

Stouffville slaughterhouse finally bites the dust

The call came in from *Tribune* editor Andrew Mair just before nine o'clock last Friday morning. They were about to put the wrecker's ball to the much-loathed building that had until recently housed Stouffville Meat Packers on that town's Ninth Line.

The same abattoir that had been causing a stink, literally and figuratively, ever since the town had erected its fashionable new recreation centre on the property directly behind the



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

slaughterhouse a decade ago. The fumes that had drifted over and inside the arena had been nauseous at times, with

rats the size of raccoons running hungrily about the outside environs of the grungy old plant.

The town had tried to purchase the property in an attempt to remove the wart on the nose of its new fun centre, but it deemed the price to be just too high. Apparently, the owners knew they held the trump card.

More than one developer had tried to make a deal with the owners and the town to buy the

site and turn it into a minimal, but objections from neighbors, the town, or the region kept getting in the way.

Finally, it was agreed a condominium development would replace the stinky old relic.

Friday was the day Todd Brothers Contracting decided to tackle the job of demolishing the unsightly structure.

The staff photographer was otherwise detained, and Editor Andrew desperately wanted a 'killer' pic of the old abattoir

crashing down at the hands of the Todd brothers' mighty machines.

But I would have to rush, he said anxiously, as the work had already begun and it would probably be all over but the shouting within half an hour or so.

With visions of establishing myself as a Canadian Newspaper Association prize winning photographer, I grabbed my idiot proof Fuji and rushed out the door.

Upon wheeling onto the site, I found to my surprise that the building was still very much intact, except for a small section which lay on the ground, a melange of concrete blocks and dried, shattered lumber.

I looked around for the wrecking ball, but what I saw instead was a combination bulldozer-steam shovel, along with an empty industrial sized trash bin.

It turned out the job couldn't begin in earnest until the Consumers Gas people came to unhook the gas line.

To oblige me, Ross Todd climbed back into the cab of his machine and proceeded to make a few rather polite advances towards the target. I flicked away, figuring I could use these as practice shots.

I decided to leave and come back after the gas line was

(Please see page 15)

by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

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