

# stouffville comment

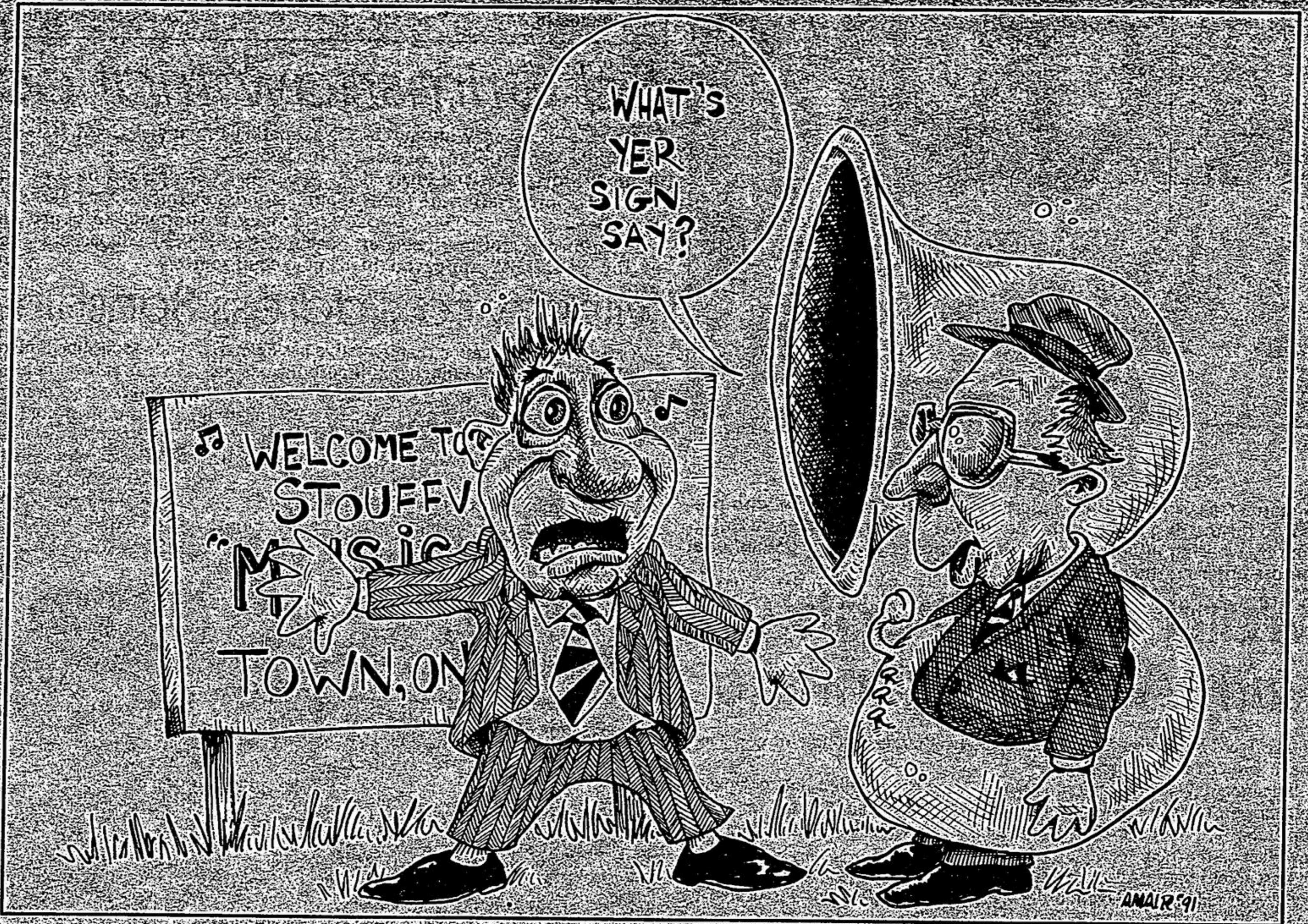
## Politicians are a brave lot indeed

The races are well underway in the various wards around the area, and in many instances a heated run to the election wire will be the case.

It is encouraging to see the residents of the area come forward with such enthusiasm to represent their wards. Those that have stepped forward to test the waters of the local popular vote are indeed courageous. For in a time when politicians on all levels seem to be the targets of much abuse, it takes a certain breed to stand for election.

There are as many reasons these candidates have chosen to put their names on the registry as there are candidates themselves. But regardless of the reason, the fact these people have stepped forward is a fine example of our democratic tradition in action.

On Nov. 12, we will all have choices to make, but perhaps none as difficult as those made by the residents who have stepped forward to date.



## Lake algae problem may have silver lining

For those who have struggled for years to clean up Lake Musselman, it must be strange to think its current algae problem may be the answer to their prayers.

Several weeks ago, potentially toxic plant life was pulled from the lake waters.

Ironically, what could be potentially harmful to residents and local recreation businesses may ultimately restore the lake's environmental integrity.

It began when two lake residents asked Ministry of Environment officials to sample algae blooms on the water's surface. Experts determined the algae was Cyanobacterial or blue-green.

Studies have indicated many species of blue-green algae are toxin producers. Reports have associated the plants with respiratory and nervous system problems in animals.

There has also been documentation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency that claimed certain types of the algae created skin cancer in laboratory mice.

The discovery has since left Musselman Lake beaches closed and its waters under the York Regional Health Department microscope.

Officials are determined to establish whether the plant life poses any real risk to residents. In



### VIEW POINT

doing so it has picked the environmental experts across Ontario and Canada as well as referring to international sources.

The Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and regional health officials have all become involved in the investigation. It would seem highly unlikely

ly the problems will remain in the background so many questions have been raised in government offices.

Even if officials were tempted to file away Lake Musselman, the local environmentalists won't let them.

The Sierra Club, a local environmental group, has for a long time tried to bring attention to the lake's escalating pollution problem. They have also made efforts to encourage government action to reverse the process.

The club blames the town's action for current pollution levels. Shoreline culverts, poor septic

systems, phosphate detergents, fertilizers, motor boat traffic and road salting were among problems that contribute to the lakes pollution problem, the Club said.

Whether these accusations are true or false, don't make much difference in at this time of year.

The environment is sure to be a big issue in the upcoming municipal election and without some concrete plans in that area, candidates could be in for a tough time.

Residents and businesses have too much at stake to allow the problems to continue.

Let's hope the questions never stop.

## September has me wishing for winter

I recently made the mistake of accepting an invitation to dinner in the middle of September.

As we all know, white shoes, shorts and summer dresses are *verboten*, starting the first Tuesday of the month. Since my wardrobe could hardly be described as extensive, and since the friends who had asked us to dinner were depressingly familiar with the summer portion of it, I greeted this unassailable fact with considerable relief.

Saturday, Sept. 14 turned out to be excessively hot, hazy, and humid. The outfit I had selected consisted of black pants, a brushed cotton shirt with long sleeves, my husband's black socks, (usually reserved for funerals) and a pair of new leather shoes about to embark on their maiden voyage.

We were due to leave at 5:45. At 5:35 I was standing in front of the mirror, resplendent in my new duds, with my make up melting on my



### KATE'S CORNER

face, deciding whether to resign myself to the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or to bow to reality and change into something cool.

In the end I decided to sweat it out, thus avoiding a frantic search through the laundry basket, a steamy session with the iron and a tense silence in the car. Besides, my summer sandals were past the point of no return. As we travelled down the Don Valley, I realized I had made the wrong decision.

If it was sultry in Stouffville, it was torrid in Toronto. We arrived to find our friends far more suitably attired, he in shorts and T-shirt, she in light

pants and a sleeveless top. They announced cheerfully that we would be taking a stroll down the road to a new brew pub.

What would have been a pleasant evening walk in my scuffed sandals turned into an interminable hike in rigid new shoes and warm socks. Not even the thought of a glass of lovingly brewed ale could detract my thoughts entirely from my sore feet and clammy brow. By the time we returned from our jaunt, the mercury had plummeted to a muggy but more bearable 21 degrees. I was further revived by a delicious meal and some lively conversation, and it was 2 a.m. before I eased my aching feet from my shoes and fell into bed.

I admit that I constantly grumble about the long, cold winter, but I really would appreciate it if the weather could stay within seasonal averages in September, if only on the nights when we're going out to dinner.

## Stouffville Tribune

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