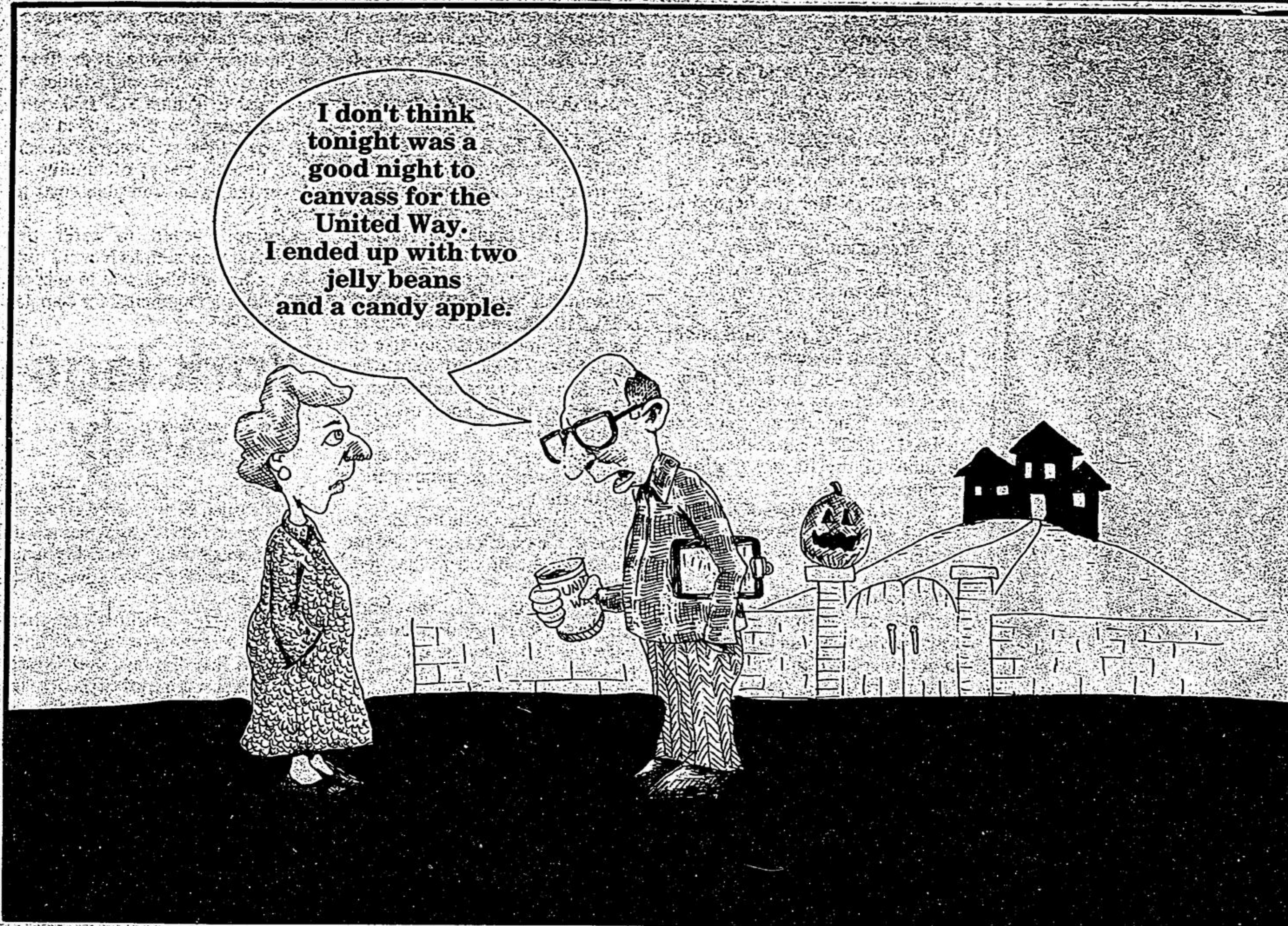


Comment Page



Juggling act needed

Whitchurch-Stouffville Town Council is attempting acrobatics in its bid to please everyone over use of the Rec Centre.

It has been asked to bend over backwards to accommodate requests from different interest groups in the community.

And so it should. If any real attempts are to be made to reduce the Recreation Complex's operating deficit, the facility has to be offered to a wide range of users in the community.

In the midst of this friendly battle, which revolves around a May 17 calendar date for use of the complex, is the Stouffville Figure Skating Club, our Chamber of Commerce, and Stouffville District Secondary School.

Clearly, the most lucrative of events is the annual Home Show, which was a success after being revived last year.

And the 1,000 former students expected for a 1991 SDSS reunion could also generate needed revenue.

Meanwhile, the skating club has a vested interest in providing needed ice time for its members.

A balance to meet all the needs will require an impressive juggling act on the part of Town Council.

Task ahead is battling poverty

This newspaper is stepping up its commitment to its readers as a paper that cares.

We've served Stouffville and area readers since 1888 and have ridden through some tough times and some boom times together.

Today, not everyone in the community is prospering.

A growing number of residents are without work and are getting caught in the high-cost housing bind.

It's sometimes difficult to see, however, any need in the face of evident success within our two communities.

As your local newspaper, we want to publish stories about people who are feeling or meeting this need, people who are



jo ann stevenson, editor-in-chief

viewpoint

making a difference in some small way. Community newspapers can raise public awareness, but we can't do it alone.

We need you to keep us in touch with what's happening.

For the first time perhaps since the Depression, a significant number of those in need are within our town borders.

We in Stouffville and Uxbridge responded to the recent Thanksgiving Food Drive with abundance.

The Stouffville and Uxbridge

Tribunes are working to join in the food drive by distributing food bags during the pre-Christmas season.

And, we believe, it's time we took the lead in doing our part as a member of the community.

Consider this:

Welfare claims in York and Durham Regions have risen dramatically. Stouffville area churches have ongoing programs for the needy and the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank in Uxbridge is feeling the pressure of growing demand from those who are being squeezed during these tough economic

times.

Indeed, Loaves and Fishes Food Bank Organizer Rita Gould reports that families from outside the Uxbridge area are travelling to our community for help.

Meanwhile, area service clubs - the groups which have been working diligently behind the scenes for years to help a variety of causes - are beginning to focus on this growing problem.

The York Region Food Bank and Salvation Army are finding the same situation.

In Stouffville, the Kinsmen have just completed a shopping spree in which they spent \$1,000 to buy and donate food to the needy.

But we all fear the gap is widening.

We hope to tap that vein of charity that runs throughout our

communities and help co-ordinate groups so we can all reach a common goal: to ease the burden for those who need it most.

People, unfortunately, are falling between the cracks and are finding it difficult to make ends meet.

As one spokesman from the Salvation Army pointed out, "You can't tell by the address," who may be in need of a helping hand.

Food, shelter and clothing are the basics for families to maintain dignity and should not depend on public generosity.

But until the economy is boosted through policy changes, the responsibility falls on us.

The new NDP government will have to work closely with business to combat poverty.

Meanwhile, it's up to us.

Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune

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Editor's mail

'Mulroney a dictator' forcing GST upon fellow Canadians

Dear Editor,
 I am not a Canadian citizen. With this Goods and Services Tax, and the Canadian people not fighting against the GST, I don't think I want to become a citizen.

If this country is so great for all the refugees and people that have been allowed to maintain their ethnic backgrounds, don't they think it's good enough to fight against the government?

As far as I can see, Mulroney is a dictator.

The people and the opposition parties should be able to fight the GST.

The Senate has to listen to the people and vote against the GST. It's about time the people of Canada started to fight.

Are the people of this country just going to let Mulroney take away their votes and their option to speak out?

Or are they going to become a country where Mister Mulroney can tell them what they should think?

I think it's time to save Canada.

Is Canada not worth saving?

Sincerley,
 Caroline Warnock

Columnist said it well

Dear Editor,
 I'd like to thank your columnist Bruce Stapley for his opinion in the Oct. 20 edition of the Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune Week-ender.

The topic was "Locker rooms should remain man's domain."

I am usually one of the good old "silent majority." However, I would like to add my support to everything Mr. Stapley said in his article.

Thank you again for putting my thoughts so well into words.

Donna McKenney
 Uxbridge