

Storm brewed up the best in us

It was a picture no artist could paint, but a commute all drivers would hate.

"I love it," said one parent surveying snowy scenery on every side.

"Should have stayed in bed," complained another, tugging three wee ones through knee-high drifts.

Such were contrasting opinions on the morning of Feb. 27.

Whether elated or irritated, a storm of such intensity tends to bring out the best in people. We witnessed neighbours helping neighbours by sharing shovels and blowers.

Whitchurch-Stouffville, once the friendliest town in Ontario, had, thanks to the elements, become even friendlier. At 381 Rupert Ave., I "buried" our car in a road-plowed bank, leaving no alternative but to walk to work.

On my return, the vehicle had been freed thanks to two strangers in a pick-up truck. The service cost? Only a thank-you. Snow storms do bring out the best in people.

Biblical proportions

We're currently the keepers of a family heirloom. It's a unique hard-cover 1,000-page Bible, the property of local resident Isobel (Coleman) Hoover.

This exceptional edition has been handed down through several family generations dating back to 1878.

"I would never sell it," Isobel says. "It belongs in a church."

Because her mother, Isabella Coleman, was of Scottish ancestry and married in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, her daughter feels the Bible's permanent location should be at St. James Presbyterian Church in Stouffville.

Ruth Burkholder, a local his-



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

torian and clerk of session at St. James, has requested an opportunity to peruse some of its 1,000 pages before making a decision on its final resting place.

Be warned, dogs!

In my 23 years of twice-weekly newspaper deliveries, I've been bitten by only two dogs — both yellow Labs.

Each attack occurred at a lengthy distance from the owner's property.

While injuries were minor, this columnist's nerves were badly frayed.

So what to do? Whitchurch-Stouffville's Frank Vanveen has the answer — wasp spray.

While injuries were minor, this columnist's nerves were badly frayed.

"Spray the dog in the snout and he'll back off," says Mr. Vanveen. "It's effective from 20 feet."

The spray, legal in Canada, is available at Canadian Tire.

Dogs be forewarned, I'm now forewarned.

Teachers make mistakes, too

Last week's column described a chance reunion involving Tom McCreight, Bob Stover and Colin Rae, all second year Grade 13 graduates from the class of 1958 at Stouffville High.

The get-together occurred at a Stouffville United Church bluegrass concert. However, there's trivia involved that should be told.

Mr. Stover recalls a teacher, (obviously in an obnoxious mood), entering the classroom and telling her three students: "The pass percentage for Grade 13 repeaters is very low."

The warning obviously spurred the trio to new academic heights. Each went on to obtain rewarding careers.

Book on baseball

Remember when the Stouffville Red Sox were once diamond kings in the local Tri-County Baseball League?

Many players will. So will many fans.

Kevin McWhinnie, co-author of a history book on the 1958 champion Stouffville Cardinals, will soon turn his writing skills to the famous Red Sox team of the 1940s and '50s.

Club members then included: Ken and Lorne Schell; Bob Hassard, Earl Cook, Lorne Boadway, Ted Cadieux, Lou Raxlin, Stan Miller, Les Clarke, Bud Lehman, Ken Laushway, Jack Cote, Chuck Parsons, Don Haynes, Walt Smith, Ken Wagg and more. Watch for it.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.

Sun-Tribune's new look has plenty of room for you

George Costanza introduced us to the concept of "shrinkage".

Let's expand on it, shall we. This is the start of a new time at The Sun-Tribune.

You may not notice it at first, but today's edition is slightly smaller than the paper delivered to your door last week and the week before.

With that smaller sheet of newsprint come changes:

- My column has moved from page 6 to page 8, but you already found that. And thanks for taking the time.

- The column by the other Jim, Mr. Thomas, will also be on this page.

It's an honour to share page 8 with Stouffville's Mr. News. We've been friends for more than 30 years, even when Mr. Thomas was at The Tribune and I was at The Sun.

- Page 7 is now home to our rotating list of columns by my fellow editors. Editor-in-chief Debora Kelly is first out of the chute in this space.

Flip back a page and read about our exciting new project designed to increase the number of people voting in municipal elections here and across York Region. We hope you'll get involved.

- Page 6 in The Sun-Tribune, on Thursday and Saturdays, is largely on you. We have made room for multiple letters and, on the weekend, a guest column from our community.

Send your submissions for both features to me at jmason@yrmg.com

- You've probably noticed, but our page 1 now has the



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

look of a true tabloid with photographs and text guiding you to some of the stories we want you to check out inside.

We've been friends for more than 30 years, even when Mr. Thomas was at The Tribune and I was at The Sun.

The rest of our paper remains largely untouched.

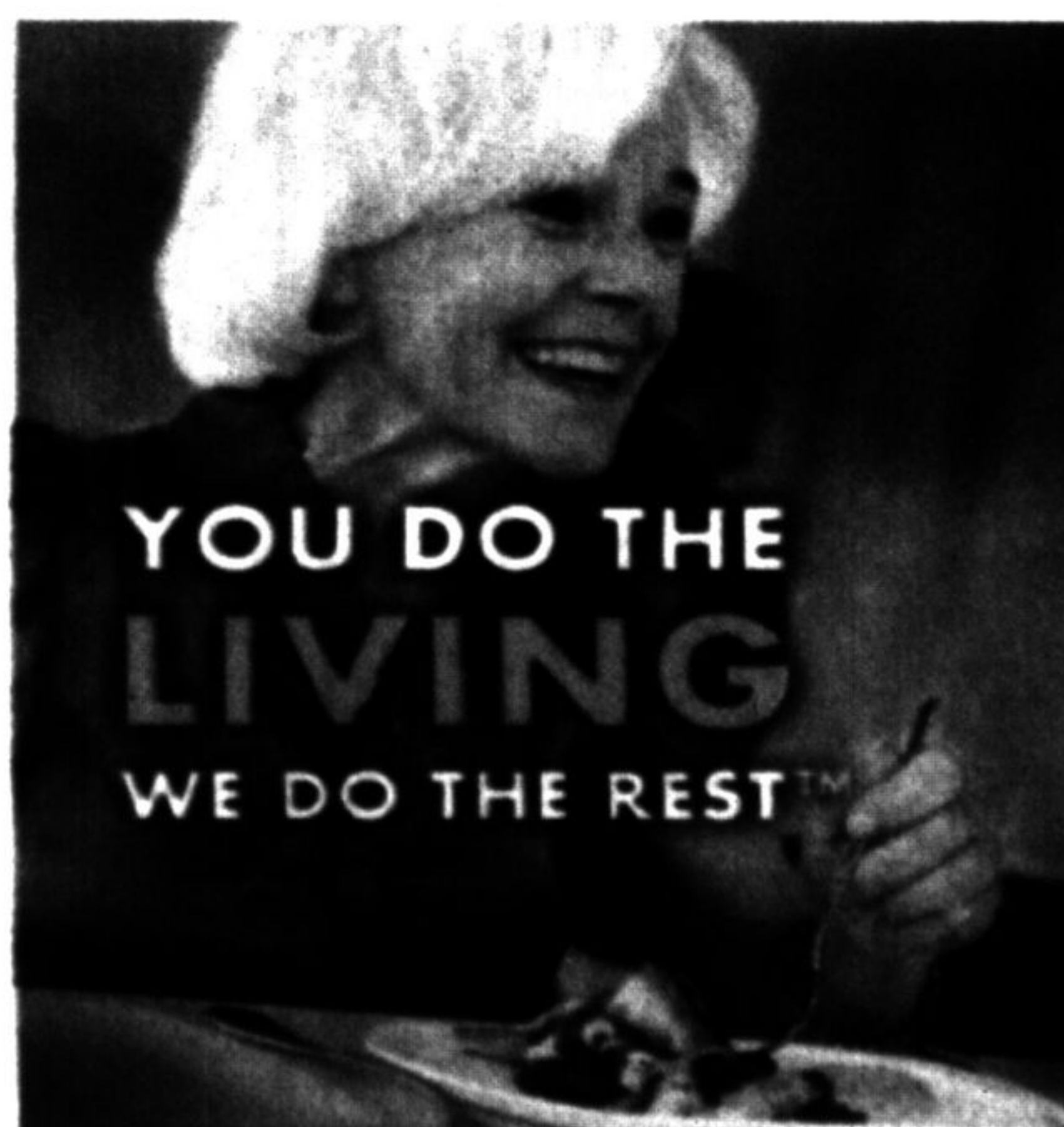
But we remain open to your ideas and comments.

Drop me a line or phone me at 905-640-2612 ext. 23 with your story ideas and other thoughts.

And, please, keep those letters to the editor coming.

But most of all, thanks for reading and participating in our community.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune



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