

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
9 Heritage Rd., Markham, ON, L3P 1M3

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LETTERS

Once industrial development is built, get ready for gridlock

If residents are upset about the traffic gridlock in Markham, just wait until council moves ahead with the new 2,800-acre proposed industrial development stretching from Hwy. 404 to Kennedy Road, immediately north of Elgin Mills.

Without question, tractor trailers running 24 hours, seven days a week will soon be running down Woodbine, Warden and Kennedy accessing industrial areas to the south as well as Hwy. 407.

Do councillors not understand their rapid growth policies over the past few years have not only jammed our streets but made them unsafe?

Although municipal politicians are always quick to point to the necessity of adding new employment lands, many of these same councillors approved the re-zoning of existing industrial lands at 16th and Woodbine avenues to residential (over strong objections from local residents).

Now, just a few years later, we are being told we desperately need additional industrial lands.

Well how about taking a common sense approach and before committing excessive moneys (rumoured to be up to \$1 million) for consultants, make sure we have the roads and infrastructure before undertaking such a massive development.

Or at least canvass existing residents in Unionville, Victoria Square, Jennings Gate, Cachet, Cachet Woods and Buttonville, and let them know that their safety and ability to travel on area streets will be in peril.

Not to mention the loss of our last few acres of green space.

Of the entire council, only one member voted against this travesty.

And for his courage, we applaud Deputy Mayor Frank Scarpitti.

In this election year, call your councillor and the mayor's office and voice your objection before it's too late.

JIM ROBERTSON
PRESIDENT, VICTORIA SQUARE RATEPAYERS

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LETTERS POLICY

Stouffville Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The newspaper reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

Write: Letters to the Editor,
9 Heritage Rd.,
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Email: letters@econsun.com

OPINION



Harris government has done a lot to be applauded over

Re: *Ontario's questioning managerial competence of the Tories*, July 4.

Markham resident H. Leznoff is so far out in left field, he refuses to see the real goal posts.

Leznoff writes, "(Premier Mike) Harris fired thousands of nurses", not knowing only hospitals can hire or fire nurses.

According to studies conducted by the University of Toronto and Hamilton McMaster University, only 1,207 nurses have left since 1995 for whatever reasons.

Some went to work in health-care settings, such as nursing homes, homecare and agencies, as employment in these went up 2 per cent to 4 per cent, and 8,000 nurses left their positions during the NDP's term at Queen's Park.

The World Health Organization placed Canada 30 out of 190 countries, yet we were placed tenth in health spending; that should tell us just how big a waste duplication and fraud is in our health system.

Did the David Peterson Liberals and the Bob Rae NDP fight with the teachers because both these governments had their share of trouble with the teachers unions.

Why is it all right for the federal government to cut back billions in provincial transfer payments (our taxes) for health and education to get rid of their \$42-billion deficit, but when Harris reined in administrative spending of all ministries to eliminate the \$11.2-billion deficit left by the NDP, he is accused of managerial incompetence?

Norm Sterling, the former Ontario environ-

ment minister, was the only provincial minister to support the federal government's proposal to reduce the sulphur content in gasoline.

The Lakeview coal burning hydro plant was spewing out sulphur dioxide during the Peterson and Rae years — it didn't suddenly appear in Mississauga for Mike Harris' benefit. It will cost \$800 million to convert it to gas and this is why it was ignored by Rae and Peterson.

During the two previous administrations, fines for environmental violators remained uncollected, which amounts to more than \$10 million. Why didn't Peterson and Rae go after these violators?

Harris has introduced legislation that will give the government greater ability to collect fines.

The Harris government also introduced the Auto Drive Clean program.

He should be applauded for that. If Leznoff believes the John Snobolen gaff, he no doubt believes the Chrétien gaff about the GST and free trade.

J. SHAW
MARKHAM

Markham Village Festival helps make town great place to live

Congratulations to Harry James and the organizers for putting on a great Markham Village Festival. It was good to see so many people attend.

Events like the festival make Markham a good place to live.

KEVIN BUSHELL
MARKHAM

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Debora Kelly

Gift of Life Network is an admirable plan to help save lives

I don't understand why I can't bring myself to do it. I've never signed the organ donor consent form accompanying my driver's licence.

It's silly because, should I meet an untimely demise, I have no qualms about having my organs going to help someone else to live.

I've told my husband that — he, who does carry that signed form around in his wallet.

My pen has hovered over the form each time my licence has been renewed, but never made it to paper. An irrational, superstitious, emotional response from a compassionate and, pretty much, practical person. And I just can't explain it — it's certainly not because I don't want my organs going to another.

Death stirs emotions within us that nothing else does. In their grief, many relatives are understandably incapable of making the decision to donate their loved ones' organs. Even health caregivers are often reluctant to intrude upon a family's sorrow by pressing the issue of organ donation.

CANADIANS ARE DYING

Yet hundreds of Canadians needing transplants die every year. Something had to be done — and Premier Mike Harris is doing it.

His government is proposing a program that aims to double the number of life-saving organs donated.

The Trillium Gift of Life Network will require hospitals to provide notification of every patient who is brain dead. Hospitals must keep those patients on life support — unless their relatives oppose donation — until a network worker meets with the family to discuss giving "the gift of life."

It's a bold yet absolutely admirable plan. A similar program in the United States saw organ donations jump 63 per cent.

Essential to its success will be agency representatives who are able to do their jobs with incredible sensitivity. Undoubtedly, there are those who will view this program, at its worst, as macabre organ harvesting and, at its best, offensively intrusive. While a family's wishes must ultimately be respected, it's essential that the question at least be asked.

Most importantly, we must continue to bring the cause of organ donation out of the closet, so to speak; to bring awareness to the public of the need for these vital organs.

As well, if we have yet to do it, we must address the issue in our own minds. And, even if we can't bring ourselves to do it in writing, at least make it clear to our loved ones that we wish to give the gift of life.

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