

**Southern
Sun-Tribune**

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Halt development until roads fixed

Open letter to Markham council.

I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of people in Markham and York Region who are upset with the traffic congestion.

When our employees regularly complain about increasing commute times, it is a warning bell. Turnover in any business is costly.

This week for example, I needed 21 minutes to drive from Village Parkway in Unionville, west on Hwy 7, south on Warden Avenue to the corner of 14th Avenue. There were no accidents. I live near Kennedy Road and 16th Avenue and my commute regularly takes 25 to 30 minutes.

Two other employees in Cornell need about 35 minutes on an average day to get to Warden and 14th.

I suggest council immediately freeze all development until it develops and presents workable plans, in concert with the region, to address this quality of life issue.

Such a freeze would send a strong message of leadership to other municipalities that Markham and York care more about this issue than development.

Spending this much time each day commuting in Markham is shameful. It is time for this council to show leadership to taxpayers, business owners, the region and province.

BIL TRAINOR
PRESIDENT
CAPITAL NETWORKS LIMITED
MARKHAM

Socialism doesn't built character

Someone should tell Premier Dalton McGuinty, the keynote speaker at the Building Communities of Character conference last month in Richmond Hill, good character development doesn't spring out of liberal socialism.

Surely what is going on in Ottawa with the sponsorship scandal is ample proof.

The only soul that produces the 10 points of good character — honesty, empathy, fairness, respect, responsibility, initiative, perseverance, integrity, courage and optimism — is a very close adherence to the bible.

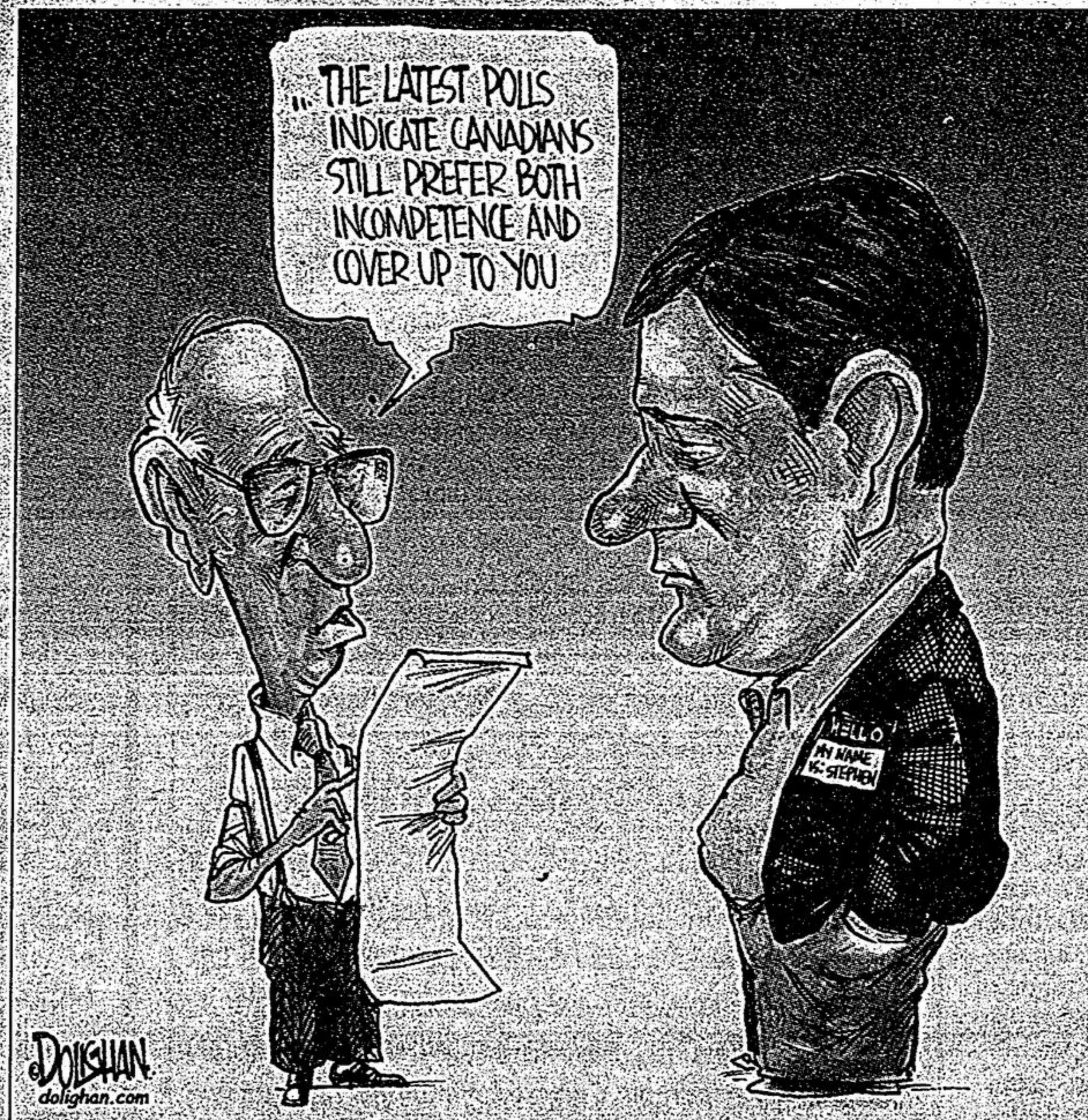
These points are not nurtured in the public school system and they never will be as long as unions dominate them.

BUD O'CONNOR
MARKHAM

Stop Hydro One electrical line

Re: Residents fight Hydro One, Economist & Sun, May 6.

Residents have expressed concerns about the potential impact of putting electrical lines through two hydro corridors in the region.



A Hydro One expansion project has initiated an environmental assessment to select one of the routes: the Parkway transformer station in Markham to the Armitage transformer station in Newmarket or the Claireville transformer station in Vaughan, which runs north to Newmarket.

This expansion would put 230 kV electrical line through existing hydro right-of-ways near schools, residential and commercial properties. Opposition is steadily growing as public awareness grows due to efforts of a residents group.

This project has forced many to investigate the ramifications of these wires, including health risks from electro-magnetic frequency exposure, environmental concerns, socio-economic effects and reduction in the vitality of residential and business areas.

Residents are demanding Hydro One take responsibility in meeting the demands of supplying power safely and securely in a more environmentally sound manner. The future growth management of our region depends on this.

This is a classic display of how major corporations show callous disregard for the public by forcing communities to rally against each other rather than come up with viable solutions.

Studies I've seen recommend prudent avoidance and strong caution be exercised when putting hydro lines through neighbourhoods. Therefore, the choices offered

are unacceptable.

This issue should serve as a window of opportunity for the public to educate itself on the number of potential sources of electro magnetic frequency exposures in homes, streets and by electrical lines. Have you assessed your risks associated with these invisible pollutants?

Statistics in electro magnetic frequency booklets are very disturbing, especially where links to childhood leukemia are concerned.

The public should voice its concerns to municipal and provincial representatives for more regulation and denounce Hydro One's process of endangering and infringing upon our quality of life.

This decision is weeks away. There is no time to take a back seat approach with this toxic welcome wagon; it may be rolling into your back yard.

SUE FUSCO
MARKHAM

Library may need more revenue

Will the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library board need to look for another revenue source if Whitchurch-Stouffville council carefully scrutinizes and controls the operations of the town's treasury department?

Under the Public Libraries Act, libraries are funded by grants from the Ministry of

Culture, which is responsible for public libraries, and the municipality.

Council approved a combined \$609,940 operating and capital grant to the library board April 13, down from its request of \$647,258.

As in previous years, council did not authorize the treasury department to make any additional tax dollars available to help the board.

The board has also budgeted for a \$55,588 grant from the Ministry of Culture. The only other major income in the board's 2004 budget is the expected revenue of \$22,000 from fines. Book sale revenues are not used for operating expenses.

The council-approved town operating grant to the library board is usually used up by the end of October, leaving no money for salaries, benefits and other expenses in November and December. This is well documented by the treasury department, which prepares the board's financial statement.

At the budget committee meeting, the board did not ask council for more money to cover its usual year-end deficit.

The treasury department uses town money during November and December to cover the board's operating deficits and reportedly submits invoices to the board for these debts. No records of these transactions are placed on the board's financial statements.

Also, the treasury department does not report these transactions to council or include them in its annual operating budget for council approval.

At the budget committee meeting April 13, the department did not inform council about any money owed to the town by the library board.

Should council be informed about the way public funds are used by town departments so it can keep control of town spending?

MARGARET L. MAY
STOUFFVILLE

Thanks for help with seniors

On behalf of the seniors sub-committee of the Whitchurch-Stouffville library board, I would like to thank Gord Brooks and his musical group, The Rascals, for their entertainment at the Seniors Spring Fling April 28 at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

All seniors who attended this event enjoyed the old time favourites. Mr. Brooks and his band performed free of charge; he is available for other bookings at 905-640-8852.

Our thanks also to the children of the Stouffville Village Child Care Centre for lighting up our day, A&P and Sobeys for the fruit platters and bakers who provided goodies for the event.

MARILYN E. FERGUSON
STOUFFVILLE

LETTERS POLICY

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

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