

Stouffville Sun

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EDITORIAL

Game of our lives

The spotlight will shine on Whitchurch-Stouffville for all the right reasons Sunday.

The Game of Our Lives, a charity hockey event, will fill the Stouffville Arena. That's guaranteed. In what has to be some kind of Whitchurch-Stouffville record, tickets sold out in less than three hours last week. All 1,200 seats and standing room spots are gone.

All proceeds from the event will go to the Canadian Cancer Society and the fine work it does with cancer patients. The Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville unit of the society is coordinating the event and supplying many of its volunteers to assist.

A team of celebrities, which will take on the Stouffville Spirit junior A squad in the game, helped to sell the tickets. Don Cherry will coach a roster that includes Ron MacLean, ex-NHLers like Rick Vaive and Steve Larmer and several former local greats.

But the star of the show is Keith Acton, Stouffville resident and a former NHLer himself. Now an assistant coach with the Toronto Maple Leafs, Mr. Acton is a cancer survivor.

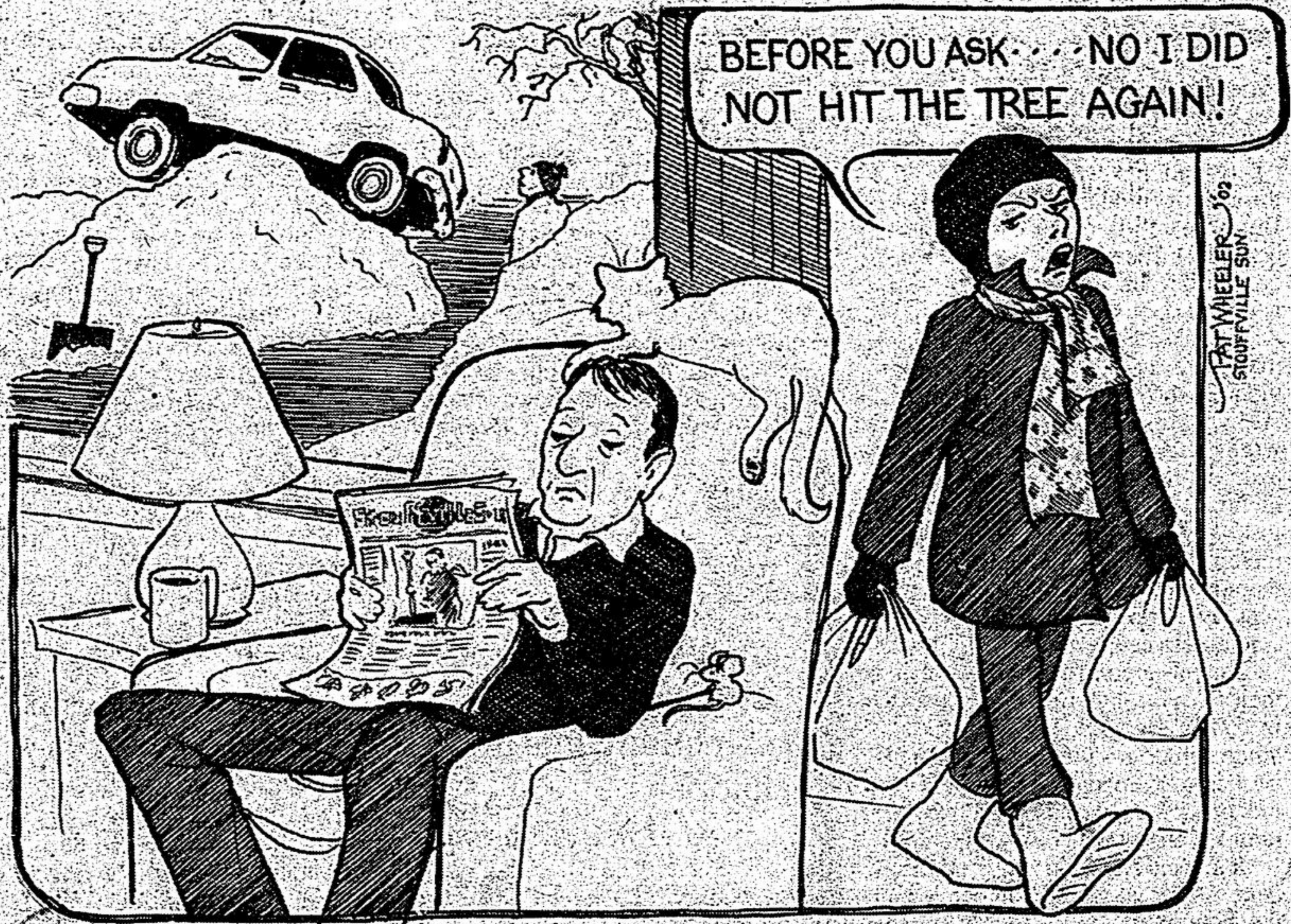
This game is his home town's opportunity to celebrate his life. That's the biggest reason tickets were sold so quickly last week.

Unfortunately, the sell-out caught most of the community by surprise including organizers. They were hoping all tickets would sell in the two weeks before the game was to be played but no one anticipated it taking half a day.

Many residents are upset because they did not get tickets. That's unfortunate. But there was no conspiracy theory at work here. The tickets went on sale locally as advertised — 150 were also sold at the cancer society office in Markham. People lined up outside local outlets before they opened the day tickets went on sale. That is unheard of in this town.

The bottom line is that the game will be a success. The money raised will assist people with cancer. The community will celebrate and do a little stargazing at the same time.

If you didn't get a ticket you can still help. Make a donation to the cancer society in the name of Keith Acton and his game. That really is what Sunday's game is all about.



LETTERS TO THE

Residents have power to map town's future

To the Editor:

It's the new year and it's out with the old and in with the new — town council that is.

It's time to decide what we want for our little town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. What we want to see and what we want to do here. It is our decision. It's not one person or six people deciding but the town deciding. And any government that does not listen to the people it's supposed to represent is bad government and must be put aside.

Nobody dictates to us, certainly not the developers. It is our choice first. We paid for the view.

What do you want from our mayor and council in the future? It's time to start looking for people who will deliver for you and it's time for those people to make themselves known. Don't think you can run against an incumbent in one month. You have to make yourself known early to stand a chance. Where are the artists and philosophers? The business people only know how to take care of themselves at the expense of everybody else.

Here is the real question: do we want our leaders to cherish the things that we value or the things that others value, who perhaps don't live here? It is not a matter of competence or leadership. It is a matter of direction. (Heavens if we wanted a great talker and totally competent politician then we can always get Brian Mulroney back.)

Stouffville is truly a developer's paradise, a planner's nightmare and for the average citizen, ever increasing chaos. But citizens, are you angry enough to do something about it or are you like so many that I listened to through the year saying "well we elected them so we have to follow them". This is not what democracy is about. Don't go home, turn on the TV and shut everything down for the night. Get involved.

You have to stand up for what you believe in this country. Make your voices heard, sing in a choir and maybe one day you will have a town hall theatre in which to sing.

These will be the rallying points for the new election: the theatre, the preservation of our heritage, our green space, deciding just how much development is too much. It is up to you to ask the questions. It is up to you to decide what's right. You are the power here.

Randy Mole
Stouffville

E-mail, fax, mail letters

The Stouffville Sun welcomes letters to the editor from its readers.

Letters to the editor can be mailed to the Stouffville Sun, Box 154, Stouffville, L4A 7Z5, or faxed to (905) 640-8778.

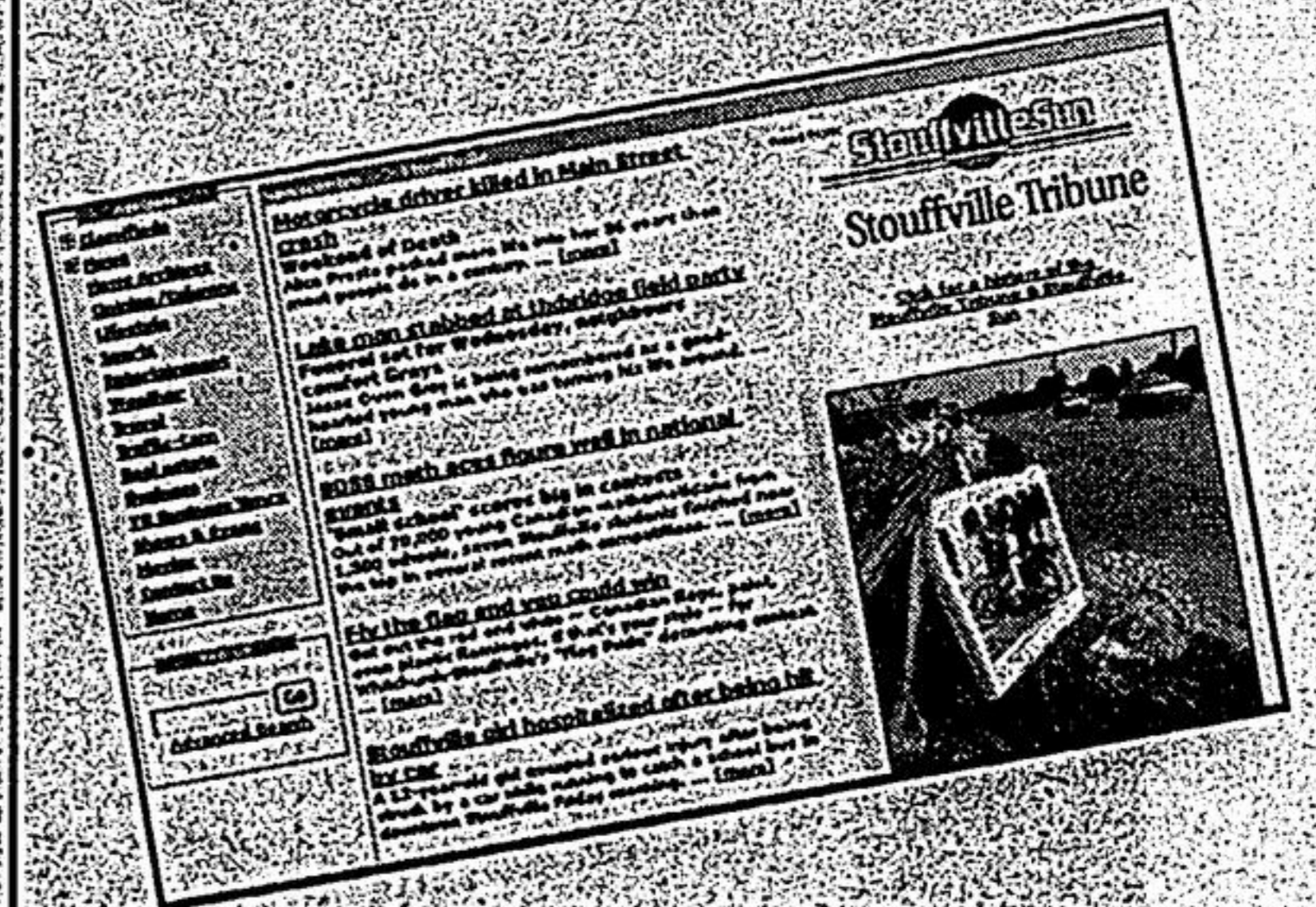
Letters can also be e-mailed to editor@stouffvillesun.com. Or you can hand deliver your letter to the Stouffville Sun offices at 34 Civic Ave., third floor, in downtown Stouffville. Please include phone numbers where you may be reached, for verification purposes only.

FLASHBACK



ACTON IN ACTION: Keith Acton, shown playing for the Minnesota North Stars in the '80s, is organizing a hockey game to benefit the Canadian Cancer Society at the Stouffville Arena Sunday. The game sold out last week. See editorial, above, for more.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY MINNESOTA NORTH STARS



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Join an online discussion on issues that affect your town. Come back often for others' feedback and more discussion on a variety of topics.

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