

Reader challenges reporter's view of Reform meeting

(From page 7)

line of questioning which the reporter interpreted as "ugly". In relation to your use of the word "fete" I can only assume that reference is being made to the cookies and cakes which were provided at the candidate meeting. The title "Manning struggles to shake racist rap" seems to suggest that Mr Manning is a racist. I have never heard or read from Mr. Manning any suggestion that he is racist. It seems that the choice of article titles do more to serve an agenda that certain elements of the press seem to support.

I will now give you my disclosure to some of what was and wasn't said at this meeting. If The Tribune, being unbiased as it is, decides to print this letter then I'm sure that others who were present at the meeting that night will come forward to corroborate what I witnessed. In your leading sentences sub-titled "hail of calls for women to stay at home" you set up the deception nicely. Either your correspondent (Ms. Ebdon), ignored what was actually said or you have refused to print it. I know this because your reporter was facing me as she listened to my wife explain to her that "a mother or father should have the choice of staying at home with their children, that families are the group most discriminated against in Canada and how government funding and taxation discourage the stay at home choice." All the other women in the crowd appeared to agree with my wife and many of them gave examples of other positive benefits to children who are raised by their parents. The fact that eighty per cent of this discussion revolved around the welfare of children seems to be suspiciously absent from your article.

Your article states that "issues of women's rights hit the floor". They hit the floor when your reporter asked Mr. Sarafian about Reforms position on women's rights.

Mr. Sarafian advised your reporter that both he and the Reform party believe that men and women are equal. In relation to women staying at home, Mr. Sarafian stated a number of times that "women should have the choice to stay at home and raise their children, but it should be the woman's choice."

Your lead sentence ("hail of calls for immigrants to return to theirs" is a further deception. Questions on immigration were asked of the candidate

by two people who were at the meeting. Their comments and questions were never applauded for and obviously did not represent the concerns of the people who were present. I'm not sure what your paper means by "return to theirs" but if it means that the audience present was suggesting that immigrants should return to where they came from, then either your correspondent has reported the facts falsely or someone at your paper is mischievous in their intent.

In the second paragraph of your article it states, "minutes after question period began, racial slurs were uttered to shouts of agreement". With this I'm afraid I must accuse your correspondent of being either a liar or grossly incompetent. I was sitting closer to other people present than your correspondent was and did not hear one racial slur, neither did my wife or neighbour.

In the bottom paragraph of the second column of your article you refer to Sarafian's comments that "Immigration has been an asset to Canada". In the next sentence you falsely tie the first comment into Sarafian's comment that "past governments have bowed to certain pressure groups". You then say that "His comments were met with applause". The long conversation that separated these two comments is suspiciously absent. At the top of the third column of your article you state that "Sarafian was cut off by cries of anti-immigration slogans". As I have mentioned already, there were only two people present who seemed to have an urgent concern about immigration. The last point which I would like to make consists of very telling deception on the part of your correspondent. It occurs in the last paragraph of the third column of your article as follows, "the crowd shouted at the media for trying to block Reform's changes to the criminal justice system". Your reporter asked Mr. Sarafian numerous times for his response to allegations of racism within the Reform party.

The people in the audience then started to accuse your correspondent ("the media") of attempting to propagate the issue of racism within the Reform party and that that was all the media was interested in. Your reporter responded with, "that was what the public wanted to hear".

The fact that your correspondent has lied in the article in order to distance herself from her involvement with pushing the racism issue is of great concern to me as it should be to all Canadians as it is a great misuse of media privilege. She changes the content of the article from her being challenged by people at the meeting on her actual questions on racism is that of being challenged "for trying to block Reform's changes to the criminal justice system" which she was never asked about or challenged on. In fact I have never heard that allegation leveled at the media at any time.

I tell you truthfully that there were never any "racist and sexist slurs!" In Carsten Stroud's book "Contempt of Court" he refers to our present form of government as a "Judicial dictatorship existing in a moral vacuum"; this is in relation to the powers which Trudeau's Charter of Rights and Freedoms has given to the Canadian courts. In relation to the power and influence which we Canadians have allowed the press to exert I see now that there is another title which is befitting the type of government which we Canadians have and that is one of: A media manipulated democracy existing in a moral vacuum!

As for me, I take an oath and do swear that the above contents of this letter are true and factual!

B.R. Farndon
Stouffville

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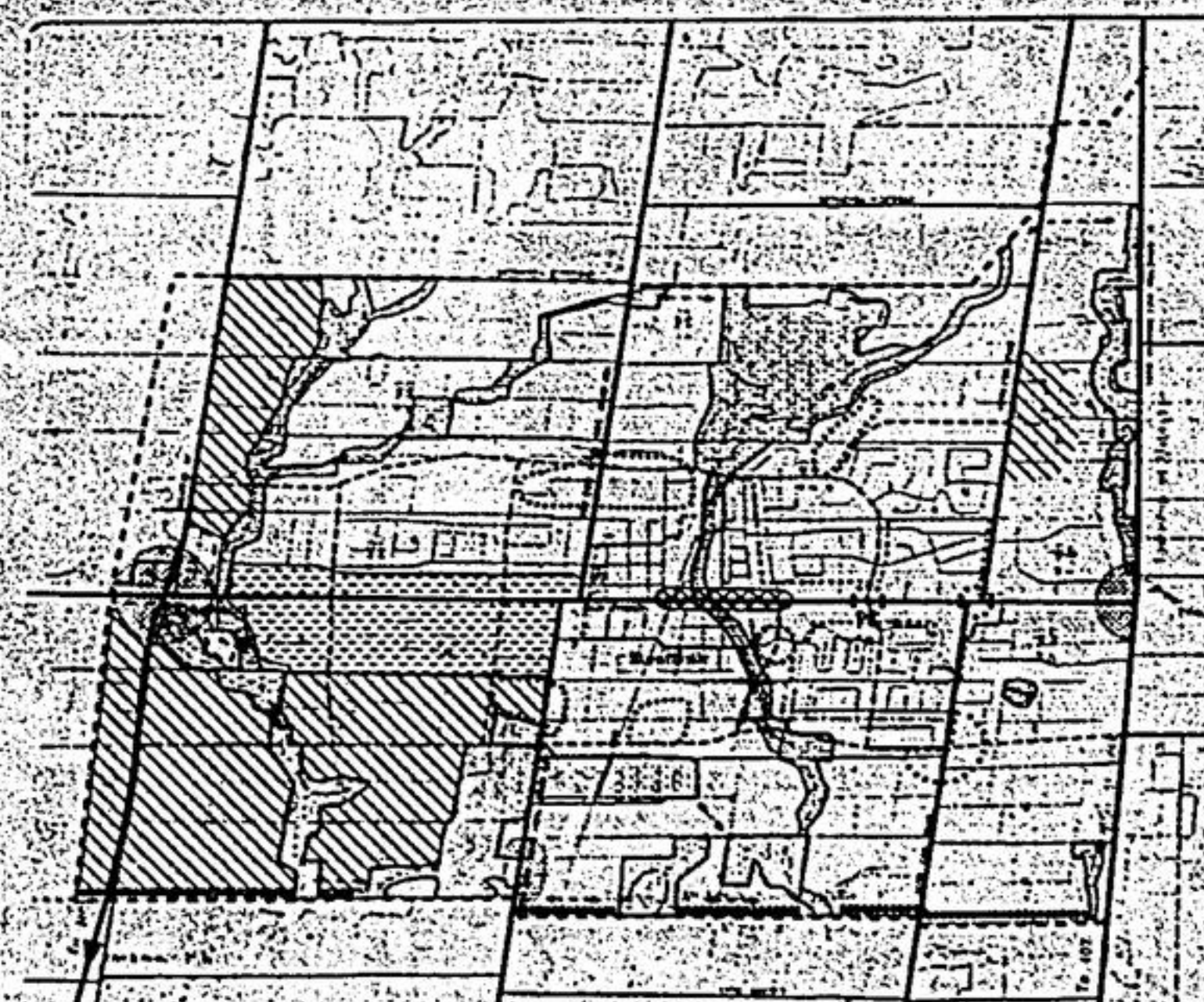
**TOWN OF
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE**

**CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE AND
PUBLIC MEETING**

**PROPOSED TOWN-INITIATED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT,
COMMUNITY OF STOUFFVILLE SECONDARY PLAN**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE will hold an OPEN HOUSE and a PUBLIC MEETING on Monday May 26, 1997, at the Municipal Offices, 19 Civic Avenue, to consider a new Secondary Plan for the Community of Stouffville. The Open House will be held from 3:00 pm-5:30 pm. The Public Meeting will start at 7:00 pm.

The proposed Secondary Plan establishes the community vision, principles and objectives as well as general policies and specific strategies with respect to community character, the natural environment, servicing land use and transportation for the developed area of the Community of Stouffville and adjacent lands, as shown on the plan.



Legend

- Community of Stouffville SECONDARY PLAN
- Figure 1 CONCEPT PLAN
- Figure 2

Any person or public body that requests a referral of a proposed decision in respect of the proposed official plan amendment to the Ontario Municipal Board and does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or does not make written submissions before the proposed Official Plan Amendment (Community of Stouffville Secondary Plan) is adopted, then:

- (i) the Regional Municipality of York, as the approval authority, may refuse the request to refer all, or part, of its proposed decision to the Ontario Municipal Board, and;
- (ii) the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss all, or part, of the referral of the proposed decision.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Official Plan Amendment (Community of Stouffville Secondary Plan), you must make a written request to the Town Clerk at the Municipal Office, 19 Civic Avenue, Stouffville, Ontario, L4V 7Z6. Any written submissions regarding the proposed Secondary Plan shall be directed to Mr. Tom Parry, Director of Engineering and Planning at the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

A copy of the Proposed Official Plan Amendment (Community of Stouffville Secondary Plan) including maps, is available for inspection at the Municipal Office and the Stouffville Public Library, during regular business hours on May 6, 1997.

For further information, please contact the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Engineering and Planning Department at 640-1900.

DATED AT THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, THIS 3rd day of MAY, 1997

Mrs. Michele Kennedy, A.M.C.T. Clerk
19 Civic Avenue
Stouffville, Ontario
L4A 7Z6