

Stouffville Tribune

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OPINION

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David Teetzel

Every town has stake in regional transit system

One survey says 70 per cent of York Region residents want a single regional transit system. Another indicates only 6 per cent of Ontario municipal politicians consider public transit a priority.

So do the two surveys say municipal politicians are out of touch? Not really.

First of all, the CAA survey of municipal politicians, which indicated road improvements were at the top of councillors' wish lists, covered 80 Ontario municipalities and some York Region towns didn't respond. And the gist of the results is municipal politicians can't get rid of the gridlock without substantial contributions from the federal and provincial governments. Amen to that.

In the immediate future, a regional system wouldn't make it easier to get around Vaughan. Nor is it likely to make it easier to get to Toronto from Vaughan.

It would allow Vaughan residents to travel into Richmond Hill without transferring to a Richmond Hill bus.

And one fine day, thanks to the regional transit system, Woodbridge residents will be able to take a bus to Sutton. Do you think 70 per cent of Vaughan residents care about taking a bus to Sutton or even Newmarket?

Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson objects to this plan because her city will pay \$2.6 million, \$300,000 more than it now spends.

The region's recommendations specify there will be no tax increase to support the new service, with future costs divided among municipalities on a weighted basis (the big cities with all the buses pay the most). Why on earth would Vaughan want to take that deal?

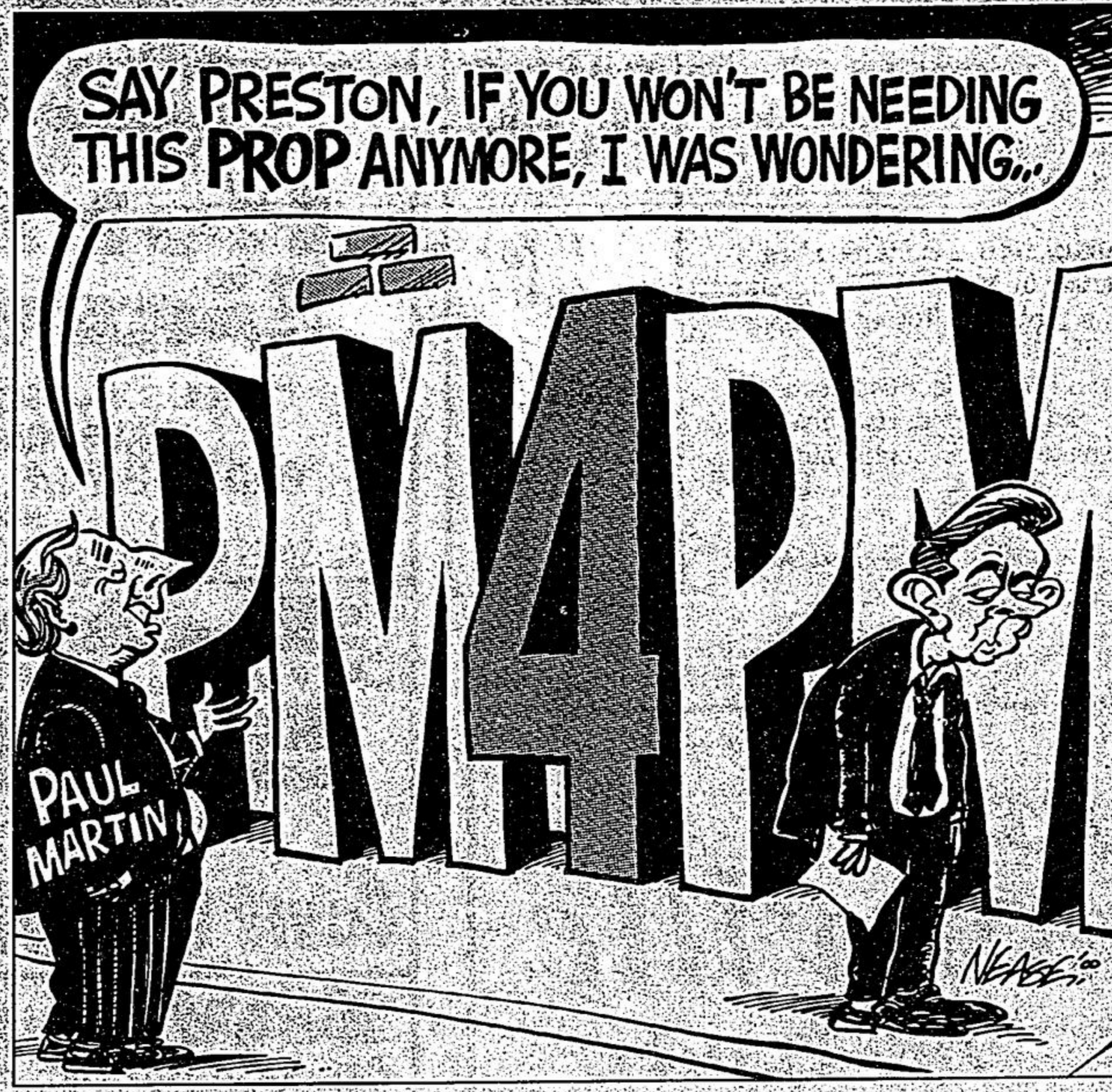
Well, there are, in fact, a few good reasons for Vaughan to subsidize transit service for King. And why Markham seems willing to subsidize transit for East Gwillimbury and Georgina.

If everyone in the growing communities to the north continue to drive to work, they will add more traffic to the already clogged roads of southern York Region. The exercise of building transit systems is about getting cars off the roads. We need an efficient, reliable system that gets people from all over into the industrial parks of southern York.

Jackson and her colleagues in southern York Region put out the welcome mat for industry and the assessment it brings. They have to provide some way for the employees to get to them.

Jackson also wants the subway to come to York Region. The TTC has made it clear it won't do business with a bunch of little transit systems. It wants one big system that feeds into Toronto's subways.

Most importantly, one big York Region transit department will provide a stronger voice to lobby for the provincial funding that every municipal politician agrees is desperately needed to get the region moving again.



EDITORIAL

Day faces difficult task in today's Liberal nation

Stockwell Day has taken his place as a new leader for a new party, determined to unite the right on his platforms of social and fiscal conservatism, as leader of the Canadian Alliance.

We know fiscal conservatism flies well in the Greater Toronto Area, which elected Mike Harris' MPPs to Queen's Park. And had the Conservative and Reform parties not split the right-wing vote in many ridings, the federal government would not have had the same Liberal face it currently sports.

Preston Manning, the Reform founder, was gracious in his defeat for the leadership of the party he created, the alliance he tried to forge.

But he is 'old times' and Day reflects a more youthful image for a party trying to attract Progressive Conservative supporters and encourage their leader to form a united front.

Day's selection has caused some concern for federal Liberals. The Liberals are playing politics, highlighting what they describe as Day's extreme views on gays and abortion, sprinkling seeds of fear that he will use his leadership to shape public agenda on these two items, in particular.

So what is to become of our country's right wing? What should we expect from Day and his party and from Joe Clark and his followers?

You can be sure Clark will not bend to Alliance pressure and join the cause. He has issued his challenge to Day and will stand firm in his resolve that his party's more moderate conservatism would serve the nation best.

You can be sure Day will not rest until he has wooed as many Conservatives as he can.

So, you can be sure, for the immediate future, we still have, far from Manning's united vision, a right wing in disarray. No consensus. No commitment. Consequently, another opportunity for the Liberal Party to walk up the middle and grasp the reins of power.

The economy's good. Martin's offering tax relief. Things are happy in a Liberal Canada.

While Day has ridden on the coattails of good planning and fortune in past, his foray into the world of federal leadership will be a challenging one. The timing for success isn't great, unless he can do the impossible — get Clark and his Tories on board, offer Manning a role he cannot refuse and charm Quebec.

And unless the Liberals start espousing principles of fiscal conservatism, none of this bodes well for the economic and social health and well-being of our nation. There's too much politicking and not enough policy-making.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Whether or not MP resigns, he'll be replaced in next federal vote

The actions of Markham MP Jim Jones in meddling in the affairs of another federal political party were ones definitely not serving the will of his constituents, but rather selfish attempts to guarantee himself a job in the upcoming federal election.

The constituents of Markham elected Jones to serve and represent us under the views, beliefs and goals of the federal PC party — not the Reform, Canadian Alliance or Liberal party.

Had Jones represented a different party, he certainly would never have been elected to Parliament, especially since Markham has traditionally been held by a PC party member (excluding the Bhaduria years) and, up until that point, Jones had no political experience whatsoever.

Jones' views of serving two masters by running under a joint PC-Canadian Alliance election platform puzzles me the most. Does Jones truly understand the nature of Canadian politics and how political parties are maintained and elected into Parliament?

How could any one person serve the ideals and beliefs of two entirely different federal parties?

Which leader would he listen to? Which public policies would he support?

Jones seems to believe in American-style politics, that each elected representative of a party does whatever he wishes and does not follow the strong party hierarchy conducive to Canadian politics. He had plenty of oppor-

tunity to voice his concerns and help formulate PC party policies at the last party convention.

If the policies passed were not reflective of the beliefs held by Jones, he should immediately have resigned as a member of the PC party and as a representative for the Markham riding and not continued with a pretense of being a loyal PC party member while secretly having his own agenda.

Jones was also surprised that he "pulled a Bhaduria" and got himself ejected from the PC caucus. It is obvious to me that Jones simply wanted to change parties and switch allegiances and, at the same time, save his reputation from being damaged since he would have been regarded as a traitor.

By having himself thrown out of the party he tried unsuccessfully to shift the blame from himself and his actions, to Joe Clark and the PC party.

Strategically, Jones actions were interesting, however, the voters in Markham are far more intelligent than he gives us credit for.

If Jones wishes to maintain any credibility, he should immediately resign his position as MP for Markham and quickly find a job in the private sector.

Yet again, another federal representative has shamed Markham through his actions.

Whether Jones resigns or not, he will be replaced by a PC party representative in the next federal election, to proudly serve the true views and values of the people of Markham.

CHRY PELEGRIS
MARKHAM

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