

# stouffville comment

## O'Connor visit sure to spark debate

Local MPP Larry O'Connor will be in the area Wednesday night to meet with constituents.

It's an opportunity to meet and talk with the NDP member of the Ontario legislature, his press release stated.

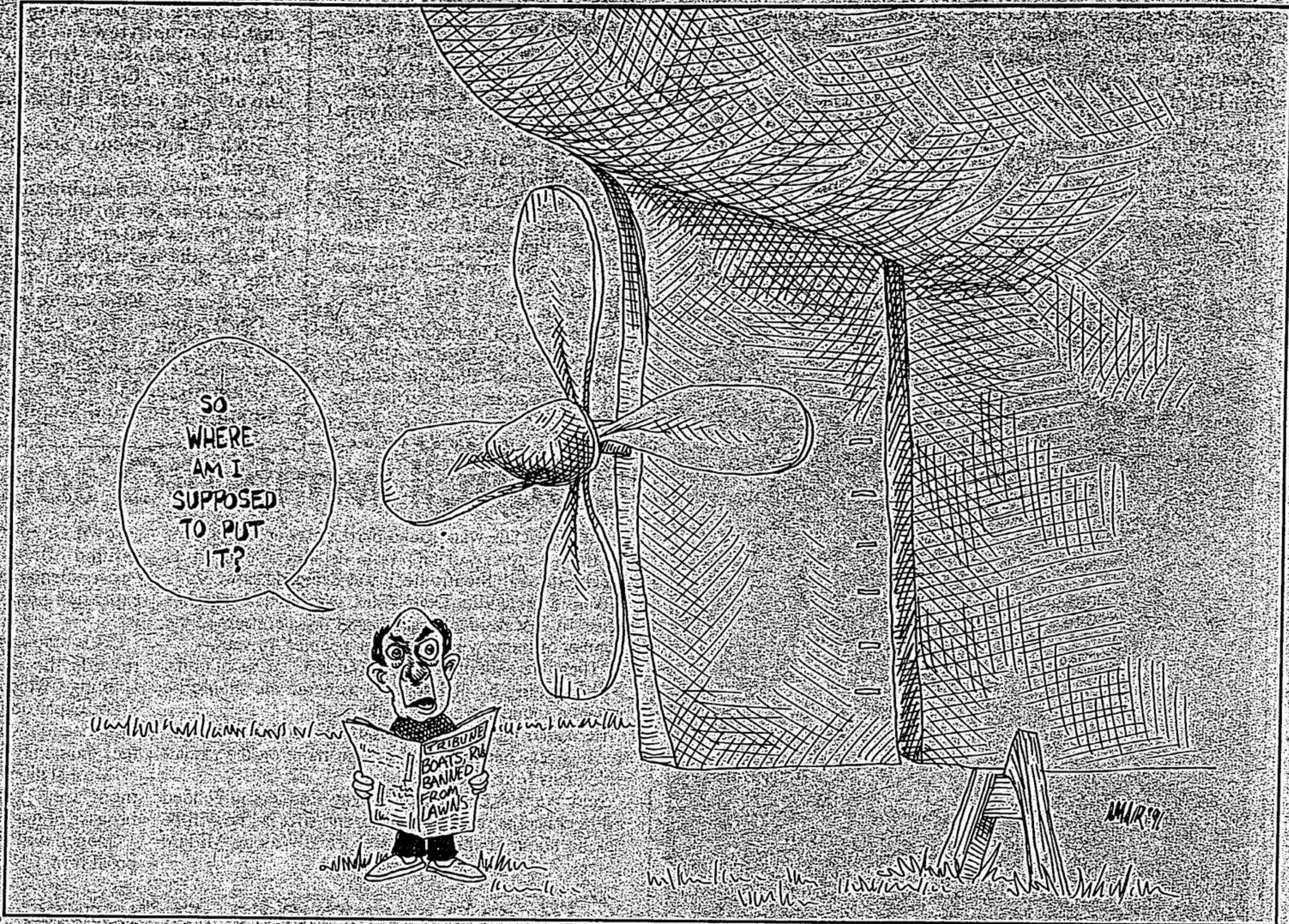
But the MPP may be in for more than he bargained at the meeting at Green Gables Manor on 9th Line at the Bloomington Sideroad.

Constituents from Uxbridge and Stouffville will be on hand in droves, most likely, to challenge the MPP on a host of issues. It is the first opportunity since before the NDP budget for residents to take up their beefs.

The budget, the oath to the Queen, the truckers' dispute, a growing tax revolt and pending auto insurance legislation will be grist for the mill at this meeting.

O'Connor should be staying up late to do his homework for this one.

Certainly, the taxpayers of this area will be checking it.



## Henry Ford was the father of highway robbery

How can it be that man is able to fly millions upon millions of kilometres to the moon, but man cannot make a car that will travel more than 8,000 kilometres without a tune-up?

How is it that man can put big metal birds in the sky, defying all logic and gravity to boot, for years on end, and yet man cannot make a spark plug last a couple of years?

It bothers me a great deal that the car companies, and service garages think we are too stupid to realize that something ain't quite right here.

Let's say you spent \$15,000 on a small car.

By some manufacturer's standards and recommended maintenance programs, the cost of regular tune-ups and oil changes is going to cost you

more than \$2,000 before you hit 100,000 kilometres.

And that's not including the cost of anything that will go wrong.

Note that I stress the word will, there. Because believe me, I know about car repairs.

I am still paying for a lemon that I sold two and a half years ago. It only had 50,000 kilometres on it, but in two months, I put more than \$2,500 into it. So I ditched the thing.

Got into a new car. Lease deal. Paid big bucks for what they call "Extra Protection."

Anything goes wrong, they chuckled and grinned; it's covered.

Oh, except for wiper blades and brake pads.

No sweat, I thought. My days of paying the high cost of car

### MINUTE WITH MAIR

andrew mair



maintenance are going the way of the Edsel.

All you have to pay for, they added, are REGULARLY SCHEDULED TUNE-UPS.

Went in for a REGULARLY SCHEDULED TUNE-UP last week.

It's a big one, they said, oh, and by the by, we found a couple of things

wrong with the car.

This and that were worn, this and that were busted. This and that were rusted.

No sweat, I thought, this is where my "Extra Protection" will kick in.

Sorry sir, they said, these items I have listed are not covered.

But you told me just wiper blades and brake pads, I protested.

## Makeovers can make, break the old you

Reading a recent story in the *Weekender* about three women who had a makeover, I wondered if I had what it takes to be re-furbished.

As I gazed at my visage early on Monday morning, I decided it contained all the ingredients for the before picture. I wasn't certain, however, about the powers of make-up and hairdressing, artistes to transform this apparition into one of those gleaming and sleek creatures beloved of the after photos.

Besides, what if I went in and got all fixed up only to find I much preferred the original me? Although the new version usually looks better, there are times when the raw material appears to be a considerable improvement on the improvement.

A before photo in the women's mags tends to resemble the stark and unflattering portrait you get from a photo booth, a driver's licence office or a purveyor of passport photographs. All it needs is some numbers on the bottom and you've



### KATE'S CORNER

kate gilderdale

got the perfect mug shot for the criminal classes as depicted in *Kojak*, or whatever the current TV equivalent is.

Hair is lank and unkempt, makeup has not yet been applied and the facial expression has got Monday morning written all over it. As for the duds, let's just say there are no witty, little Armani jackets casually draped over charming, understated Alfred Sung pantsuits.

I've got to admit they work some pretty convincing-looking miracles, but not without some pretty expensive help. Not only do you have to take out a mortgage on the clothes, you also have to visit a phenomenally

Evidently someone lied to you, sir. Evidently so, I said. So how much are we talking?

Small pause.

About \$500 for your regularly scheduled tune-up and another \$1,400 for the this and that.

When I was revived, I got back on the phone.

Forget it, you pirates, I wailed. I'll fix it myself for nothing.

I hung up with the satisfied feeling that I'd just warded off a vampire attack with a neck-ring of garlic bulbs.

But since I know, next to nothing about internal combustion engines, I can only sum up this sordid tale in one way.

Car for sale. Cheap. Needs work...

expensive downtown hairdresser to get your hair re-styled and subtly enhanced with color, which needs re-touching every four weeks.

These guys may be polite about their subjects in a double-page magazine spread, but try darkening the doors of their exclusive salon if you're over 21 and not designed like Julia Roberts.

"Who did this to your hair?" they cry in horror as they run their well-manicured nails through your crowning glory.

The trouble with a makeover is, you'll either love the look but be unable to afford to keep it up, or you'll long to be your dull, boring, comfortable self again.

Alas, that cute little cut and perm the fashion guru insisted was so you, and which makes you look like a cross between M.C. Hammer and Madonna, will take months to grow out.

It's called learning from experience.

## Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune

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