

Public Consultations ONTARIO'S 2001 BUDGET



**Frank
KLEES, M.P.P.**



Frank Klees, M.P.P. (Oak Ridges) invites all constituents to participate in public consultations prior to the development of the 2001 Ontario provincial budget.

Those wishing to make deputations in person are invited to join Mr. Klees at two town hall meetings on February 21st and 23rd, 2001, at the time and locations noted below.

Wednesday, Feb. 21
Richmond Hill Town Offices
225 East Beaver Creek Road
OMB Hearing Room
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 23
Whitchurch-Stouffville Town Offices
37 Sandford Drive
Council Chamber, 4th Floor
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Those unable to make a personal presentation to Mr. Klees during these times may send written submissions, by 5:00 p.m.

Feb. 23rd, 2001, to his constituency office at

650 Hwy. 7 East, Suite 210
Richmond Hill ON L4B 1B2

Or via fax at (905) 707-3161 or via email at:

fklees@frank-klees.on.ca

Please send your email comments as an attachment.

For more information, please call the constituency office at

(905) 707-3160 OR (905) 642-5500



Heritage Day Open House
Sunday, February 18, 2001
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Markham Museum & Historic Village is celebrating its 30th Anniversary. Join the celebration and enjoy 19th century crafts, stroll through our historic village, sample historic recipes and find out how we are preserving Markham's history. Enjoy refreshments and some birthday cake! Don't miss the fun!

Egypt, Gift of the Nile
Comes to Markham Museum
March 1 - April 29, 2001



Explore Egyptian civilization through this incredible exhibition organized and circulated by the Royal Ontario Museum. Visitors will discover Egyptian civilization and everyday life through an array of programmes and activities for both young and old. Our 5-part Lecture Series for adults will enlighten you on the fascinating architecture, life, religion and art of Ancient Egypt.

Lecture 1 - February 24, 2001
The Archaeology of Ancient Egypt - An Introduction

Amy Barron, PhD candidate in Ancient History and Archaeology will lecture on the archaeology of Ancient Egypt, exploring the pyramids at Giza, the decipherment of the hieroglyphics on the Rosetta Stone, the phenomenal uncovering of Tutankhamun's tomb and much more! Pre-registration required.

For information and to register call (905) 294-4576.



9350 Highway 48
(just north of 16th Ave)

Visteon employees face plant closure

Workers seek meeting with minister

BY ROGER VARLEY
Staff Writer

Visteon Corp. employees facing layoffs within the next two years sought Markham Mayor Don Cousens' support Wednesday in their bid to meet with federal Industry Minister Brian Tobin.

Ron Hendrikx, president of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1980, and Rod Reynolds, president of Local 2113 of the International Association of Machinists, representing 1,200 workers at the Markham auto parts manufacturing plant, said they would also like the mayor and council to work to help with the re-employment of displaced workers.

Visteon, with its world headquarters in Dearborn, Mich., announced last month it will be shutting down the plant, which produces restraint control modules, side crash sensors, anti-theft systems, keyless entry systems and automatic temperature controls, within two years.

Hendrikx also met privately Thursday with Markham Member of Parliament John McCallum to enlist his support.

"This will have a major impact on Markham," Hendrikx told the mayor. "For every job lost in the auto industry, there's usually another secondary job lost."

He said the plant and its employees are victims of the Free Trade Agreement because the jobs are being moved to other countries.

"We are the last auto electronic parts plant in Canada," he said. "We were looking toward a bright future. Even today, we are a profitable plant."



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Employees of the doomed Visteon plant on Birchmount Avenue in Markham met with Mayor Don Cousens on Wednesday. Clockwise from lower left are: Brenda Lam, Ray Connolly, Mila Alexovski, Cousens, Rod Reynolds, president of local of International Association of Machinists, Regional Councillor Bill O'Donnell, Frank Ng, group spokesman Ron Hendrikx and Cozette Dagher, representative for MP John McCallum.

"But that's still not necessarily the criteria for maintaining viability," he continued. "Profit maximization in business means the losers are those whose jobs move to other countries."

"We're talking about a whole industry moving," he said.

He said arguments that workers have to remain competitive in the global market are meaningless.

"Technologies developed at our plant can be used at other Visteon

plants, so the argument that you compete by upgrading technology doesn't work," he said.

Reynolds added that another contributing factor to the plant's closure is a contract negotiated by the United Auto Workers union in the U.S. that ensures no Visteon workers in the U.S. will get laid off.

"We're the sacrificial lambs here," he said. "What's happening here is they're closing down the most valuable plant in their organization."

Hendrikx told Cousens his group wants to meet with Tobin to urge the federal government to introduce strong industrial and trade policies to protect Canadian jobs.

Cousens replied that he would act immediately to try and set up a meeting with Ontario Industry Minister Bob Runciman.

He declined, however, to add his name to a petition, signed by about 1,000 Visteon workers and concerned citizens, seeking a meeting with Tobin.

"I think it has more meaning when it comes from the people," he said, adding that he would like to see Markham council pass a resolution expressing its concern over the Visteon situation to the federal and provincial governments.

Cousens told Hendrikx, Reynolds and four Visteon workers who accompanied them that he was shocked that Visteon's Markham plant is the only one being shut down.

"We'll look at how we can be of assistance in finding jobs" for laid-off employees, he said.

Look What's Coming!



**Bruce
Guthro**

MUSIC FOR EVERY TASTE
FEBRUARY 23, 2001

The critics are unanimous in their praise of this Cape Breton singer-songwriter. Bruce has "world-class talent with one of the most compelling voices in the business." He has worked with such acclaimed performers as Rita MacNeil, Anne Murray and Jann Arden. This is an evening you'll not want to miss!

Tickets: \$31.50
Showtime: 8:00 p.m.



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MARCH 20 & 21, 2001

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Showtime: 8:00 p.m.



**Natalie
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**Sharon
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Tickets: \$18.50 Adults, \$17.50 Children
Showtimes: 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.



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