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CENTRE STREET

# 7B widening waste of money

There may still be the odd member of the regional engineering committee with a bulldozer for a heart. But it is to be hoped that the majority of regional councillors will throw out the recommendation that Centre Street in Thornhill be improved and turned over to the region.

Regional council has managed to work in relative harmony lately by not initiating programs that local municipalities do not want. In this case, the regional engineering department has taken a local request to support the abandonment of a provincial highway and turned it inside out. The takeover of Centre Street and John Street in Thornhill is a pet project of the engineering department which would like to see a mile and a quarter square grid road system from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe. But it just happens that John Street and Centre Street do not

meet. Four lanes of traffic on Centre Street will simply spill onto Yonge creating more chaos, before escaping to Royal Orchard or John Street. The east side of Yonge Street all the way over to Bayview is already built up and this is the only area that can conveniently use Centre Street as an escape route to the west. The more Thornhill-Vaughan is built up, the less convenient this route will be. Highway 407 will eventually provide the alternate for North Thornhill residents and Clark Avenue for those to the south. Despite the prophecies of the regional engineers, these projects may make the widening of John Street redundant. To do so now would be a waste of money. It is to be hoped that regional councillors are more responsible than to recommend the widening just because it is provincial money that would be involved.

## Letters Recreation problems

I am attaching a copy of a letter which I have sent to the parks department of the Town of Richmond Hill. I believe that this is a legitimate complaint, and I have sent a copy of this letter to your paper with the thought that perhaps an article on the recreational facilities in this town would help to improve conditions. There are many people in the area who are interested in other sports besides hockey and baseball. Another thought that crosses my mind is the need for heat in the swimming pool in the Richvale Community Centre. This pool, as you know, derives its source of heat wholly from the sun, and with the cold spring that we are having this year, it will be a long time before this pool will be comfortably warm. The same lack of facilities was noted this past winter, at least in the area of the BAIF subdivision, where there are many children who would like the opportunity to skate for pleasure. There are no pleasure ice skating facilities. Indeed, my husband offered to flood a portion of the field across from our property, if the town would supply the hose, but nothing came of his offer. We were informed that the fire department could not come in and pre-flood the area, either. I hope that you will take these points into consideration, and perhaps with the aid of your newspaper, conditions will be improved.

**Subject: Tennis Courts - Town Park and Pearson Park.**  
I am writing this letter in the hope that this season more care will be taken of the tennis courts in the town park. It was noticed while walking through the park this week, that they are in bad repair again this year. The following points are brought to your attention:  
1. The nets are badly in need of repair.  
2. The fence has many open spaces in it, thus allowing the balls to go through into the park itself.  
3. There is a large hole in the southeast corner of court three, and balls which run into this hole are difficult, if not impossible, to retrieve. Perhaps a catch basin could be installed here, to alleviate this problem.  
4. The large trees overhanging the courts block the lights at night, and in court two, deter the movement of the player.  
5. The sign on board is not up, and there is never any chalk.  
6. The courts could do with daily sweeping, as the shedding of leaves and seeds from the trees continually litter them, and this is especially so in court one. I realize that vandalism plays a large part in the condition of the nets, however, it is wondered if an arrangement could be made with the police department to check the area periodically. Perhaps the courts could be swept by a summer student, thus creating a much needed job. It was also noted last year, that the lights were never timed to coincide with first darkness, and valuable court time was lost waiting for them to come on. This area is well protected by trees, and

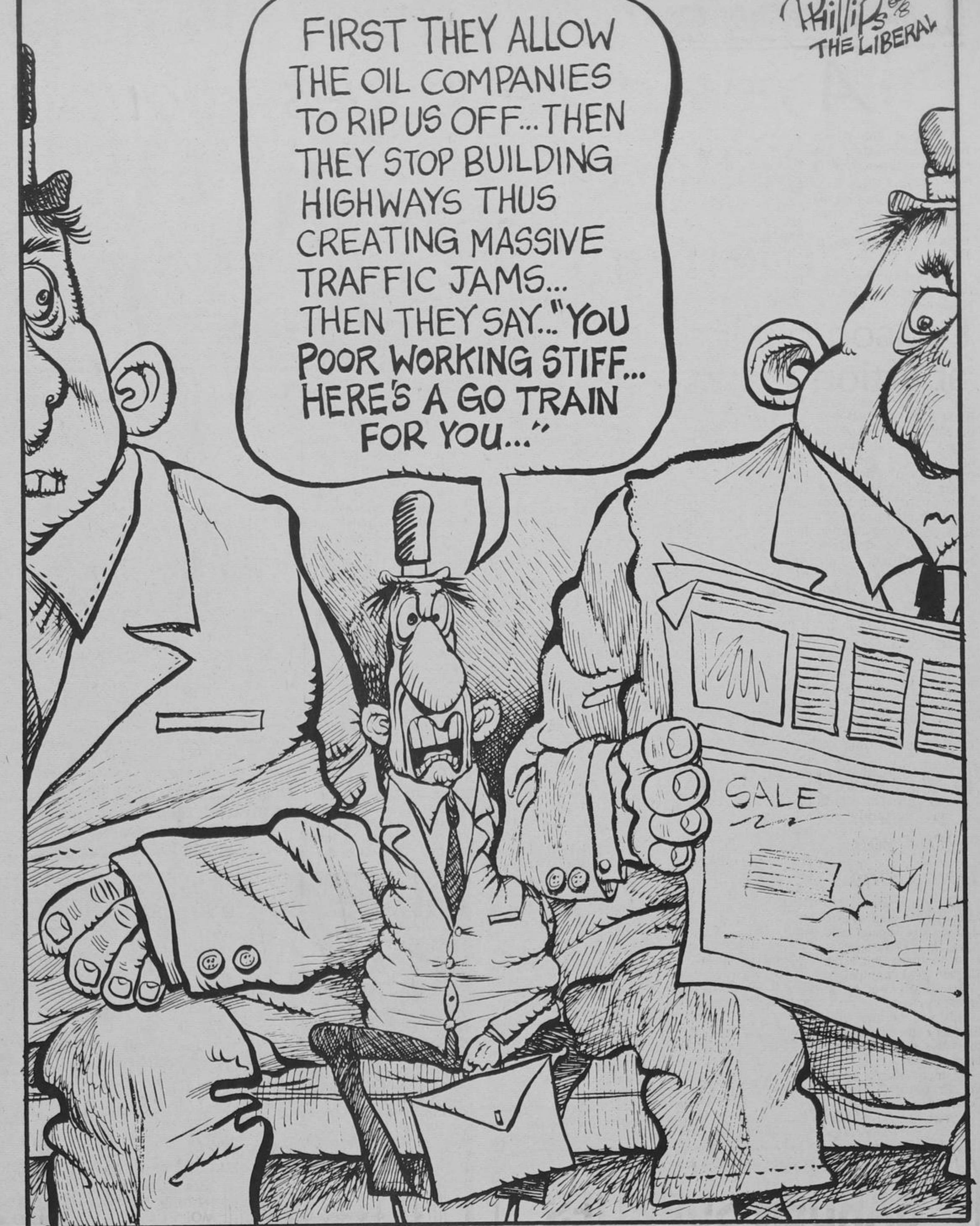
inclined to darkness before the other areas of the park. Another question I have in mind, is whether it would not be feasible to install lighting at the Pearson Park courts, thus enabling residents to utilize these courts more. It was noted last week, that the net posts had heaved at this court, and were propped up by cement blocks. However, I am sure that this is only a temporary solution. There are many keen tennis players in town, and I am sure these questions are in the minds of the majority of them. You become aware of their feelings as you await your court time, when many of them discuss their feelings over the condition of the area. Any assistance given to this project would be greatly appreciated.

**B. Quinell**  
174 Castle Rock Dr.  
Richmond Hill

### CN makes noise, but I wouldn't dare

We recognize that it is sometimes necessary to limit private rights in the best interests of the general public but, we can also recognize injustice and prejudice when it's flaunted in front of our noses and ears by the inaction of Government to impose controls on the havoc created by one of their own companies, namely C.N. against this same public. As a condominium owner I am not permitted to make any noise after 11 p.m. I am not permitted to barbecue on my balcony and God help me should my dog bark or relieve himself, let alone the problem a noisy muffler could cost me. And, should I hope for an air conditioner? I wouldn't dare . . . All of these restrictions and more are imposed and enforced upon Joe Public in our best interests and for the protection of the environment. But at the same time, government owned trains can crash and bang and shunt dangerous chemicals at all hours without fear of penalty. I must criticize this system of "justice" and I think it's a disgrace that from all levels of government, municipal on up to the provincial and federal levels nothing is being done and no one seems to give any thought to control this exploitation of individual rights. I do suspect, however, this indifference will be reflected at the ballot box next time around.

**Mrs. J. Campbell**  
Thornhill



By Bob Rice

## Spring Fair from a kid's eyes

'Tis spring, tra-lah and to cap it off this weekend The Town will hold its annual Fair. Back when I was growing up in The Hill, the Fair was even more important than Queen Victoria's Birthday and as eagerly awaited as the last day of school. The fair grounds were our haunt after school as we watched the crews transform the ballpark into the show ring and stalls were built adjacent to the arena building. As interesting as this was, it could hardly compete with the excitement generated by the arrival of the trucks and trailers that were loaded to the gills with all of the parts that would soon be The Midway. THE MIDWAY You could have your patchwork quilts and homemade pies and the best darn holsteins in Canada . . . the big thing that counted for us was The Midway. It's a wonder that anything was constructed due to the number of us getting in the way of the workers but somehow, the skeletons of ferris wheels and roller coasters rose from the muddy parking lot. If you were lucky enough to have been able to help, you were also lucky enough to have several free rides prior to the official opening. The midway was usually the same . . . a ferris wheel, a small roller coaster, The Oc-

topus, a merry-go-round and a whole bunch of games of chance that seemed to devour our year's savings. The sideshow was the big attraction and over the years, Richmond Hill has been visited by The Monkey Boy, a five-legged cow, Siamese twins and your regular assortment of sword swallowers, fire eaters, hairy ladies and obese men. I remember one year in particular that saw a small touch of scandal rear its ugly head at the annual Fair. The sideshow featured, amongst others, a seductive dancer who paraded outside the tent flap in a belly dancer type of costume that left a lot to the imagination. Inside, however, the shimmering satin fell to the stage floor several times in a rather boring imitation of a striptease. There were mumbblings about the show being a gyp and we all sent out the word that you would do better to visit your favourite uncle and thumb through his copies of National Geographic. At least that is what we thought. Ho-boy . . . were we wrong. ON A RAIL As the story goes, this particular lady (I really didn't care for her anyway . . . she had hairy legs) put on quite a show during the evening's last performance and was ushered

out of town by the local constabulary in the dead of night. Other memories of earlier fairs include my first introduction to cotton candy (with disastrous results), may prowess at the Fish Pond, the theft of a pirate sword that I had won and having my new white bucks ruined by the biggest cow-pie that you have ever seen. I hope this year's Fair will be as successful as past events and, as I grow older, I find myself spending more time in the floral exhibits and near the fresh baked goods counter. I don't ride The Octopus anymore (unless my daughters shame me into it) and I have finally conceded the fact that I cannot pitch a dime into a glass dish. MEET ME THERE This year I will probably spend an hour or two looking at the livestock and maybe I'll treat myself to a hamburger topped with some fried onions. I'll see you there sometime this weekend and, if you get there early enough, maybe you can join me over by the fence watching the whole thing being put together. Many years ago the ol' Millpond Philosopher wrote . . . "Man is not meant to walk alone . . . that is why we have dogs!"

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### Letters

# Day Care supervisor transferred on weak grounds, reader says

On Friday, April 28 at 3 p.m., the supervisor of our Richmond Hill Day Care Centre (RHDC) received notice of her transfer to the Newmarket Day Care Centre because her "managerial techniques" were unsatisfactory in the eyes of the Region. Who are the Region? Doreen Gordon, Director of the Day Care Centres for the Regional Municipality of York? We question that. She certainly isn't representative of the parents of the children at the RHDC. This same lack of

care problems and family problems. Our supervisor has always had a sympathetic ear to these problems and has tried to help out in any way possible. It is in lending a hand to some parents of the Grade 1 students who are enrolled in the After School Program from 3.15 p.m. to 6 p.m. that has helped "trigger" her transfer to Newmarket. The hand she lent was to take approximately eight Grade 1 children enrolled in the After School Program for an hour in the morning

before 9 a.m. to enable their parents (a large number are single parents) to get to their jobs on time. We feel this day care centre is meeting the needs of this community, not the needs of "paper shufflers" and "rigid policy enforcers". She has been accused of neglecting her administrative duties by not sending in her staff's updated medicals and chest X-rays. How petty. This is, in fact, an untruth. A question comes to mind here. Why are our monthly day care bills which are computed and sent out by the Region always dated for the previous month when they are charges for the present month? Apparently her attitude towards the integration of handicapped children is not what it is supposed to be and this has greatly influenced her staff. Her complaint is not integration but lack of adult supervision to provide the necessary service to EACH handicapped child without neglecting the needs of the other children. Is this unreasonable? We, as parents of the children at the RHDC, strongly object to the transfer of our present supervisor on the grounds that have been stated to her. They are weak and unfounded. We are happy with the service that has been provided under her direction and ask that she remain on staff as supervisor. Please print this letter so that the Richmond Hill residents are aware of this problem.

**Marilyn Johnson**  
for the RHDCC  
Concerned Parents