

# Letters

## Editorial "irresponsible", he says

Although agreeing in principle with your critical editorial comments concerning the Richmond Hill council's reversal of a previous decision on a plan for subdivision (Council flip-flops, Liberal, February 7), I find one fundamental and glaring omission that borders on irresponsibility.

The editorial offers a blanket condemnation, which could easily be interpreted as applying to all nine council members.

In fact, the decision was made by a group of five council members in favor of a landowner in our community.

This reversal was strongly opposed by Mayor Schiller and Councillors Birchall, Burnie and Duffy on the grounds that it made a mockery of the week of hearings in Richmond Hill by the week of hearings in Richmond Hill by the Ontario Municipal Board on the Spring Mills develop-

ment.

(Why was it so urgent to reverse a decision just prior to the OMB's decision on this matter?)

To tar them with the same brush as the other five is inexcusable, and might lead one to believe that your newspaper does not have the gumption to openly oppose a small but monetarily influential segment of this community.

Certainly David Schiller and the three aforementioned councillors deserve an apology and the public deserves a more precise condemnation of the guilty parties in this fiasco.

Furthermore, I feel that The Liberal has been abdicating responsibility to the general public in Richmond Hill by failing to offer much assessment of the functioning and character of the present council.

On ALL critical issues it is always decided by a vote of five to four, with the same five pro-vested interest council members aligned against the four who are pro planned development.

It is most unfortunate that the basic philosophy of this bare majority would appear to be the eradication of the accomplishments of the previous council.

In fact Regional Councillor Wainwright appears, from his performance in council, to be getting a juvenile, gleeful, almost unhealthy delight in destroying past progressive policies.

Councillor Corcoran, Rose and Wainwright

have been well-known advocates of rapid development for some time and could not be expected to change.

Consequently, the blame for this sorry state of affairs must lie at the feet of the two new members of council who were not elected on a platform suggesting their present stance.

Perhaps Councillors Amos and Barrow should be reminded of a few facts.

Firstly, Mayor Schiller and his philosophy of municipal government have three times been strongly endorsed at the polls by the PEOPLE of Richmond Hill.

He represents what the majority in this town want.

Secondly, in their own wards, the vote was heavily in favor of the Mayor and many, who supported Mr. Schiller, also cast votes for them.

I would suggest that Mr. Amos and Mr. Barrow should:

(a) reassess their present alliance;

(b) stop being unduly influenced and pressured;

(c) start considering what is best, over the long run, for the community and the people in it.

In response to a remark that was made by Mr. Wainwright at the last council meeting — YES, WE HAVE HAD IT 'GOOD' FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, PLEASE ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE.

William Atkinson,  
8 Orton Crescent,  
Richvale.

## Decision rested with two new councillors, reader states

I couldn't agree more with your recent editorial (Council flip-flops over subdivision, Feb 7, 1979) But must you tar the whole council with the same brush?

Mayor Schiller and Councillors Birchall, Duffy and Burnie remain as opposed to the Spring Mills development as they were before.

Councillors Rowe, Wainwright and Corcoran have also expressed their views at earlier discussions. Their stand was not unexpected. This left the two newest councillors holding the decision in their hands.

Councillor Amos tells me he has done some reading on the matter and he did drop into the OMB

hearing from time to time.

Councillor Barrow appeared at the hearing for half an hour at the opening, during which no significant evidence was presented.

His reasons to me for voting as he did were that he saw no reason for the development not going ahead, and he thought the

subdivision would look quite nice there.

Are all his decisions to be based on uninformed personal opinion? Or, as a member of the Planning Committee, will he attempt to learn something about planning?

So far he has let two opportunities go by — the week of the OMB hearing on Spring Mills and Seminar 1 of the Regional Official Plan.

He did run on a platform which stressed that since he lived and worked in town, he would be readily available on matters pertaining to his duties as a Councillor.

To forestall anyone else saying it, I realize that as I was an unsuccessful candidate for Councillor for Ward 4, my comments will sound like sour grapes.

But my concern is that council decisions should be made on the basis of in-depth knowledge of a situation.

When Councillor Barrow starts showing that he does indeed care enough to learn as much as possible about the town's affairs, I will be among the first to support him.

Janet Fyale  
17 Elizabeth Street North  
Richmond Hill

## Jack and his Jeep play a major part cleaning the pond

It is gratifying to read of the appreciation expressed in last week's paper for our effort in the

community.

As is so often the case, the maintenance of Oakbank Pond for free

skating is a result of co-operation from everyone but the weather.

January's constant snowfalls alternating with freezing rain demanded constant effort to retain a reasonable ice surface.

The Town of Vaughan Works Department superintendent Bill Norris has a crew at work most week days moving the snow back.

## Abortion is mass killing, reader says

In this "International Year of the Child", let us pause for a moment and consider the UNBORN child.

Think how many of these little lives are terminated under the name of "therapeutic" abortion.

(There were 57,564 such abortions performed in Canada in 1977 alone).

These unborn babies (sometimes called "embryo" and "fetus" but nonetheless tiny human beings created by God) never get the chance to live and grow outside the womb. Usually because someone decides that a baby does not fit into "plans", and

an abortion is easy to get.

Albert Schweitzer said — "If a man loses reverence for any part of life he will lose reverence for all life".

Clearly we are losing reverence for life in our society today.

If we are to sincerely commemorate "International Year of the Child", we must stop this needless mass killing.

It is a crime against humanity; a slaughter of innocents.

It is enough to make even Herod turn in his grave.

Lavender Caldwell,  
378 Crosby Avenue  
Richmond Hill

## Full time mayor = full time cost

So, Markham needs a full time mayor (Liberal, Thornhill edition, February 7).

Presumably at a full time price.

As a close observer of the office over the last four years, I feel we are well served by Mr. Roman at a very reasonable cost to the taxpayers.

It will be interesting to see what Mr. Moran has

in mind for his salary as a full-time Mayor with, no doubt, an unlimited expense account, trips to exotic places such as Munich and Tokyo, a chauffeured limousine and all the other trappings of a professional politician.

Frankly, I don't think Markham can afford him.

Walter B. Grieve,  
2 Houghton Blvd.  
Markham.

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

## TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

### CIVIC CENTRE STUDY AND CONCEPT

PLACE: Council Chambers, Municipal Offices, Town of Richmond Hill, 10266 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario.  
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
 DATE: Monday, February 26th, 1979.

THE purpose of this Public Meeting is to present a FINAL DESIGN CONCEPT for a CIVIC CENTRE:

LOCATION: (see map)  
 CONCEPT: A mixture of civic uses, private office uses, hotel and entertainment, and housing integrated with pedestrian ways and a Town Square.  
 PURPOSE: To provide a future Town focal point which will encourage a variety of daytime and evening activities.  
 EVERYONE is invited to attend the meeting and participate in discussing this important proposal.

C. DUFFY, CHAIRMAN  
PLANNING COMMITTEE

W. J. POWER  
COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING

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