

More editor's mail

Claremont reader is irked by PRA letter

Dear Editor,

I must take exception to the arrogant and simple-minded argument put forth in a letter to your paper by the fledgling Pickering Rural Association in the Sept. 20 issue.

One might expect from the name that the executive and membership of the group is made up largely of people with "roots" in the rural Pickering community.

In fact, most are, like myself, urban refugees who have fled city life for a more affordable and slower paced life in the country.

Their position against the building of an international airport in north Pickering is an easy one to defend. However, they have offered nothing that has not been covered by People or Planes and their effort in this area seems to be convenient and redundant.

Their obsession with attacking the credibility of Ward 3 Councillor Rick Johnson is clearly hypocritical and borders on the hilarious.

Executive member and Claremont developer Lorne Almack apparently can't distinguish the difference between the numerous and carefully directed political contributions he has made over the years along with recent payments made by this association and those made to Pickering councillors by other developers and special interest groups.

I find it hard to believe that Mr. Almack and Mr. Leach, both of whom have been active campaigners for federal, provincial and municipal candidates, are so naive.

Is it merely a coincidence that the Pickering Rural Association made bad investments in the campaigns of losing candidates in the last municipal election?

Why else would they distort the truth to suggest that their donation was "unsolicited" and all others "solicited" by greedy politicians?

Are we to believe that the PRA donations were merely the kind act of generous persons? Can we not assume that they expected the "ear" of their favorite candidate had they been successful?

Patricia Starr allegedly made political contributions on behalf of a "non-profit corporation" and look where it got her.

It seems to me that Mr. Johnson is being singled out because he defeated one of the "chosen ones" of the PRA and supported an estate development on underutilized farmland in north Pickering that did not meet the personal approval of the PRA executive.

Perhaps Mr. Johnson's only fault in the matter is that he filed an honest financial statement knowing full well it would become a part of the public record.

Show me a politician who has not accepted a donation from a special interest group or the development industry and I'll show you a losing candidate.

I note that they reference Liberal MPP Norah Stoner, the darling of the special interest groups in Pickering. Where has Norah been while the provincial Liberals conspire to approve a massive new dump in north Pickering on the border of Durham and York regions and plan to pave over north Pickering to build affordable housing in Seaton?

The membership of the PRA has a long way to go on improving their record of political support before they earn the authority to direct public opinion.

John Marks
Claremont

Softball success due to selfless participation

Dear Editor,

Now that our season has finally come to a close, I would like to thank everyone involved who helped to make the first season of the Weekender Mixed Softball League a success.

Having never dreamed of organizing such a league, and

with little background in ball, I was walking around blind much of the time.

If it hadn't been for all the help, such as friends and the people from community ball, it would never have got off the ground.

Of course, without our sponsors there would be no league.

Gila and Wayne Keeler and Heather and Bruce Anderson, all of Re/Max Imperial Realty Ltd., Weekender Ladies' Wear and RRW Wobito Bros. Jewellers each sponsored one of the teams.

Card's Hardware helped supply the equipment and we received a donation from A&P Food Stores. Plein's Auto Service gave us so much for our season end barbecue that we can't thank them enough.

I hope everyone in the league has enjoyed themselves as much as I have, and though there are too many to mention, I would like to thank those who helped throughout the season: the captains, umpires and people who organized the tournament and barbecue.

Congratulations to Orchard Park Public School on again winning the Tribune Terry Fox Plaque.

Pledge and donations totalled more than \$9,000.

Sincerely,
Dixie Sellers
Chairperson, Terry Fox Walk

Yours Truly,
Marran Woods
Co-ordinator

The Frozen Foods Shoppe

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PUMPKIN PIE
8" \$2.39

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QUICHE
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4 x 6 Oz. \$6.99

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(approx. 25 sausages)
5 1/2 Lbs. \$13.99

GALCO FOODS

STUFFED CHICKEN BREASTS
• ham & cheese
• butter & chives
4 x 6 Oz. \$11.49

J&J

SOLE FILLETS
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\$1.49 each

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