

# Flag flap 'cheap theatrics,' says MP

FRED SIMPSON  
Metroland Staff

Local MP Bryon Wilfert was one of only two Liberals to support a motion to allow members to display Canadian flags in the House of Commons.

But even he dismissed the great flag flap as "cheap political theatrics" by the Reform Party.

A total of 194 Liberal, Tory, NDP and Bloc Quebecois MPs voted last week to defeat a Reform motion challenging Speaker Gilbert Parent's ruling that props are banned in the House, even if those props are flags.

Wilfert, who was among the 51 who supported the motion to allow miniature flags on desks, emphasized that he was "certainly not voting with the Reform Party."

"I was voting on the principle that I have no difficulty with a member displaying a flag on his desk."

Reform has been "hypocritical on the

flag issue all along," he said.

"It was the Reform Party who didn't show up at the 1995 unity rally in Mon-

tréal, who threw their flags on the House floor, and it was their leader who didn't show up three years ago when we launched Flag Day."

For many of those residents surveyed, the response to the flag flap was an overwhelming "who cares?"

"There are more important things to do than making a hullabaloo about flags," said Joe Coughlin. "Who wants to see and hear our politicians acting like a bunch of children?"

Denhollander, who came here from the Netherlands, said the Maple Leaf deserves the respect

"We came to Canada 35 years ago and have the flag on our front lawn. We are very proud of it."

The brouhaha was touched off when Bloc Quebecois MP Suzanne Tremblay complained that there were too many Canadian flags in the Olympic Village in Nagano.

Wilfert admitted to being "personally offended" with Tremblay's remarks.

"It was outrageous," he said. "You can never have too many Canadian flags on display where our national athletes are competing."

But the episode left Wilfert and other Liberals in a quandary.

How to vote for a Reform Party motion calling for flag decorations to be allowed

## POLITICS

in the House without seeming to vote for the Reformers?

Particularly after Reform carried out a series of stunts, including driving around Parliament Hill in a car decorated with Canadian flags.

"This whole thing has turned into a bit of a circus and the House has suffered as a result," Wilfert said. "It's becoming a political game with the Reform Party wrapping themselves in the flag and saying that if you vote against their motion, you don't support the Canadian flag," he said.



MP BRYON WILFERT

**"You can never have too many Canadian flags on display where our national athletes are competing."**

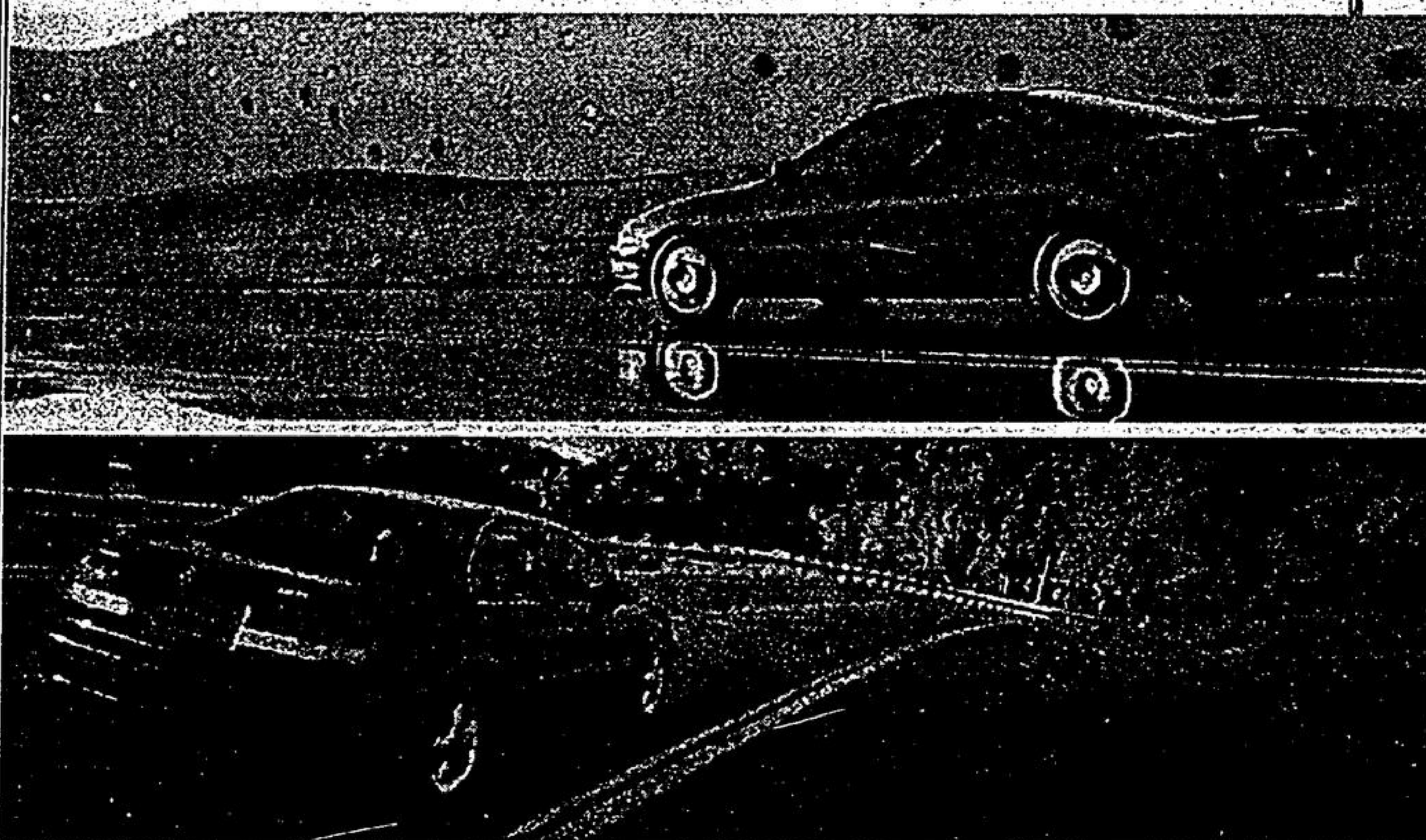
— Bryon Wilfert

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### Town of Markham - Consolidated Class Environmental Assessment Sewer and Water Servicing for New Development NOTICE OF FILING OF AN ADDENDUM

In May 1996, the Town of Markham completed the Consolidated Class Environmental Assessment for Sewer and Water Servicing for New Development. Part of the undertaking approved through the Class EA is the construction of trunk sewers along 9th Line and 16th Avenue to accommodate new development in the Town of Markham. In 1997, York Region completed the York-Durham Trunk Sewer System Master Plan. The Master Plan recommended a number of activities necessary to upgrade the York-Durham Trunk Sewer to meet the long term needs of the Region. The Region of York intends to construct the 9th Line and 16th Avenue Trunk Sewers as strategic components of the Master Plan implementation.

York Region prepared an addendum to the Town of Markham's Class EA to discuss modifications to the approved undertaking to meet the Region's servicing requirements. By this Notice the Addendum is being placed on the public record for review in accordance with the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Water & Waste Water projects. Subject to comments being received on this project, York Region intends to proceed with this project in the fall of 1998.

The Addendum is available for review at the following locations:

York Region Transportation and Works Department 17250 Yonge Street Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1 Tel: (905) 895-1200 Monday to Friday: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm	Town of Markham Town of Markham Civic Centre 101 Towne Centre Boulevard Markham, Ontario L3R 9W3 Tel: (905) 477-7000
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Further information may be obtained by calling: Mr. Tony Petrucci, P.Eng. Project Manager Regional Municipality of York 17250 Yonge Street, Box 147 Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 6Z1 Tel: (905) 895-1200 ext. 3021 (Newmarket) Tel: (905) 764-6345 ext. 3021 (Thornhill) Tel: (905) 773-1200 ext. 3021 (Oak Ridges) Fax: (905) 830-6927	Mr. Bob Burdett Senior Environmental Planner Marshall Macklin Monaghan 80 Commerce Valley Drive East Thornhill, Ontario, L3T 7N4 Tel: (905) 882-4211 ext. 422 Fax: (905) 882-1857 e-mail: burdettb@mrm.ca
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Please provide written comment to the Clerk of York Region within 30 calendar days from the date of this Notice. If concerns regarding the Addendum cannot be resolved through discussion with the Region, a person may request that the Minister of the Environment "bump-up" the project to an Individual Environment Assessment. "Bump-up" requests must be received by the Minister at the address below by 27th April, 1998. A copy of the "bump-up" request shall be sent to the Clerk of York Region. If no "bump-up" request is received by 27th April, 1998, York Region intends to proceed with construction as outlined in the Addendum.

The Honourable Norm Stirling  
Minister of the Environment  
135 St. Clair Avenue W., 15th Floor  
Toronto, Ont. M4V 1P5

This Notice issued 27th March 1998.