



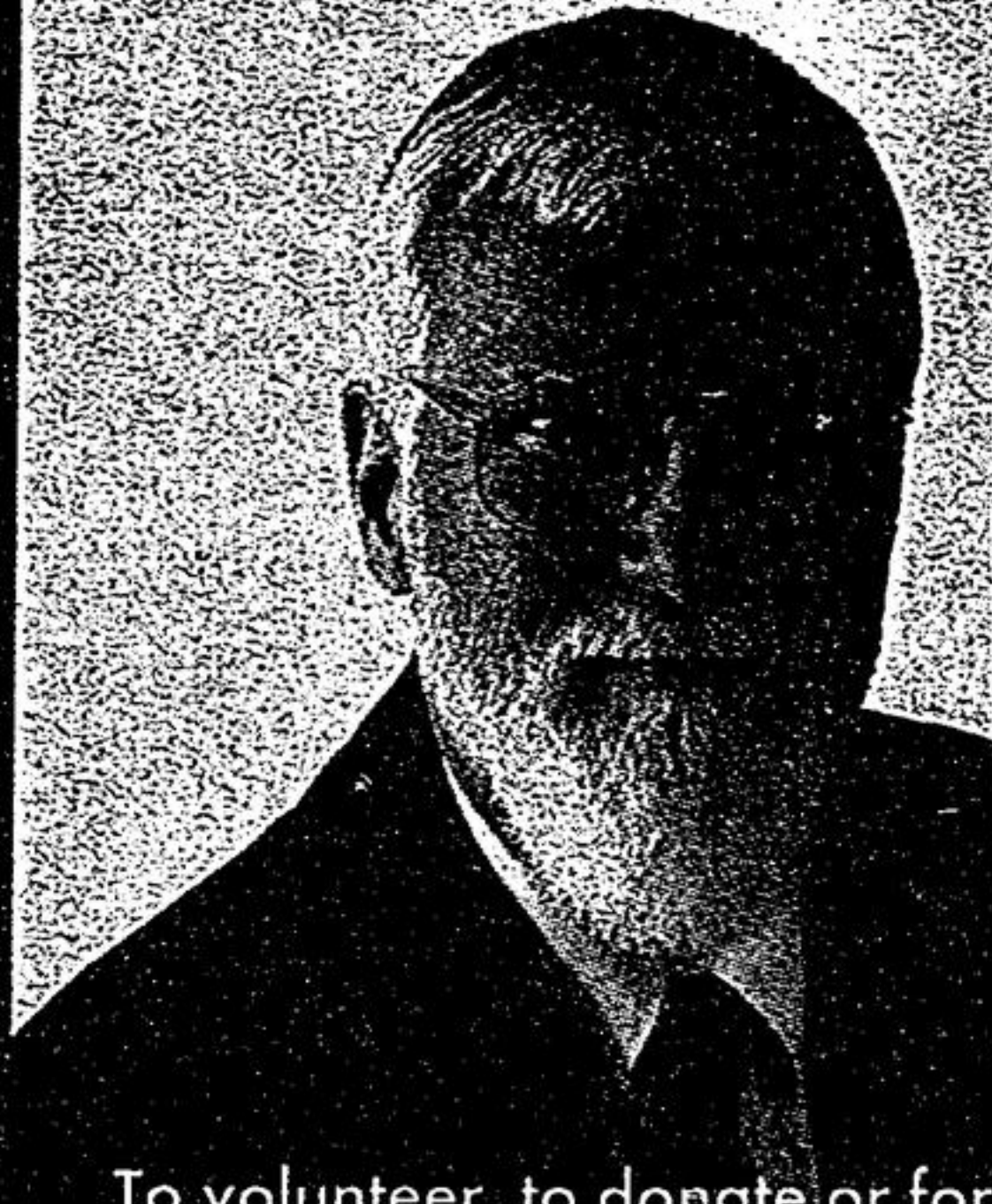
STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

**MP HONOURED**

Allan Rock, federal Minister of Industry, speaks at a dinner held in honour of Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert Thursday at the Premier Ballroom in Richmond Hill. Mr. Wilfert is parliamentary secretary to the minister of finance and has served the region for almost 20 years.

"I've watched John Webster in action in this community over the years. From his work on the *Markham Foundation* to the *Board of Trade*, to our *Village Festival*, he has wholeheartedly supported and promoted this community. **In my opinion, the best candidate for Ward Five is John Webster.**"

*Gord Landon, Regional Councillor*




**Elect John Webster Councillor**  
A strong voice for Ward Five

www.JohnWebster.com

To volunteer, to donate or for a lawn sign, call 905-472-3122

RE-ELECT


**Khalid Usman**  
Ward 7 Councillor



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**NEW LOCATION**

**Dr. Bill Webber**  
CHIROPRACTOR  
has moved to  
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**ELECT**

**Jim JONES**  
Regional Councillor



**Reduce Traffic Gridlock**  
As the largest municipality in York Region, Markham is experiencing traffic gridlock today. It is only going to get worst unless something is done. Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area will see their population grow by three million people during the next 20 years.

Toronto and the GTA are the economic engines of Canada, but we must realize that we are competing with Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and other American cities for economic prosperity.

An urban strategy that includes transportation and transit for the GTA must involve all three levels of government. We don't need a three billion dollar high-speed rail link between Toronto and Montreal until we can move people at higher speeds within the GTA.

**Keep Taxes Low**  
During the 2003 budget process, some members of Council said that we must increase taxes, because of the growth. There will be 4,000 new housing units built in 2003 in Markham. With this volume of growth, Markham should be able to reduce taxes.

Capital projects can't be funded solely from the property tax base. To build the necessary infrastructure, urban centers need some of the funding that is now flowing to the provincial and federal levels of government.

We must take a look at the growth models for Markham and the Region to ensure that they are self-sustaining. Existing resident should not have to fund growth through continuous yearly tax increases.

**Development Must Pay Its Way**  
The Town has given consideration to paying one half the costs of constructing underground parking in new proposed high-rise apartment and office buildings. This means the existing taxpayers will foot the bill for growth.

Allowing greater density was encouraged for better land utilization and to make it economical for builders to construct a more compact urban form. As a Regional Councillor, I will press for legislation that ensures better land use, stops urban sprawl and encourages development that promotes rapid transit.

**Build Regional Rapid Transit System**  
We need York Region's transit system to be integrated with the TTC and GO Transit. At present, a trip from Markham to downtown Toronto can take more than two hours on public transit. Transit system needs to be planned, well-funded and aggressively implemented.

We need to build a high-speed transit system that works for the 7 million people who make up the GTA area, plus the 3 million additional people who will arrive here during the next twenty years.

The federal government collects between 7 and 10 billion dollars annually in a gasoline excise tax. Very little of this tax money is spent on transportation infrastructure. Ontario's portion of the gasoline excise tax needs to be returned to the province and directed solely at funding a high-speed integrated transit system. We should demand nothing less.

**We need to plan the future. It's where we'll live the rest of our lives.**

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