

**Editor's Mail**

# Look at long term effects of sale

## Rouge Valley chair questions MPP's view on airport lands

Dear Editor,  
Regarding Markham MPP Don Cousens' assertion that I falsely represented his comments in the Legislature regarding the airport lands.

All of the comments and quotes were accurate, derived from witnessing the interchanges in the Legislature, with careful reference to Hansard, the official record of what was said when and by whom.

However I agree with Mr. Cousens in his assertion that there is a (short term) financial advantage in the sale of the airport lands.

I'm sure most people would also agree there is a short term financial advantage in clear cutting Clayoquot sound, and that the federal government could make a lot more money selling off say, Banff National Park to Japanese investors.

These other examples raise the question of the long term cost of short-sighted decisions, and what we might lose by disposing at the bargain basement prices, of a nationally significant asset like the federally owned portion of the Green Door.

Mr. Cousens suggested that if people wanted it protected, then they could buy it. But we, the people of Canada, already own it.

The burning question that

remains is whether this new federal government (unlike the previous one) feels that here are more important issues here than making a quick buck.

Issues like: protection of our natural and cultural heritage, the sustaining of our farm economy, the protection of our communities and co-operation, not conflict, between our various governments.

As Crombie said it in his Watershed Report (p. 154)

"The Commission agrees that the legacy of federal and provincial lands at Pickering offers a unique opportunity for bot levels of government to lead by example...

Selling off the lands to the highest bidder, which would continue the pattern of adjacent suburban sprawl, would squander an opportunity to provide a better model for future use of near-urban open

space."  
Right now the bureaucrats at Transport Canada are proceeding with the disposal regardless of recent events.

Therefore it is important for the new government to immediately call a halt to the process; to give the residents respite from the nightmare of impending eviction they are now living in; and commit to working co-operatively towards, as Crombie puts it, "an environmentally sustainable countryside".

Then we can hope to realise the unique opportunities provided by the long-term public ownership of an outstanding asset.

We hope our local provincial representative in Markham will assist us in achieving this.

**Stephen Marshall**  
Chair

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### TOWN OF MARKHAM

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

#### COMMERCIAL USES POLICY STUDY

In 1992 the Town of Markham retained Hemson Consulting Ltd. to undertake a Commercial Uses Policy Study. An Interim Study Report was presented at a Public Meeting on March 22, 1993.

The Draft Final Report has now been received and will be presented at a Public Information Meeting.

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Date: November 30, 1993

Place: Council Chamber, Markham Civic Centre  
101 Town Centre Blvd.

Markham, Ontario, L3R 9W3

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Copies of the Report will be available for viewing in all Markham Libraries; copies may be viewed and purchased for \$30.00 from the Planning and Development Department at the Markham Civic Centre.

For further information regarding the Commercial Uses Policy Study please contact T.J. Lambe, Manager, Research and Area Planning at 905-477-7000 extension 291 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

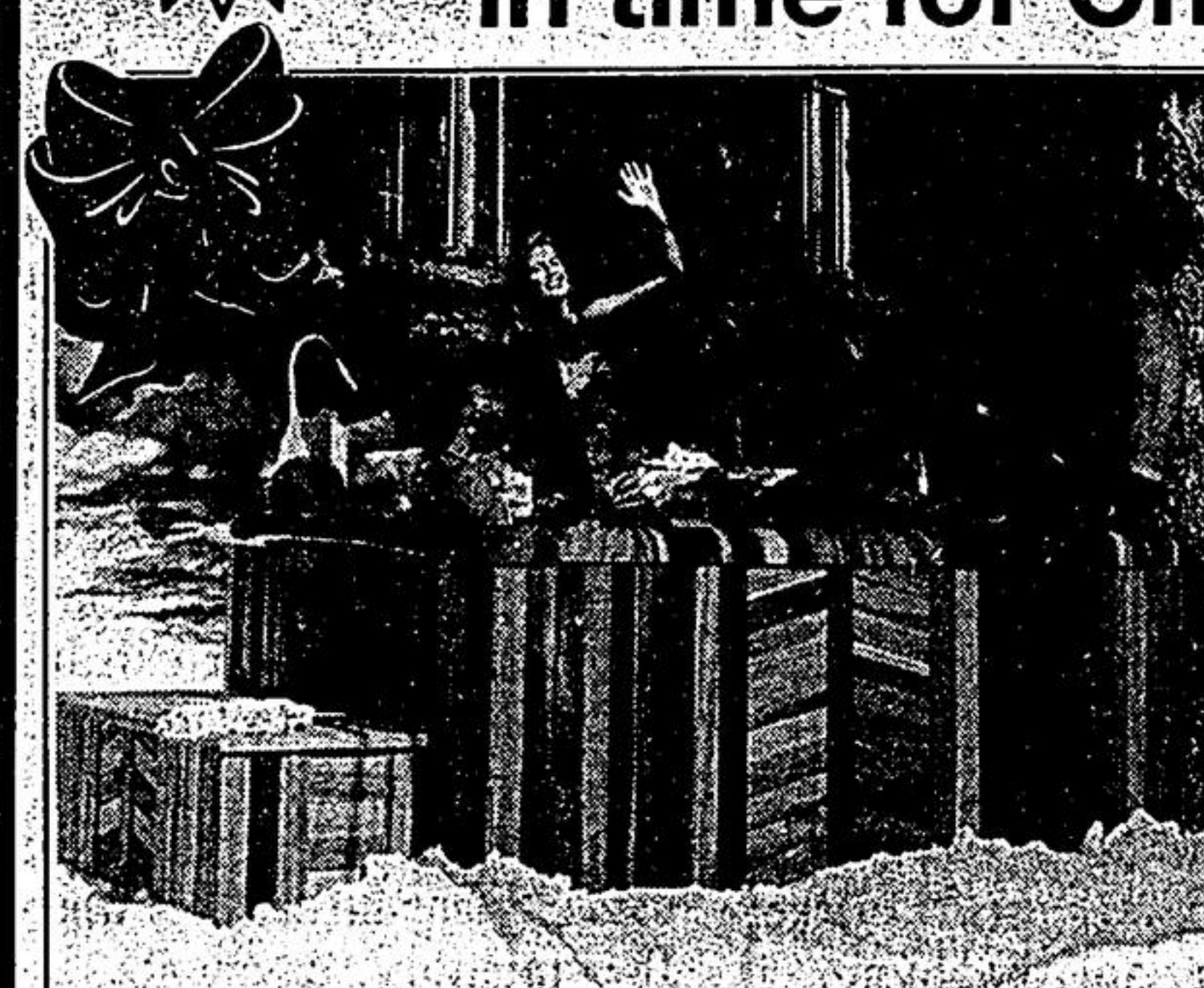
Written submissions regarding the Draft Final Report may be sent to the Planning & Development Department at the address noted above.



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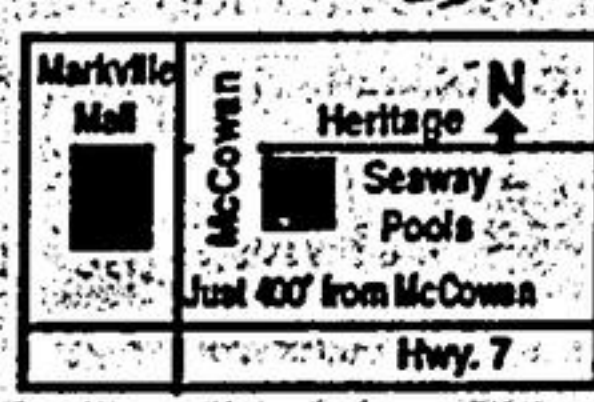


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