

Letters

Markham riders deserve better transit, she says

Mayor Tony Roman
This letter is written to voice a concern that affects my community. Apparently last fall, a study was conducted to see if the Town of Markham warranted two transit systems (Markham Transit and GO Transit). According to Mr. McNab, chairman of the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority, which operates the GO Bus in the area surrounding Toronto, Markham decided to operate its own transit line — and once it was established, the GO Bus system, whose main purpose is to provide transportation for communities without means of public transport, became redundant. The two systems were competing with each other and this proved to be an economic disaster for both systems. The Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority thus decided to stop its service on Bayview Avenue and other sections of Markham and the sole responsibility for public transit now lies with Markham. As a result the community is now receiving an incomplete service. The Markham Transit does not run on Sundays or holidays. It is inconceivable that a community like Thornhill, which is rapidly doubling in size, should be without public mobility on Sundays and holidays.

Granted the buses will not be used as greatly at these times, but none-the-less, there are people within the community who need such a service.

There are those who do work on Sundays and holidays, some older citizens may need to use public transit rather than drive themselves, certain members in families wishing to visit friends, go skating or to a show will now need to rely on parents to chauffeur them.

I understand that your main concern is the cost of running a bus for a possibly small group of people.

I understand that the cost is definitely a factor. By the same token, a service was rendered and used by people travelling on the GO system ... and since the money from rush hour travel is not going to be split between two rival systems, the Markham system should attain enough funds to offer a decent service in off-peak hours.

Markham couldn't possibly be naive enough to think they can take over the responsibility of moving its communities with its present form of limited service. Surely you know that people within these communities will not stand for a small group of elected officials to decide if it's feasible for them to move in and out of the boundaries of Markham in off-peak hours.

Heather Reading
10 Hester Ct.
Thornhill

Need for educational facilities in Unionville 'desperate', she says

On Tuesday, October 9th, the Markham Council debated for the second time a motion which, if carried, would have delayed approval of further residential development in the Markham-Unionville area until such time as the required elementary and secondary educational facilities were being provided in the form of an elementary school for Risebrough and a secondary school for Unionville. After another hour-long debate, the motion was once again deferred. By now there can be absolutely no doubt whatsoever in anyone's mind that the need for additional elementary and secondary school accommodation in Unionville is desperate. And yet, if the Mayor and the majority of the Councillors do in fact share the concern which is at present of

paramount importance to most families of this community, they certainly are not taking the appropriate action with the strong sense of urgency which the situation demands. Why not? If they DO have a legitimate reason, they certainly failed to state it during the debate. Consequently, one is left to draw one's own conclusions.

The Council should be cautioned, therefore, that parents who are concerned about the education of their children, are not likely to aspire to the political aspirations of others more important. One councillor privately suggested that his reluctance to support the motion was based on the concern that "millions of dollars could be lost if all construction was stopped".

The fact is that we are not asking for an end to all construction — we are only asking for a delay in residential development until the proper educational facilities can be provided.

Does one conclude then that the Council would consider sacrificing the QUALITY of life for the QUANTITY of houses in the Town. Unfortunately, that is exactly what is already happening. The quality of life in the Town of Markham IS suffering because the essential educational facilities are not being provided to coincide with the population growth and children are now being overcrowded in the available schools and many sent out of the community for their education.

Our children are a very important part of this community and a proper education, as well as a sense of belonging, is vital to their growth. A community that does not make adequate provision for the education and development of its youth had better beware!

All too soon the children of today will be the Mayors and Councillors of this Town. One wonders how they

will act when faced with decisions such as whether to build another senior citizens residence or whether to simply banish us old folks to another community. Then the tables will be turned and we will be at THEIR mercy. Will they recall that we allowed them to be sent away for their schooling, against their wishes? The Mayor and Councillors are the elected guardians of the quality of life in the Town of Markham and if they do not act to prevent certain School Board decisions from undermining the integrity of the community, they are shirking their responsibilities. If it is not THEIR responsibility, whose is it?

In the meantime, while the Council procrastinates over whether or not it will act to remedy the situation, the need for additional school accommodation grows more and more desperate; the Ministry of Education continues to rate our needs on a scale

of priorities across the whole province and the School Board, similarly, deals with our plight according to the priorities of Trustees from all the communities of York Region. As a result, many of our children find themselves

in an unhappy situation beyond their control. Is it really too much to expect the Mayor and his Council to act, without further delay, on their behalf?

Anne Rickwood
R.R. 2
Markham

Writer's reply "stale" - Britton

I'm sorry that my innocent comments on your border crossing difficulties caused such violent bowel contractions in your staff writer, Kevin MacLean. So you now employ writers in diapers?

If he wants people to read and respect his writing he'll really have to freshen up his vocabulary.

His self-righteous arrows — "racism", "disgusting" — are very stale, blunt, and undistinguished. Or is he in training for the dreariness of the pulpit rather than the ruggedness of the journalistic life, which entails the acceptance — and forgiveness — of even such unspeakables as myself?

However, if slow between the ears, he is certainly quick on the draw. He fumes that my carefree comments "smell of the stench of what is popularly labelled 'racism'".

Other than in the lily-white mind of a liberal, racism is as common and inevitable as the weather. Its various manifestations thro' the ages are known as history — the long story of competing species.

Then came The Great Intellect — Mr. Trudeau, who dislikes war and bloodshed, but loves victory. He soon decided that the best way to conquer English Canada was to drown it. So he simply opened the floodgates of universal immigration, with catch-basins to restrict the flow of Anglo reinforcements for the struggling natives.

Some call this a noble show of humanity. Others call it politics and treachery. It depends on who you are and where you think the world is going. Anyway, it's all in the record. To quell the growing disturbances and support the demands of the newly arrived for more of everything including special laws, language lessons, and liturgies, Trudeau simply invented a characteristically Canadian disease — Multiculturalism.

It was spread by TV, press, and pulpit. In the final stages of the disease one is completely speechless and non-Canadian. With true liberal compassion, MacLean suggests that if I'm worried about all this, I move.

This suggestion should qualify him for the Trudeau Medal of Honor. Trouble is, there's all my Klan parades — that's the Ku Klux — set up for the coming winter. I'm High Something or Other. (Yes, my poor but devoted wife has not known what it is to sleep between clean sheets for years.)

Then there's my Hate classes, Racist lessons — and Anti-Semitic night. One night we stand around street corners, practice our cockney and Lancashire dialects, and spit in the eye of anyone foreign going by.

Sunday, of course, I take and count the collection at church. It's all too exciting. I can't go yet, my eyes are misting with visions of Waterloo and the British Square.

Some of them have agreed with me on this point. These people aren't scrooges; they just find Christmas too expensive and why should everyone keep up with the Joneses?

Fran Sargeant
Box 861
Oak Ridges

CAUSE members disagree with Liberal editorial

As members of the Community Association for Unionville Secondary Education (CAUSE), we object and disagree with your editorial "Markham encroaches on Board's domain".

On October 9, 1979, Councillor Wilson introduced the following motion:

"Resolved that the request of the Community Association for Unionville Secondary Education that Council cease residential subdivision approval for residential units in Markham until a firm commitment is received from the Minister of Education for approval of construction of a high school in Unionville and an elementary school in Risebrough, be endorsed by the Council of the Town of Markham; and that the Minister of Education and the Minister of Housing be advised of this decision".

Motion has been deferred until next council meeting. The statement that the board has not been able to justify capital spending for a high school in Unionville is completely inaccurate.

The Board presented a brief to the Ministry of Education showing the need for Unionville High School.

Don Cousens, Chairman of the Board, has been quoted as saying the school board can show figures that are uncontested for the need for a secondary school. We would like to remind the Editor that responsibility has more than ONE edge. Your facts represent a slanted view.

The Councillors of the Town of Markham, by their interest, show a deep responsibility for the residents of our town. Furthermore, they have the intestinal fortitude to take action on this responsibility. What is more important than our Town Councillors accepting the

moral obligation of ensuring growth does not get ahead of services? What is more responsible than ensuring the education of our children in THE YEAR OF THE CHILD?

Verna Hallworth
Marg Murphy
CAUSE
Unionville.

Santa Claus parade waste of money

I read on the front page of The Liberal dated Wednesday, September 26 about the businessman who objects to the Santa Claus Parade on Sunday. Whoever you are, Mr. Businessman, it took a lot of courage on your part to object to that.

We need more people like you who are going to stand up for their own convictions, and you will be blessed by God for standing up to the Richmond Hill community on what you believe in.

Christmas is for everyone, not just for the children. We must bring back the true meaning of Christmas, that it is Jesus Christ's birthday that is more important to our children than telling them about Santa Claus.

Jesus Christ is the same as yesterday, today, and tomorrow and forever. We must teach all of the children out there about Jesus-Christ that He was born on December 25 and that we don't have to please man, but please God in everything that we do.

Children get frustrated when they get too many toys. What about the children in the third world? Let's think about them for a change, instead of wasting our money on Santa Claus Parades.

Yes, we are innocent to a point in believing in Santa Claus but once we find out differently we don't talk about it anymore. Thank goodness that Jesus Christ exists in us, that we need to be led by Him. I feel in my heart the community of people

should have parades during the week, that it's up to them what they do, but to me, Sunday is the Sabbath and it should be kept that way and respected.

I know a lot of people who don't even send out Christmas cards or bother with Christmas, that they think it's pagan that we should stick to the true meaning of Christmas.

Some of them have agreed with me on this point.

These people aren't scrooges; they just find Christmas too expensive and why should everyone keep up with the Joneses?


Ode to R.D. Little

Who is this timeless person in our midst, With the bright and twinkling eye? 'Tis said he celebrates his ninety-fourth The years have passed with many things, As with all of us I guess The joys, the tears and life's complexities, Somehow there are those like he Who, despite the passing scene, Seem untouched by time, Never changing in his love For nature's beauty And his constant zest for life. A gift not possessed by many We salute you, Mr. Little We wish you many more.

D. Warnica
Richmond Hill
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