

Editor's Mail

Resident lauds Council's vote on teen dance club

Dear Sir,
I wish to thank members of Markham's Town Council for making a correct yet very difficult decision to turn down the "Teen Dance" proposal at the Jan. 6, 1987 planning committee meeting.

This issue has been turned into a "Motherhood" issue by its proponents. By voting this proposal down, the Council has blocked a focus in our community for vandalism, drug and alcohol abuse, noise pollution and trespassing problems.

Parents who were at the meeting in support of the proposal called the location "perfect". This only shows that they were misinformed or sadly ignorant.

The proposed center would have occupied the northern-most three units of this industrial building. This would have placed it immediately adjacent to the C.N.R. tracks and a small park in the subdivision to the north.

This would indeed be a "perfect location", but for drug and alco-

hol abuse, not teen dancing. Enforcement problems inside the building were not really at issue.

However, there would be no way for the prospective owners to halt this activity outside the building. And why should the police be saddled with another problem?

Contrary to what these same parents would like to think, there is a substance abuse problem amongst Markham's youth just as there is across Canada. It is not restricted to "just a few bad apples" as someone there suggested.

The proposed \$8/night teenage babysitting service would have made this community's problems worse.

Moreover, as the Town's Solicitor has pointed out, once given the okay by Council, the owners of this operation would have been free to have changed the age restriction, hours of operation, and have applied for a Liquor licence.

Do we really need another Studio 134 in Markham?

I would also like to point out,

Mr. Editor, that a "demonstrated need" for a Teen Dance/Drop-in Center has not been proved. Councillor Cox quite cleverly used Councillor Scarpitti's own figures to show that an entreprenuring group of teenagers could make \$2,000 a night by holding a teen dance in one of our many community centers. Why isn't this being done?

Councillor Chiu pointed out the fact that when some Milliken community church groups held teen dances the result was vandalism and cancellation of further dances. I would suspect that the turn-out was probably poor, too.

Finally, if the youth of Markham is "bored", as one woman at the meeting complained, then why not volunteer their services to the various community groups, instead of hanging around home or the local mall? In my opinion, "bored" is nothing more than "lazy, spoiled, and not self-motivated"

Brandon King
Markham

Park vs. progress

Dear Sir,

As a resident of Thornhill, Markham, I am upset that Markham Council, and, especially, our Regional Councillors, appear to have taken a 'hands off' approach to the acquisition of Uplands as a regional park, a proposition supported in principle by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

The future costs, in perpetuity, to all taxpayers if this area is developed into another subdivision — policing, schools, roads, busing, health care, social welfare services — and on and on, make it an absolute economic (and environmental) necessity that this green space be acquired now.

Markham should fall in with the leadership being shown by Mayor Jackson and Vaughan Council and acquire this land for the re-creative use of all.

Sharon Brain,
Thornhill.

Tougher drinking laws are needed

Dear Sir,

Can you imagine the shock, the sadness, the grief and the pain of having a police officer ring your door bell and telling you two members of your family have just been killed in a traffic accident?

And later to add to the grief and pain, to be told the driver who caused the accident was dangerously driving and that he refused the breathalyzer.

Two families of our Markham community experienced just such an ordeal on Jan. 18, 1986 when Renata Grunert, her 16-year-old daughter Rena, Tom Gerrard and his 15-year-old daughter Sheri Lynn were killed at the intersection of Brock Rd. and Finch Ave. in Pickering.

Today, Jan. 9, 1987, almost one year later I sit in complete shock

to hear truck driver Richard John McMerty of Sheridan Park received two years less a day for this tragic accident.

I ask myself where is the justice in our society, and does Judge William Colter honestly believe within himself that the taking of a human life is "only" worth approximately "six" months in jail?

I think it's our duty, each and everyone of us as citizens, to demand an appeal in this case and demand a change in our so-called laws before another life is taken due to dangerous driving and the refusal of the breathalyzer.

Stop, and do something now before you're the next to answer your door and receive such news about one of your loved ones.

Mrs. M.A. Gaul
Markham

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If you are considering selling your home in 1987 give Toni or her Personal Assistant, Shirley Russell, a call and we will be happy to arrange for an up-to-date market evaluation on your home... No obligation... No fee. Our thriving community needs this Hospital. Won't you help make this campaign a success?

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