

OPINION

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON, L4A 7Z5
www.yorkregion.com

PUBLISHER *Ian Proudfoot*

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debra Kelly
BUSINESS MANAGER
Robert Lazaruk

DIRECTOR INTERACTIVE
MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY
John Futey

DIRECTOR, ADVERTISING
& DISTRIBUTION
Barry Black
DIRECTOR, CIRCULATION
SYSTEMS
Lynn Pashko

YORK REGION PRINTING
GENERAL MANAGER
Bob Dean

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Put smaller theatre in old town hall

Re: Larger theatre eyed by Bowes, Dec. 14.
Former town councillor Harry Bowes, what exactly are your motives?

You went to Port Hope and other municipalities to look at theatres and reported back they were all just money pits and a huge drain on the municipalities.

When theatre supporters presented a petition, you labelled it invalid because people from other communities had signed it, rather than pointing out the fact it had support from our neighbours.

You insisted a theatre shouldn't be a financial burden and should pay for itself. No other facility in town does that.

You went to Huntsville and investigated the 408-seat Algonquin Theatre, designed by the Ventin Group, and reported back how terrible everything was in terms of the cost overruns, to belittle and destroy the Ventin initiative.

Now, you are just attempting to undermine all the work done by this community toward establishing a small community theatre in the old town hall as a focus for the renovation and regeneration of our historical downtown.

I assume the skate park property is your secret location.

The structure, you are talking about would cost \$6 million to \$10 million and at

least \$200,000 a year to run.

It will require a staff of three to four people for maintenance and marketing.

It will require contracting commercial ventures to pay some of its costs, and will be beyond the reach of the average small citizen group or individual to participate in, therefore, rendering it somewhat useless as a community facility to foster the arts in this town.

How do you propose to pay for this venue?

If you solicit corporate contributions, will you be selling the name of the theatre to some developer?

How will this venue not be a financial burden on this town for years to come?

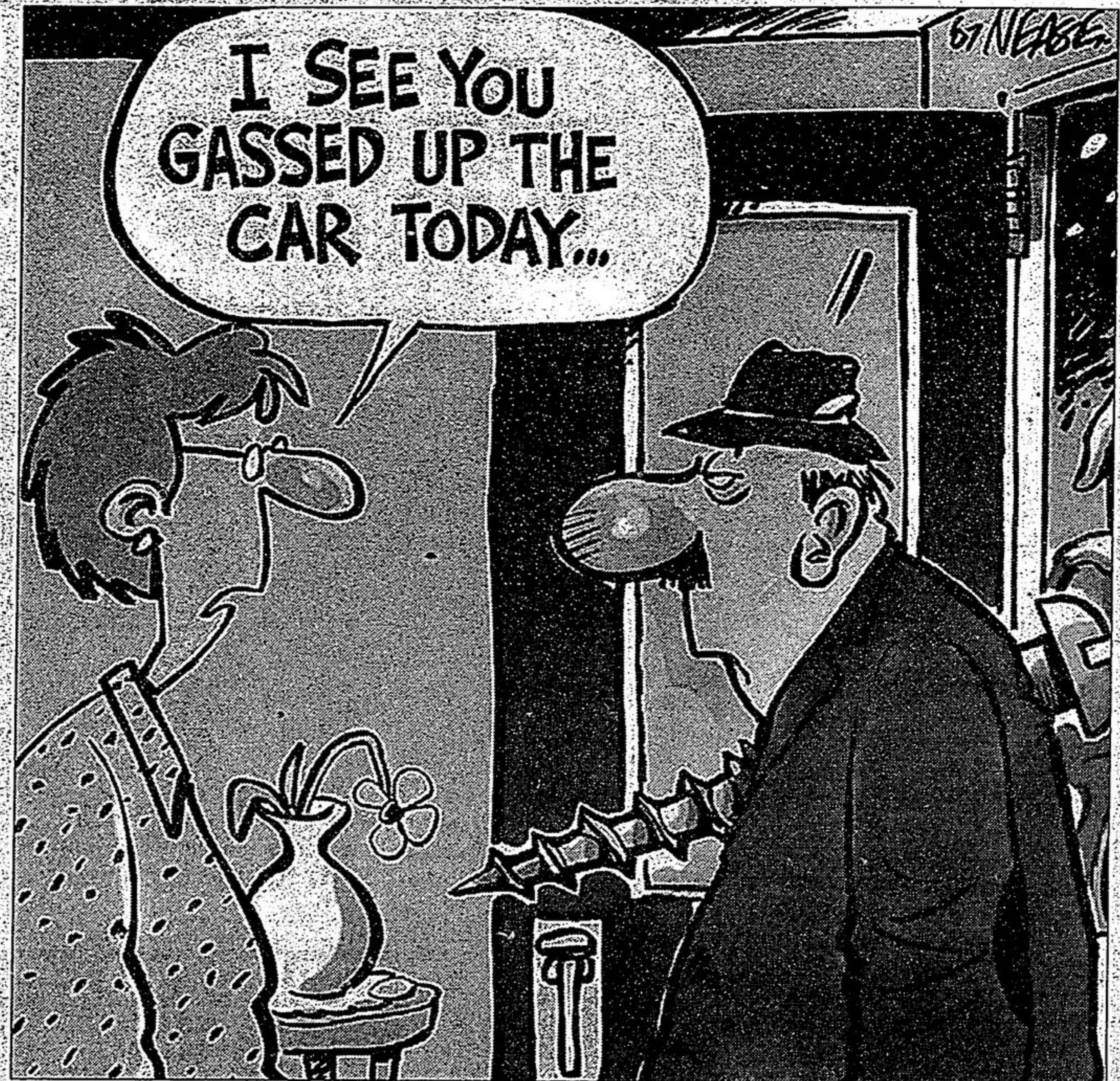
Likewise, Mayor Wayne Emmerson's lack of care or concern for the heritage and culture of our town is the reason the building is in such sad shape to begin with.

So, Mr. Bowes, for the very same reasons you have opposed the theatre all along, your proposal shouldn't go forward, with all due respect.

And let's not forget the valuable parking space lost with the construction of the new building.

You people need to get out and travel the world so you can begin to understand the importance of heritage and culture to a community's identity and psyche.

RANDY MOLE
STOUFFVILLE



Internet gives average Canadians voice on environment

I don't know what is more inspiring, the audiences or the videos. Travelling across Canada, seeing so many faces in so many different communities, I have to keep pinching myself to make sure it's all actually real.

And just when I start getting down, after a long bus ride when the audience faces start to fade from memory and I start to wonder, did it really make a difference?

That's when I watch some of the videos and get inspired all over again.

There are now hundreds of "If I were Prime Minister" videos up on the tour website (www.davidsuzuki.org).

Some are silly.

Some are inspiring. Some are familiar faces and others complete strangers.

But they are all Canadians who have ideas on what our politicians can do to make Canada a world leader in sustainability.

And that's just the point. I don't

want to cross the country talking at people.

Our goal is to get people talking with each other, sharing ideas and pushing our leaders to get serious about the environment.

Canada's once vaunted environmental reputation is falling apart and no politician has picked up the pieces yet, let alone started putting them back together.

I'm hoping my audiences will stand up and exercise their rights to demand real change.

The videos are one way this can be accomplished.

At each event, young Simon, our videographer, is there ready to record clips of people expressing the kinds of changes they would make if they were prime minister.

Sometimes people are shy, but more often than not, Simon is practically mobbed by people wanting to express their opinions.

That's especially true of the reality-TV generation who has been raised under the blinking light of a camcorder and has few reserva-



David Suzuki

tions about talking to one.

All those videos will eventually go up on our website, if they aren't there already.

And the beauty of the Internet is you don't have to actually come out to an event to put up a video.

YouTube has made video posting accessible to anyone with access to a computer.

You can watch, rate and even comment on all the posts.

It's an easy and democratic way to get your point across.

And at the end of the tour, we are

going to send all the videos to the party leaders.

We've been fortunate on the tour to have earned the support of a number of well-known Canadians.

I was recently interviewed on MuchMusic with hip-hop artist kos, for whom I have great respect.

And singer/songwriter Sarah Harmer even performed at one of our events.

Ms Harmer is an impressive musician and passionate about conservation.

But while I really appreciate support from amazing people such as these, the videos that really blow me away are from average Canadians who are clearly so passionate about environmental issues.

There seems to be a growing sense, for too long, we've tried to separate our environment and our economy into two separate and distinct entities.

That has caused huge problems in our society because our environment is our home and it is finite.

Our economy, on the other hand, is predicated on relentless growth and considers environmental issues externalities as though they don't really matter.

Yet, they do matter because today with problems such as global warming, we are seeing what happens when endless growth meets a finite system.

What we need now is to rationalize our economy with ecological reality.

This means we need to shift our economy to be cleaner and smarter.

We need to stop subsidizing polluting industries.

We need to create targets and timelines to reduce pollution to levels that do not jeopardize our natural systems.

It means our environment, not our economy must be the real bottom line.

Take the Suzuki challenge at www.davidsuzuki.org

LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters to the Editor, The Sun-Tribune, Stouffville, ON L4A 7Z5. jmason@yrmg.com

EDITORIAL

Editor
Jim Mason
jmason@yrmg.com

INTERACTIVE MEDIA

Marketing & Advertising
Manager
Dawna Andrews
dandrews@yrmg.com

ADVERTISING

Retail Manager
Stacey Allen
sallen@yrmg.com

Classified Manager

Ann Campbell
acampbell@yrmg.com

Assistant Classified

Manager
Bonnie Rondeau
brondeau@yrmg.com

New Business

Development Manager
Mike Rogerson
mrogerson@yrmg.com

PRODUCTION

Team Leader
Sherry Day
sday@yrmg.com



EDITORIAL

905-640-2612
Fax: 905-294-1538

ADVERTISING

905-640-2612
Classified: 1-800-743-3353
Fax: 905-294-1538

DISTRIBUTION

905-640-2612



A York Region Media Group community newspaper. The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. Metroland is comprised of 100 community publications across Ontario. The York Region Media Group includes The Liberal, serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill, Vaughan Citizen, The Era-Banner (Newmarket/Aurora), Markham Economist & Sun, Georgina Advocate, York Region Business Times, North of the City, yorkregion.com and York Region Printing.