

The Tribune
Established 1888

CHARLES H. NOLAN, Publisher

JAMES THOMAS, Associate Publisher and Editor

ROBERT McCAUSLAND, Advertising Manager

Published every Thursday by Inland Publishing Co. Limited at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont. Tel. 640-2101. Single copies 15c. subscriptions \$5.00 per year in Canada, \$9.00 elsewhere. Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation, Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association and Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association. Second class mail registration number 0896.

Editorial

Constructive criticism welcome

Certain programs and policies, approved by the York County Board of Education, have been the subject of some criticism in recent months, particularly by The Tribune.

This is true. We have contended that current overcrowding at Ballantrae Public School, is partly the result of premature school closings at Vivian and Shrubmount.

We have criticised the proposed sale, by auction, of the Lemonville School, even after trustees were told the area's residents wished the building retained for a Community Centre.

Our opinion hasn't changed. Last week, two members of the Board, Mrs. Louise Aimone and Mrs. Margaret Coburn, travelled from Thornhill and

Aurora respectively, to discuss these and other issues with the newspaper's editor, personally.

While admitting that 'to err was human' - even for school trustees, they also challenged the press on its duty to 'compliment' as well as 'criticise' the work of the Board, when decisions warrant favorable recognition.

They also pointed to the need for a closer working relationship between the people and the Board. This vacuum, they feel, could be best bridged by a concerned press.

These criticisms, of a constructive nature, are welcomed by The Tribune.

The Tribune's criticisms, of a constructive nature, should also be welcomed by the Board.

Position of responsibility

The rural residents of Ward 1, Township of Pickering, will have a 'voice' in that section of the municipality.

They made themselves heard, Saturday, electing candidate John Anderson, R. R. 3, Claremont, to a seat on the 1972-73 Council.

Candidate Anderson had two things - going for him, following his nomination, Nov. 26. First, his campaign was well organized and included several influential supporters, well-known and highly-respected throughout the Ward. Secondly, he had as his opponent, John Campbell, a constant source of irritation to farm folk when he held the fort in a predominantly urban area, several years ago.

It would therefore be safe to say that the vote, in the rural district at least, was

as much anti-Campbell as pro-Anderson. The end result then, was obvious.

While winning a position on Council - any Council, is an honor that falls to only a few, John Anderson's success carries a tremendous responsibility. For he will be representing a Ward, part of which could go to Metro Toronto (or Oshawa) and the remainder to Uxbridge or even York.

Where will the cut-off occur? Where should it occur?

Opinions are divided, so whatever the decision, many will not agree. John Anderson must share in that decision. However, he cannot be all things to all people.

"A voice in the North that will be heard in the South", read his election slogan.

Of this he can be sure - the ratepayers will be listening.

Nobody's business

The days when receiving any form of welfare was considered shameful are over. Most people now see nothing wrong with public assistance to a person who is ill, old, or otherwise unable to fend for himself.

Yet, as Mayor Ken Laushway pointed out at a recent meeting of Regional Council, the Health and Social Services Committee reports in great detail the disbursements from a trust fund on behalf of York Manor residents. Mr. Laushway suggested a return to the system used by the former County government: a Board of Management, which could decide such things.

It is, after all, of very little interest to the public if Mrs. Smith or Mr. Brown wants \$200 for Christmas shopping. The money is, in most cases, their own; it was put into a trust account when they en-

tered York Manor. We agree with Mayor Laushway; that it's really nobody's business. There's no need to trot it out in public.

Moreover, we can recall at least one snide crack made by a Regional Councillor about one requested disbursement. This is in the worst possible taste.

We suspect this is a hangover from the old days of "charity" or "the workhouse". It is interesting to note that this committee is the only one which reports in such detail; usually it's just "accounts totalling \$510,700", and these can be examined at the Clerk's office.

Mayor Laushway's suggestion makes sense. A Board of Management would not only avoid the petty spectacle of dragging these details into public view, but it would also be more efficient.

Editor's Mail

Lifblood of every town

Yes I care whether Stouffville as a business community survives. If it doesn't, the effects would be far greater than people realize.

Sure you can find some items selling for less elsewhere; but let's be fair and do a complete comparison. Repeatedly I have seen furniture and appliances selling at a lower price here; when you take the trouble to compare model for model. I just bought a coat here for less than the same coat priced in Toronto. I can buy most drugs for the same price or less than at our discount stores outside of town. How about our gasoline prices, our house prices, land prices and services?

Our food costs could be higher than some but one in particular is now operating at a loss. I wonder why? Could it be to eliminate the opposition and then watch the prices go up?

Now suppose we lost our businesses as such - what does it cost us?

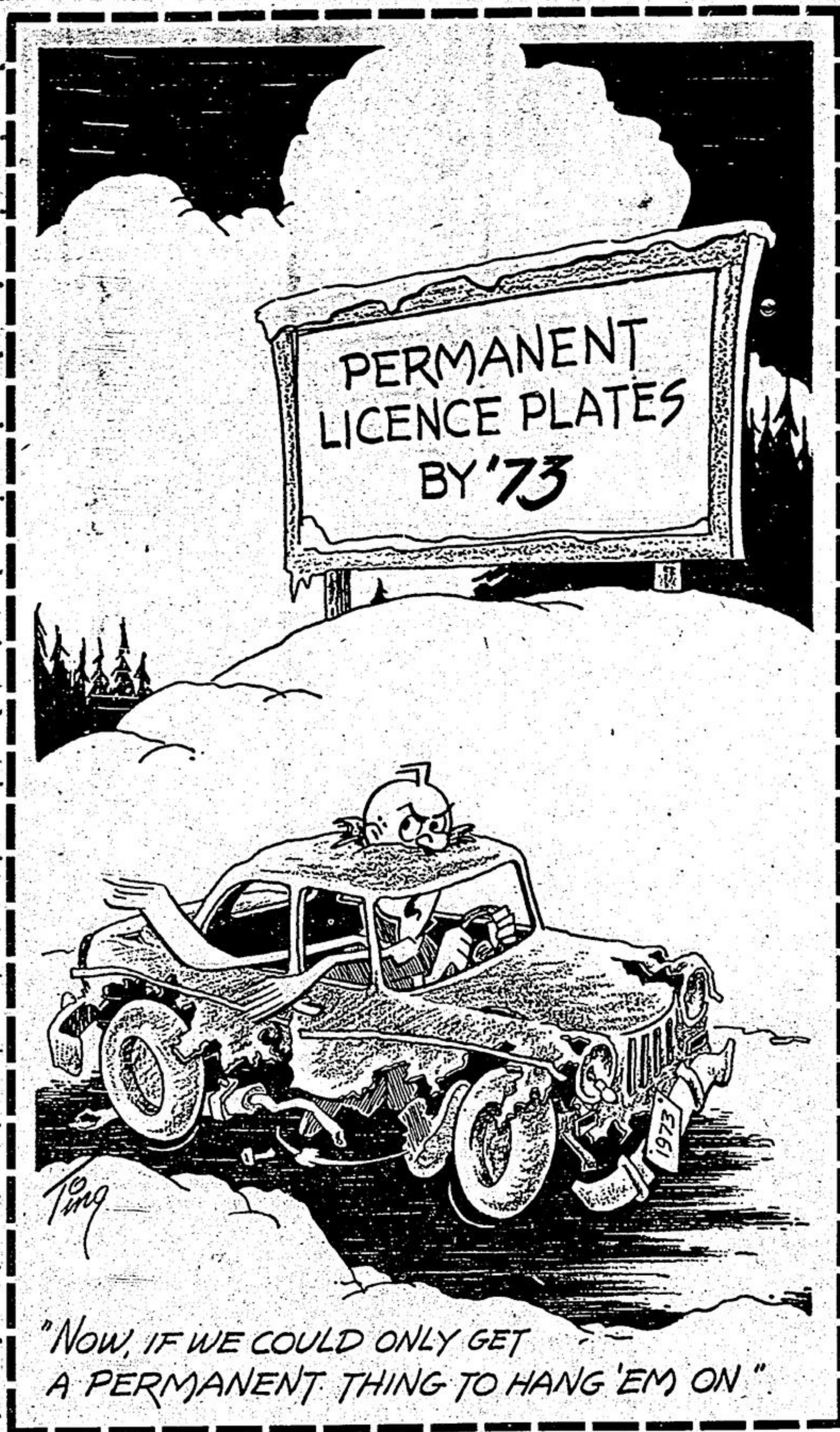
While some of our friends had their houses catch fire while they were

elsewhere shopping, who would come to their aid? Most of our firefighters are either local businessmen or their employees. It appears our fire department would be only a token effort without local businesses. How many people would get out of bed with the temperature zero to go to a fire for \$5 pay?

What would happen to our local newspaper which has won so many awards, if there were no businesses to advertise - dead? I wonder where the money comes from for the Santa Claus parade, the candies, to support the local dances, plowing matches, fire fund and other charities.

How many parents take their boys to play hockey wearing a sweater bought by local businessmen and accompany their children to get a free gift from Santa, provided by local businessmen - all before they leave town to do their shopping?

Local Businessman



Their lives for our liberty

Dear Sir:

On a number of occasions, I have found your column 'Roaming Around' rather boring and sometimes contradictory to the facts. It has therefore become my habit to ignore that particular section of your paper. However, the heading on your column (Nov. 11) 'Best We Forget, attracted my attention and I could not resist reading your comments on Remembrance Day. Boy, you really did it this time! I never expected rash statements and conclusions of this kind. I have to assume that the least an editor can do is to try and understand the facts before publicly voicing his opinion.

I am sure that most people have a better understanding of Remembrance Day than you have.

Let me, for your sake - and possibly some others - briefly review the true meaning of this solemn occasion.

On November 11th, 1918, an armistice between the hostile powers came into effect which ended the 'Great War'. A war which was believed to have been fought to 'end all wars'. John McCrae's 'In Flanders Fields' had been written in 1915 and as a result of this magnificent and meaningful poem the red poppy became symbolic of the human sacrifice which was made 'to end all wars'. The first line of the third verse reads "Take up our quarrel with the foe". The word "foe" is meant to be "war". November 11 was then called "Armistice Day". Wars, however, had not ended and the world experienced another armed clash with all the horrors of such. That war was named 'World War II'. It was then decided to change the name of November 11th from 'Armistice Day' to 'Remembrance Day' thus remembering the ending of both wars and all wars on the same day.

Remembrance Day is not an occasion to remember the war activities. This day and the symbolic poppies are to remember those men and women who lost their lives for a cause which - among others - enables you to voice a warped impression of the meaning of that day.

'Lest We Forget' simply means that we are reminded not to forget those who died for the freedom we cherish and enjoy.

The 'infiltration' of 'new recruits' in the ranks of Legion members shows your ignorance of the meaning and purpose of

the Canadian Legion. These younger people may never have fired a gun in battle but they also have sworn allegiance to the constitution of the Legion which undertakes to help those men and women, including their dependents, who still suffer from afflictions resulting from their war-time service. The Stouffville Branch of the Canadian Legion is periodically host to a number of patients of Sunnybrook Hospital. On the next occasion of such a visit you should also come to the Legion Hall and see those veterans - or - in some cases - what is left of them!

Again then, Remembrance Day services are not held to remember war but to remember people and their sacrifices.

Therefore, Mr. Editor, you should have refrained from voicing your opinion before doing your home-work in order to get familiar with the facts.

Louis Meydam,
Manitoba Street,
Stouffville.

Too complacent

Dear Sir:

On a recent television newscast, a report on drug sales, concluded with the remark that as yet, heroin had not shown up in public schools.

Suddenly, I'm angry, after complacently saying "Isn't it terrible!" for the last couple of years.

Are we, as parents, accepting this condition as "a sign of the times?"

I firmly believe that if everyone cooperated, this problem could be solved.

Most parents wouldn't allow their children to frequent immoral places. Then, if drugs are to be 'accepted' as a part of school life, I say they too are immoral.

Perhaps exceptional conditions require exceptional tactics like withdrawing our children or refusing to pay school taxes, until they meet a standard that we feel is acceptable.

Our young people are intelligent, but also adventuresome. Let's guard them. It's our responsibility.

Mother of two.

ROAMING AROUND

The true spirit of Christmas

By Jim Thomas

What interests do Sunday afternoons hold for you?

Is it an exciting time, like skiing, skating or snowmobiling?

Is it a relaxing time, reading, visiting or resting?

Is it a boring time, a few long hours with nothing to do at all?

For me, it's a time to set aside everything and concentrate on writing this column. Believe it or not, I usually start around two and finish around six, interrupted only by the occasional phone call and a couple of trips for coffee over at Bing's.

For this reason, I seldom book any extra-curricular activities for the Sabbath. For, as sure as I do, I'm in trouble. It throws my whole schedule out of line and I find myself working into the wee small hours of Monday morning, trying to catch up.

There are exceptions to every rule, however. Last Sunday was such an occasion.

It was a letter, dated Nov. 26, 1971 from the World Vision of Canada, that attracted my attention. It was addressed to me personally, otherwise I might have chucked it into the wastebasket without enquiring further into its content. Attached to the covering correspondence from the organization was a hand-written note that read as follows:

Dear Sirs:

I feel that people in a prosperous country like Canada indulge too much in their own extravagance, especially at Christmas time.

This Christmas, I have asked folks who give me gifts, to give me the money instead, so I may donate it to some worthy charity. I know the sum won't be very large, but I hope it will help feed some poor, hungry little children.

I have heard that your organization does help such people, with little loss through administration costs. Please send me information concerning your work. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Penny Dawson.

On Sunday afternoon, I visited Penny. I found her, not at home sleeping or watching T.V., not out on a nearby hill, skiing or tobogganing, but in church - the Goodwood Baptist Church, assisting in the training of an 18-voice children's choir, to sing this week for senior citizens at Lakeview Home in Beaverton and at Parkview in Stouffville. She immediately stepped forward and introduced herself.

Penny, 17, is a Grade 12 student at Port Perry High School. She lives a few doors south of County Road 1A with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dawson, her grandmother, a dog named 'Ladda' and a cat called 'Willie'.

She's exceptionally attractive and overly modest, even to the point of accepting no credit for her personal fund-raising campaign.

The idea of assisting others less fortunate than herself, came on a suggestion from a United Church minister, speaking on the radio. "I had thought about it before", she said, "but this year, I decided to do something about it". Her mother obtained the office address of World Vision from a friend. Penny contacted them for additional information.

"But won't it be a bit disappointing to get up on Christmas morning and find no presents under the tree?" I asked.

"I've thought about that", Penny answered honestly, "but I also feel there are many other things that make up a happy Christmas than just exchanging gifts".

Penny refuses to look on the project as any personal sacrifice. She also admits that the money she receives will not be that great to go too far. She points out, however, that every contribution, large or small, will help a little.

"I love helping children", she said, a broad smile lighting up her face.

That love is two-fold. For somewhere in Bogota, Columbia, one little child's Christmas will be a little merrier, thanks to the thoughtfulness of a 17 year old Goodwood girl named Penny Dawson.

Perhaps others will follow her example.