

OPINION

Stouffville Sun-Tribune
 A Metroland community newspaper
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Editorial

Fuel pellet burn ban hypocritical

It's almost laughable that the Ontario government is allowing a Vaughan plant to create fuel pellets from garbage but banning their use.

The fuel pellets are created by removing moisture from garbage and pulverizing the trash into two-inch pellets, which are used to fire cement factories.

According to Queen's Park, converted garbage is still garbage, even though proponents of fuel pellets have studies showing the product burns cleaner than coal, which is still allowed in Ontario's cement factories.

The Vaughan-based company, Borealis, thinks it can sell the product south of the border. The province has no problem with this.

One problem — if the province is concerned about emissions from these pellets entering the air we breathe is it not then hypocritical to allow sales to the United States?

Reality is, air pollution knows no borders. American smog lands here.

The Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), a group of energy industry leaders in India, have realized garbage is going to top 5,000 tonnes per day in 10 years in Southeast Asia.

Through fuel pellets, they believe they can alleviate their garbage problems while producing a clean burning fuel.

According to their results, there is 15 per cent less ash in fuel pellets than in coal or wood fuels.

A study commissioned by the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory revealed U.S. factories spew 20 million tonnes of coal-ash into the environment annually. Scientists say these figures can lead to severe physiological and ecological problems and have recommended government agencies pay attention to the problem.

Here in Ontario, we have a chance to use an alternate energy source that many are hailing as cleaner than coal and, at the same time, get rid of our non-recyclable waste. Environment Minister Laurel Broten should actually do some work and investigate fuel pellets and their merits.

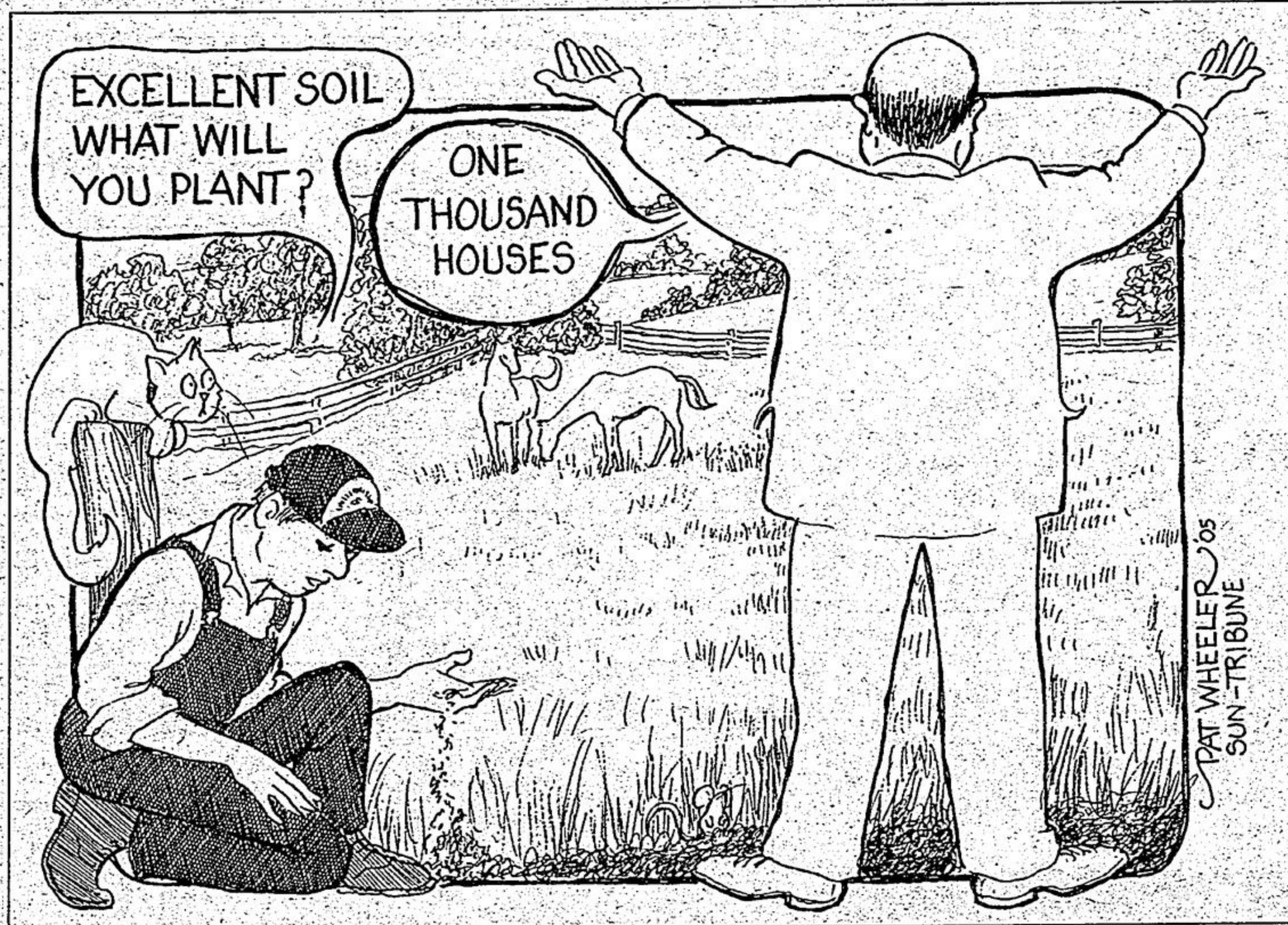
Right now, the province's environmental strategy seems to be, "Just say no."

No to incineration, even though there is no community willing to accept a landfill and no other options.

No to coal-fired energy plants, even though we are having trouble meeting hydro demand.

No to energy from waste, even though it could solve both problems.

But there's one more "no" looming: No more time to mess around. We need a way to deal with our garbage.



Letters to the Editor

Cartoonist should apologize, retire over bigoted progaganda

Re: cartoon by Steve Nease, Aug. 25.

We all have choices in life. Each choice begins from the brain's repertoire of thoughts and feelings.

If we train ourselves to think in narrow and limiting ways, in blaming and accusing ways, our actions will be just the same.

How did the thoughts of the editorial staff get to the point where they choose to allow the inflammatory, bigoted and senseless commentary of the editorial cartoon? It has me and my family puzzled.

First of all, what does it mean? Second, where is the humour? Third, is this type of blatant hate progaganda not against the law?

As my daughter and I stood there, stunned, trying to make sense of it, we asked ourselves: do they mean Toronto black teens (the one drawn to look like a dog) have no parents or does it mean they kill all their parents?

Does it mean they have parents but they don't know them?

Is the cartoonist implying that all York Region white female seniors are cranky, confrontational and abusive in the company of black teenagers?

I suggest this cartoonist apologize, explain the intent and then retire from social commentary through cartooning.

This is unacceptable and ridiculous stereotyping. The media is in the business of selling ads, but its effect is of shaping minds. Remember your journalism courses.

What do you want people to think and do as a result of reading this attack on black adolescents,

The Stouffville Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address.

The Stouffville Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

Write: Letters to the Editor, 34 Civic Ave., P.O. Box 154, Stouffville, L4A 7Z5, e-mail jmason@yrmg.com

a very small number of whom are involved in the recent string of murders?

Are they to feel it is all right to raise a stick and start the blame game against a whole group of people?

If you are part of the problem, continue to create a cocoon built of smug self-satisfaction, judgment and anger.

Continue to be pleased you live in safe(r) York Region. If you are part of the solution, why not publish articles about people who are building understanding between Caribbean and Canadian people?

Why not find educated opinions and sensitive articles about the reasons young people of many cultures find solace and support in gangs and who need help to use non-violent means of problem solving?

What about looking at schools, groups and churches that have successfully implemented programs to offer alternatives to youth?

Many good people of all colours work with teens whose parents struggle to support and raise their children in Toronto.

I can give you plenty of material and contacts.

GEORGIE KENNEDY
 MARKHAM



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

I have seen the future Stouffville rising in the south

Take a wrong turn coming out of Sobeyes and you can see the future of Stouffville.

Weldon Road, running between The Lion of Stouffville and TD/Canada Trust, is an unofficial extension of West Lawn Crescent.

As unfinished as it sits, it's also the gateway to the new Stouffville. Hit the dead end at its south end, exit your vehicle and dream a little.

Parts are close to reality. The roof is being topped onto the new Parkview Home by ant-like construction workers toiling in the late-summer sun.

The long term care facility will continue the York County Mennonite Home Association's proud legacy of housing and caring for the area's seniors. Well done, Parkview.

Farther south, single-family homes are going up in a scene being mirrored in the other three corners of urban Stouffville. Ornate street lamps stand in stark contrast over rough and muddy lots in many of the future neighbourhoods.

Back to Weldon, where you can picture the new Stouffville District Secondary School, or whatever it will be called, when it opens two years from this month.

The massive gyms, library, cafeteria/auditoriums and technical areas will be as welcome as the current school has been outdated and cramped. Stouffville's teenagers deserve it.

Squint and look farther to the southwest where Hoover Park Drive will run to Hwy. 48. You'll imagine a power centre lined with big box stores the same as in every other municipality of any size in North America.

It will be boring and surrounded by acres of asphalt, but it will also feed, clothe, entertain and employ residents new and old.

Is there a theatre for the performing arts on the horizon? Not likely from the current edition of town council, which has just over a year left in its mandate.

An indoor mall and cinema complex, the palaces Stouffville young people have cried for more than a new school over the last 25 years? Don't bet on them, given current retail and entertainment trends.

Your future is near, Stouffville. *Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.*

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