

STOUFFVILLE

COMMENT

# Enjoy your festival

This weekend is likely the biggest in the Whitchurch-Stouffville calendar.

The annual Strawberry Festival will once again surely draw huge crowds to Main St., the ball diamonds, park and other venues around town.

It is a monumental undertaking to put on the Strawberry Festival, and a dedicated team of volunteers put in countless hours and untold amounts of labor to ensure we all have a great time.

Each year for past number of festivals, a behind-the-scenes drama has unfolded. In order to have fireworks on Canada Day, a team of fundraisers have made a Herculean effort to put on a show that draws people from Markham, Rich-

## Our View

mond Hill and other surrounding communities.

It is a feather in this group's cap that they can pull off such an impressive display when the larger communities no longer even try.

It costs between \$6,000 and \$10,000 for 20 minutes worth of fireworks, and through corporate sponsors and local donors and service clubs, Stouffville has a fireworks display rivaled only by the likes of the Symphony of Fire.

The community is indebted to the likes and Peter Arnott of the town's recreation department, who assumed the chairmanship of the festival committee and super-vol-

unteer Gladys Clarkson. There were fewer members of the Strawberry committee this year, and many new members. This meant more work for everyone.

The festival will feature new events and old favorites, and on the schedule in today's Tribune, you'll find them all.

Be sure to make a point of being on hand when the Rev. Wayne Reed is presented with his Citizen of the Year award July 1. The Tribune is pleased to be able to sponsor this event once again and we congratulate Rev. Reed on his selection. We were inundated with nominations and with the exception of a half dozen, all were for Reed.

Enjoy the festival. Now if only the weather will hold out.

## Stouffville Tribune

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## Tribune of yesteryear examined

There are newspapers and then there are newspapers. It's up to you to decide if today's Tribune, complete with my writings, goes beyond lining bird cages and wrapping potato peelings.

I'll take the liberty to suggest that *The Tribune* of days-gone-by was a very fine newspaper.

The March 13, 1924 edition of *The Tribune* found its way to my desk. I put today on hold, put my feet up and gave it a read. *The Trib* from the '20's is chalk-full of great stuff, including lots of unusual news.

Here's a sampling of what was published in *The Tribune* 71 years ago:

**From Stouffville:** The Massey Harris Co. were given three weeks in which to put a (cream) separator sold to Ralph Connor of Stouffville in perfect working order, according to a decision given in the Division Court in Toronto.

**From Melville:** There was someone missing from

Sunday School last Sunday. We do not like to mention names, but the young people are missed when they are absent.

**From Uxbridge:** Joseph Reeves, boot and shoe repair and merchant of Uxbridge has passed his 50th year as a businessman.

**From Ballantrae:** While skating at Shadow Lake Saturday night, Will Simpson and Fred Gray met in a head on collision, with the result that both were knocked out for a couple of days. Will is okay again, but Fred will be nursing some loose teeth for a few days.

Again, from Ballantrae: Oliver Smith reports a lively experience in an aeroplane a few days ago. He landed on top of a pine tree, when the limb broke, but Ollie being one of those sturdy pioneers, he did not feel the bump, but was awfully angry for a few days.

**For all of Stouffville and Uxbridge:** Persons concealing a case of measles



in their home and not observing the quarantine law are subject to a fine of \$500.

**Health issues for the ladies of Uxbridge and Stouffville:** When the "forties" or even the "thirties" find a woman with the spring and the elastic gone from her body, it naturally raised the question, How did it happen? She'll say, "The house work did it." Others will say, "Lack of posture."

Exam time at a S.S. #17 Dickson's Hill in Stouffville. The marks are in and in keeping with the times, they were published in the local newspaper. Here's how a few did.

Jr. 1V: Clifford Barkey-75 per cent, V. Banks - 61 per cent. Jr. 11: R. Smith - 69 per cent, Grace Byer - 56 per cent and Isabel Gieber - 40 per cent.

**From Altona:** The sound of the cross-cut saw and the voice of the fortune teller are again heard in our burg.

**From Stouffville:** A representative from the Department of the Provincial Treasurer was in town this week. He was after billiard rooms, halls and the town park.

**From Pickering Village:** Crossing the road from the school house, where he is caretaker, Geo. Elliott of

Pickering Village was knocked down by a passing sleigh. Three of his ribs are broken.

**The Tribune** of yesterday was a gutsy newspaper. It told the world who got divorced and why. *The Tribune* also published details of dead people's wills: Readers were told who got what and why. Now some news begged a few questions. I want to know why a certain young lady was sent to live with an aunt in Toronto for a few months. *The Tribune* doesn't say why. It just says, she's "spending a few months" away!

And now for the editorial. (Premier Mike-The-Knife: eat your heart out):

"Ontario has become the paradise of widows and families. The cause of this is our liberal allowance to widows with two or more children.

Here is another well meaning effort which promises to be a burden. We are not against assisting widows but we believe that restrictions should be placed upon their assistance.

Widows from other parts of Canada should not be benefited by this Ontario law. We have enough of our own without other provinces contributing.

We know many widows who worked and raised families without assistance, and we are not enamoured with laws that will have a tendency to build up a 'Leaning class.' What Canada wants is an initiative class. We want workers not leaneers."

## Apologies for my insensitivity

Hello, my name is Kate and I'll be your columnist for today.

In keeping with our desire not to offend anyone, this week's column will be bland and noncontroversial, whilst allowing the reader to feel good about him or herself regardless of race, color, creed, sexual orientation, age, shopping habits, bad hair or gender (formerly known as sex, a word with too many unfortunate connotations which may prove unpalatable to our sensitive readers).

I had intended to reproduce my mission statement on this page, but two things prevented me. One, I have not yet written it and two, once penned it may contain certain inappropriate sentiments and blithe assumptions resulting from my having been brought up a white, privileged Brit.

At the same time, I am not in any way denigrating mission statements, which have of late become a vital accessory to just about every organization, from IBM to the Monarchist League of Canada. (Before any shocked and appalled persons call, I didn't actually check to see whether the latter had reached the stage of enlightenment from which all mission statements flow. I just thought it sounded good).

Anyway, if I have offended anyone from that particular organization, they have only themselves to blame as outdated colonialist overlords (overladies having been ruthlessly discriminated against), bent on subjugating our glorious Canadian identity.

Apologies are long overdue for the fact that I am a member of that obsolete and unhealthy elitist assemblage, the nuclear family. I have not once acknowledged the worthy selflessness of the child-free. Worse, I often cite



incidents from our dysfunctional existence to hammer home a point I'm trying to make.

My sole pathetic excuse for this is that, having lived only from that narrow perspective, it is all I know. On the other hand, to try and write from a different standpoint carries the grave danger of indulging in voice appropriation, which I humbly hope will be seen as the greater of two evils.

Looking over my columns, I also recognize I have given undue prominence to our animal companion, who happens to be a cat. All this time I may well have been offending owners of such sterling and equally appealing co-inhabitants as dogs, hamsters, gerbils, budgies, ferrets, tarantulas and three-toed sloths and for this oversight, I also apologize.

I have lampooned the women's movement, in particular the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, shamelessly. I have made snide references to equality guru Michele Landsberg, whose endless efforts to sweep aside all forms of prejudice (except her own, which is justified) should be praised rather than parodied.

I have sent up, without due consideration of people's feelings, Achy Breaky Heart, Muzak, the linguistic shortcomings of traffic persons, Donny Osmond, glass ceilings and shopping malls. After reading this, I am horrified at my own insensitivity and I will try to do better in future. Perhaps I should start my re-education by participating in a training camp for store greeters.

## Send us your letters

*The Tribune* welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters should be no more than 500 words in length and can be typed or neatly hand-written. Your letters can be on any topic, but *The Tribune* reserves the right to edit for length, libel, grammar and spelling and good taste. Letters will not be returned, unless requested of the editor. Due to space constraints, not all letters may be published, however, we endeavor to print as many as possible within a time frame that maintains news value and topicality. Please send your letters to: The Editor, 6244 Main St., Stouffville, Ont., L4A 1E2. Or you can fax your letters to (905) 640-5477.



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