

Editor's mail

# Tree planting is beneficial to all, resident tells councillors

Dear Editor,  
It is with dismay that I read the concerns of councillors Bell and Cox and their criticism of the 10,000 trees planted in local valley lands as reported in the Weekender, Dec. 26.

It is my opinion that the trees planted in our valley lands over the last two years have provided the Town of Markham and Unionville with a wonderful benefit which people of vision can clearly see.

This benefit was achieved at minimal costs by hundreds of local people who volunteered their time and energy because they too could see the future benefit.

Contrary to Mrs. Bell's and Mr. Cox's statements, hundreds of hours of preparation and planning preceded the tree plantings. Sites were carefully selected, tree variety was reviewed and selected, areas to

be planted were marked and laid out. Plantings had to be scheduled, co-ordinated and supervised.

The Town and the Council were involved in all stages. In fact, Town staff were most cooperative in providing much needed help.

As part of the preliminary preparation, the Walden Pond Residents Association and the residents of Austin Drive were contacted. They were asked for their help and input. They were most willing to help and pleased that the land around them was to be upgraded and hopefully restored to its natural beauty.

The planning process paid particular attention to the walking trails mapped out by council staff some years ago. Trees were planted so as to enhance the enjoyment of these planned trails.

During the Christmas week-end numerous energetic tobogganers were seen sliding down the hills of Walden Pond which, incidentally, were purposely left free of trees for this very purpose.

I suggest that Cox and Bell take their toboggans and join the kids.

That Carole Bell and Fred Cox now claim that they and the Walden Pond residents they allege to represent are unable to toboggan, walk their dogs or

fish in Walden Pond without being harassed by young trees and that these young trees somehow detract from other peoples' enjoyment of Walden Pond, is in my opinion frivolous.

In spite of Fred Cox's and Carole Bell's opposition to the reforestation of our valley lands, I am pleased that other members of council have demonstrated their support and their interest in the future of Markham by approving the

10,000 trees planned for planting in 1993.

Mr. Cox and Mrs. Bell might better try to understand the vision of their constituents, the people who generously gave of their time and energy for the greater benefit of Markham. Instead of sitting on the sidelines, Fred and Carole should consider volunteering for tree plantings planned for 1993.

Neville Cohen  
Unionville

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