



Smoke billows from a Musselman's Lake home Sunday morning after the family of Lorne Hutton fled when the fire started in the basement. The inside of the house was completely gutted. Don Bernard

# Letters to the Editor

## Protest too late

Dear Sir:  
The actions of a number of Stouffville residents remind me of the story of the farmer who closed the barn door after the horse had escaped. Those of us in the airport area, who have been expropriated, have been trying for three years to understand the town's apparently lackadaisical attitude. I would suggest that

any action at this point is unlikely to alter decisions which have already been made. Stopping federal bureaucratic machinery in full flight is not likely to be accomplished by a few citizens pushing baby carriage. It is probably time that we, as citizens, try to understand the workings of, and realize the limitation of, our democratic system.

Glenn Steiner,  
R. R. 1,  
Stouffville.

developed both intellectually and spiritually.  
The crisis of our world today forces your strong majority government to make perceptive decisions on issues that are in their direct control and develop a philosophy that the people here desire, so that their strength may be felt in the turbulence of the world in these economically, environmentally and spiritually unstable times.

The people of Canada are ready to STOP increasing the G.N.P., developing, producing, expanding. They are willing to make do, preserve, assess, and learn to love and accept their responsibilities for others.

At this point Mr. Trudeau, at this crucial point in our development, when everyone who is aware; Metro Toronto, the Conservative Party, the N.D.P. Party, many of your liberal M.P.'s, the people of the area and the people of Canada are asking, BEGGING at this point, for you to begin to show your strength and STOP the spending of billions of unnecessary dollars on THE PICKERING AIRPORT.

LYNDA HAYWARD,  
R. R. 3,  
Stouffville.

## Cancel Airport

Dear Sir:  
At this time, with an energy crisis and a failing economy, Ontario seems set on a course to permit the destruction of thousands of valuable acres that could be used for food production and housing, by sanctioning the building of a second airport for Toronto.

We read of the need for more houses, of food and shortages throughout the world and what do we do? Build an airport. How are the planes to be fueled? From where are all the planes coming? We read only of airlines cutting back on flights. The thought of a new airport seems like madness. Surely the money would be better used to find new sources of energy and develop the ones we have such as the tar sands. Does Toronto want to grow to the size of Detroit with the violence and unrest that uncontrolled growth brings? An airport at Pickering will ensure that growth. Do we want that?

I say stop officialdom, committed to the tradition by which people are always their own vandals, from sealing living fields beneath concrete and destroying irreplaceable

beauty with fast motorways and polluted air.  
Let all those who live in Stouffville, and enjoy the pleasures of the countryside strive to keep it that way and write to those who sit in Queen's Park to say that we believe in Ontario - Keep it beautiful.  
K.M. BOLTER,  
Church St.,  
Stouffville.

## Reply to Column

Dear Sir:  
I would like to comment on the article in last week's Tribune written by Bill Smiley. As manager of the largest supermarket in town, I am proud to say that my employees take pride in our new store and maintain a clean, neat and efficient place to shop. Not one of my cashiers or clerks wouldn't go out of their way to make anyone's shopping trip easier. At this store we have a free parcel pick-up service so their is no need to struggle with their groceries.  
As the manager, I am not on TV but in the store every day and either myself or my assistant are available at all times to assist all customers.  
J. AGNEW,  
Manager, A&P Store.

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# 800 in attendance Quiet airport meeting

STOUFFVILLE — A meeting that attracted 800 people to the auditorium of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School last Wednesday was a quiet affair mainly because those against the proposed Pickering Airport had no targets to shoot at.

Representatives of the government were invited to attend, but only

people opposed to the airport showed up. York Simcoe MP Sinclair Stevens was the target for a number of questions and steadfastly blamed the Liberal government in Ottawa for the decision to build the airport.

Partisan politics managed to intrude upon the meeting with a Liberal member of the legislature accusing the Conservative government of Ontario of being the cause of the problem. Mr. Stevens insisted the problem was with the Federal Liberals.

Only Scott Tyrer, a relative newcomer to Stouffville, managed to live up to the proceedings with an impassioned plea for people to march to Ottawa and show the government they mean business.

Bill Crothers, a Markham pharmacist, read excerpts from the airport inquiry commission report, and after that Dr. Charles Godfrey, leader of the People or Planes group asked people in the audience how many felt there would be a noise problem in Stouffville two years ago, when the airport was announced.

About one third of the audience put up their hands. He asked the same question only in the present and almost everyone in the audience responded.

Mayor Gordon Ratcliff detailed Whitchurch Stouffville's battle to stop the airport, concluding that the threat to "social and economic collapse in Stouffville is too great, a price to pay for the airport."

York Simcoe MP Sinclair Stevens railed against the Liberal government in Ottawa, "the Federal government are the most artful dodgers we've ever had at the Federal level."

He said that Ontario Premier William Davis had assured him that he (Mr. Davis) would not favor the Pickering airport.

Mr. Stevens added that the airport is not necessary and that the \$1.5 billion expected to be spent on it would be better used to provide municipal services badly needed in the area.

"The money could be better spent serving 100 per cent of the people not just the 15 per cent who choose to travel periodically," he said.

York South MPP Donald Deacon claimed that if Premier Davis said, "no tomorrow" the Pickering airport would not be built.

Other speakers who reiterated their opposition to the airport included Toronto Alderman William Kilborne, NDP representative Ellen Adams, Scarborough Mayor Paul Cosgrove.

Dr. Godfrey who MC'd the meeting, urged people in the audience to contact friends in Toronto and get them to write letters opposing the airport.

After a relatively brief question and answer period, the meeting adjourned with the stinging indictment by Mr. Tyrer ringing through the auditorium.

**\*\*\*\*\***

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