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Town must have input into LSRCA

Always aware of conservation, the Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is reviewing plans to slash the number of municipal appointees on its board.

Though the move is a prudent one that will streamline the LSRCA's sizable body, representation by population forms the basis of the plan and could affect Whitchurch-Stouffville's participation.

Whitchurch-Stouffville, a township that has in its jurisdiction several kettle lakes and environmentally sensitive lands, needs continued input into decisions that affect these areas.

Under the proposed program, the number of municipal representatives would be slashed by 66 per cent. Consequently, Whitchurch-Stouffville representative Margot Marshall fears that local participation will be severely limited.

She points out that Richmond Hill is "more populated, but has a smaller area that is environmentally sensitive." Those words illustrate the inequity of such a plan.

Town participation in environmental decisions that affect this area is essential to maintain a level of knowledge and expertise. Anything less would be deplorable.

Vaughan could learn from Stouffville

It seems Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson is "irritated" that the federal government plans to use land it owns in the Woodbridge area for a housing development.

I saw Mayor Jackson on the evening news the other day, responding to reports that the feds want to build 2,500 new homes (625 of which are to be designated "affordable") on land in Woodbridge. And it was oh, so sad.

Here is a municipality that has long been enjoying the fruits of growth and prosperity, yet the mayor wants to close the door on the so-called affordable housing push.



at random

steve houston

Stouffville, meanwhile, continues its quest for some answers from the region and province on its own questions of growth. Lack of sewage capacity here is one of the big factors determining any affordable housing initiatives in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

I read with disbelief about Mayor Jackson condemning the federal government for its

disregard of the municipal planning process in her municipality.

I was angry to see that the town felt "put upon" by the feds.

And it was just more posturing from one of York Region's leading political ladies.

As a reporter covering York Regional Council, I remember Lorna would often get up from her high chair to speak out. She never shied away from an issue, but rarely did she offer any vision for the region as a whole.

Certainly, a regional council representative must fight for his or her own municipality but so too must they see York for what it is — a collection of different communities.

Our own Fran Sainsbury is similar in that she fought valiantly — and sometimes emotionally — on many counts for Whitchurch-Stouffville, but she also knows there is life beyond our township borders.

It was Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson who led the crusade to the Ontario Municipal Board objecting to York Region's proposed expenditure on its new regional civic centre.

While she claimed — on behalf of the taxpayers, of course — the region was essentially mismanaging its affairs

in regard to the new centre, she ended up costing taxpayers money by delaying the project further and generally being a pious politician.

Now, in a society that doesn't allow its children to live where they were born and raised, Mayor Jackson is turning her back on a move to provide part of the solution.

I like to think Whitchurch-Stouffville's politicians would welcome affordable housing in-

itiatives if they were in a political situation that would allow such development.

Stouffville is no Vaughan (thank you very much) when it comes to growth, but the powers that be in that community could learn a lot about political compassion from a town like this.

Besides, I don't think I could deal with another tantrum like Mayor Jackson's. It's conduct unbecoming of a mayor.

Editor's mail

Uxbridge man against 'poor developments'

Dear Editor,

I have been a resident of Uxbridge Township now for 13 years and just love to see the new influx of people to this area.

I am one of a growing number of pro-development people who reside in the community. I did not come here to speculate in 1976, I just wanted to live on a country property.

I do not support poorly planned subdivisions or business areas crammed with houses, or builders who show little or no creativity.

The Foxfire subdivision just outside of town is an excellent example of positive development and more of these clusters with quality homes can only be a positive influence on the community.

It is time to stop fighting development and start discussing

how to direct it creatively so that the rural charm of the community is preserved for many years to come.

A typical example of poor creative direction is evident in looking at some of the architectural disasters that have been constructed in the past along Main St.

Regarding the viewpoint article of Oct. 18, perhaps we should learn a thing or two from the Markham and Unionville Main Sts.

As Toronto prices climb ever higher, it is inevitable that from here on in, the influx into this area will continue, and what's more, it will multiply.

Let's wake up, Uxbridge, and deal with it in a professional and creative manner.

Wyeth Tracy
Uxbridge

Stouffville / Uxbridge Tribune

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