

# Our Opinion

## Tree protection a mainstream goal

It looks as though tree protection has moved out of the realm of the 'green-keepers' and into the mainstream.

In spite of the amount of media coverage devoted to environmental concerns, it has seemed as though the public only paid lip service to the concept.

People who stridently worked to protect the environment were still seen to be on the fringes of society. Tree huggers have been looked upon with a mixture of curiosity and sympathy.

But no more.

A story in the Markham Weekender last week in which two councillors complained about the number of



### Viewpoint

Paula Crowell

trees and the way they were planted in a floodplain area sparked numerous angry letters. The trees were planted by volunteers of the group 10,000 Trees for the Rouge Valley and are laid out with a great deal of consideration.

Some of the letters were from interested parties, but others were from average residents who were deeply

offended by the comments of the councillors.

On another front, the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources supports a move to give urban municipalities extra clout in dealing with those who cut down trees and destroy woodlots without seeking municipal permission. After consulting the public the ministry intends to make changes to the Ontario Trees Act which would allow municipalities to protect trees from the developer's bulldozer in urban areas.

The town of Markham is preparing for a court case involving tree clearing, using its existing bylaw. Town offi-

cial are anxious to see how the case is seen by the court.

Clearly, the objective of increasing the number of trees in urban areas and preserving those which already exist has become a priority of the general public.

It is hoped that this goal will result in cleaner air to breathe so that clearer heads will prevail on other matters of environmental importance.

There's sure to be plenty of those this year.

## Parks should've been preserved

Dear Editor,

Re: Trees Taking Away Open Lands - Dec. 26, 1992

Markham Council, including Fred Cox and Carole Bell should own up to the problem it created and not try to place the blame for mismanagement on responsible members of our community.

I would like to remind your readers that developers in Markham are required to provide open parkland for the residents who will occupy their developments.

In recent years, three acres per thousand people has been the standard.

This land does not include any valley land which must be turned over to council by the owners once the land is developed.

Council has been known to accept cash in lieu of parkland.

This irresponsible position has created the lack of open parkland in Markham.

It is not Colin Creasey and his volunteer group who are robbing the people but council which initially robbed the residents of their open parkland.

Mr. Cox should be well aware of the fact that walking trails have been mapped out.

The tree planting was not haphazard as he implies but well planned and approved

### Editor's Mail

by council and residents. I find Mr. Cox's and Mrs. Bell's comments offensive. I believe that Colin

Creasey and his volunteer group deserve praise and positive recognition for their contribution to our community.

Not this kind of back-handed misleading criticism. Fred Cox and Carole Bell owe this community a public apology.

Neil Smith  
Unionville



### ADAM



## Coma would protect us from politicians

"Where were you in..."

That's the preamble to one of the more popular party games these days. It's kind of a variation on Trivial Pursuit — without the board. Somebody names a year and everybody takes turns recounting where they were and what they were doing and with whom at that particular point on the calendar. It's an amusing way to break the ice and get to know your fellow party-goers better.

For instance, I could say "Where were you in '63?" and we could have a fine old time comparing notes. Everybody (well, every middle-aged body, anyway) remembers where they were at some time in 1963, because that's the year somebody shot John F. Kennedy. And everyone who's old enough knows exactly where they were when JFK was murdered.

I know where I was.

And I know where Anne Shapiro was, too.

She was in her living room in Florida, watching television.

Anne Shapiro was from Hamilton, Ontario. She and her husband had moved to Florida in the early '60s after Mister Shapiro retired. In the fall of 1963, she was watching I Love Lucy on TV to keep her mind off the Kennedy assassination. Right about the time Ricky was screaming at Lucy and Lucy was wailing at the camera, Anne Shapiro felt a small 'ping' behind her eyes.

And that's when the lights went out. Anne Shapiro — just 49 years of age — had suffered a massive and utterly debilitating stroke.

Anne Shapiro didn't die, but she could no longer speak, walk, even dress herself.

She stayed that way for the next 30 years. Last November the comatose Shapiro was rushed to a hospital with chest pains. She was sedated and tucked into a hospital bed. When she came to, Anne Shapiro made her first sound in three decades. It was a high-pitched scream. Her eyes were locked onto a television set. She was screaming because the picture was in color — something she'd never seen. She thought the TV wasn't working and might be about to explode.

Anne Shapiro appears to be on her way to a complete recovery.



### Basic Black

Arthur Black

— insofar as a complete recovery is possible. The 49-year-old woman who had the stroke in 1963 is now nudging 80 and learning to cope with a barrage of Buck Rogersish phenomena never dreamt of in 1963 — everything from microwave ovens and Cabbage Patch dolls to space shuttles and cellular phones.

Rip Van Winkle slept for 20 years. Anne Shapiro stayed out half again as long.

When Anne Shapiro suffered her stroke Sonny Liston was the heavyweight champ, Christine Keeler was making things hot for British Parliamentarians, people were flocking to the movies to see the new hits Tom Jones and Cleopatra, and a fresh-faced comedian by the name of Johnny Carson was nervously taking over the reins from Tonight Show host Jack Paar.

Martin Luther King and Governor George Wallace represented the opposite ends of the Evening News spectrum. A hundred dollars a week represented a darn good wage and with a five cent stamp you could mail a letter first class, anywhere in the country.

And it would actually get there. How long ago was 1963? The Toronto Maple Leafs won the Stanley Cup that year for crying out loud!

Just think of all the things that Anne Shapiro slept through.

Canada's Centennial... Paul Henderson's goal... all of Karen Kain's career...

Vietnam... Richard Nixon... the Morton Downey Jr. show...

Dan Quayle... a good half dozen of Liz Taylor's marriages... all of John Turner and Joe Clark... and most of Trudeau and Brian Mulroney...

AIDS... Jacques Parizeau... the Constitutional Referendum...

Maybe Anne Shapiro wasn't screaming about her 1992 TV not working.

Maybe she sensed it was working only too well.