

10101 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, L4C 4Y8 Ontario
PUBLISHER J.G. VAN KAMPEN
EDITOR HAROLD BLAINE

Housing

Danson view is realistic

Hon. Barney Danson, Local York region and metro MP, revealed a realistic attitude toward the housing situation Thursday in his speech to the York Region Real Estate Board at Aurora.

But we don't see anything in federal Housing Minister Danson's outline of national policies which has any hope of really dealing with the growing housing crisis, whether it be nationally or locally.

There is some hope in the fact the federal government has turned to wage and price controls to fight inflation. Ottawa should now no longer have to reply so much on housing industry restrictions in the battle against inflation.

On the other hand, since World War II we have been hearing lots of the same kind of vote-getting and exciting housing policy statements from Ottawa while home ownership steadily continued its decline and home prices continued to climb.

There isn't any housing heaven ahead in the Danson policies. Nor is he able to provide one.

Danson put his finger on some of the sore spots when he said our towns are hanging back because economical housing is costly to municipalities, because of unrealistic public resistance to development of affordable housing, and because of natural public resistance to the shock of urban change.

It is important to remember the town planning act in each province is a provincial, not a federal statute. This is the law under which the fate of housing development is decided.

The town planning act dictates the framework of community formation but makes the local town government the main arena in which decisions are made. It is also interesting to note there haven't been town planning acts for all that long a time. Generally these statutes date back several decades, about to World War II again.

These laws were designed to improve the urban environment and to eliminate certain abuses. They may be having certain unexpected bad effects, as well. Perhaps it would be a good idea at this point for the Legislature to review and evaluate our Town Planning Act to see if it is doing what it was intended to do.

The act has been in effect long enough for its success to be measured. It is with a sense of disgust and disappointment I read in your front page news story of April 14 that one of Markham's town councillors, Walter Grieve, can have a complete lack of responsibility for the interest of the people.

Family life

York region should stop harassment

York region council seems to get some sort of twisted satisfaction out of administering financial torture to two particular community service groups.

If it isn't the day care centres, then it's the family life centres.

Just finished a distasteful hassle over day care a month or so ago, region has now threatened the several area family life centres with an almost 50 per cent slash in grants.

On these two issues it has been the same thing year after year. These two services are forced to justify their existence again and again.

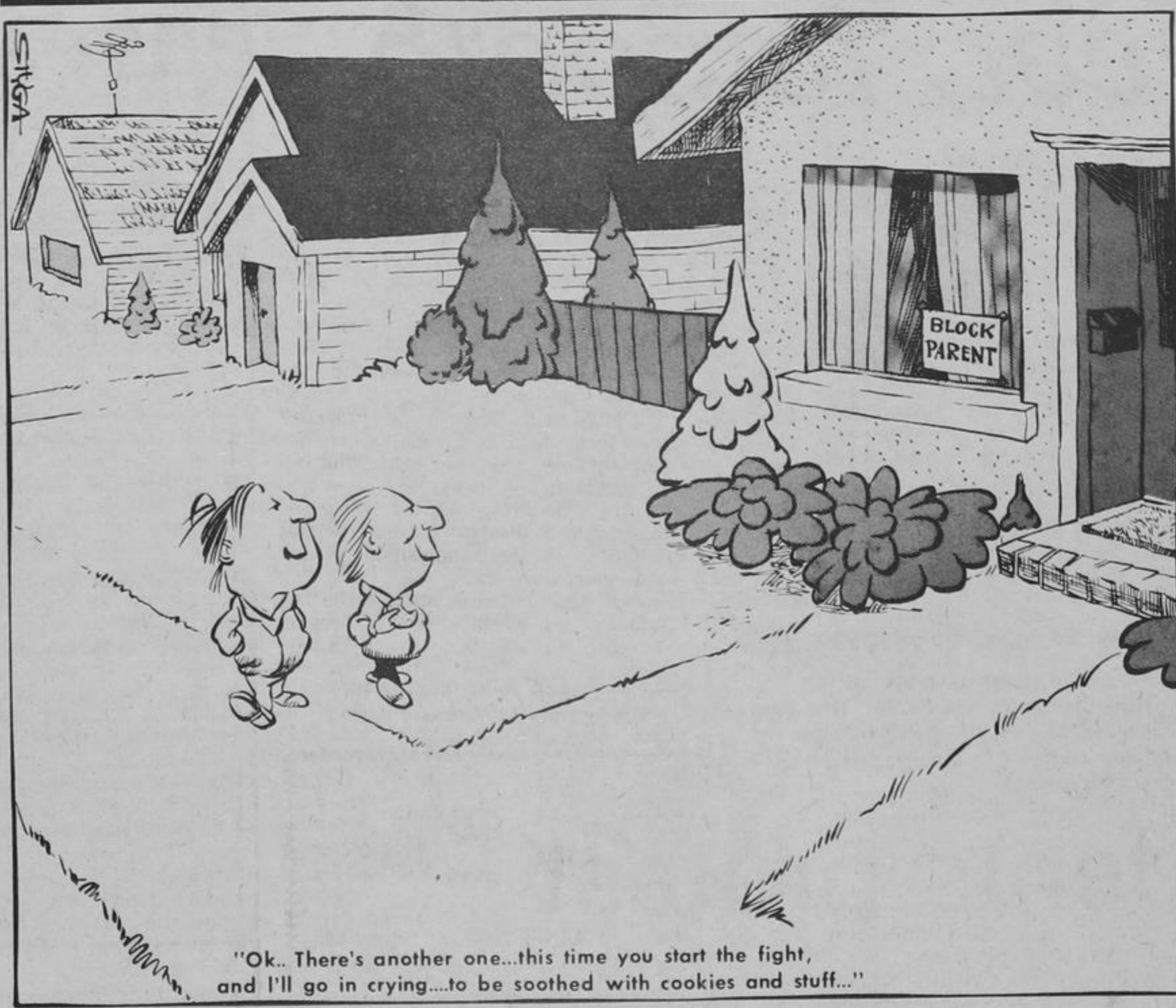
And they do. So why should the councillors put these people through so much trouble?

Everything was gone over carefully and in great detail on previous occasions.

Decisions were made by this same council last year, and by councils with most of the same members in previous years.

Surely these two services deserve a breathing space for at least a year or two.

The council's tactics have reached the point of being nothing more nor less than bad mannered harassment.



YCH abortion rate reasons

Dear editor: Some residents in the Richmond Hill area are criticizing York Central Hospital because its abortion rate has an average higher than the average of Ontario.

This could mean several things. It could mean fewer women are receiving abortions from incompetent persons.

It could mean Right-To-Life people think of life merely as the life of the body.

This body can have a disturbed mind that needs help. It can also have a saddened soul.

We should be glad the board of directors of York Central have the foresight to set up a therapeutic abortion committee of qualified doctors. Many hospitals don't do this.

That might make our rate of abortions look high.

If the average rate of abortions done on the quiet by inexperienced people in other areas were included in these statistics, these would likely surpass our statistics.

At any rate, who could make better decisions about abortions than a qualified physician in consultation with the patient, her friends or family. All things considered — is this abortion to be or not to be — ???

(MRS.) DOROTHY HENDERSON, RR 2, King City, Ont.

Letters

Markham man disgusted

Dear editor: And these will increase unbearably if expansion of the runway and rezoning of 70 acres is permitted.

Here are some of the reasons why the concerned people are opposed to the expansion and are willing to fight to preserve and protect the environment:

Higher noise and pollution levels, greater safety risks that would come with more traffic and more training flights, drop in property values, more twin-engine cargo flights, more jets, more STOL flights, more training flights, and 24-hour operations.

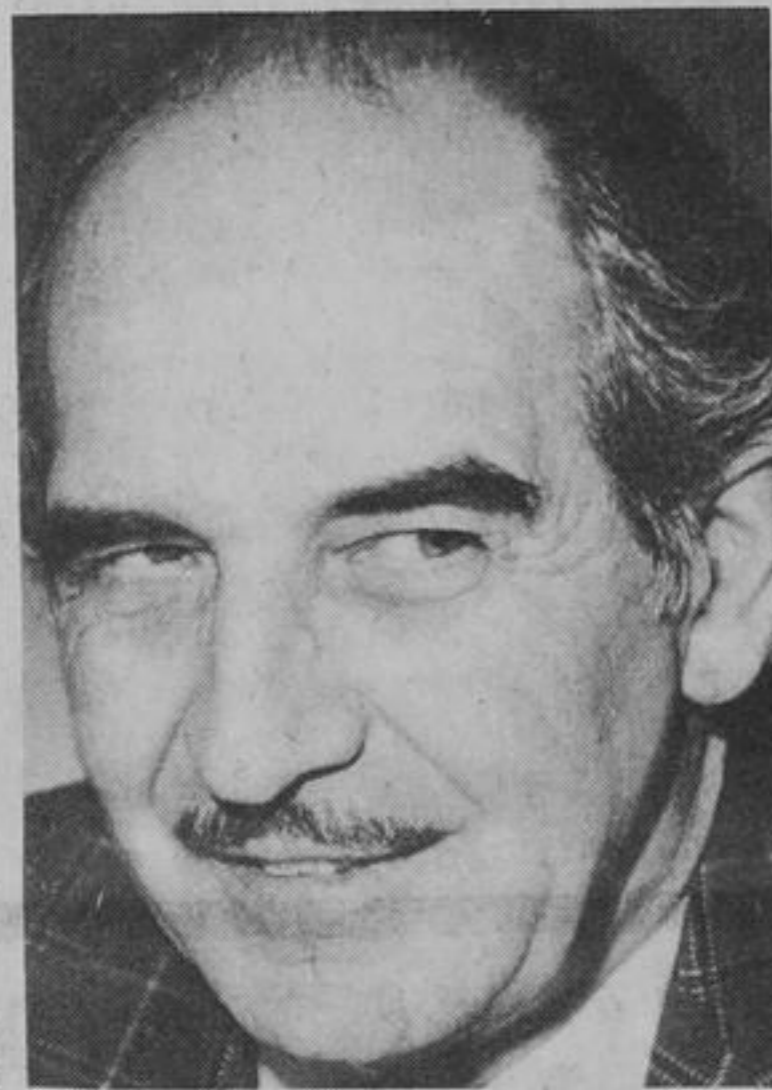
I think peace of mind and enjoyment of one's property is more important than the 10 cent increase in bus fares, as opposed to the possible increase in tax assessment from the expanded airport.

Grieve felt the latter was better for all the people of Markham, money-wise that is.

Grieve says the town needs money and expanded airport industry produces good increases in assessment, such as \$60,000-a-year in taxes to Markham for 127.4 acres of property assessed at \$2 million.

I say he is wrong. The town could receive more tax dollars from other sources than from the expanded airport, such as:

One industry on Woodbine Avenue, just south of Highway 7, has only 30 acres of property with an assessment of \$2,729,300. It pays tax revenue to the town of \$95,350 for the year ending 1975.



Councillor Grieve... doesn't realize

I say if the 127.4 acres of the airport property was assessed for residential, the town could possibly receive five times the present \$60,000.

It looks like the ratepayers of Markham, Unionville, Caget, Thornhill and Richmond Hill are subsidizing the airport.

I would like to make it clear I feel, and so did the Municipal Board during the recent airport hearings, that any man has a right to expand his business as long as it doesn't interfere with the rights or amenities of others.

I don't believe the old philosophy that a man has a right to do what he wishes with his land, no matter what the consequences. It's time for the people to stand up and fight against the bureaucracy.

I'm not prepared to be expropriated over any 'willy nilly' expansion, now or in the future.

I love my family, my home, the 'hamlet' of Buttonville in the town of Markham.

I am not prepared to sacrifice with the destruction of the environments of Buttonville, Caget, Richmond Hill, Unionville and Markham area.

This is respectfully submitted, without prejudice, by a concerned citizen of the town of Markham and active member of A.I.R. (Association of Involved Residents).

EDMUND QUESNELLE, 11 Lunar Cres. Buttonville, Ont.

SNOWMOBILE parks needed for townsmen

Dear editor: I think there should be more public snowmobiling parks established.

Some people who live in town do not get snowmobiles because there is no place to go on them. Most people in town who do have snowmobiles have them because they have a cottage to take them to.

I think some public snowmobiling parks were established, a lot more people would have snowmobiles... it would make a lot of people happy.

PAUL MASHINTER, Student, Bayview Secondary School, Richmond Hill, Ont.

Viewpoint from the regional desk



Smooth stinging ahead

There's been considerable comment lately about the decision of York Region Council not to participate in a mosquito control program, a la Metro.

Most of the discussion has centred around the fact the provincial government, which is helping to finance the spraying programs, is only doing so as far as Steeles Avenue, which it has declared as the northern boundary facing the possibility of mosquito problems this summer.

However, many feel the mosquitoes, themselves, might be unaware just where they're supposed to put on the brakes.

Last year, 66 cases of encephalitis, which is transmitted by the two-winged insects, were reported in the province, three in Toronto.

Now, regional councillors are having second thoughts about it all and have turned the matter over to their health and social services committee for further analysis.

In the meantime, while the latter makes its decision, the mosquitoes, themselves, are probably making their own plans.

Can't you just see them?

Mosquito captain: I guess you're wondering why I've called this meeting. Well, wonder no longer. As you know we start our first flight north tomorrow, starting from the shores of Lake Ontario — just behind the O'Keefe Centre — to Lake Simcoe. Unfortunately, it won't be quite so smooth sailing — or maybe I should say, smooth stinging (chuckles) — as in the past. Metro has agreed to embark on a spraying program in which they hope to decimate our forces. Or, to put it more lyrically: "The spray's the thing wherein they hope to catch the consequence of our sting." (Chuckles again). However, they have at least given us a fighting chance, setting Steeles Avenue as the boundary. Once past there, we're free to wing it anyway

we want. The residents of Thornhill, Richmond Hill and beyond, apparently will be welcoming us with open arms, as it were.

Voice from rear: How do you know there won't be guards at the border? M.C.: Don't worry about it. As long as you have your seat belts on, they won't touch you. Our main concern, anyway, is getting up from Toronto. Yonge Street's bad enough with all those body rub joints and strippers; so it's going to be slow going as it is, without having to contend with a lot of aldermen standing around with spray guns in their hands.

Second voice: At least they'll be doing their dirty work out in the open for a change.

First voice: Is that how the spraying will be done, or will it be more subtle? Third voice: I doubt it. Politicians are about as subtle as a gravel sandwich; I'm sure what they're up to will be obvious enough.

Fourth voice: The thing is, how will we be able to tell them from all the other Yonge Street hangers-on?

M.C.: They'll be the ones still wearing blue jeans; the overalls won't catch on with them for a year or two yet.

First voice: Well, then what's the plan for getting up to Steeles?

M.C.: Simple. We just go to council and protest.

Voice from rear: Protest? Protest what?

M.C.: The discrimination against us. At least, against the males of our species. Look it, who is it among us wield their stingers with such ferocity, probing with their proboscises every neck and fanny from here to proximity? Who else, but the gentle sex, the ladies of our swarm. And who is it that gets swatted and sprayed with every bit as much intensity as a result? All of us. Well, if that isn't discrimination, what is? Isn't it about time we men stood up for ourselves and our rights? (Loud cheers are heard).

Female voice: Can we help it if nature fashioned us that way? Why should we be made the scapegoats? Why should our actions alone be arrested? Equal wriths for all, I say.

M.C.: You're missing the point. What I want to do is to present council with this dilemma and ask them to consider it. Naturally, in their desire to be thought open-minded and fair, they won't make their decision on the spot, but will put it

over for a few weeks. And by that time, we'll be up Yonge Street — give or take a few stragglers at some burlesque academy — and be long over the border.

Voice: But aren't they re-considering the matter up there, now? Do you think we'll be able to appeal to them, too?

M.C.: We won't have to. They have enough bugs in their own system as it is; they won't spot us that easily.

By Ron Wilson MAPLE — Taft Broadcasting of the U.S.A. (Family Leisure Centres of Canada) recently displayed \$300,000 worth of studies regarding their proposed midway development near the village of Maple, in the town of Vaughan.

Many local residents and members of S.A.V.E. (Sensible Approach to Vaughan's Environment) attended the show and came away more concerned and more resolved to continue the fight against this American midway than ever before. These studies do not deal adequately nor sufficiently with many key issues and leave a great many important questions and concerns unanswered or answered by so-called "informed opinion".

Indications What the studies indicate: (1) Major traffic difficulties and congestion in local areas. (2) Highway 400 going to 10 lanes. Who will pay and what will be the disruption?



The guest spot

(3) A decrease in air quality in Maple with increased pollution from auto emissions. (4) A comparison with American parks we consider to be both misleading and invalid. (5) "Frontier Canada" — "Yog's Cave" — Is this really Canadian? Not shown. What the studies don't show: (1) No facts were available on the need for such a midway in Vaughan, Metro or Ontario.

(2) Possible future growth in the immediate area and elsewhere in Vaughan was not considered in the traffic study figures.

(3) No justification of the enormous waste of energy — 12.5 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year; 24 million miles of travel generated by park.

(4) No facts on possible surrounding spin-off development or long range planning in this area — these concerns were either beyond the scope of the studies or no problem according to so-called "informed opinion".

(5) No facts were presented on the possible negative effects on existing tax-supported recreational activities — CNE, Harbourfront, Metro Zoo, Black Creek, Pioneer Village, Ontario Place, etc. (6) No real overall appreciation of what the quality of life is in Vaughan or what it means to most of our residents.

However, we do agree with the studies on one fact: the majority of people in Vaughan do not want this

midway! We believe the studies have not changed this concern and opposition.

Not convinced The studies have not convinced us nor changed our minds that such a midway development is good for Maple or Vaughan or Metropolitan Toronto.

The Honourable D'Arcy McKeough (treasurer of Ontario) and at least seven other provincial cabinet ministers agree the site is indeed inappropriate.

The leaders of the NDP and Liberal parties in Ontario support S.A.V.E.'s position. In view of the inadequacies of the studies and our legitimate concerns about the impact of this midway, S.A.V.E. and its growing number of supporters will continue to strongly oppose such an unwanted proposal.

(Ron Wilson of 46 Netherford Rd., Maple, is chairman of S.A.V.E. — Editor)