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From Where I Live
Bruce Stapley

Jim's back to haunt Stouffville

He stood there with his wife Iris, tanned and fit, looking every bit the gentleman of leisure who had beaten the system and seen his way clear to early retirement.

He reminisced about his six years covering the sports/town council beat with the Stouffville Tribune in the late 1970s and early '80s, and how he had delighted in tormenting Whitchurch-Stouffville's mayor of the day, Eldred King.

And he wasn't afraid to tell all of us gathered there in the Trib office that he was looking forward to finishing his visit here and returning to his 200-year-old farm house just south of Lisbon, Portugal.

Jim Holt had returned.

The very name is sure to conjure up nightmarish memories for the usually unflappable King, now York Region Chairman, and all the others Jim targeted in his journalistic shooting gallery. People like former Whitchurch-Stouffville councillor Bill Kamps, the rotund, and somewhat eccentric, retired birth control pill salesman who now resides on Vancouver Island. Kamps, who tended to side with mayor King on most issues, once referred to Jim as "the town drip" during one of our casual conversations back in the early 1980s. The other day, Jim just laughed at the memory. For Kamps, British Columbia is probably still too close to Portugal for his liking!

But say what you will about Jim Holt, the former automobile sales executive turned irreverent journalist, he would appear to have the world by the tail. Still in his early 60s, he is enjoying his retirement to the utmost, although he insisted he is busier now than he was when he was working for a living.

While Iris still works 16 hours a week teaching English as a second language, Jim continues to go against the flow, having recently introduced the sport of baseball to a nation known for (Please see page 9)

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