

# Longing for days of a house out back

For those of you who aren't aware:



## Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

*I have  
apart-time job  
It's an eight-mile  
weekly paper route  
That makes my feet  
athrob.  
Through wind and rain  
and sleet and snow  
This carrier trudges on,  
Door-to-door,  
he can't ignore  
A load meant  
for King Kong.*

*On occasions though,  
he's forced to stop,  
For sometimes  
nature calls.  
So what to do?  
A terrible stew  
Like thwarting  
Niagara Falls.  
The town once had  
the answer,  
Not meant for me I know  
But a wooden shack in  
our park out back  
Would allow release  
to flow.*

*But the convenience  
became a target  
For vandals, don't you see,  
They toppled the poor old  
outhouse  
With regularity.  
Public works declared  
they'd had enough,  
The problem was  
very plain  
As fast as workers  
would set it up  
Vandals would pull it  
down again.*

*Ropes and spikes,  
a last resort  
Were tried with little luck.  
Over it went just like  
before  
In the sand, the mire  
and the muck.  
Town staff surrendered  
in disgust  
Their time could be better  
spent  
In hauling loads  
and fixing roads  
A message  
they'd been sent.*

*Old outhouse days are  
over  
Their use is at an end.  
Hours and money wasted  
The department can't  
defend.  
The flag of surrender has  
been raised,  
Sad commentary on our  
time.*

*The little privy  
of years gone by  
Has reached  
the end of the line.*

*So what are kids  
supposed to do?  
For parents  
a quandary as well.  
Not to speak  
of one paper guy,  
What is his fate pray tell?  
A tree, a shrub,  
a hydro pole,  
Any port in a storm,  
they say.  
For sure a bylaw is in force  
That would make  
the user pay.*

*But I doubt there's a judge  
in this fair land,  
Whod convict  
in such a case.  
It'd be a black mark  
on our town  
For not providing a place  
To seek relief,  
the fact remains  
May one's pace  
be fast or slow  
The courts are sure  
to understand  
When ya gotta go,  
ya gotta go!*

*While some may call it  
progress  
To me, it's a deplorable act  
To rule extinct  
and in a blink  
Erase the house out back.  
But remember it  
I always will  
While trivial it may seem  
Our outhouse that I  
cherished so  
Survived each Halloween.*

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 50 years.

# FLANK STEAK

These have been a mainstay item in our meat counter over the years. They're been so popular because: (a) they're so quick to prepare; (b) they store well so you don't have to use them immediately; (c) they're really delicious — they have that essential flavour of beef and (d) they're pretty darn cheap considering they're steak.

Now, although we sell the vast majority of these marinated, plain ones are also available.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

# OUR VEGETABLE SOUP

There are some mornings when the 'creative juices' just don't flow that well, and with a press deadline approaching quickly, you feel a dose of pressure as well. I had difficulty expounding on the virtues of vegetable soup — that is until I went to the soup freezer and read all the ingredients. I must say it's good reading — and your speedo (or bikini) will fit better after!

Reg. \$5.99 container.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

# WHAT'S FOR DINNER!

Our frozen entree feature will be Shepherd's Pie. I was a bit surprised to find from the records we keep that this is our number one selling item, both in the store and through our wholesale business. You would think, and I sometimes do, why a fine food store would be selling so much of a 'basic' type of product. The answer that I have, and often give, is that people like 'adventure food' but they love ordinary food done extraordinarily well. We use all the good stuff; just like homemade (or better).

Reg. \$10.95

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

# BARTLETT PEARS

The poor pear is so often regarded as the black sheep of the orchard, outshone by its cousin the apple. But one bite of these west coast treasures and you'll find yourself believing in the pear again! (And in case you still prefer apples, the first new crop is here.)

**99¢ LB**

# WHAT'S BAKING! THIS WEEK!

We're doing chocolate this week — that's O.K. with me because there is no bad time for it. I've made a long-term study of chocolate (one of many) and I've found that it's good any time at all. We'll be making.....

**DOUBLE-CHOCOLATE COOKIES** — this is actually a quadruple chocolate cookie because the dough is chocolate and there are three kinds of chocolate baked in — wow!  
Reg. .... \$6.95 pkg

**CHOCOLATE CINNAMON BUNS** — these are swirled with chocolate and pecans. Reg. .... \$1.99 ea.

**CHOCOLATE BANANA LOAVES** — these are a big hit at my house where just plain banana bread is considered passé.  
Reg. .... \$4.99 ea.

**CHOCOLATE GANACHE CAKES** — these are made with layers of chocolate cake which actually have bits of chocolate baked in. They are then layered with a chocolate ganache (something between a mousse and icing, but creamier) and then glazed with more chocolate ganache. We've had our problems with this glaze over the years as it sometimes cracks a bit — usually the next day I call these "San Francisco Cakes" because of the fault lines — but the bakery ladies don't think that I'm funny, most days anyway. I have been assured that the problem is repaired and no-fault is the order of the day — but like anyone living in San Fran, be prepared. Should a fault line appear, I would suggest that you will be consoled by the amazing flavour of the cake. I will be able to make a study of this too because Cathy and I are going to San Fran next week, for her 50th, with our two youngest — leaving Thomas to run the store and write next week's ad. We make two sizes  
Reg. .... \$14.95 & \$22.95

**CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CUPS** — these are comfort food to me. We make them in the china ramekins which you can return for a 50¢ refund.  
Reg. .... \$3.99 ea.

And as is usual, all these items will be priced at **25% OFF THIS WEEK**

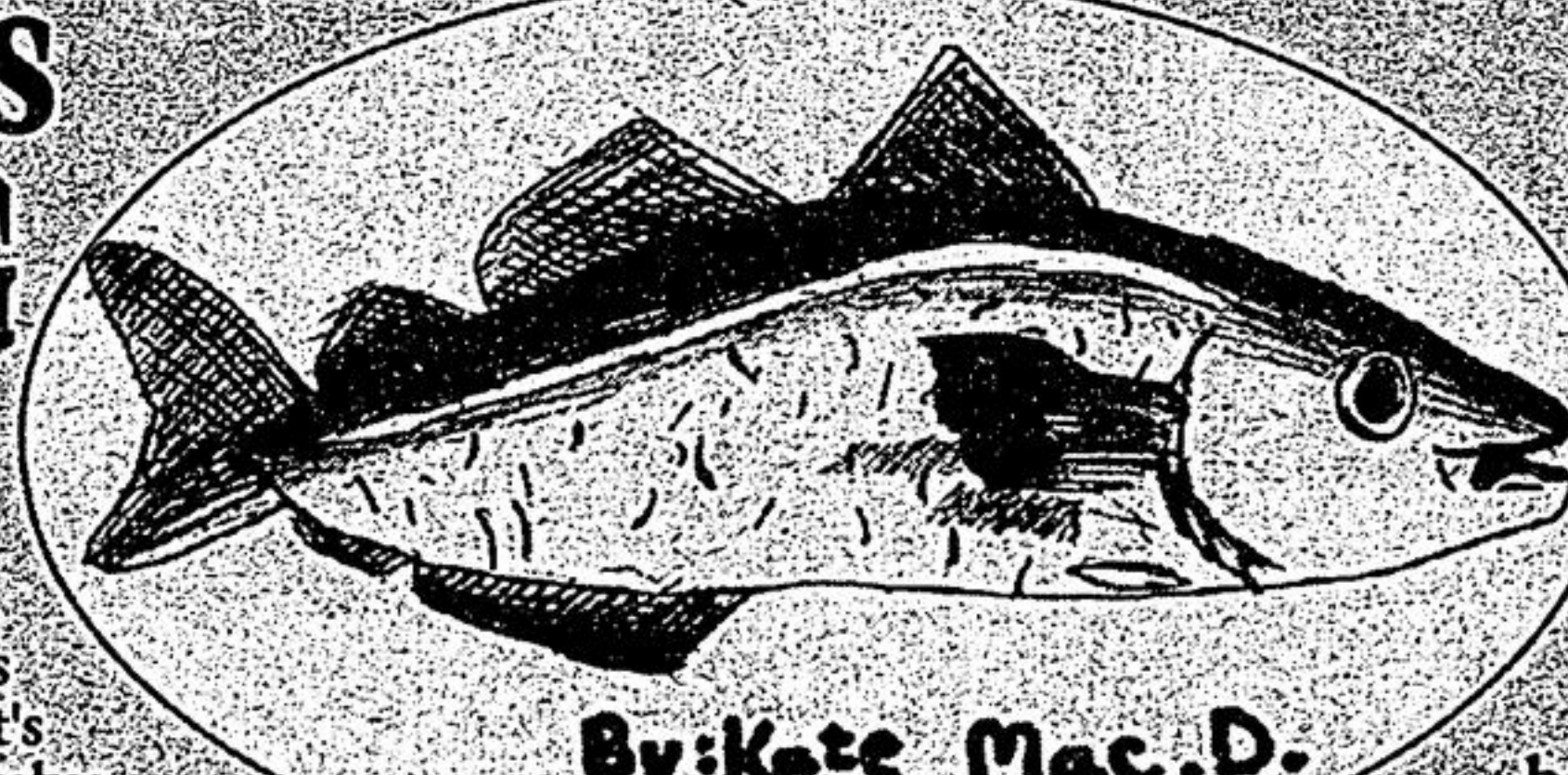
# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE DELI

**PARANTHA BREAD** — What's Parantha Bread you ask? Well it's basically a pancake, no, two pancakes stacked like a sandwich with potatoes, red onion, garlic, cilantro, tomatoes and coriander powder stuffed in the middle. Then we pan sear it together. Delicious!

**BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST** — A familiar bit of bird stuffed with a scrumptious blend of ricotta, pine nuts, spinach and finely grated lemon zest. Seasoned and slowly roasted.

**BAKED SWEET POTATOES** — But just not any baked sweet potato! These babies are tossed in a Maple Whisky butter. Serve them up with pork and you've got yourself a delicious meal.

**CREAMY COLESLAW** — I used to be down on coleslaw. You couldn't offer me enough money to take a nibble of that shredded cabbage. But then Louis, one of our great kitchen guys, offered it to me and I tried it as I didn't want to hurt his feelings. And since that day I've been eating it till the sun don't shine.



By: Kate Mac.D.

# BROCCOLI

The prince of our produce wet counter, local broccoli, is back again at half price, making this bit of royalty just

**75¢ EACH**

# WE'VE GONE FISHING!

Charlie's fish of the week is Cobia — sometimes called lemonfish. It lives in temperate waters from Cape Cod to Argentina, but predominately from the Florida Gulf Coast and the Islands. It has firm white flesh and is excellent sautéed, baked or broiled. As usual there will be some recipes available.

**16.95 LB THIS WEEK**

# OUR GUINNESS SAUSAGES!

How can you go wrong with beer and meat? It's the best of both worlds. There hasn't been a better couple than this since peanut butter met jelly.  
Reg. \$3.99 lb.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

# BLUEBERRIES

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