications between students and the administration, I think it is important that you act

on this new policy. Don't think of the students only as children, but as vital links in the education chain. They have ideas, rights and certain demands. You'll be surprised how a little understanding will go a long way.

It seems some progress was made last week between Stouffville District Secondary School students and the administration following an informal walkout by a group of unhappy teens.

And despite the apparent ugliness of the act (several teens were quite direct in describing their feelings) some previously barricaded doors have opened to encourage staff-student relations.

A day of meetings between school Principal Peter Bright (the object of student scorn) and student delegates led to further talks between the two sides.

Oddly, this emotional and highly-charged crisis has brought the two warring sides together.

On one side there is Mr. Bright, a dedicated and tireless educator who has to deal with a school full of energetic and ideological teens.

On the other are the students, who see the principal as the enemy. To many of those restless students, Mr. Bright is the picture of rigid authority and unyielding opinion.

There were teachers like that when I was in high school, but we never organized a revolt. The worst thing that ever happened there occurred when students began parking in the principal's reserved spot.

In fact, the only real legacy we left as high school students of the mid-1970s was disco music. And look where that is now.

I can't think of a single instance in my high school career that prompted an organized and formal protest.

If something happened that we didn't like, we grumbled among ourselves, but really didn't do anything to alter it.

Because of that, I felt the students at SDSS must have truly believed in their fight against Mr. Bright to stage the walkout last Thursday.

The principal responded honorably. School officials called student delegations to air their beefs the day before the strike and Mr. Bright spoke with others as it was carried out.

As a qualified and dedicated authority in the school system, Mr. Bright could well have ignored the opportunity for talks and disciplined those students who took part in the strike.

Instead, he chose to acknowledge that students had legitimate beefs and sat down to discuss them. No doubt, the principal had a few legitimate beefs of his own.

Julian Franklin, the student council president for SDSS, remarked offhand in an interview that the entire incident actually boosted morale among students. They rallied together for a cause they believed in.

And whether that morale is used to raise money for a class trip or illustrate student unrest, it's still school spirit.

Now though, that energy could be channeled into more positive projects. One that immediately comes to mind is the drive for a running track at the school.

If the energy and commitment illustrated by the groups of students involved in last week's walkout were redirected toward the track project, it would be a breeze.

But the walkout by 100 students, and it doesn't matter that it wasn't the entire school population that took part, should offer a lesson to both sides in the dispute.

## Editor's Mail

### Reader has news on church closing

Dear Editor:  
St. John's United Church Brougham was closed March 14 by order of Oshawa Presbytery, Rev. Glenn Jackson, chairman. The last regular service was held April 9. The non-resident minister is Mrs. Louise Barrie of Uxbridge Township.

The congregation was never informed of any move to close this church until the evening of March 14, the day the presbytery order took effect.

The assets, including the trust fund derived from the airport expropriation, were awarded to Claremont (the trust fund for a period of four years).

This was done because presbytery refused to honor an agreement between St. John's congregation and presbytery to the effect that no change in the status of the trust fund capital could be made without the approval of St. John's congregation. They were never informed of this move.

St. John's congregation was to have use of the interest to help with congregational expenses. This agreement appears in the presbytery minute book dated June, 1973.

A former item appearing in The Tribune stated that for several years there had been some ill feeling between the two congregations. This is entirely false.

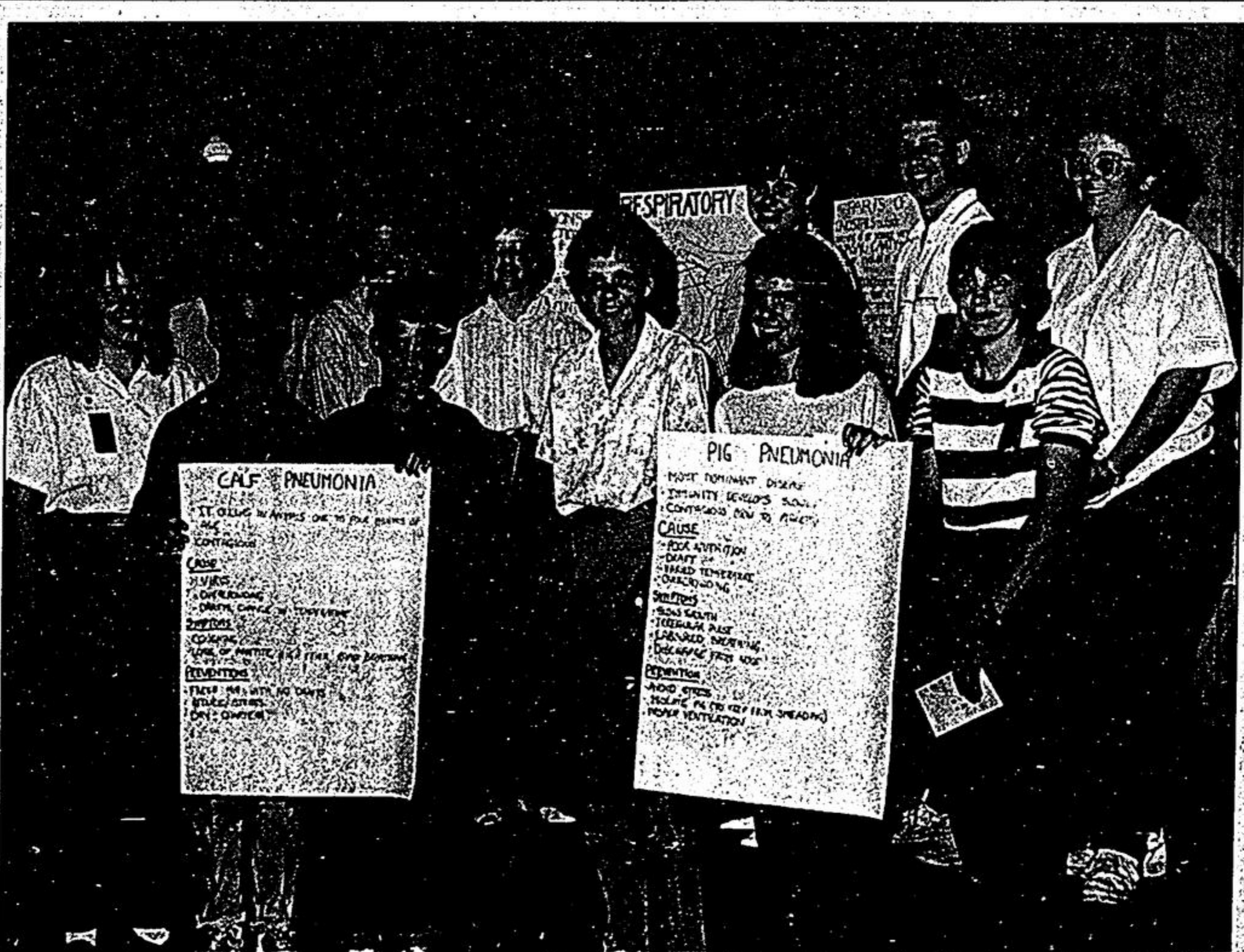
A few years ago when Claremont congregation ran into financial trouble financing a trade of manses, Brougham provided a \$5,000 interest-free loan. When the Claremont givings to missions were low, at least four Brougham people contributed to a yard sale.

When Claremont finances were low two years ago and the manse bathroom needed to be repaired, \$900 came from Brougham as a gift. When a year ago Brougham was struggling to meet expenses, Claremont reduced St. John's share of the charge's expenses by half.

St. John's congregation is now scattered. Invitations were received by nearly all St. John's

members from Mt. Zion, Greenwood and Pickering. As is usual when a church is closed, a few stop going to church anywhere. This case is no exception.

Hugh J. Miller  
Brougham



### 4-H honors

Local 4-H Club members received certificates last week for completing another section in the 4-H roll. Posing with the findings of their agricultural project are (front row, left to right) Kim Little, Ken Buckle, Stephen Faris, Juanita Engelage, Dianne Beynon and Kim Heuvelman. In the back row from left are Ted Taber, Janet Beynon, Catherine Patch, Lynne Beckett, John Walton and Kathy Burnyk.

### Fill our mailbox

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers on current topics. Letters should be 500 words or less and typed or neatly printed. They may be subject to editing for length at the discretion of the editor. They must be submitted by noon Monday to appear in the Wednesday Tribune. Letters may be submitted to the office at 54 Main St. W. Stouffville, P.O. Box 40, L4A 7Z4.