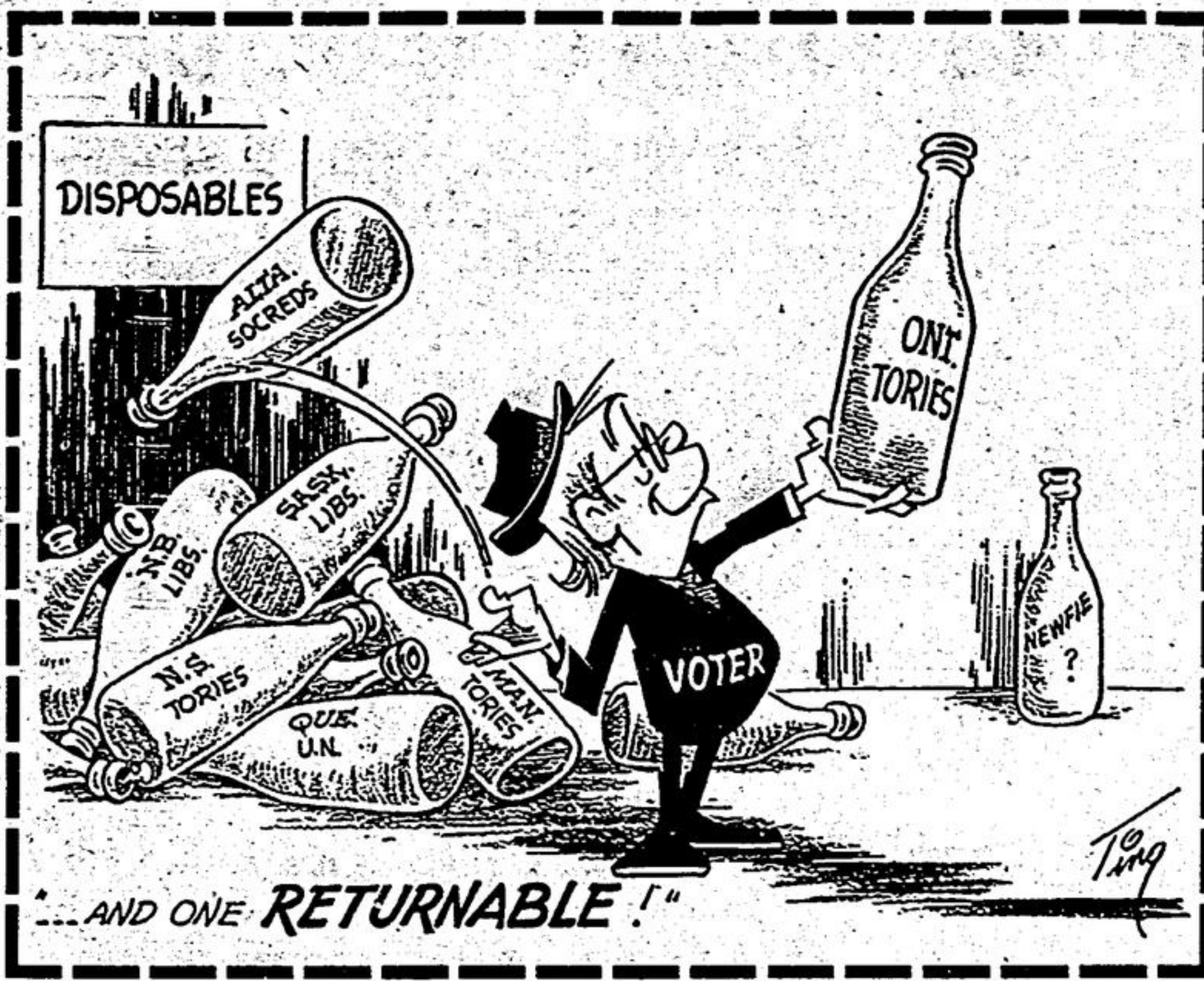


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# ROAMING AROUND

## The Sabbath . . . A day of recreation

By Jim Thomas

On Sunday afternoon, 297 persons attended the first Sunday public skating event in the arena's history or, in the history of Stouffville.

All ages were represented, although the range from say 6 to 12 years appeared most prominent. This, undoubtedly was due partly to the fact that many parents were present - moms and dads whose enthusiasm for this kind of sport would seem more pronounced on a Sabbath afternoon than a Saturday night.

In effect, it was a 'family day', with mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, taking the time to do something together. I think it's great.

But what if the same idea had been conceived say, thirty years ago? What the reaction then?

I can't truthfully say, for I wasn't a resident here, but I can well imagine the mutterings it might have stirred, up and down Main Street or perhaps even within the hallowed walls of the old council chambers. And yet, the acceptance of fifty cent admissions at the rink on a Sunday in 1971, is no more legal than it would have been in 1941. It's just that customs tend to change while laws often stand still.

The Sabbath - a day of rest or recreation? In many instances, the two are one.

But parents, think back. How strict were the rules and regulations in your home on Sundays when you were a kid?

For me, there were well defined do's and don'ts.

First, on the list, came Sunday School. I seldom missed a class. Later, it was church, and my attendance record was pretty good there too.

Cards - any kind of cards, were out. So was hockey - I mean anything organized. Oh sure, a little shinny was okay, as long as it was confined to the nearby creek, the old gravel pit or a back-field pond. It was the same for swimming. The old 'hole' in the Rouge River had to suffice. Even if it meant the baring of one's 'bottom' to the inquisitive stares of a herd of Holsteins that shared the same bathing spot.

Fortunately, there was no Sunday ban on girl-watching. But unfortunately, on the Ninth Line, there were too few girls to watch. The ones that did live close, showed no desire for a date with a guy whose only transportation was the crossbar of a hand-me-down bike.

How times have changed. But still, how difficult to change.

Like many of the nearly 300 that whirled and zigged and zagged around the rink, Sunday. They still favored Saturday.

"Not so many people", said 11 year old Terry Kelly, Maystone Court, Stouffville. "Saturday was best", agreed Mary Smith, 14, of R.R.3, Claremont, "I liked staying up late".

"Saturday", echoed, Sheila and Susan, both 14, "easier to get out of the house". "More fun on Saturday", said Sharon Morrison, also 14, of South Street.

Fourteen year old Brenda Morden, Tenth Line South had a different opinion. "Sunday skating is great", she said, "now I won't get into trouble for arriving home late, Saturday night".

"Sunday's best", agreed Debbie Mather, 14, a visitor from Ajax, "there are lots of other things to do on a Saturday".

Ten year old Cheryl Bond, Ninth Line North, also favored the change.

"What else is there better to do?" asked Mrs. Vera Sigismondi, visiting in town from Toronto.

As for 14 year old Jeff Roy, Stouffville, R.R.3, one is as good as the other. "Saturday or Sunday, it doesn't matter", he said, "I get enough skating playing hockey".

But his 7 year old sister Michele was more partial. "I like Sunday", she said, "Saturday night is too late and I'm too little".

With regard to the legality of the event, one parent asked: "What if the rink was raided, would we all be charged as found-ins?"

Funny how that 'Oh! Calcutta!' thing keeps cropping up again.

# Editorial

## Let saner heads prevail

If problems experienced in Stouffville on occasions this fall serve as an indicator, then this town could be in for one of its worst Hallowe'en's in years.

Facts pointing to this are - the removal of the Police Office from Main Street gives vandals a psychological freedom that didn't exist before; a small element of young persons appear bent on destruction here, particularly in the local park and Hallowe'en coming as it does on a weekend, all add up to trouble.

Sensing this, there is the suggestion that private vigilante-type groups should be organized here, in an effort to stop trouble before it starts.

As well-meaning as such recommendations may be, it could only worsen rather than lessen the tension that is bound to prevail.

While police personnel will undoubtedly be out in force, we should suggest the Vandorf Division go one step further than that of officer surveillance and cruiser patrol. We would recommend that the Sergeant, working in co-operation with the High School principal and the Mayor, commandeer the assistance of a half-dozen responsible students and or citizens for about four hours, Saturday night. While their legal jurisdiction would be limited, their very presence here, would serve as a deterrent to vandalism and, at the same time allow uniformed officers to be stationed elsewhere, should the need arise.

Such a system has been tried in other communities on occasions, and with considerable success.

## No autumn in the air

Stouffville residents, living in such areas as O'Brien Avenue, Church Street and Main West, are faced with a perplexing problem this fall - what to do with the leaves.

Some are bagging them up as garbage; others are burning them while others are content to let them stay where they lay.

The confusion relates to a fear of pollution - air pollution and the law that prohibits such burning is enforced under Ontario's Environmental Protection Act. The province has one inspector in the Region of York whose job it is, to check on every complaint.

What a joke. While most people are pollution con-

scious where the problem poses any permanent impairment to water, air and soil, a rule such as this is ridiculous.

Burning, be it leaves or anything else, should be regulated but not prohibited. And it should be regulated through municipal laws, not provincial. It should be enforced in the same way.

But, setting all laws aside, what is really so bad about the smell of burning leaves in autumn anyway? Personally, we miss it. For it tends to overcome some of the more depressing odors that waft across this fair town from time to time - odors that government, Provincial or otherwise, seem powerless to do anything about.

## These are conservative times

The comment of one TV commentator rang true in the provincial election; he suggested that when times are troubled, people tend to be more conservative.

This point was never more exemplified than in Premier Davis' sweep of the province on Thursday. With all the problems that exist today, people were just not prepared to launch out with untried administrators. Shades of Leslie Frost and John Robarts still hold sway over the province, and the image of Premier Bill Davis as a sound successor rang true.

The fact that not one cabinet minister lost his seat in the campaign is remarkable. Locally the Conservative candidate, William Hodgson was well-known, experienced and voters were reluctant to try anything new at this point in time. To the south, Liberal member Don Deacon was strongly opposed by

Conservative Tony Roman, but his reputation as an excellent administrator, his fairness and full-time interest, carried him through.

It was obvious that the unions did not support the N.D.P. as the party seemed to believe they would. Many were obviously fearful of their jobs should an N.D.P. government implement the stringent controls over business which they proposed.

Locally in York North, the Liberal standard bearer was scarcely known and the "nice guy" image portrayed by the leader Robert Nixon made little dent on that of stability, as portrayed by Premier Davis.

The reluctance of voters to risk a change, and the strong image portrayed by Premier Davis were undoubtedly the main reasons for the big Conservative win.

### SUGAR AND SPICE Smiley's formula to save Canada

By BILL SMILEY

It seems, if we are to believe the financial experts, that Canada is in for a tough time, economically. Them danyankees are at it again.

They are paying as much attention to our various trade missions and professional whiners as would a buffalo, charging toward a cliff, with a flea on his back screaming that he, too, would be killed if the buffalo went over the edge.

Well, as the fleas, we can't blame it on anybody, but ourselves. It's been too comfortable, riding around on the back of that big, fat, juicy buffalo. Better we should have been wasps, stinging instead of sucking.

Now we know how the Esquimaux and the Indians feel about the rest of us.

Newspaper editorials are crying the blues, telling the government to do something about it, or trying to assure their readers that the U.S. is not out to "get us".

They might as well save their type. It's too late for crying; there's no use telling the present government to do anything about anything; and the U.S. is not interested in "getting" us: it is interested in getting itself out of the worst economic mess it has been in since the thirties.

Writers of letters-to-the-editors are offering some emotional, but largely irrational advice to anyone who will listen. Some would cut the Yanks off from all our resources. That would be like cutting off your nose to improve your appearance.

Others would seize, or seriously police, all American subsidiary companies in Canada. That would result in further unemployment as the Yanks started closing plants, many of them heavily subsidized by our own government, and started pulling in their horns.

Maybe a mouse can frighten an elephant, according to legend, but a rat can't stop a ship from sinking by

threatening to jump overboard. And there's a lovely mixed analogy for you to ponder over.

To carry on with the cliches, Canadians are reaping what they have sown. For several generations, they have invited, nay, begged foreign capital to invest in this country: They have refused to invest in their own country, preferring something "safer", like Brazilian Traction or A.T. and T.

Result? The country is crawling with British, Swedish, German and American plants, directed from abroad. I wonder how many Canadian companies you would find operating successfully in any of those countries.

Another cliché. You can't have your cake and eat it. We have all the ingredients for the cake. But rather than bake it ourselves, we send them to foreign bakers, buy it back from them, and find that it's mostly crumbs.

One more. You can't have it both ways. You can't be half capitalist, half socialist. And if you want to play around with a giant among capitalists, like the U.S., you need more protection than an Alcan jockstrap. You don't send in your high school second-string juniors to play against the pros.

Have I a solution? Of course I have. This economic lecture wasn't prepared without deep thought and deeper research.

First, let's stop running around in ever-decreasing circles, like that bird of legend. You know it's fate.

Second, let's not bite the hand that feeds us. Unless that hand tries to give us a cuff on the ear. Then bite to hurt.

Third, let's pull in our belts, get off our tails, and start competing with industrialists in other countries. In short, stop producing shoddy merchandise at inflated prices. I'll take a wage freeze, will you? Thus endeth the lesson.

Dear Sir:  
Readers of the Tribune were provided with a good example of the importance of a free and vital local press last week. Its contribution to effective democracy was demonstrated in your coverage of the current election scene. Conservative M.L.A. Bill Hodgson, after having been seriously beaten at the all-candidates meeting at the Aurora High School, became unavailable for proposed debates at the remaining four secondary schools as well as two public meetings. The Tribune gave prominent news coverage to this fact and also suggested editorially that these meetings were of the highest importance. Before the day was finished, Mr. Hodgson had found that his busy schedule wasn't quite so busy after all and he was able to attend both Stouffville meetings.

I think the Tribune deserves much of the credit for the fact that these opportunities for the public to see and compare the three political candidates were offered. It is an excellent example both of the power of the press and the good use that can be made of that power.

David Robinson,  
38 Aurora Heights Drive,  
Aurora.

Dear Sir:  
Stephen Lewis said last night that it's a very long process to establish the roots of a social democratic society. It would certainly seem to be true in Ontario.

Bryan Kettlewell,  
R.R.3, Stouffville.

# Editor's Mail

Dear Sir:

Thank goodness for Margaret Coburn, School Board trustee for King, who has always taken an interest in the problems of the rural schools. And the Tribune's editorial last week was right to the point.

The problem at Ballantrae is indeed serious. Last year, with attendance of about 270 (80 more than recommended) the school had two portables, two basement classes, no gym and no auditorium. Parents petitioned the Board for a building extension, which was tentatively approved, but plans did not progress.

When the Board decided to close the small rural schools last May, they had planned to send the children from Vivian and Shrubmount to Rogers School in Newmarket. Parents petitioned the Board to have the children sent to Ballantrae instead and asked that Ballantrae be made a Central School with facilities comparable to Rogers. The Board did agree to send the students to Ballantrae, but parents did not receive any assurances as to what facilities would be provided, or when construction of the building addition would commence.

There are presently four portables at Ballantrae, two basement classes, including Kindergarten, the "library" is in the teachers' lounge (also basement) and there is still no gym. Also the narrow corridors are considered a fire hazard! The enrollment has climbed to 390.

Surely this must be the only public school of this size in the Region with such poor conditions.

Parents had considered petitioning the Board to have the children remain at Vivian and Shrubmount until improvements at Ballantrae were completed. However, we were fed up with having to petition the Board with every problem! Surely it is up to our local Trustee to bring our problems to the attention of the Board and the Provincial Department of Education, if this is where the delay originates. Let's have some action Mr. Starr!

I would like to comment that Mr. Hunt and the staff at Ballantrae are doing an excellent job, despite the awkward conditions.

Mrs. Lee Wong,  
R. R. 3, Stouffville.