

Need high-rise around GO rail

Richmond Hill and Markham town planners should get busy on the job of opening the way for residential development of the highest density around the two GO Transit rail stations soon to open at Highway 7 and Markham Road.

Development of the highest apartment buildings the market and physical conditions will bear, should surround these stations eventually.

Cars, pollution, traffic problems, farm land loss, energy waste should all be reduced as much as possible by providing for the maximum population within walking distance of these stations.

The economic success of GO Transit depends on the passenger traffic such development would provide.

The success of GO is as important to our towns and region as it is to the province and the other communities along Lake Ontario.

Luckily the land around the

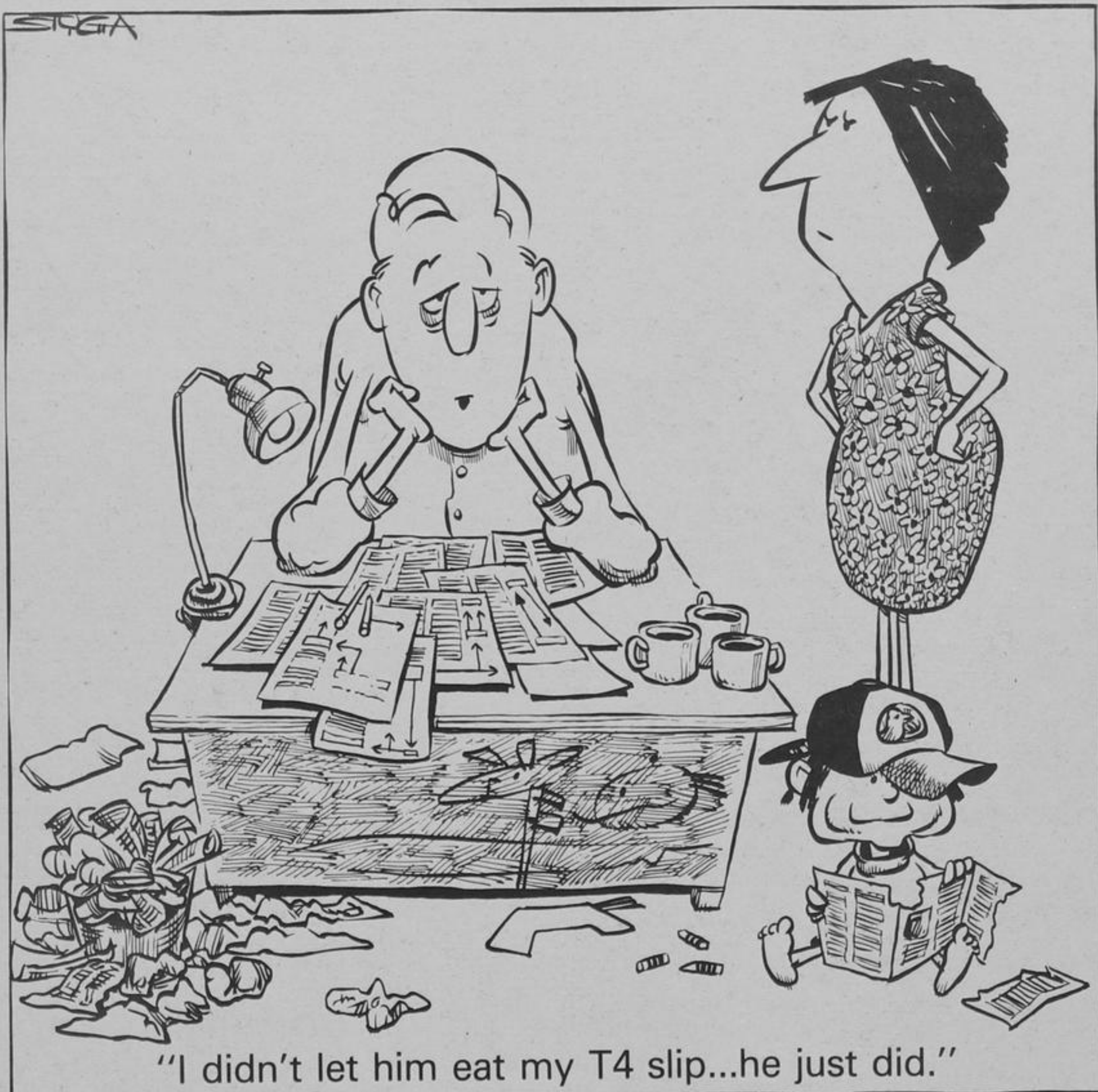
two stations is quite well divided from conflicting residential uses by a cemetery, traffic ways, commercial industrial properties and other such neutral uses.

Much of the land is vacant now. The industrial and much of the other surrounding lands could easily lend themselves to gradual high density residential private enterprise redevelopment over a period of years.

It would be stupid not to take the best advantage of these rail transit stations for the most people. The stations and the rail service are costing the taxpayer plenty.

The existence of these stations, then, is a new consideration of the greatest importance to how zoning control is applied to adjacent lands.

Markham, Richmond Hill and York Region councils should immediately make the official plan and zoning changes necessary in the light of changed circumstances.



Blooms do help

By Lynda Nykor

Some random observations: I went back to being a housewife yesterday, in spades.

Or maybe a better term is handy-person. At 9 a.m. I started cutting and patching a large hole in the kitchen ceiling.

(Our bathtub has delusions of grandeur — thought it should cascade into the kitchen like Niagara Falls.)

Then painting all doors and window frames in said kitchen seemed like a good idea.

Once I had that done, I really wanted to get the ceiling painted and put up the wallpaper.

So between trips to the store and bank, bed-making, telephone answering, and general cleaning up, I did. This morning feels like every muscle I've got was used as a slingshot.

The job hasn't changed any since the last time I did it for a whole day — it still requires brains, brawn and more than 24 hours.

One of the rewards of a stay-at-home job: my apricot is in bloom in the backyard.

Everyone else who rushed out the door this morning missed it. When Quebec got its consciousness raised, so to speak, the main issue was lack of opportunity for Francophones.

From the university graduate all the way down to the humblest worker, the French felt they were losing out on chances English-Canadians got.

Separation, as I understand it, was supposed to offer the Quebecois new opportunities within a different framework.

It wasn't supposed to offer only the chance to go on being poor, or underemployed, or disadvantaged while feeling better about speaking French.

It occurs to me, in view of the past few weeks, that Rene Levesque's provincial government has forgotten the French-speaking people in the scramble to assert language rights.

Parizeau's budget was tailor-made to please business, but that's not quite the same thing as a budget that provides for economic redistribution.

Does what's going on in 'la belle province' right now sound a little familiar? Like, for instance, the rich get rich and the poor get poorer, maybe?

'Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose,' in any language. Though I think it would be great if every Canadian spoke both French and English, I'm beginning to wonder if using our tax dollars to teach more French in public schools isn't just contributing to pushing some French-Canadians even further to the bottom of the heap.

That tells Levesque he's on the right track. Well, you school teachers looking for executive-type salaries, somebody's about to present you with the bill for them.

Trustee Terrence O'Grady of Aurora suggests teachers should hold their professional development days on weekends.

Weekend work is something professionals in other fields have been doing for years. It's part of the price. It's been said PD days are one of the things parents most object to.

Actually, I wonder if there would be quite as much objection if the schools got themselves synchronized, and at least had them on the same days.

Last year when I had a child in each of three schools — junior public, senior public and high school — I found there were times when each of them had a different day of the week off.

This must be really difficult for people who go out to work and have to arrange for meals, sitters, etc.

Morning is loneliness



sharon's sunshine

By Sharon Brain

I am not much in the morning. My father could never understand this. He would come in from a full morning's work at the barn and stand at the bottom of the stairs.

"Come on, kids," he would call cheerfully. "Rise and shine. Best part of the day's gone."

When all he got in return was snarls, he would shrug his shoulders, disconsolate, and mutter, "Just like their mother, every one of them."

Then she would be mad at him too. I never realized how lonely he must have been until I married into a family of morning people.

My mother-in-law is the undisputed

champion. On any given morning, she will have done the laundry, cut the grass, and cooked that night's dinner before anyone else is up.

My husband is a little more restrained. But he still sings in the shower, and thinks morning is the only proper time to jog.

My mornings. Actually, I tend to believe that too. If there is a time to jog, it might as well be a time that is unfit for anything else.

But I prefer to spend my mornings with several cups of coffee and the front page of the newspaper. I never get to page two.

I read and reread the Morning Smile and wonder how anyone could chuckle at anything, much less that, at this hour

of the day. I look at the headlines and try to think where Cyprus is, and why it's there, and why I should care if it's still there.

I look out the window and try to connect what I see with the two-word forecast. I stare at the photograph on the front page and try to decide which article it illustrates.

I have never considered breakfast to be a particularly suitable time for conversation. I believe anyone who can be cheerful in the face of a fried egg has severe problems.

Our drive to the subway is quiet. I proceed carefully on to work. I must avoid any sudden stops or starts that might dislodge the cup of coffee on the dash, coffee that is fueling my trip.

When I started teaching, I could never understand why my first period class was so well behaved. Then I discovered I had accidentally been obeying that old concept of not letting them see you smile or they'll think you might be human.

At nine in the morning, I'm not. But by 10, I'm presentable. By dinner time, I'm jovial. By 10 o'clock in the evening, I'm ready for the best part of the day.

Everyone with any sense is now ready for bed. For the sad fact is this world of ours is geared toward morning people. People who like to get up at seven have an unfair advantage over the rest of us.

Part of it is sheer brain washing.

What if, instead of the poem we all learned, we had been taught that:

Early to bed,
Early to rise,
Makes people crabby
And speeds their demise.

A beginning
It's a small beginning, but it might help.

I read all the articles about morning and evening people. But they never seem to tell you how to change. They merely suggest it would be wise to marry one of your own kind.

When I tell that to my husband, he thinks of my ravaged face across the breakfast table every morning.

"Yes," he says. "I can see the logic in that."

yesterdays
by mary dawson

Hill Lions Club began



On April 6, 1939, the Richmond Hill Lions produced that week's issue of The Liberal with Robert D. Little as editor-in-chief and Lions staffing the editorial, news and advertising desks.

Advertising sales were high with the revenue going to the Lions. The Lions Club was a mere fledgling at the time, having been formed only a year earlier.

Among the contributors were Lion President James Stewart, principal of Richmond Hill High School; and Lions R.K. Young, Paul E. Angle, J.F. Heard, Fred Hoover and J.P. Wilson.

Wick Trench, a retired public school inspector and a life-long

resident of Richmond Hill, recalled the "Old Swimming Hole" of more than half a century earlier.

Built dam
Just west of the Canadian National station it was, he wrote, where a curve in the creek formed a bay.

This we were able to enlarge by building a dam so it created a pool, possibly 10 feet in length and 15 feet in width.

Here we boys spent most of our summer holidays, building and repairing the dam.

Swimmers plunged without a quiver into water which gushed icy cold from the spring a few yards to the north.

How eagerly we quickened our steps as we neared the beloved spot, doffing our clothes as we ran without a thought of the strain our haste put upon the buttons.

Then the race to plunge and to be able to shout "First in, first in". How we laughed and jeered at the timid who gingerly tested the water with their toes, and quickly withdrew them, shuddering and puckering their faces monkey-like.

Clay plaster
Then what fun to plaster our bodies with the yellow clay (for we wore only nature's bathing suits).

Then came a run and a jump, splashing the water far and wide, much to the disgust of our mates,

which they expressed with the force that only a boy's lungs can give vent to.

But they evened the score by dunking us well. And the fun, too, of sneaking up on the bank and stuffing a live frog into the stockings of the boy who was so sissified as to wear boots and stockings in the summer holidays.

Watch him squirm when he touched the cold and warty beastie.

Knot joke
What a joke it was to soak

somebody's clothes in the creek, then tie them into knots. How we poked fun at him as he struggled to undo the mess.

How we sniggered as we scanned his wrinkled garments on our homeward way.

But little did he care, or if he cared he looked as if the practical joke bothered him not at all.

He was secure in the knowledge tomorrow was another day. Then it would be his turn, a revenge he would be quietly planning.

Letters

Time government solved problem of unemployment

Dear editor:
Locating accurate unemployment figures for York Region is almost as frustrating as being unemployed and looking for a job.

In attempting to find out the number of jobless people locally, I contacted the Unemployment Insurance Commission

sub-office in Newmarket. My questions were referred to the Barrie office.

I contacted the Barrie office and was told unemployment figures were not available for particular areas. But Statistics Canada would have this information.

At Statistics Canada, I was informed the February release showed Metro and surrounding area had an unemployment rate of 6.9 per cent, with a participation rate of 65.8 per cent.

The figures for the Barrie area showed an unemployment rate of 10.4 per cent and a participation rate of 59.6 per cent.

The southern part of York Region is in the 'Metro and surrounding area' for Statscan purposes. The northern portion is in the Barrie area.

These figures interpreted would indicate that between 5,000 and 7,000 people are unemployed in our region. The majority of the unemployed are in the lower age brackets.

In the northern part of the region, there were only 60 available jobs of all types listed with the department of manpower and immigration.

Unemployment is one of the most serious problems in the country today. More than 300,000 people are out of work in Ontario. The financial, social and psychological consequences of this are incalculable.

Yet our governments are doing little

to solve the problem. Ontario's minister of treasury, economics and intergovernmental affairs in his recent budget speech stated he was prepared to accept an unemployment rate of 5.3 per cent as being full employment.

With one stroke of the pen, he "wipes out" 200,000 people! Some of these are residents of the region of York.

That figure is reactionary, cynical and unacceptable. It is the government's responsibility to solve the unemployment problem. It is time it began.

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letters...

Letters to the editor are welcome and should be addressed to The Editor, The Liberal, PO Box 390, Richmond Hill, Ont., L4C 4Y6. The writer's full name and address must be included, and telephone number if it is unlisted. Unsigned letters cannot be considered for publication. The Liberal reserves the right to edit all contributions.

Should accept funded district health plan

By Ann Gold

Disraeli once wrote, "The public health is the foundation upon which rests the happiness of the nation. The care of the public health is the first duty of the statesman".

I wonder if 100 years ago Disraeli was thinking of a district health council? And I'm beginning to wonder if it's going to take the "statespersons" in York Region another 100 years to decide whether we in York should accept the model of a health planning council as proposed by the ministry of health.

Such councils, I might add, have been accepted in 15 other regions.

Or should York Region have some other form of health planning body?

Report is in
April 21, a staff report was presented to the region council's health and social services committee. The report proposes a committee to recommend to health and social services what the best type of committee for health planning in York Region would be.

Should this committee decide to accept the health council model, then a steering committee would be set up which in turn would make recommendations on the makeup of a district health council.

However, if one of the alternatives the committee chooses to recommend is that the structure we now have is (as was suggested by York Region to Dr. Richard Potter in February 1973) operating effectively and efficiently, then we are back to the status quo with health planning.



The guest spot

A topical column of opinion by our readers. Submissions should be no more than 800 words, typed preferably.

People of York Region should look at what is being proposed and ask themselves if it is what is best for the consumer in York Region.

Don't leave health care planning to any elitist group of agency people.

The working group proposed April 21 said to be comprised of provincial, regional, local and other interested agencies and the "general public".

Public left out
Not so, in my opinion. It is heavily weighted with special interest agency and institutional people. It is very light on the general public representation.

It is my personal opinion the longer we "fudge" around the various alternatives to a district health council the farther we get from coming to grips with the gaps in services, the poor utilization of existing services and resources, and the deplorable duplication of services.

We need to look at preventive care

programs "now". We shouldn't wait for the next council to appoint another committee to study the reports of this one.

We need to wed social and physical planning. Where is the planner on the proposed committee?

We need to dispel the myth that we are committed to a joint planning body. Who is going to fund it?

In conclusion, it is my opinion we should accept the model of the district health council which is funded by the ministry of health and should appoint an administrator of social services as a separate entity.

I don't think we need a qualified medical practitioner for that position, although we would still have need for a medical officer of health who was a qualified practitioner.

It would also cost us less. I hope the people of York Region are not now aware of the functions of the district health council will very quickly familiarize themselves with the concept.

In this time of economic restraint, people should involve themselves in the developmental process before it is too late to do so.

(Mrs. Gold, RN, of RR1, Gormley, was formerly director of nursing at a Toronto hospital. An executive member of the Richmond Hill Social Planning Council and Ward 5 candidate in the recent municipal elections, she has for years taken an active part and interest in local affairs.—Editor)



NDP's Ian Scott
... 5,000 region jobless