

S/U

More editor's mail

Claremont reader 'dumps' on Council

Dear Editor,
Wake up and smell the garbage.

Over the past decade, I have watched as successive councils allowed themselves to be run over by 18-wheelers, most of which were full of garbage that others created.

Now we are down to the final strokes in a fight that has more implications than just garbage — our entire future is at stake.

Recall if you will the events of the past 20 years. In 1972, those remote civil servants who had a penchant for air travel selected Pickering as the site of a second Toronto airport.

They did this despite numerous reports that clearly showed Pickering was not needed and that, even if it was, the site was totally inappropriate.

What happened then? With one exception, our councillors sat on their butts, listened to what Ottawa chose to tell them and acted like small town hayseeds who didn't know what an international airport was.

The people knew better. They had a vision of what Pickering could be in the 21st century. No short-term plans of blacktop, traffic and industrial sites for us, they hollered.

We want respect for trees, farms, river valleys and open space. Birds, deer, trout and

assorted other wildlife were all part of a vision that had planned urban growth, blending with the great natural attributes of our fair town.

This was not to be. The people of Pickering chose to send boys to do a man's job. The bunch of politicized weaklings we had elected were no match for the bright, self-interested outsiders who had a plan.

A plan to pave Toronto's largest eastern greenspace with expressways, hotels, motels, and airport-dependent industry.

To hell with farms, the environment and the families which had more than five generations invested in their lands. The future of Pickering was to be decided by yet another bunch of politically-appointed gladhanders.

And all through the piece our boys sat bewildered, wondering how some day they could be big boys — just like those outsiders were.

It took the people to stop the Pickering airport. None of the tough fights were won by our boys. In fact, none of our boys attended. They were too busy giving out land to Metro.

Yes, we were really going to clean up on this garbage deal. And if that wasn't enough, they were prepared to give the rest to the provincial boys who thought they were developers, or to the

developers who thought they were government.

Small town pushovers our boys were. I'll bet laughter was the order of the day when the big boys got together to talk about Pickering.

Today, the same ambition to be a big boy manifests itself in our bullish regional chairman. This guy just can't get enough ink or airtime. He just loves playing with our big-boy neighbors down there in the bright lights.

And, as if to prove the theory that one can't learn from history, Big Gary and our new boys are letting themselves be bullied. Is their vision of the '90s to see Whitevale destroyed?

It's really no big deal, we all know garbage trucks are more important than our heritage.

Are we prepared to let history repeat itself? Are we going to let our boys quietly slip out the back door while those uncaring, short-sighted planners from Metro and

Durham Region sell us out? Or should that be "smell us out?"

Enough already! The next thing you know, one of our boys might be off trying to win the region's Most Sexy Male Contest, while the rest of us are left to deal with the real problems.

Wake up Pickering, the pungent odor you smell is coming from the corners of Brock and Kingston Rds.

Al Graham
Claremont

Lobby group asks town for formal environmental study

Dear Editor,
A letter to Mayor and Council, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville:

The executive of Lake Musselman Club is disappointed with your lack of support and co-operation and in your apparent refusal to work with our organization in attempting to seek out and eliminate the causes for the deterioration of water quality and the eutrophication of Musselman Lake.

Reflecting the concerns of

property owners and various environmental experts, we are convinced that the installation of a communal water system for Ballantrae and Musselman Lake without compatible and universal sewage removal is, most certainly, short-sighted planning that will escalate the damage to the ecology of the lake and related wetlands.

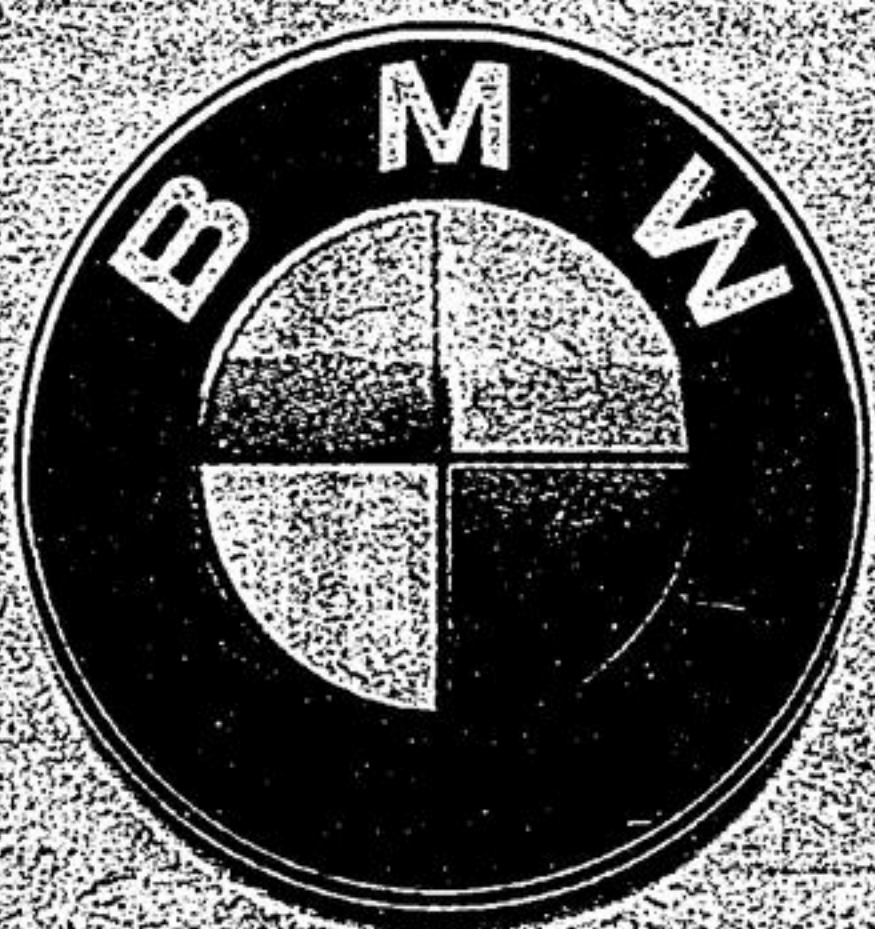
The environmental study report commissioned and prepared by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is, in our consensus, incomplete in its

analysis of the extent of damage this project will undoubtedly inflict upon our immediate environment.

We respectfully request a full and formal environmental study be conducted by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in the matter of your communal water proposal.

Yours truly,
Betty Ellen Palmer
and members of the
Lake Musselman Club

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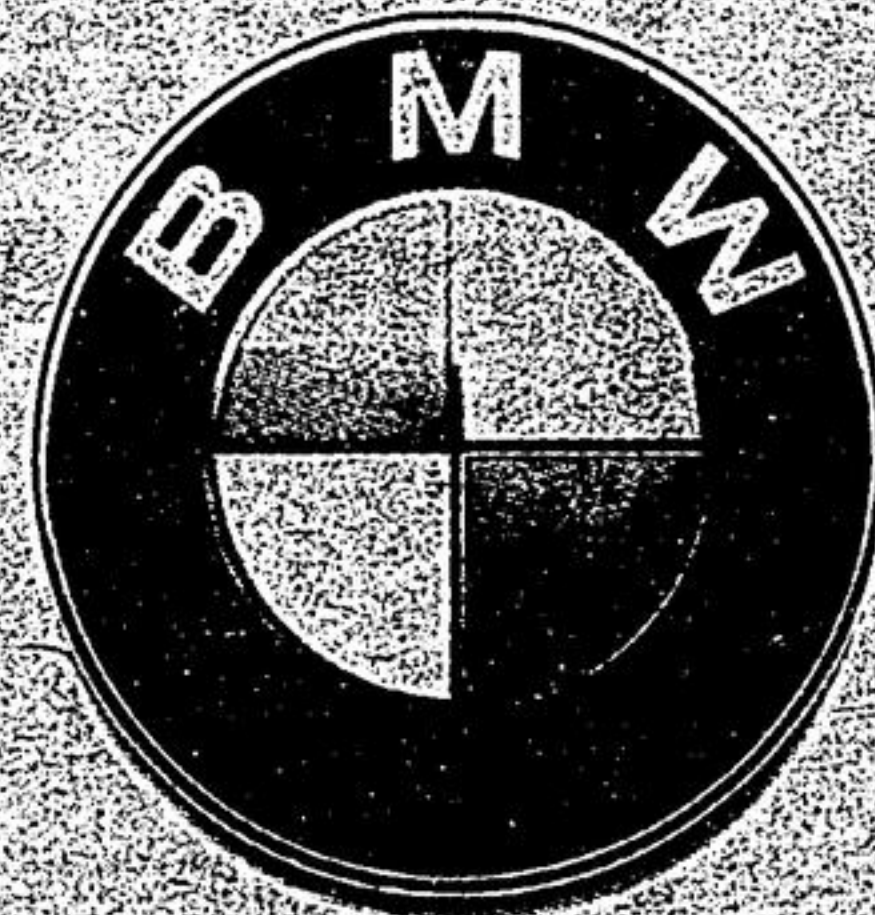
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