

BURTON HOUSE

Disgusted at indifference of Markham Council

Here are a few valid comments I would like to make with reference to the controversy over Burton House. As a resident of Thornhill since 1968, my wife has lived here since 1951. I would like to express my disgust at the apparent indifference of the Town of Markham Council towards historic sites in the Thornhill area.

It seems to me that council's main concern is to please the developers and ignore the concerns of Thornhill residents.

We have witnessed in recent years the demolition of Annswell, including the destruction of many magnificent trees, some of which were very rare; the strangulation of Cricklewood by townhouses; and the building development of many acres of prime agricultural land.

It is obvious that because of the

proximity of Thornhill to Yonge Street, the Town of Markham regards Thornhill only as a good tax base.

This may be sound economic reasoning but it is no reason for the desecration of Thornhill's history.

I sincerely hope that the recently formed committee to study the feasibility of retaining the Burton House will not be — as with so many committees and commissions — an exercise in futility, but that council will listen to ALL the recommendations of the committee before, through grass ignorance, denying future generations the opportunity of appreciating the fine architecture of a bygone age.

Graham Upcraft
7 Albion Close,
Thornhill

A parking lot would replace Burton House, "an object of beauty"

Having just read in The Liberal of the official "planning" (and I use quotation marks) to replace an object of beauty and joy with one more sterile acre of macadam... a parking lot.

I realize even more fully why mature cultures pronounce us still barbarians.

I am referring, of course, to the plan to demolish the Burton House with its link with the past, with the history of the community, by a parking lot for yet another shopping mall.

(Twenty years ago I watched 500-year-old oak trees being felled in order that hydro poles could raise their ugly utility in a straight line).

Today, all cities are realizing the value of beauty, of contrast, of remembrance of things past and are preserving their visible history, their historic buildings.

London, Hamburg, Rome, Toronto (a newcomer to anything but the utilitarian), even Moscow, are enhanced by the buildings preserved amid the masifs of modern building centres.

Let the drivers pay to park underground. I am a driver and I hate paying for parking, but it is a smaller price to pay than breaking the bricks of our heritage into dust.

Are we going to allow the destruction of something that when gone is irreplaceable?

(Today hydro poles are going underground. That sacrilege of destruction is largely a thing we've put behind us... at least where we can SEE it.)

Mrs. Cicely Thomson
120 Major Mackenzie Drive,
Richmond Hill

Letters

Some residents paying \$200 more for sewers

The Richvale Sewer Project could have been a matter of historical interest, were it not for the utterly discrepant charges which were levied in various parts of the community.

As is well known, residents in the south-eastern parts (Area II) pay about \$200 per lot more than those in the adjacent south-westerly portion.

This amount will double over the next 15 years until the public debt is

paid off.

A number of excuses were given by the Town of Richmond Hill for the rather unjust treatment of the about 300 homeowners in Area II.

Among these are that a pumping station was necessary, that expensive easements had to be bought on Garden Avenue, that the area contains several areas of unassessable public parks, and that the soil conditions were difficult.

However, a recent

Town report on the proposed Silverberg subdivision between Garden Avenue and Roosevelt Drive along Yonge Street, casts serious doubt on the Town's conduct in this respect.

The only charges which were levied against the Silverberg development as far as sanitary services are concerned, are for oversizing of the collector pipes.

No mention is made of

any of the other costs which made Area II so expensive.

This indicates either that certain costs never existed, or that the developer is being given a free ride at the expense of the residents in the area.

Surely this calls for a public inquiry into the Town's accounting practice with regard to the Richvale Sewer Project.

It is clear that the elected representatives do not look after the interests of the electorate in Area II.

A request by residents to examine the Town's financial records on the sewer project was refused by the Treasurer.

The Town's Court of Revision declined to discuss the overall costs of the project when hearings were held last fall.

It seems that the highly

publicized openness of the municipal government in Richmond Hill ends when the ratepayers' purses

are concerned.
G. Springer
52 Roosevelt Drive,
Thornhill

Markham tournament big success - Daurio

Markham Hockey Week is completed once again.

And while there were a few problems left for us to resolve next year, the

competition was again a great success.

How come group got \$5,000 grant, he wants to know

"Young Life, in black and white, solid print is reasonably easy to pin down organizationally."

"It is difficult to capture and pin down the value of that organization."

"meaningful" songs and believes that adolescence is a critical time in life.

The boys and girls who competed worked hard for their respective teams and provided exciting entertainment for the spectators.

Executive members, conveners, coaches and managers of the hockey associations of Unionville, Markham and Thornhill, and Town staff gave generously of their time and help.

And again, the dialogue resulted in a healthy exchange of ideas and operating techniques; new friendships were made.

I want to thank you, Mr. Editor, for your coverage of this great annual event.

And, in particular, I would like you to convey our thanks to Fred Simpson.

His sensitive analysis of some of the events, and his sense of humor, captured some of the spirit of good house league competition and excitement.

So says Shaaron Hay in widely separated sentences in her article in last week's Liberal.

As RCMP would say — Exactly.

All I would like to know is why, in these times when all governments are cutting down on many worthwhile programs, our local government makes the biggest grant of this type in its history, to an organization that is non-denominational, Christian, holds informal meetings in members' houses, sings

Does the Town have \$5,000 money (our money) to give away to a group of about 28 young people who seem to be doing exactly the same sort of youth work already being done by the 'Y', Boy Scouts, Big Brothers, all our schools, all our churches, etc.

I believe at least one of the councillors should explain their generosity with our money and tell us whether they are going to be equally generous to any other group who makes application.

Gerald C. Crack
19 Leonard Street,
Richmond Hill

Stan Daurio
1979 Markham
Hockey Week
Chairman

CASSIN KITCHENS
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Concerned about nuclear power? Here are two info centres

If there are people in York Region concerned about the nuclear power fuel involved in obtaining an accurate picture of the present situation, I think they should consider a donation to either of the following two groups who will attempt to look after their concerns:

Energy Probe, 43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, M5S 2C3,

or Greenpeace Toronto, 121 Avenue Road, Toronto, M5R 2G3.

We all must be involved in CONSERVING electricity.

If you reverse the first two letters of nuclear you get "unclear" and I suppose that is the main problem we feel we are faced with.

We have the right to want to feel nuclear power is safe and at the

present time this is most questionable.

Switching, locally, to the environment scene the Richmond Hill Recycling Depot is in need of additional Saturday morning workers (one week in five) due to illness, etc.

Also, as soon as possible, we require a volunteer to assist every other Thursday with the office paper pickup,

preferably with a car or van. Call Marlene 884-6671.

Marlene R. Turner,
Secretary
Richmond Hill
Committee for Recycling

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THE Liberal

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