

**Editor's mail**

# Rural Pickering residents campaign for change

Dear Editor:

We are appalled by the abuse of the election process by certain candidates in the November elections. In our opinion there is a grave danger to the democratic process in Pickering which forces us to speak out.

Part II of the Municipal Elections Act allows municipal candidates to solicit and/or accept campaign contributions until March 31, 1989 — some 20 weeks after the election. To most candidates this is a legitimate opportunity to collect donations to cover their campaign expenses. To other successful candidates it is an opportunity to make a fast buck.

Some candidates solicited contributions during this post-election period to the extent that

they will pocket tens of thousands of dollars more than their election expenses. These councillors are effectively on the payroll of the development industry. Can they be expected to serve the ratepayer or the developers?

People contribute to municipal candidates either because they like what they stand for or because they are buying his vote.

Since the election, Pickering Council has heard numerous applications from developer/contributors for new housing projects. How can the people of Pickering possibly have fair representation at these hearings when the developers are contributing much more money to their councillors than the councillors' annual salary?

Pickering operates under Part

II of the Elections Act. The Pickering Rural Association feels that our municipal elections should be held under Part III which makes contributions tax deductible to the donor and, more importantly, the solicitation or

acceptance of excess contributions is expressly forbidden and the candidate's election expenses are limited by a formula.

As an extra benefit, no candidate can have a significant financial advantage through excessive election contributions.

The PRA applauds the minister of municipal affairs for introducing this new legislation which forces candidates to disclose the source and amount of contributions. What is lamentable is that they did not eliminate Part II of the Act in favor of Part III.

The PRA applauds those candidates who took little or no contributions from developers and others who seek unfair advantage at council. At least one candidate took absolutely no contributions and we understand that another gave his excess contributions to the Hospital Fund.

What can the ordinary citizen do about this disgraceful situation which eats at the democratic process in Pickering? You must yell out in righteous indignation. Do not be complacent. Let your voice be heard.

Write or phone the offenders and let them know how you feel. Write Norah Stoner and ask that

Part II of the Municipal Elections Act be modified or eliminated. Write to your councillor asking that Pickering change to Part III. Join your local ratepayers' group, they will act for you.

Pickering Rural Association  
Lorne Almack  
Fred Beer  
Bill Leach

## Pleasant visit to museum

Dear Editor:

The second outing of for Whitchurch-Stouffville seniors sponsored by Re/Max Imperial Realty Ltd. was a visit to our museum in Vandorf in July.

On arrival, we toured the buildings, particularly enjoying the display of "old-tyme" clothing.

Due to unsettled weather, we crossed the road to the community centre where a delicious picnic lunch was served by "Friends of the Museum" and we were joined by our host, Ron Good, manager of the Stouffville office of Re/Max Imperial Realty and Coordinator Ginny Burrows.

We express our sincere appreciation to everyone involved in this event.

Elva Boyd  
Stouffville

## Opportunity for youth

Young people between the ages of 17 and 25 are being offered the educational experience of a lifetime through the Youth Challenge International program, a division of Operation Raleigh Canada, a non-profit organization.

You could be one of the 50 young men and women applicants to be recruited for the next world adventure overseas to Guyana, South America.

This opportunity could not be experienced on the pages of any school textbook. The young enthusiasts could find themselves collecting information on a database in the depths of one of the world's most vital rain forests or testing the eyesight of people in remote villages and distributing eyeglasses donated by fellow Canadians.

Participants will develop leadership skills while undertaking environmental conservation, medical and community service projects under the direct supervision of professionally trained staff.

Make some important self-discoveries, gain understanding of international development issues and learn how to translate your strengths and new energy into positive action during an expedition that will gain you some precious knowledge.

Interested youths must have their applications in by Sept. 25 to Youth Challenge International, c/o Operation Raleigh Canada, Suite 301, 1491 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont. M4T 2S3 or call (416) 923-4356.



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