


The Tribune
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CHARLES H. NOLAN, Publisher

JAMES THOMAS, Associate Publisher and Editor

ROBERT MCCAUSLAND, Advertising Manager

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ONTARIO WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

Editorial

An ideal development

Considerable pressure is being exerted on Whitchurch-Stouffville Council, to approve a second phase of the V. L. A. Subdivision at Ballantrae.

So far, each application has been rejected, although one member, (Councillor Betty vanNostrand), spoke in favor of the extension, during discussion held earlier last month.

We agree with Council, that a postponement is in order, but for different reasons.

We feel that the build-up in Phase 1 should be completed first, before the developer is allowed to proceed further. We argue too, that at least a portion of the present accommodation problem at Ballantrae school should be overcome, before another sixty homes are completed, or even started, in that community.

As for the subdivision, as it now stands, we feel it's ideal - not only for that area, but for the Town.

As for the services, we can only abide by the opinions of professionals, who say they are adequate. The lot sizes and quality of construction would seem to provide owners with the best value in this area, in years.

While stumbling blocks, such as water, sewage and the like, have been introduced on Council's side of the argument, members continually keep bringing some 500 maximum population figure, contained in a former township Official Plan.

Why 500, we ask? Why not 300 or 700 or 1,000? We hardly think it fair to establish a blanket policy of this kind on all hamlets throughout the municipality.

We say, deal with each development plan on its own merits, whether its location is in Vandorf, Bethesda or Ballantrae.

As for V. L. A., we only wish their selected site had been established in Stouffville. We should be so lucky.

Beneath our dignity

Whitchurch-Stouffville town councillor, Tom Lonergan, long noted for his impatient attitude towards unenforceable bylaws, has taken aim on one of the last frontiers of individual responsibility - the shovelling of snow from sidewalks.

He has described conditions in some parts of town as 'disgraceful', and has asked that the law be either enforced or repealed.

Councillor Lonergan is right. Many sidewalk areas in Stouffville have been a disgrace this winter. And not only in front of vacant lots, but in front of some homes and business places too.

Many folks look on this chore as menial labor - beneath their dignity.

Others feel they are getting little enough for their tax dollar, so let the municipality do it.

Still others aren't physically able to do it, and won't hire anyone to do it for them. And then there's the few who are just too lazy to do it.

Feel privileged to select the category that suits you best.

While the town will eventually have to assume this work, we would suggest that Council assert its authority and enforce the bylaw as it now stands.

A threatened fine might spur a little action. It might also provide some job-hunting students with a little seasonal employment.

Airport guessing game

A jumbo jet airport on the outskirts of Atha?

Monstrous passenger planes clipping the tops of chimneys in Claremont?

Hordes of overseas commuters streaming through Green River?

Exciting eh?

Perhaps for some, who take such things seriously. But not for us, unless the 'facts' are based on something official. For we've experienced the runaway imaginations of daily newsroom editors before.

But it sure sells newspapers.

That was why, when folks began calling this Office, Tuesday, we couldn't sound enthused. Because we weren't enthused. There were just no facts available to support the story - no facts at all, from Queen's Park or Ottawa.

Rather than pin-pointing a place in Pickering, as the daily press has done, we'll stick with the site of the now-defunct 'Century City' scheme. We suggested this location before and our opinion has not changed.

But then, like the Toronto Star, we're only guessing too.

Editor's Mail

Dear Sir: With respect to the letter (Tribune - Feb. 24), I would like to clarify certain issues introduced by 'Rural Resident', with respect to water, sewers and school accommodation, as it affects the V.L.A. development at Ballantrae.

Before a plan of subdivision can be approved, it must go through approximately 24 departments, both provincial and regional. Qualified personnel must decide if it meets all requirements.

With respect to the Felray Development, a report from G.A. Missingham, P. Eng., District Engineer, Ontario Water Resources Commission, reads in part as follows: "It would appear that precipitation falling on the property, plus the water recycled through individual disposal systems, will more than meet the water supply requirements of the subdivision on a perennial basis. No serious interference with water supplies outside the subdivision is expected. I had our Survey and Projects Branch of the Division of Water Resources review the hydrologist's report and have received agreement with these conclusions".

To 'Rural Resident', if you wish to obtain a copy of the Soil Survey of York County (Report No. 19), it shows a huge area of Brighton Sand in and around the Ballantrae area. This type of soil has excellent drainage and filtration

qualities. Combining this with the water report, shows the area to be self-sufficient in the provisions of services at acceptable Provincial standards.

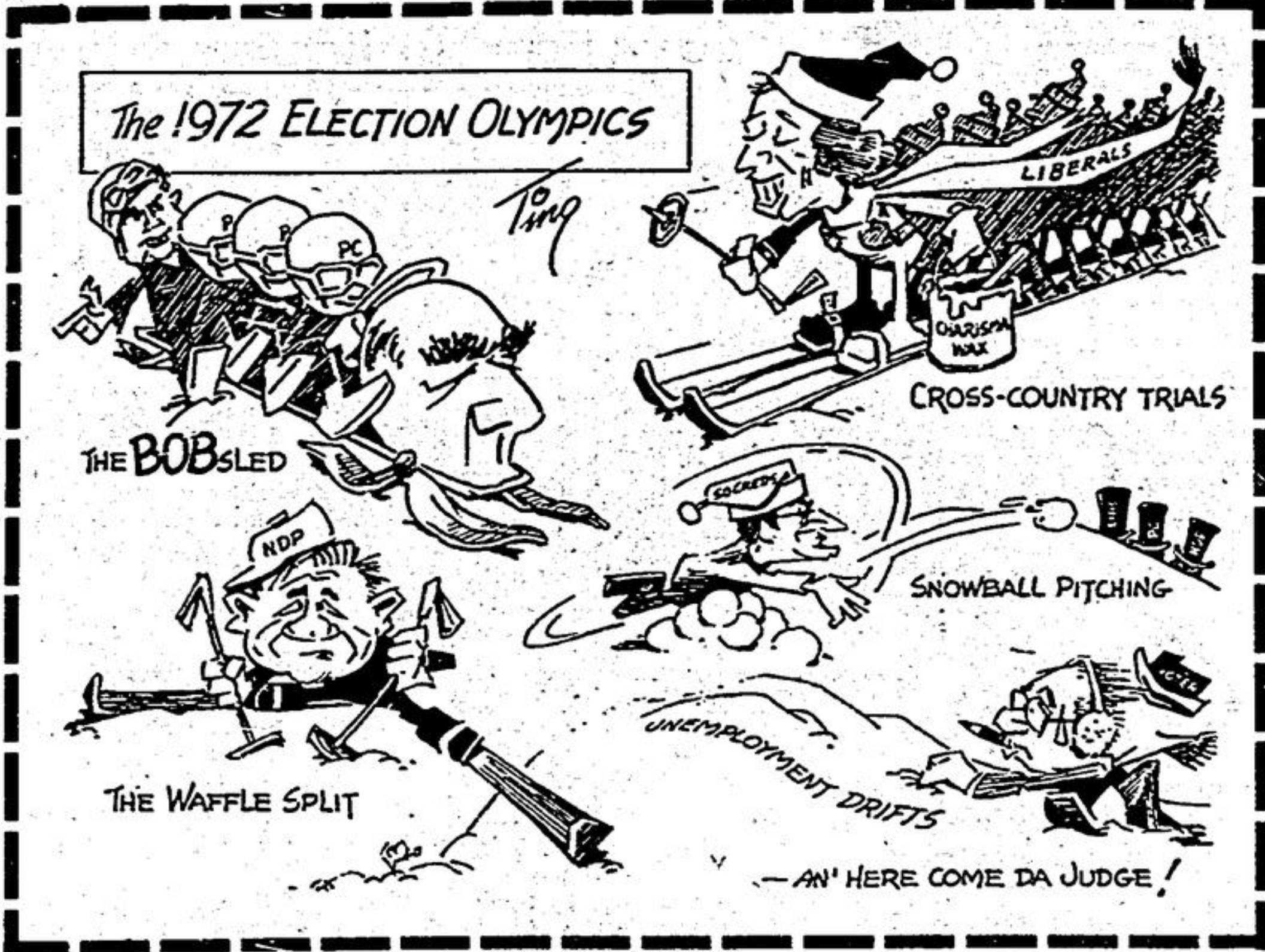
The problem of overcrowding at Ballantrae School has not been caused by the low number of children attending from the V.L.A. subdivision. The closing down of the small rural schools and the transporting of them to Ballantrae is the root of the problem.

I would suggest to 'Rural Resident', that further development with regard to V.L.A., cannot be approved at a later date since the Act expires in March of 1974. This would result in a loss to the municipality of the 'fine people' you refer to, whose presence will benefit the community. There will also be a financial loss of about \$2 million, in additional assessment.

We would be pleased to answer any questions from interested residents in this regard. Feel free to call 297-3487 any time during daytime office hours.

The Developers,
Felray Investments Ltd.

Dear Mr. Thomas: I have been requested by the rural people of Pickering Township to make a statement on the proposed Airport in the



SUGAR AND SPICE

All-Canadian 'soap opera'

By BILL SMILEY

Well, what do you think of the CBC's widely-touted Jalna series? Please don't answer that aloud. There are ladies present.

Ah, with what hopes we looked forward to a truly brilliant, all-Canadian grand slam in the world of television. All-Canadian cast, all-Canadian material, and a decent budget.

It would astonish the world, dazzle the screen, and all of the world's great networks would beat a path to the CBC door, clutching millions of pounds, francs, dollars and lira, begging and pleading for the right to re-produce it.

So much for hopes. The result merely shows that you can have on hand champagne, caviar and filet mignon, but if the cook doesn't know what he's doing, it ends up as watery, limp and lukewarm hash.

We have the champagne in the shape of gorgeous sets. We have the caviar in a collection of first-rate actors. And we have the filet in the rare beef of the original Jalna novels.

But what emerges on the screen is the most ham-fisted, downright dog of a series anyone could dream up. Or nightmare up.

The champagne has been watered, the caviar has been fired from a shot-gun and the rare beef has been minced into hamburger.

I warned the CBC, before the series began, that I would roast it if it weren't at least reasonably good. It's not even reasonably bad. Can you roast hash?

I watched the first episode with a mixture of disbelief and horror. The second was a little better, and hope sprang eternal. The flame was quickly smothered by the succeeding wet blankets.

I thought I knew the Jalna novels inside out. But the series is so baffling that, were it not for the names of the characters, I'd be willing to admit that it

was the Bobbsey Twin series I was thinking of.

The most coherent parts of the Sunday night show are the commercials. But even here you have to keep a wary eye, because you're not quite sure they aren't part of the plot, so dense and unwieldy is the latter.

Those faint screams you hear from your set are not static. They are Miss Mazo de la Roche, author of the novels, shrieking epithets at the CBC, the director, and everyone else connected with the mutilation of her manuscripts.

Perhaps the most appalling aspect of the whole dreary business is that the CBC has actually sold the series to some retarded British network, on the understanding that it (the CBC) will produce another 13 episodes in the series.

This is not just flogging a dead horse. It is giving castor oil to someone who is dying of dysentery.

You may have picked up the misconception that I don't like the Jalna series. Quite wrong. I love it. It's the best comedy-mystery hour on the air.

Mind you, the comedy is of the black variety. It's rather like making jokes as the British Empire, on which the sun never sets, sinks slowly into the sunset.

But the mystery, though there is obviously no solution, is fascinating. Sorting out the characters alone is more fun than reading a Russian novel.

Who is married to whom? Why? When? Which are brothers, which cousins? Is Rennie's second wife Eden's first mistress? When is Rennie going to get a new nightie-gown?

The ramifications are endless. And hopeless. It's a soap opera with a schizophrenic at the helm.

I wish they'd sell the dam estate and put Gran in a nursing home, and give Ed Sullivan a ring.

Township. To my knowledge there has never been any negotiations between Pickering Council and the Federal Government.

As to the report in the daily newspapers, it has been suggested that this was picked up off an old map of an earlier proposed site.

I am sure that there are many guesses as to where the Airport will be located, and we will only know when the Federal Government decides to let it be known to the public.

Jack Anderson,
Councillor Ward 1,
Pickering Township.

Dear Jim: I read your recent editorial re the Stouffville Juvenile hockey team and your personal opinion of Juvenile hockey in general.

While it was perhaps a bit unfair to paint all Juvenile clubs with the same critical brush, I must agree that in most games I have seen (and I've seen my share), the competition has been pretty crude.

In spite of this, I do not feel Juvenile hockey should be dropped. Instead, I think it should be incorporated into Stouffville's over-all minor hockey

program, where the management and general team operation would come under tighter supervision.

This past season, it's been looked on as a kind of 'outlaw league' and I use the term 'outlaw' in its most cynical sense.

Jim Hannah.

Leadership candidate?

With the announced resignation of Ontario Liberal Leader, Robert Nixon, there has been some speculation as to his successor. Prominently mentioned as a candidate is Donald M. Deacon, York-Centre. On this subject, Mr. Deacon replies as follows:

"Some people have asked me if I shall be running for the Party Leadership. I would say to you, as I have said to them, that my chief concern in political life is to see that control of Ontario is taken away from the bureaucrats and returned to the people where it belongs. If leadership of the Liberal Party can help achieve that result, then it is possible that I shall be a candidate for that responsibility. But this is all in the future. In the meantime, I am here to help you as your representative at Queen's Park".

ROAMING AROUND

Example of courage

by Jim Thomas

After 21 years in the newspaper business, one's outlook in certain areas of news coverage can become clouded, impersonal - even cynical.

I've honestly tried to avoid this approach, regardless of how uninteresting, how repetitious, the event.

But still, from time to time, that old feeling of cynicism, comes creeping in.

Like Dec. 6, 1970 - a two-car collision on what was then the third concession of Whitchurch Township.

The time was well past midnight, and when I arrived, the occupants, four in number, had already been admitted to hospital. My attitude was 'just another accident'. The story occupied eleven lines of space in the Dec. 10 issue of The Tribune.

But strangely enough, I never could put the incident completely out of mind. For I later learned, that one of the vehicles, reduced to a mangled pile of scrap, was driven by a 19 year old teacher, Margaret Orr by name, of R. R. 1, Newmarket.

Margaret was pinned in the wreckage of her auto for almost an hour. Attendants at the scene had to cut away a portion of the frame before she could be freed. Veteran police officers and firemen spoke in hushed tones, describing the agony of her ordeal.

That was the last I heard of Margaret Orr. But I could not forget the shocking sight of that crumpled heap of junk that once had been a car.

Had she survived? Was she permanently paralyzed? Had she completely recovered? Somehow, I had to know.

Five persons in the Newmarket telephone directory, had the same surname. On the second attempt, a lady, with a very pleasant voice, identified herself as Margaret's mother. She informed me cheerfully, that her daughter was again teaching at a public school in Sharon and, yes, she felt she might spare me a few minutes, outside of regular classroom hours.

At 3:30, Friday, I visited the school, and informed the office secretary, the reason for my being there. She readily agreed to have Margaret call around.

Funny, isn't it, how your mind draws pictures of someone you feel you know, but have never met? Mine did, as I waited ten or fifteen minutes for Margaret to appear.

But how wrong, the mental image I had envisioned. This was not someone embittered by a stroke of fate that had placed her in hospital more than four months; not someone still grieving the loss of five months in her first teaching year; not someone lamenting the fact that her right foot is tightly confined to a steel brace - none of these. But rather, a warm, pleasant girl, whose cheery personality was reflected in the faces of her 32 Grade 3 children. It was obvious, they worshipped her.

Margaret remembers little of that terrible night. And somehow, it seemed heartless, to ask her to try.

Margaret can recall only, heading towards home, and rounding the 'S' curve on the Bogartown cutoff. The next thing she remembers is opening her eyes to see doctors and nurses standing around her bed. By a co-incidence, her principal, was one of the first to arrive on the accident scene. He broke the news to her parents.

Margaret's injuries included a fractured hip, a broken knee-cap and a broken foot. Both legs were badly crushed - damaged to such an extent that double amputation was considered. However, physicians worked 'miracles' and by September, Margaret was back behind her desk, a different grade, but still in the same school.

"The position was kept open," said Margaret appreciatively, "the staff was really great". Throughout her long recovery period, her parents visited her every day.

The Town of Newmarket, or even Sharon, cannot lay total claim to this courageous young lady. Margaret is originally from the Twp. of King, attending Kettleby Public School. She is a graduate of G. W. Williams Secondary School, Aurora.

"To be a teacher, has always been my dream," she said.

Thirty-two smiling faces say thanks - for coming back.