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**Don  
Deacon  
Reports**  
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**Pollution Of Our Rivers**

Recently, representatives of York Region and the Town of Vaughan came down to Queen's Park to meet with the Minister of Energy and Resources Management George Kerr, and Chairman Donald Collins, of the Ontario Water Resources Commission, about the West Don Sewage Plant. Vaughan officials have been striving for nearly six years to obtain approval for the extension of this plant. It is seriously overloaded and frequently raw sewage has to be by-passed into the Don. Because there are many undeveloped industrial lots in that area for which owners have the right to obtain building permits, the problem could increase to alarming proportions in the next year or so.

OWRC has been refusing permission to build this West Don plant extension and others, including the one in Richmond Hill, because it is convinced the only way to handle the future needs of the area is to build a huge collector sewer from Highway 400 to Ontario County for treatment at the lower end of the Rouge River. The effluent could then be dumped into Lake Ontario. Because their scheme entails an estimated expenditure of \$75 million and the government requires that all affected municipalities enter into a heavy financial commitment to pay out the scheme, the project has been stalled for several years. By preventing additions to current plants on the Don and Rouge Rivers and holding up all development in the Region of York, OWRC hopes to force all municipalities to approve these onerous and needless agreements.

The OWRC refusal to approve this and other upstream plants results from the provincial government's current directives. I disagree with them for several reasons.

Firstly, Queen's Park has failed to press research into methods of making upstream sewage plants work. This has resulted in a Toronto-Centred Region plan confined to a narrow band along Lake Ontario.

It is also based on a concept which will make a giant effluent lagoon of the lake. Substantial progress is being made by other jurisdictions in eliminating the pollution dangers of sewage effluent. Why can't Ontario?

Secondly, Queen's Park's restrictive policies providing water and sewage treatment facilities have so strangled development in the Toronto region and other parts of the province that the shortage of serviced land, with its encouraging Ontario residents nearly one billion dollars annually.

Thirdly, the six year West Don decision on the West Don Plant means that provincially approved industrial development in the area will result in vast additional quantities of raw sewage being dumped into the West Don.

Fourthly, by insisting that municipalities directly or indirectly carry the burden of financing the water supply trunks and sewage collector and treatment systems, the province has forced municipalities into the hands of big developers. Only through substantial financial commitments by big developers have municipalities been able to afford these facilities.

Queen's Park should immediately approve the extensions to the West Don and Richmond Hill Treatment Plants to eliminate the intolerable raw sewage problem. It should also launch a vigorous research and experimental programme to eliminate the pollution threat of sewage effluent. In addition, it should eliminate the requirement for municipal financial commitments which have no beneficial effect on the province's ability to borrow funds for OWRC.

By changing its indecisive burdensome present course, Queen's Park can assist us in gaining the benefits of good industrial assessment and eliminating serious pollution threats in our midst.

**Letters to the Editors**

(Continued from Page 2)  
**NEW NAME FOR  
GARBE DUMP**

Dear Mr. Editor:  
The proposed dump on Highway 27 has a new name. Mayor Garnet Williams is now referring to it as the "Connor Restoration Project". Presumably all garbage-truck drivers will become sanitary engineers, and all garbage-dump operators philanthropists. ("They gave us this lovely - ah - park, dear"). Vaughan Council has to date left many questions from Kleiburg Ratepayers unanswered, including this one: "Council promised a series of alternate solutions and suggestions for the Connor pit. May we hear them?"

One solution is offered by Leslie Erick, who lives on Highway 27. He has offered to purchase the land and make it into a park at his own expense. What is Council's answer to this?

We don't need the dump. Mayor Williams admitted publicly recently that "Metro did not ask us to provide them with a garbage dump. We did, however, seek Metro assistance in providing refuse." Well, there it is. This dump just isn't necessary! In fact, we have to beg for garbage! Could anything be more ridiculous?

Again I quote Mr. Williams: "Council is asking Connor to deed the land to the town at no cost." All right. Let's have Mr. O'Connor's answer, loud and clear. According to council, Mr. O'Connor is required to pay back \$300,000 at 11% interest! What \$300,000? Could we have the financial transaction clarified so that everyone can understand just what is going on?

Now, Mr. O'Connor has said publicly that if the dump goes through it will make him a millionaire. That is nice for Mr. O'Connor, but we just don't like his project. In modern parlance, why not let him back it himself? Why help him along, Councilors? Kleiburg ratepayers state that council itself applied to the Waste Management Branch for a dump permit, in spite of what Mayor Williams said last week that "Not one member of the Council has sought, or is seeking, a garbage dump."

At the March council meeting Don Deacon urged all "little places and small groups" to stand firm against unwanted garbage dumps. He said that the OWRC refused absolutely to permit "sanitary landfill" to be used in the construction of Ontario Place, despite the most stringent engineering precautions, because of possible contamination of Lake Ontario. But they have given at least preliminary consent to the present site, just 75 yards from a major river, and in a valley which contains dozens of houses, whose sole water supply is derived from dug and bored wells. One wonders if the OWRC is sufficiently and correctly informed on the site.

Also, at the same council meeting, it was asked how the powers-that-be determine where to put a dump. Councillor McArthur laughingly replied that they picked the place where there was the least protest!

Well, we have protested! We are protesting! There may be many in Vaughan not greatly concerned (until the next dump appears in their neighborhood); but one doubts if there are more than a handful of citizens in the township so completely careless of their environment, and so regardless of their fellow-ratepayers as to actively support this proposal. Apart, that is, from those who stand to profit by it personally.

MRS. CONNIE NICOLL,  
Elder Mills Rd.,  
R.R. 3, Woodbridge,  
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**OPPOSES BILL 194**

Dear Mr. Editor:  
May I have space in your valuable publication for the following open letter to the Conservative Government of Ontario?

Dear Conservatives:  
One can only wonder at your apparently socialistic behavior in your approach to "what's best for the country."

Regardless of the objections by the NDP and Liberals, scholars and hundreds of thousands of outraged Canadians, you have, with the support of the medical faculty, grimly planted your feet in cement and dogmatically ignored all those who opposed Bill 194 - The Pound Seizure Act. With a stiff upper lip you denied requests for an in-depth study of the bill, and refused amendments made by many qualified people (who, might I add, elected you to government and by the same right will get rid of you).

Do you honestly suppose for one moment that this will be forgotten simply because the dirty deed is done? Can you still face the public with the self assurance that you have done what is right, knowing full well that you have deliberately pulled the wool over the public's eyes and appeased them with double-talk? Worse still, why do you insist on presenting this legislation as a Medical Research Bill when you ALL know it is not? Are you also so cowardly that you will not even own up to the truth after already having had your way with it?

You, by drawing up this disgusting bill, have converted sanctuaries of mercy into col-

**Ottawa Report**  
By John Roberts MP

(Continued from Page 2)  
second can lead to a dangerous dependence on the financially comfortable. The third is the most practical, and, it seems to me the least open to criticism.

If we regard fund raising activities as improper, we will ultimately ensure that most men in Parliament are either financially independent or beholden to those who are.

Many people, however, often seem prone to view politics as a dirty business unworthy of their financial support, or of their participation in the drudgery of an election campaign.

I would argue the reverse - that in a free democracy the citizens have an obligation to involve themselves in nuts-and-bolts practical political activities.

More over, those who can afford to do so should contribute to political parties - all parties - just as they do to charities, for the party system performs a valuable public service.

Politics is a voluntary activity. In spite of the low public regard for political activity a large number of citizens do become involved. Naturally I know best the work of Liberal supporters in York-Simcoe.

The amount of time and effort they put into political work - especially at elections, but also between - is enormous. They work behind the scenes, not in the lime light.

And they do it not for any personal self-interest but out of a sense of obligation, and for the satisfaction of participating, even in a small way, in the history of their country.

I think we have now reached the stage where we should follow the lead of other countries and recognize that the election expenses of political parties are for the public good and should be supported by the public treasury.

Recently this whole area has been studied by the Commons Committee on Election Expenses. Some of their recommendations may suggest a subsidy to political parties at elections, based on the number of voters, postage free mailings, tax deductibility for campaign donations up to a limit of, say, \$100, requirements for access to radio and television etc.

If some system of limits and assistance is not developed, we could find ourselves in the situation which now dominates the United States.

That can be grim.

Last January I was talking to Charles Godell, the defeated New York senator. He told me he had raised \$50,000 at a fund raising dinner the week before - which left his personal outstanding obligation on his Senate campaign at \$250,000!

The highest amount spent in 1968 by a federal candidate in Canada was approximately \$70,000. If we are to avoid an escalation of election costs we must have legislative action. And popular support for meeting part of campaign expenses out of public funds is essential.

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