

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q: Given that school boards in York Region are unable to keep pace with the number of students, is growth in the region moving too quickly?

Yes, I do believe growth in the region is moving too quickly. Classrooms are getting bigger and the students unfortunately are not getting enough one-on-one supervision. The province doesn't even have enough money to build more schools.

CHRIS MARTINS

We are growing too fast. People who have lived here a long time end up paying for newcomers.

DOUG WELLS

Yes, they are putting too many houses up and not enough schools to accommodate.

BRENT RAYMOND

Whether we like it or not, York Region will keep on growing. Developers and governments make too much money off the new housing and have been for a long while now. It's just too bad they don't have the foresight or the wherewithal to put enough of it back where it really belongs — in our educational infrastructure. This whole society has its priorities wrong.

ANGELICA DE LUCA

Since most of the new people coming here are from the city, maybe Mayor Mel (Lastman) should consider sending educational tax dollars, that he is currently getting, to the 905 regions.

TORY MIDDLETON

Yes, the region is moving too fast. It is one of the reasons to think about moving back to the city for better education.

CINDY NORWOOD

Maybe I'm being a bit cynical, but if these clowns collecting tax dollars would dispense them back where we really need the money, and not lining their own pockets, then our problems would be solved.

SEAN CHALEY

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

York Region's population is expected to swell to more than one million by 2020. Do you think your lifestyle will change, and how?

Submit contributions to

Views on the News, fax: (905) 640-5477

E-mail: thetrib@istar.ca

OPINION

PAUL MARTIN'S ECONOMIC FORECAST



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to all supporters

I would just like to say thank you to the community and town employees who supported the first Alzheimer Coffee Break held at the Town Hall Sept. 23.

As well, I would like to thank Chris Ellis for helping me and Sandy Schell-Kennedy for thinking of us and donating the Vachon goodies left over from the Terry Fox run.

This is a true example of people supporting people through volunteerism. Lastly a special thanks goes out to Grey Power Insurance employees who had been saving their social committee funds to donate to this cause. The Alzheimer Society of York Region uses these funds directly for research, new programs and education.

SUE SHERBAN
STOUFFVILLE

Airport will ruin Stouffville

I was concerned reading your Oct. 6 editorial, *Airport may not be fair, but it may be necessary.*

Numerous studies have indicated there is no reason to build an airport on the federal lands until at least 2020. So why is an airport being proposed now? The Greater Toronto Airport Authority now sees an opportunity to make this proposal in view of Toronto's bid for the 2008 Olympics.

The proposed airport would have a devastating effect on the communities surrounding the airport, including Stouffville. The proposed site of the east-west runway would be within two miles of the centre of Stouffville. I would

suggest your readers go down to Pearson and stand two miles from the end of the runway and try and have a normal conversation. Can you imagine your children having to sit and learn in that sort of environment?

You can also be sure the value of your readers' homes will be drastically reduced — who would want to live within two miles of a runway of a major airport?

The effect will be similar for communities in Markham, Pickering and Ajax and will impact tens of thousands of people in those communities. Can the destruction of so many lives be justified for the sake of questionable economic expansion for the area? I think not.

Why, in today's economic environment of limited public funds available for health and education, are we building another airport?

I ask readers to become vocal in their opposition to the airport, and to let their local, provincial and federal politicians know they are opposed to the airport.

DAVID G. MASTERS

Belongings not garbage

Re: Friends of Musselman's Lake "clean-up." Someone who was involved in the recent lake clean-up took my belongings. I would appreciate having these items back. The missing items were folded neatly in a see-through bag and could not have been mistaken for garbage.

Perhaps our councillor Mark Caroll can think of a better solution. Until then, kindly put those items back where you found them.

C. D'AMATO



Roy Green

'Drunk' farm reminiscent of jail farm

Toronto's community services department has come up with a controversial new idea — a drunk farm. This does not mean they will be breeding and raising drunks.

Rather, it means they are proposing to create a rural facility where chronic alcoholics, who are homeless, can learn to structure their lives through farm labour.

According to the commissioner of community services, Toronto could save \$740,000 a year with this program — not including revenue from selling produce and the hit country records that inevitably result from combining drunkenness with rural life.

But this radical new idea is just a kinder, gentler twist on something Toronto had years ago — the Langstaff Jail Farm in Richmond Hill.

Although it was part of a Toronto-run correctional system, the jail farm was not some Deep South-style chain gang facility for the nastiest of desperadoes.

Many of its inmates were "habitual drunkards," as they were called back then.

The difference between the old Richmond Hill facility and what's now being proposed would seem to be that the folks down on the farm would be there by choice.

Oh, and they would be allowed to keep drinking while they operate the farm machinery.

It would have been easy for the city to set up its drunk farm on the jail farm property, if it still owned the land.

The city parted with the property only a little more than 10 years ago.

Mel Lastman is probably sorry it was sold, especially since Toronto's farm is now breeding nasty 905-ers out to use city services and — worse yet — providing pasture for York Region's industry rustlers to keep their ill-gotten industrial and commercial tax base.

Fortunately, the city scooped some \$70 million in pocket change for the land, which takes some of the sting out of selling your drunk farm too soon.

Toronto bureaucrats could probably take some of that money and buy a really big farm in the farthest boonies.

But they probably already spent it all by providing all those fancy services for free-loading York Region residents.

That's why we're supposed to kick in \$90 million to help pay for Toronto's social services.

It's enough to drive you to drink.

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