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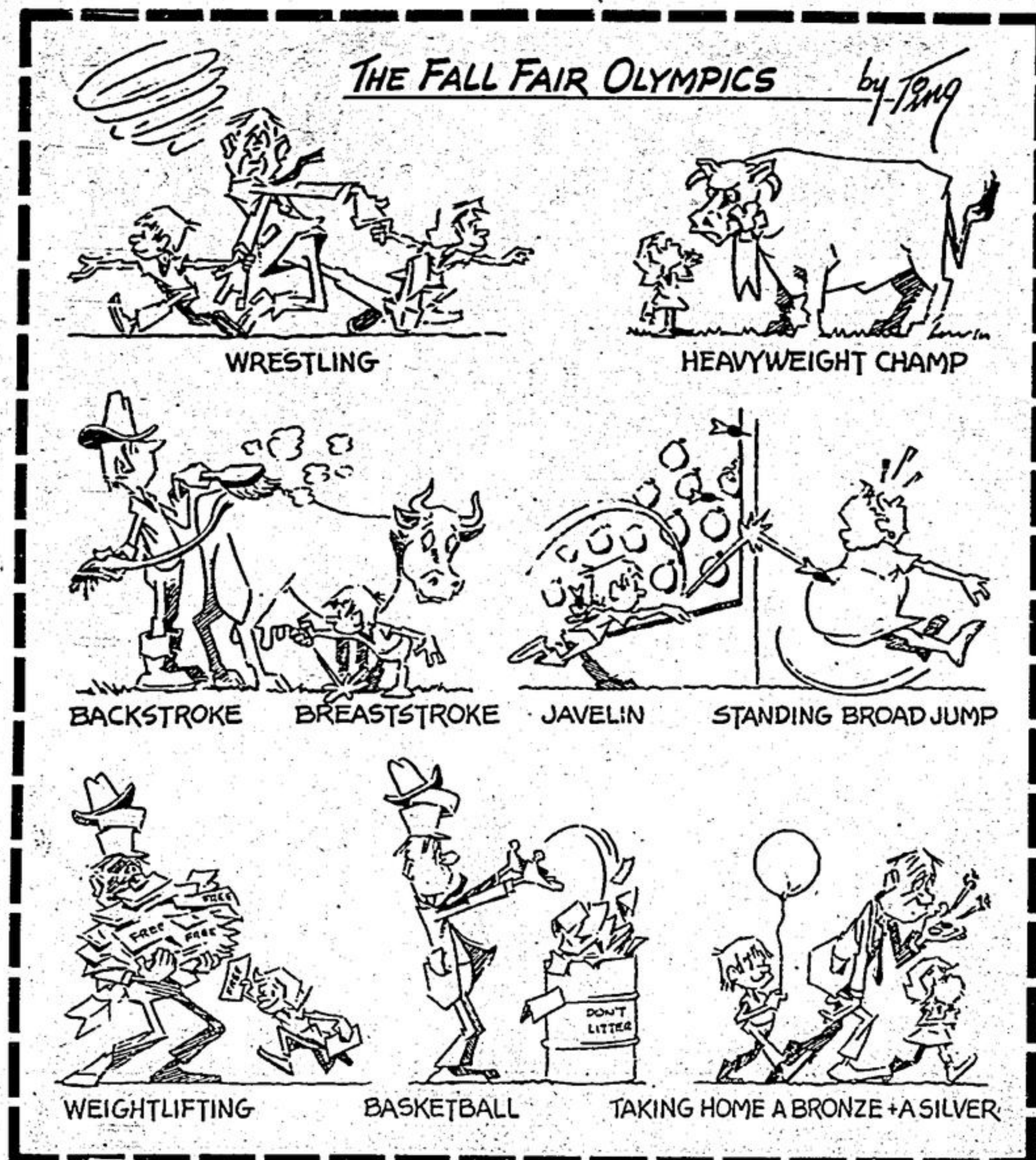
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# ROAMING AROUND

## Cross-eyed readers with wrong slant about life

By Jim Thomas

On the weekend of Sept. 16 and 17, several thousand 'nature lovers' descended on a section of valley land near Claremont, to do homage to the birds and bees.

The intent of the 'festival' was clear - to extol the virtues of good old Mother Earth and condemn those cold, hard insoluble materials, known to modern man as asphalt and concrete.

While hardly practical by today's standards, I can still appreciate the 'dream world' benefits as seen by many of these folks, and I thought I said so. However, two readers, with opposite views, have taken pen in hand and written the following (unsigned) letters. They are published here, with only a few minor omissions.

## Editorial

### Help available when needed most

When the call went out, Sunday, for assistance in the search for 16 year old Larry Schell, missing and presumed lost in dense bushland, bordering Algonquin Park, an estimated 150 Stouffville residents responded.

And they responded in earnest, displaying a dedication so symbolic of folks here, desirous of helping others in a time of trouble.

While concern was written in the face of each and every searcher, there was equal anxiety at 'home', as word of the

boy's disappearance made the rounds. Unlike many stories of this kind, this one had a happy ending, with Larry's discovery, about 1:45 p.m., Sunday afternoon. The sighs of relief were heard across 200 miles.

While it is safe to say that no couple is more highly regarded in Stouffville than Percy and Dot Schell, it is also likely that a similar response would have been afforded any family facing a similar problem. That typifies the kind of community that is Stouffville.

### One Fair ends - another begins

The Legion-sponsored Stouffville Trade Fair is over.

The 117th annual Markham Fair begins.

Both have become community traditions.

If crowds can be considered a standard rule of success, then the Trade Fair was indeed a highly successful event. Attendance, particularly during the evening hours, was excellent.

However, we offer two recommendations for future consideration.

If the promoters expect to hold their audience, and indeed bring people back again and again, a continuous stage program must be provided. This is that 'something extra' that pleases visitors, and makes them anxious to return the next day, the next night, the next year.

Also, with the Park so conveniently located near the Arena, activities of interest could be established there. This year, the Children's Theatre, Saturday, in Latham Hall, hosted close to 200. While many parents viewed the displays, their kiddies attended the show 'across the road'. The two programs worked well together and could possibly be expanded.

This week, Thursday through Sunday, is Markham Fair, an urban-rural exhibition that is 'Markham' in location only. For its acceptance and personal involvement, extends over many miles.

President Gerry Mann, the executive and directors have put in many hours in preparation for this year's event. With a 'break' from the weatherman, it could be the biggest and best Fair yet.

## Editor's Mail

Dear Editor:

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Committee wishes to thank those who contributed to the success of the Town's summertime program.

A special word of appreciation goes to Chris Hobbs, Town Recreation Coordinator for a job so efficiently carried through, also to Marcia Wagg (Stouffville Summer Playground Program); Linda Adams (Slater's Swimming Pool Program); Carol Ann DeCoteau (Mini-Manpower Program) and Peter Sanderson (Stouffville Swimming Pool Program).

To all those who assisted the committee in planning, organizing, directing and coaching the House League Softball, we owe a great deal.

In 1970, the House League had 17 teams. This year, there were 36, with over 500 players and 60 coaches.

We feel the entire Town has benefited through sportsmanship, fellowship and community spirit.

The groundwork completed by Coordinator Chris Hobbs will greatly assist the Committee in implementing future programs for young people, senior citizens and those interested in purposeful use of leisure time.

Edward Grimshaw, Chairman,  
Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Recreation Committee.

Dear Editor:

I am deeply disturbed by the comments reported recently in The Tribune and attributed to developer William Corkoran and councillor June Button. The comments to which I refer, concerns the proposed Airport site.

I question the authority of both parties, in particular councillor Button, to decide that Stouffville will be "obliterated" by the Airport.

I feel this is a very irresponsible attitude for a person in councillor Button's position to take.

If Mrs. Button has positive proof to back up such information, then it has a place on the Front Page of the paper. However, if she is unable to support this fact, perhaps she would be well advised not to make such 'comments' within hearing distance of The Tribune's reporter.

Barbara Sibbick,  
Stouffville.

Dear Sir:

To all of you great sportsmen who arose at 5 a.m. this Saturday to trudge outdoors and 'enjoy' the first day of our annual duck hunt - assured of killing hundreds of innocent birds as they fly in to that pond you have been baiting with grain all summer long - I extend my sincere wishes that you will choke on every mouthful.

Joanne Redshaw  
Stouffville.

Dear Jim:

As one who wears a brush cut, white shirts, narrow ties, pants with cuffs and no sideburns, I am probably the squarest of squares.

So as one 'square' to another, I would like to suggest you missed a great deal at the 'Earth Days' festival, Sept. 16 and 17, if last week's 'Roaming Around' column revealed all you saw.

Contrary to the impression created by your description, many of those present were not involved in the 'activities' you described.

The ladies selling baked goods, preserves, sandwiches and fresh produce were ordinary people by Stouffville standards and could hardly be classed as weirdos or freaks. I'm sure you must know some of them personally, but they did not merit a line. You also neglected the beer bottle and pop-can picker-uppers - but then, they were fully clothed.

Certainly, it made me angry that beer bottles and pop cans were carelessly, (and even purposely) discarded all over the festival site. I was dismayed that several thousand dollars worth of sound equipment was needed to thunder out what I suppose were musical enjoiners to get back to the land.

None of this, however, hides the fact that many, and maybe most of those present at the festival have a genuine

Dear Mr. Thomas:

It was with both surprise and disappointment, that I read in last week's Tribune, that you had taken time out on Sunday - the Lord's Day, to be part of the P.O.P. - sponsored folk festival in Pickering. No, I wasn't there, but I talked to people who were, and they came away with feelings of disgust for the participants and contempt for the organization that put it on. While you may not personally condone such practices as beer-drinking; marijuana-smoking and nudity, the very fact of your presence among such degenerates, puts you on the very same level as the persons who do. We hear so much about 'new morality' these days. If this is a sample, then may the Lord have mercy on future generations.

It would appear that nothing is really sacred anymore. Folks can consume alcoholic beverages in public and no one says a word. The use of marijuana is now 'old hat', with our youth turning to something stronger and likely more damaging. Nudity is flouted everywhere. Where does it all lead? Where does it all end? Surely, there must be more to life than this kind of thing.

As I said, I wasn't there myself. But my information, while second-hand, is reliable. It grieves me that an orgy of such a magnitude would be permitted and, in fact, welcomed to Pickering Township. And it grieves me too, that you were part of such a distasteful program.

(Yes, I was there, but only to learn what the subject 'Earth Days' was all about. I watched beer being consumed; I smelled marijuana and I caught a glimpse of a couple of nude bathing scenes. However, I do not judge the festival as an 'orgy', or its participants as 'degenerates'. In fact, if the quoted 30,000 attendance figure is close to correct, it was the best-behaved crowd of such size I have ever seen. I would suggest that the next time such a thing comes to the Claremont community, you put aside your prejudices and view the proceedings personally, rather than through someone else's eyes.)

Dear Columnist:

I was one of the several thousand 'weirdos' who attended 'Earth Days', near Claremont, recently. But just because we're different, doesn't make us 'freaks'. That classification, in my opinion, belongs to people like yourself, who categorize human beings into cozy little groups, if, for nothing else than to build up your own ego.

Anyway, what's so wrong with drinking beer in public; controlled use of marijuana or bathing in the buff?

Take off your rose-colored glasses and see life as it really is!

(The word 'weirdo' was used to describe participants in the festival, but not used by me. There are some weeks, a columnist can't win).

concern for the state of our environment and are seriously questioning this thing we currently call "progress". You do these people - squares and weirdos alike - a disfavor by producing what I feel was an unbalanced picture of a serious attempt to express their concern.

John Garbutt,  
Manitoba Street,  
Stouffville.

### School photos appreciated

The Tribune has received more favorable comments through publication of old classroom photos, than any other weekly feature. So please keep them coming, with two

requests - that all pupils' names be included and that all original pictures be picked up as soon after publication as possible.



Atha Public School - (S.S. No. 16), Pickering Twp., 1928

There were 19 students enrolled at Atha Public School, (S.S. No. 16), Pickering Twp., in 1928. The pupils are shown here, with their teacher, Miss Nelda Maxwell (left rear). They are, Front Row (left to right) - Grenville Draper, Paul Wellman, Norman Lehman, Carman Thompson, Vern Hoover. Centre Row (left to right) - Isobel Tran, Lois Hoover, Mabel Spang, Margaret Stewart, Barbara Stewart, Mary Spang. Rear Row (left to right) - Miss Maxwell, Norman Spang, Allan Gray, Joe Tran, Jean Phillips, Jean Stewart, Grace Lehman, Audrey Hoover, Rith Middleton.