

LETTERS. . LETTERS. .

Between tears and laughter

Dear Mr. Editor:
The Liberal's coverage of the current contest for the mayor's office makes me feel both sad over the monopoly power of our single local newspaper in our community and at the same time makes me laugh at the blatant one-sidedness of your news coverage. I thoroughly read the issue of November 6, and I was shocked. Not once did I see the name of David Schiller mentioned and he is a contestant for the mayor's office, running against the incumbent mayor. On the other hand, there was almost a full column devoted to the incumbent mayor's private, social and political responsibilities. Unable to believe my eyes, I phoned Mr. Schiller. He told me a week earlier his campaign kick off was held amidst a gathering at ARC Industries and he had submitted several news

releases to your newspaper. To my knowledge, these were not reported by you. On November 1 I asked you why the incumbent mayor had declined to appear with Mr. Schiller on three local television programs when both were to answer questions put to them by journalists, ratepayers and other citizens groups. As it turned out, Mr. Schiller faced these groups alone. What is more, you declined to print my letter which would have given you a full opportunity to answer. A local newspaper, such as The Liberal, has a moral responsibility to report the news to its readers. It can say what it likes in its editorials but it does not fulfill a newspaper's responsibilities if it does not report the news. How can we, as citizens of Richmond Hill, decide who should be our next mayor, if news of

Mr. Schiller's campaign is not made available to us while news of the incumbent mayor's refusal to campaign is reported to us at great length? Please help the citizens of Richmond Hill to make a decision about the two candidates for the mayor's office by reporting fairly to your readers. Otherwise you will be able to count upon the cancellation of my subscription to your newspaper along with, I would expect, those of many hundreds of others.

JOHN LOUNSBURY,
188 St. Anthony's Court,
Richmond Hill

(It is unfortunate reader Lounsbury was disappointed last week when his first letter failed to appear. It arrived at The Liberal too late to be included with the regular letters on the Editorial Page that week. But it appears this week in that space on Page 4, Editor)

Unwanted traffic Remembrance Day

Dear Mr. Editor:
As a local resident who attended the service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph on Yonge Street in Richmond Hill Sunday, I must deplore the sacrilegious way in which highway traffic was allowed to drive right through the congregation gathered there. It is unfortunate the ignorant powers that be have neither the sense nor emotional ability to close off the highway for 30 minutes while prayers are being offered in remembrance of

loved ones who died in war. To see a TTC bus pull up before me whilst in the middle of the Lord's Prayer, and to hear a motorcyclist revving up full blast in competition with the sounding of the Last Post, is to me, profanity at its worst. When I, and others, glared at the policeman controlling traffic, he shrugged his shoulders as if to say, "I'm only carrying out orders". Later I was led to understand that under the York Regional Act, only the provincial government has authority to close off a main thoroughfare. If such is the case, I seriously wonder about the necessity of having elected representatives — most of whom were present at that noisy Sunday service.

TERRY CHAPMAN,
6 Stancroft Drive,
Richmond Hill

Total disgust over traffic

Dear Mr. Editor:
I have never been so utterly disgusted during my residence in Richmond Hill as I was at Sunday's Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph on Yonge Street. For almost the entire 45 minutes of the service, cars were permitted to pass by, going north. Not one word of the prayers or the addresses of Mayor Lazenby, Judge Butler and other dignitaries could be heard by those standing on the east side of Yonge, not to mention having to inhale exhaust fumes while the cars and buses passed by. Surely, for a solemn and meaningful occasion like Remembrance Day, the cars could have been re-routed at Markham Road, as they have been in past years. Many others standing nearby were also vocal in their disgust.

I am sure when the Santa Claus parade comes to town, portions of Yonge Street will be closed off entirely. Let's forget!

RUTH HARPER,
324 Crosby Avenue,
Richmond Hill

Hill's biggest project goes forward as David Dunlap Observatory pleads

By Mary Dawson
The David Dunlap Observatory is nowhere near obsolescent, Dr. Tom Bolton told Richmond Hill Council Monday of last week as he renewed his fight against light pollution in the neighborhood of this landmark. Lights from as far away as Concord and Thornhill are said to be interfering with the observatory.

He pointed out the problems which the observatory will experience with lights from the windows of apartment buildings scheduled to be built to the north of Hillcrest Mall in the BAI development. But council approved the site plan agreement for the 663-unit Cadillac-Fairview condominium apartment project north of Hillcrest Mall. Now this biggest project in Richmond Hill history can go ahead.

He first pointed out the height of buildings was of concern, since some will rise to a height of 115 feet and the top of the observatory hill is only 90 feet high. In addition the buildings rise another 20 to 30 feet with the same height of landscaping trees. The result of this could be the light from the windows of the apartment building could light up the interior of the domes, he said, "particularly since 60 percent of our work is done to the west and southwest. This would cut down on the effectiveness of our operation for about five hours on winter nights, since most people in Richmond Hill

have gone to bed by 11 pm. More particularly three of the buildings are facing almost exactly on to the observatory."

Exhaust fans
Concern about major exhaust fans on the roof was also expressed. Dr. Bolton said many high rise buildings have large fans on the roof which eject forced hot air above buildings. "We would be opposed to any major fans which could break up the atmosphere above the buildings and hamper our observations. That would be even more of a problem than the height."

He was assured there will be no exhaust fans on the roof. One solution for the light problem he suggested was to lower the height to the 80 feet recommended in the south Corridor, then most of the light could be screened out by landscaping trees. An alternative would be to realign the buildings so they would not face the observatory.

Mayor William Lazenby asked if it would be of any help if special glass was used in the windows to screen the light.

Long delay
Planning Director Hessie Rimon said he had "the unpleasant obligation of representing the families who will be living in these apartments and I have tried to establish a living environment for the people living on and around the site. It is now 3½ years since the bylaw was passed."

Dr. Bolton said he was pleased to see virtually all

parking is underground and suggested substantial trees be planted right away to block out ground level light.

The mayor suggested the developers and the observatory get together and come up with a satisfactory solution. He also suggested Dr. Bolton confer with the town staff in drawing up specific lighting standards to be met by future developers in the municipality.

Regional Councillor Gord Rowe said he can see every year how the amount of light around the observatory is increasing. "The observatory is really fighting a delaying action since it is affected by lights as far away as Maple, Markham and Thornhill and probably by the lights on the new CNR tower in Toronto."

Light control
"We have programs underway in Richmond Hill, with the Ministry of Transport and in neighboring municipalities," Dr. Bolton reported. "We don't expect to gain back anything we have lost but we hope to control lighting sufficiently to enable us to make effective use of the observatory for the foreseeable useful life of the 74 inch telescope which will be about 50 years. We don't expect to deter development, but to control the light."

John Birchall expressed the concern of the Ward 3 Ratepayers on the effects of this development on the observatory, on the height of the buildings, on the effect

of the setback. He also quoted the South Yonge Corridor Study which recommends a maximum height of 80 feet and a setback of 200 feet. But he was reminded the study recommendations had not yet been adopted by council and could not be made retroactive to apply to this development which had been approved by a bylaw passed 3½ years ago.

Rimon said the site could be covered 80 percent by five-storey walkups, but that would be an inferior living environment. "If we reduced the height of the buildings to eight stories, it would mean adding two more buildings. I suggest this is a superior plan."

Concerned citizens
Birchall said the situation affected his group as concerned citizens. "We're concerned about what happens to the whole town. Across Yonge Street is


another area slated for 50 units per acre, which is in our ward. We spent a lot of time putting input into the South Yonge Study to have the height limits reduced to the setbacks increased."

Regional Councillor Lois Hancey pointed out that the official plan amendment "which we hope will result from the South Yonge Corridor Study has not yet been approved by a bylaw passed 3½ years ago."

"There has been a reduction in height of buildings from the original presentation," noted Councillor Andy Chateauvert. "This was a concession on the part of the developers. You have to apply the legislation in existence at the time and you can't make new legislation retroactive. We can't renege on an existing agreement."

the piano teacher
Estelle Markham
881-3787

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Election coverage over TV

Cable 10 is offering area ratepayers their chance to question local candidates for council, region, mayor and board of education on live television broadcasts beginning at 7 pm every weeknight next week.

In municipalities with a ward system, the program will be conducted on a ward by ward basis, beginning with Ward 1 at 7 pm, Ward 2 candidates at 7:30 pm, and so on.

These will be followed by candidates for region and the office of mayor.

Candidates for York County Board of Education from Richmond Hill, Markham, Vaughan and


Whitchurch-Stouffville will follow a similar procedure on Friday evenings beginning at 7 pm.

Markham Monday
Through the week, Monday will be devoted to Markham, Tuesday to Richmond Hill, Wednesday to Whitchurch-Stouffville, and Thursday to Vaughan.

The culmination of the three-week coverage of Cable 10's "Municipal Election Night '74" broadcast is scheduled for December 2. The series is aimed at keeping residents up to date on the issues, the candidates and the campaign. Questions to be directed to

candidates may be submitted to the program department, Classic Communications Limited, 244 Newkirk Road, Richmond Hill, 884-8111, 889-9874 or 887-5075.

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