



Lynda's lashes

No coins in the fountain...

A half dozen years ago or so, a mayoralty candidate of an obscure nearby metropolis was campaigning on the cry for more moderate growth and return to a neighbourhood style of life.

The people shouted 'That's good', 'Stop the concrete jungles', 'Down with horseless carriages'. They voted him in.

These voices carried over to Richmond Hill and other York Region municipalities and everyone got on the bandwagon.

All of a sudden developers were left standing in the rain with their proverbial trousers at their feet. They were geared up for rapid growth, not slow growth. Now they were asked to rethink their plans, to show more respect for the human being.

Town councils across the land preached more parks, more grass, more trees and more amenities for the people. Mary and John Q. Public applauded and said 'At last, somebody did something!'

Now, today, 1977,

developers are filing away their plans for good, many are going south to more lucrative grounds. Second thoughts have become second, third and fourth guesses by the Town fathers, otherwise known as red tape.

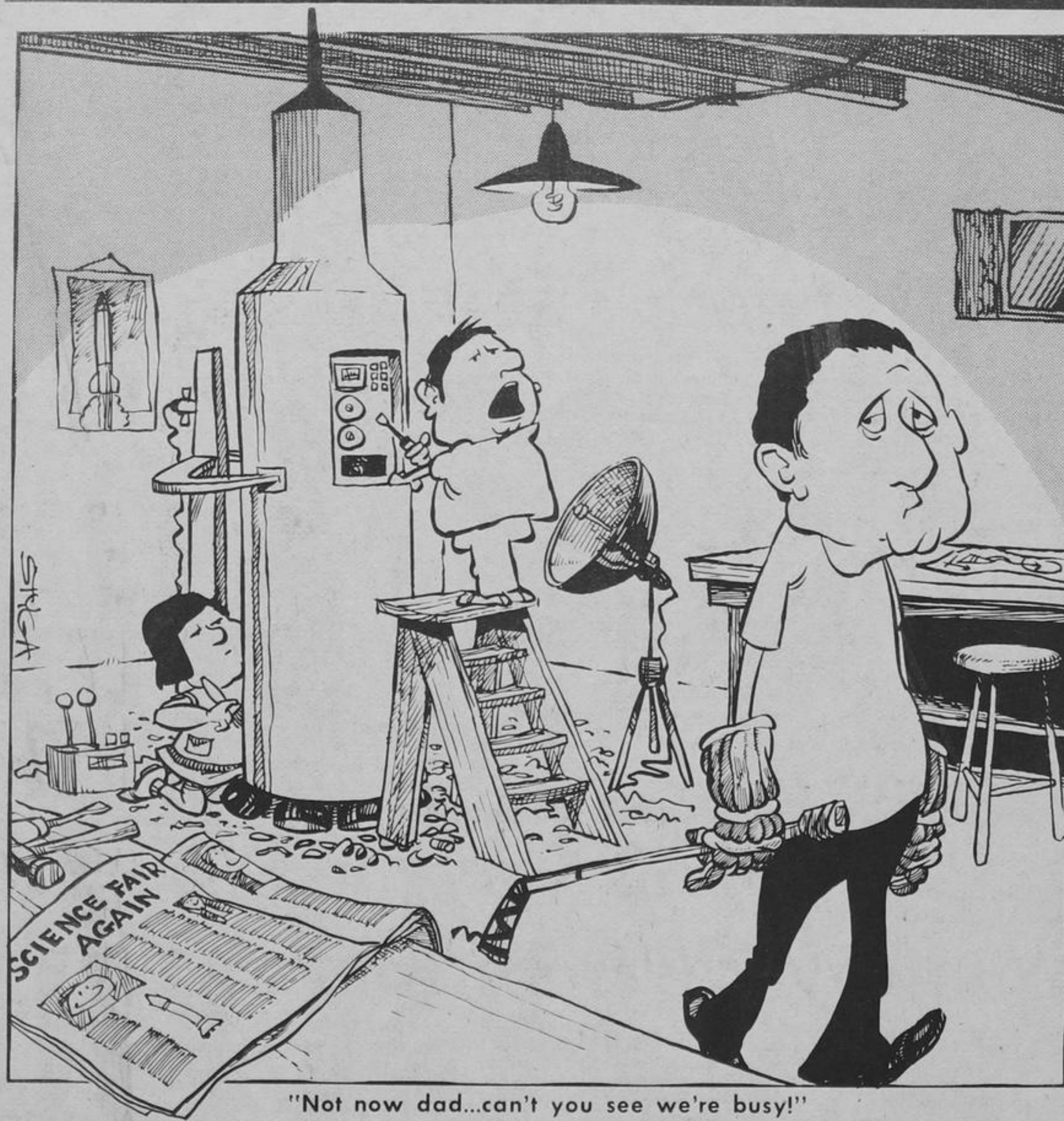
Where are the low income houses, where are the parks, the squares, the fountains, the recreation areas? After six years of rethinking, several Towns haven't even got a plan.

Mayor Tony Roman of Markham is a few steps ahead here in Southern York Region. Even so more can be done. But what's happening in Richmond Hill and Vaughan?

Zilch. Nothing. Zero. Come on Mayor Dave Schiller and Mayor Garnet Williams. The seats of your pants are shiny enough. Let's get on with some decisions.

We like to see the people throw a coin in a fountain, mill around a square. How about a park for kiddies and pigeons, a fair site for fun and games.

What do you say? Have you really listened to the people? Or do you just hear?



"Not now dad...can't you see we're busy!"

Doesn't suffer fools

By Lynda Nykor

When I interviewed Region Police Chief Bruce Crawford a year ago he told me he hates winter.

He especially, he said, hates February and wishes it could be abolished.

Not the most judicious time, then, for Police Commissioner Ray Twinney to tell the chief his radar traps are too sneaky.

Seems Twinney would like them out in the open where motorists could see them and temporarily adjust their speed accordingly.

He mentioned this at a police commission meeting smack-dab in the middle of this cruelest month, and the chief exploded.

Crawford's not a man who suffers fools gladly at the best of times.

He's certainly not going to do it at this time of year.

Bad time

As a result of this badly-timed confrontation the always shaky relationship between the two men seem to have reached the point of no return.

It'll be interesting to see who finally emerges the victor, since it's becoming apparent the region "ain't big enough for both of them."

Twinney's a popular man in his own stamping ground of Newmarket.

Pick up the telephone with a complaint and he's looking into it before you've hung up.

On the other hand, he's put Crawford, whose public stance often seems to run the gamut from prickly to downright intemperate, on the side of the angels.

He's criticizing the man for doing exactly the job he was hired to do.

I got such an interesting piece of advertising in the mail the other day, I just have to comment on it.

It came from a housing developer and concerned some new townhouses being built locally.

The townhouses offer a number of features, poshly presented in advertising jargon.

Gasp tims

The one that made me sit up and gasp was the one that offered, and I quote, "upwardly mobile neighbors."

Would anyone really not buy a house next door to someone who was doomed not to get a promotion for three or four years?

Does the builder, I wonder, furnish Dun and Bradstreet reports on other residents of the place to put prospective buyers' minds at ease?

Can you sue if you move in and find your neighbor loses his job? Gets demoted? Sells to someone with a lower income or suspect aspirations?

Most of all I guess I wonder if "people on the way up," and again I quote, are the ones we most want to attract to this community.

Shame on you, developer, and don't hold your breath till you see me shopping for one of your houses.

Nor anyone else, I hope, who has a sense of the fitness rather than the expensiveness of things. And people.

Eric Smith of Thornhill has a small but succinct complaint about the dog catcher in his area.

Over a month ago he sent off his usual \$4 cheque to pay for a new licence for his dog.

A couple of days ago he had the dog catchers at his door acting somewhat perturbed about the fact his dog wasn't wearing the current licence tag.

Cheque ignored

Eric got in touch with their office and was informed the cheque had been totally ignored because the new charge is now \$7.

Don't you think, dog catcher, you could have picked up the telephone or dropped a note to people who aren't yet aware of the changes but who have sent off their money in good faith?

You're creating some bad feelings in this neck of the woods.

Letters CUPE raps school board

Dear editor: The York County board of education at its meeting Feb. 14 decided not to exclude increments for its secretaries in its submission to the Anti-Inflation Board.

Only recently, however, the board interpreted the identical article in the federal anti-inflation legislation to mean excluding increments for teachers.

After learning about the different treatment of the two employee groups, the membership of our local is split in two.

Some members feel it was an unfair and unjustifiable position for the trustees to take, especially since their decision to exclude or include increments should have been based on how one interprets the federal anti-inflation legislation and not on who is involved.

Others consider it all a mistake and blame the stand taken on lack of information, understandably, on the part of some of the newly-elected trustees.

The union's executive has not taken sides. They are aware, however, that unless the decision can be reversed, major confrontations with the employer, York County board of education, will be unavoidable and in that event everyone stands to lose.

In an effort to clear up the matter, trustees have agreed to allow our local to discuss the matter at the special board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, (Feb. 23) at 7 p.m. in the board office, Aurora.

MISS MARY GRAZIANI,
For the executive,
CUPE Local 1734,
Box 154, Aurora, Ont.

Inexperience wanted

Dear editor: No experience gets you a job at one of our local food outlets.

My son has work experience at one food outlet on cash and serving customers.

He also holds a certificate for quantity food cooking from his school.

But he has been refused a part time job because, "they would find it hard to retrain him to their way of doing things."

Most business places want people that have experience. But not this local fast food restaurant.

Of course, they can hire who they want to. I believe they do give extensive training.

But tell me, who would discriminate against anyone that had the ability to do what was needed?

(MRS.) JESSIE HOWE,
251 Axminster Dr.,
Richmond Hill, Ont.

Golden Rain, Magnolia not winter hardy here

Dear editor: Your editorial of Feb. 16 — Glorious Bloom Your Future? — is certainly dreaming in Technicolor!

Yes, indeed our communities need the beauty of flowering trees and shrubs at curbside and park. A collection of specimen ornamentals would enhance our public open spaces.

There are many varieties of flowering Crab or Cherry hardy enough to survive our severe winters.

But don't hope for Magnolia, Dogwood, Redbud (Judas Tree) or Golden Rain (Laburnum).

Richmond Hill and its neighbors may be only a few miles north of Toronto.

But that's enough to place us in a different climate life zone for woody plants. The species you noted, only

marginal in Toronto, would kill out here in their first winter!

To see these Southern ornamentals in bloom one must visit the Niagara Peninsula, or the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton.

So better to stick to our native Serviceberry or Shadbush (Amalanchier), a cloud of tiny white blossom, or the ornamentals developed for harsher climates.

Some of these may be seen on the grounds of York Central Hospital, planted by the Richmond Hill Horticultural Society.

We do need more bloom in our lives — keep on trying!

(MRS.) FLAVIA REDELMEIER,
Don Head Farms,
Richmond Hill, Ont.

Strange Vaughan council wind

Dear editor: Isn't it strange which way the winds of council blow in Vaughan (Maple — in particular)? Re your article, "Senior Citizens get Housing Task Force," on Jan. 26.

Seven years ago the United Church offered Maple the very land it owned for a senior citizens' apartment.

An anonymous donor offered a fantastic figure to start the ball rolling, but council turned it down.

Reasons: 1 — opposition by majority of people living on same short street, to having an apartment (only two storeys high. The architect's drawings were there in full view for all to see and it was not an eyesore by any means) plunked amidst their subdivision homes.

2 — Septic problems on that street.
3 — Re-zoning of the street.
The planning committee meeting in

council chambers, open to the public, was packed. We were shot down in flames.

In the face of such opposition, our mayor said he and his council could not fly in their faces and approve it. O.K.

Next step: the church was told to find another "suitable" location in Maple, and council would actually help us.

Nothing ever came of it and it died at its birth.

The original proposed location behind the church, was within walking distance of the post office, bank, municipal and hydro offices for paying bills, and not all that far removed from the Maple Plaza.

Any alternative sites could never have been that handy if the senior citizens did not drive a car.

Isn't it amazing how council, seven

Dear editor, What is Johnsville Village? A simple telephone call to the Ontario government, or a visit to the Johnsville sales office may have alleviated fears about OHAP on the part of local worriers.

For a plethora of reasons, the small detached home and bungalow that allowed so many young couples to gain a start after the war, is no longer being constructed.

Caught, is the man of middle income. Not able to afford the larger home and not desiring nor eligible for Ontario housing, he faces a future of unprofitable costs.

Through OHAP, (Ontario Housing Action Program) the Ontario government is attempting to ensure that, at least some accommodation at prices affordable to the average family, is constructed.

We, the buyers, simply have the opportunity to purchase a smaller home for a proportionally smaller price.

The conditions of purchase are: one or more years of residency in Ontario, no previous home ownership, down payment of \$23,000 or more, subject to family income; (carrying costs must not exceed 30 per cent of family income.)

My husband is a master's graduate from U. of T., and a vice-principal of a downtown school, I hold a BA in political science and sociology.

Due to an unexpected pregnancy early in our marriage and the decision that I should remain at home with our son until he is solidly established in school, we became limited to one salary and trapped in the spiralling real estate costs of the early 70s; we faced a rental future.

The building of Johnsville Village changed that. With our \$10,000 down, we were able to finally manage carrying costs of a home.

Thrilled that we could at last invest our money, we moved in, as did many fine young couples getting their start, and families in positions similar to ours.

Many of us became involved in the community — joined parish councils, school associations and other local activities.

Imagine our bewilderment upon discovering we were considered in some quarters, to be second-class citizens and-or welfare recipients.

From every trial there is a lesson to be learned. Mine has been a stark awakening to the frustrations and hurt of being on the receiving end of prejudice and misunderstanding.

With the state of our modern world as it is, isn't it a shame that even people at the community level cannot exist in harmony.

Too lazy or confident to indulge in some self-education, we discuss and spread misconceptions and rumors —

creating unnecessary problems and hurt.

Dr. Kissinger was mistaken. This is where the work for peace through understanding must start. Isn't it time we all begin?

DAPHNE LOCKETT,
9 Porterfield Cres.,
Thornhill, Ont.



Daphne Lockett
... 2nd class citizen

Insensitive to Hillcrest area

Dear editor, In his letter to parents on Feb. 14, School Superintendent Walter Willms recommended the amputation of the southeast quarter of the Hillcrest subdivision to correct overcrowding at Ross Doan Public School.

This proposal shows insensitivity to the integrity of the entire subdivision, and callous disregard for the welfare of the children in the area.

By treating the children as numbers to be equalized rather than as members of a cohesive community, the Willms proposal would separate children from playmates up the street or around the corner.

It would also transport children across Yonge Street and an increasingly busy railroad line to Sixteenth Avenue Public School, confronting them with a choice between

missing after school activities or taking a long and unsafe walk home.

Other alternatives do not appear to have been given serious consideration.

A portable annex to Ross Doan could be constructed, and could be transported elsewhere in the region in the future in response to demographic conditions.

All four of the schools in the area could be changed to Kindergarten to Grade 8, which would obviate the need for buses.

If it can be demonstrated that no alternative to buses exists, the children could be bused instead to underenrolled Charles Howitt Public School, which is a much safer walk, and no farther away.

The Willms proposal makes a mockery of democratic consultation. While it is true no one of the three solutions discussed at public meetings received majority support, one solution received clear majority opposition.

Over two-thirds of those attending the meetings were opposed to bus transport of children out of the neighbourhood, but were divided on which other course was preferable.

This issue must not be settled on purely financial criteria.

The convenience of trustees and staff must not take priority over the welfare of children.

The board of education still has time to reconsider, and I urge them to do so.

DR. DAVID LEYTON-BROWN,
40 Kitsilano Cres.,
Richmond Hill, Ont.

PCs obsessed

The present provincial government seems to be seized with the irresistible impulse to turn publicly-owned facilities over to private enterprise.

One example which proved extremely embarrassing to the government was former resource minister Leo Bernier's ill-advised announcement that Ontario's provincial parks were to be privately run.

The hue and cry over that was sufficient to cause Bernier to head for cover and retract his decision.

Unfortunately, the other recent case of the Tory zeal for "reprivatization, the Gray Coach issue, will not be resolved as easily, nor, perhaps as happily.

The problem arose when the Ontario highway transport board ruled private bus companies would be allowed to have a share in three of Gray Coach's most lucrative routes.

Gray Coach is a publicly-owned company. The profit-making routes subsidize others which operate at a loss.

If the transport board's decision is allowed to stand, Gray Coach will be forced to shut down the subsidized service simply because it won't have the revenue now coming from the money-making routes.

In addition to this loss of essential bus service to many parts of Ontario, the transport board's decision also means some 245 Gray Coach drivers will lose



The guest spot

their jobs.

The services provided in the past to this area by Gray Coach may be severely curtailed. Residents will suffer if the decision is not reversed.

Ontario system

Rather than undermine Gray Coach, the government should use it as the nucleus for a province-wide public transportation system, integrated with existing facilities such as Ontario Northland Railway and Go-Urban, providing service to all parts of the province.

If a foreign controlled corporate giant such as Greyhound is allowed to compete for passengers and freight on the most lucrative routes in Ontario, it will be one more indication the present government is not truly responsive to the needs of the people.

(Newmarket teacher Scott is NDP candidate for York North provincial riding. — Editor)



Flavia Redelmeier
... need more bloom