

What benefits does 'tourist train' bring?

Dear Editor,

I'd like to offer this reply to Ted Barris' encomium regarding the "Tourist Train." First, the effort to reduce the decibel level and the duration of the whistle blowing finally bore fruit this year. Because of the slow speed of the train, strict adherence to Transport Canada guidelines requires adjustment and this year the trainmen are showing common sense. At one third the normal speed we can

that in the real world people will drive to the stations from many miles away to take a 13 mile round trip on a railroad. But, among the many things the "tourist train" could do, one would be to make this

issue a part of its mission and its museum display. We must seek and preserve a comfort level that everyone can live with.

Dr. Gary Walters

LETTERS

expect one third the duration of whistle blasting. Or, put the other way around, a train traveling at normal speed would pass a crossing at three times the speed of the tourist train.

Second, there are doubtless a gamut of opinions regarding the nostalgia-producing qualities of a train whistle. Nostalgia is not, however, the case in point. It is rather that residents have a perfect

right to attempt to defend their quality of life and the enjoyment of their property during the warm weather. This is the other side of the coin which has been neglected from the outset as we have imagined the benefits flowing to the downtowns of Stouffville and Uxbridge. What incidentally, have those benefits amounted to? And what, incidentally, will the new property taxes we pay each year to live in a pleasant rural setting be?

In fact a balance is needed between these two positions. In Uxbridge, I am glad to say Council has established an oversight committee, chaired by Councilor Bev Northeast which will attempt to create and maintain this balance.

As for the benefits of mass transit in the age of the automobile, it is sadly arguable

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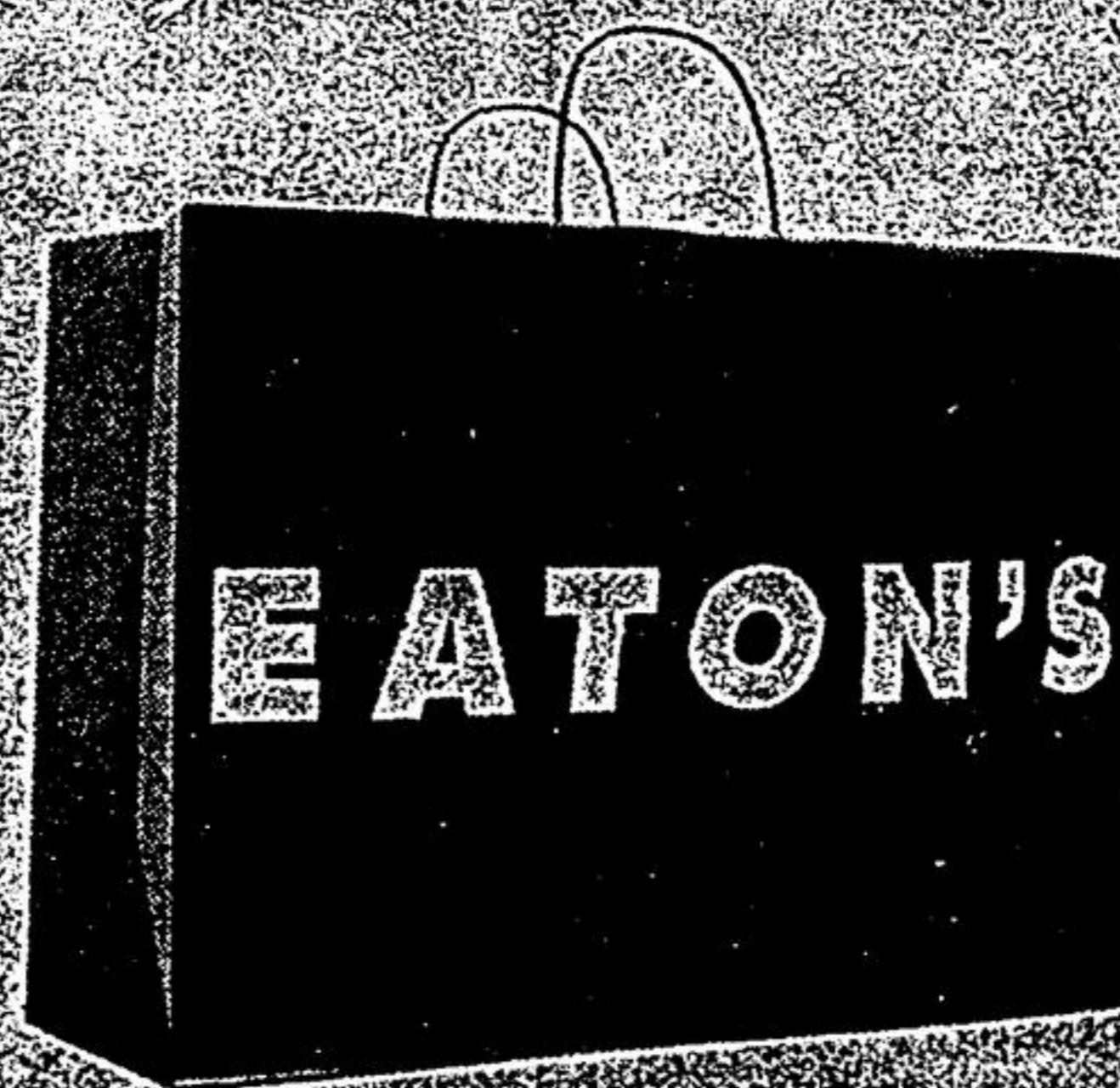
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