

# Letters to the Editor

## 'Gutless' steps out

Dear Sir:  
When I presented my letter to the Tribune, I said it simply expressed one man's opinion that there was a fairly large segment of local feeling which did not support the highly vocal opposition to the Airport. I also said it was not for publication, as I had no desire to become involved in a public controversy which was becoming more emotional than rational, or to antagonize good friends and customers who hold other views. However, the Tribune staff felt that it expressed the feelings of a number of local residents, and should be published. I reluctantly agreed to my name being withheld. This was a mistake, for I have never hesitated to state my honest convictions or take a public stand on issues affecting our community. So the challenge of your correspondents (Feb. 27) is now accepted, and "Gutless" comes forward, with apologies for previous anonymity!

Whenever any government is faced with the necessity to plan for a new public facility, whether it be a highway, hydro line, sewer, garbage disposal or airport, they are certain to be faced with some local opposition. Nobody wants these on their land or in their district. Yet these things have to be planned for, if progress is to continue. We cannot logically say "Stop growth, and leave us the way we are." Therefore decisions have to be made to provide necessary facilities for the greater public benefit, with the least possible disruption of affected residents.

Any project as large as an international airport is bound to cause some hardship, either by displacement or environment change. If anyone has a right to complain, it is undoubtedly the homeowners of Dickson Hill, of whom I am one, since we will be the closest community to the airport take-off runway. Yet I believe that we suffer far more noise from Highway 48 than we ever will from aircraft overhead! So, if necessary, I'll just add a little more insulation, and get used to it! Those who object will probably exercise their option to move to quieter fields.

Instead of protesting uselessly that we don't want or need an airport, or that it should be put somewhere else, not near us, we might use our collective influence constructively to see that the government deals fairly with the displaced owners, and grants the option of sale, at fair valuation, for those who object to living in a designated noise zone. Next we could work closely in co-operation with the Federal planners to derive the greatest benefits for Stouffville, with the least disruption.

Our great need in this area is for more light industry to provide jobs, and distribute the tax burden which is becoming crushing in any purely residential community. With the building of the airport this will come regardless, so we might be wiser to develop an effective voice in its planning.

The media has given more prominence to the actions of the well integrated "Stop Everything" committees. It is time we heard a little from the silent majority!

VIC ORCHARD  
Dickson Hill.

## Communities looked on for financial help

Dear Sir:  
It gives me great pleasure to report to the residents of Markham, Stouffville, Unionville and Gormley, that regional council has supported a grant of \$85,000 to be used for the four family life centres in the region (They are located in Markham, Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Georgina).

This grant insures the salaries of the counsellors and some of the office staff. Our communities will be looked upon for financial assistance to cover costs of maintenance of the centres and educational supplies as well as payment of fees for leaders in the educational programs which make up a primary function of the family services to the community.

The amount of money this represents from the Markham, Stouffville, Unionville and Gormley areas is about \$18,000.

In October, a canvas by a number of resident volunteers took place which assisted the community's contribution by over \$2,000. The Stouffville contribution was \$1,137.46 with \$1,001.59 coming from Markham. Money is still coming in and donations will be gladly accepted.

As a volunteer and representative of Stouffville to the Markham and District Family Life Centre Board of Directors, I learned that many people in our community were not acquainted with what the Family Life Centre is all about.

Our campaign for funding served many purposes. Perhaps one of the greatest was to let people know that a family life centre is available to anyone. That is to say — all people with or without a referral can make an appointment (first visit free) for counselling and all people can enroll in any of the educational programs, which deal in many cases with problems related to learning and living, so that many can indeed solve their own problems by becoming armed with knowledge and experience provided by such programs.

As a volunteer, I have experienced a great personal growth in more insight into problems relating to participating as a member of a board which operates a community service. Also, the challenge of chairing the publicity and working with the Educational Committee has provided me with experiences that can only benefit me as a person and give service to my community.

I wish to thank everyone who supported the family life centres both financially and otherwise in the past. For the future, I invite and encourage the people of the community to use the services that are for you.

ANITA SNOW  
Vice-chairman, Markham and Area Family Life Centre

## Airports are opposite of conservation

Dear Sir:  
Here it is again! Another full page ad of energy saving ideas in the Globe and Mail by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources of the federal government — paid for by us taxpayers.

Mr. MacDonald would not want the same ad to appear in The Tribune.

He knows that the people of Stouffville would not believe him. Building airports and saving energy are completely opposite.

Mr. MacDonald in the ad asks for energy-saving ideas to be sent to him. Let us offer him one — Stop the Airport.

LOVANNA SANDERS  
O'Brien Ave.

## Too many in government?

Dear Sir:  
Do we have too many people in government? When I hear of one level of government suing another, something must be wrong. Like Toronto City Council going to sue Metro Council because they decided to pave the Spadina ditch. I don't care what you government people do with your personal money but please you are using our money when you are using public funds and I can't afford to be suing people all the time. I also think it would be a good idea to get the mail moving a little more reliably. Could it be we need someone in government a little more firm, or do we need different leaders?

One thing we don't need is another Royal Commission study.

If we have another provincial election, I would like one of the parties to promise to lower our provincial debt. After all, what's the use of average people getting out of debt and all governments going further into debt.

So let's work to make this great country of ours a better place to live, and if we have too many governing bodies, one or more could be eliminated. It is one thing to create jobs, another is it really necessary.

JIM RAE  
R. R. 4, Stouffville

## Try it out

Dear Sir:  
Transportation Minister John Rhodes recently said he is far from convinced that lower speed limits would result in fewer road deaths, a claim given wide credence in the United States. There is one way to find out who is correct. Try it out!  
WILLIAM E. RAE  
Scarboro

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