

Comment Page

Shopping issue now a reality

Sunday shopping is a reality. And it comes as no surprise that the world did not come to a end. Some merchants in the area complained about a lack of crowds, others mentioned a lack of time to prepare for a Sunday opening, but still, stores opened legally, and we are none the worse for wear. The rage against Sunday wide-open shopping is understandable for many, especially in smaller communities like ours.

It means that so-called Mom and Pop businesses may be forced to close on a day when their larger competition is open. They may find it tough to open seven days a week, but the realities from this are apparent.

This country is set to embrace a change in global economic strategies. In order for us to remain competitive, we must follow the planetary trend toward a 24-hour economy. Only in a just and fair society can we achieve harmony with our neighbors. Sunday shopping is a religious issue, as well, and to be fair to all, as we claim to be, we must not discriminate against those who do not practice the tradition of the Lord's Day.



A glance at Tribune circa 1942

There were indeed the good old days.

I spent an hour or so last week flipping through an old copy of the Stouffville Tribune brought to my attention by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hamm of Stouffville, who came across the newspaper in their home.

Its dateline is Thursday, Oct 1, 1942, at the height of the Second World War.

On the front page is a photo of a British bomber during a strafing run above Nazi-occupied land near Paris. It's a yellowing, dog-eared old copy of the newspaper, but still brought a rush of excitement as I scanned the front page.

And it's funny how some things, at least as they relate to a



at random

steve houston

community newspaper, never really change.

There is a story about Stouffville's merchants meeting to decide on opening only one night of the week in the interests of conserving hydro power.

Today, our merchants still meet to solve problems and often those stories can be found on the front page of the newspaper.

You'll not likely see stories on the front page today about the town's first prisoner-of-war, but you will see a headline like this:

"Fire Brigade Called to Chimney Blaze."

The Tribune of the '40s was a massive broadsheet newspaper which packed a lot of information on a page.

It's the kind of newspaper every kid loved because it made a great hat or sail boat. You could have wrapped a fish and chip dinner for six in one sheet.

Inside, there was more community news: who was visiting whom, anniversaries, sweetheart announcements and gossip.

You still see some of that in these pages today, although it takes a slightly different form.

But some of the information and advertising contained in the pages of yesterday's Stouffville Tribune are shocking.

There is an advertisement for the O'Boyle Meat Market offering Stouffville area shoppers roast beef at 25 cents a pound; Hamburger was a mere 18 cents/lb. and sirloin steak was a whopping 33 cents/lb.

Auto enthusiasts could pick up a new Ford V-8 carburetor for \$11.95 and six quart tins of motor oil for 99 cents, while families could pick up a two-pound package of soap powder for 19 cents and a box of Kellogg's All Bran for 23 cents.

Today, we have fuel-injected engines for our Fords and soap powder is a no-no unless it's environmentally friendly.

And we all know that the cost of this environmental friendliness is a sight higher than 19

cents a box.

And glancing through the pages of the 1942 Tribune, one can quickly realize many of the families that are still active and well known in today's community.

There are Bowdys, Burkholders, Lehman's, Stivers, Kings, Bakers and Buttons.

It made for an enlightening read and taught me a bit about yesterday's Stouffville.

As I type this column on a Macintosh computer which, with the push of a button will drop the story in print form on a finished page, I wonder about the people at the Tribune back then, toiling with pieces of hot lead and now-ancient Underwood typewriters.

There is a certain nostalgic magic to all that, a magic that isn't really contained in today's sterile, technologically advanced societies.

But the news is still the news.

Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune

Publisher	Patricia Pappas
Editor-in-chief	Jo Ann Stevenson
Editor	Stephen Houston
Director of Advertising	Debra Weller
Retail Advertising Mgr.	Susan Berry
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Dir. of Promotions/Distribution	Jennifer Hutt
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Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ontario L3P 1M3 Tel. 294-2200
 Second class registration number 1247
 The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday, at 54 Main St. W. Stouffville is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Brantford Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser-Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist and Sun, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa-Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Topic Newsmagazine, Willowdale Mirror. Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.
 NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales, 493-1300.

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Editor's mail

1990 Citizen of the Year thanks the community

Dear Editor,
 I am deeply touched through being selected as the Whitchurch-Stouffville Citizen of the Year for 1990.

I wish to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to the community for giving me this honor and for the goodwill expressed to me.

My sincere thank and appreciation to the Tribune and the selection committee, and to the following organizations and

individuals who so generously gave awards and gifts:

Bill Attewell, MP for the federal government; Bill Ballinger, MPP for the government of Ontario; Eldred King, York Regional Chairman; Mayor Fran Sainsbury for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville; The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce; The Lions Club; The Lioness Club; The Ladies Auxiliary and the Royal Canadian

Legion; Pat Ratcliff of the Strawberry Festival committee.

Also, a special thanks to the many, many people who have given cards and offered personal congratulations.

I shall always remember and treasure all of the above expressions of friendship and encouragement.

Sincerely,
 Joe Nighswander