

Get more out of life!

Volunteer to visit a senior and make a friend!

Call: 1-877-452-4287



This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Sun-Tribune

No one route to better commute

As anyone who wakes up possibly early every weekday morning to make the trek to Toronto for work well knows, traffic congestion isn't going away. Far from it.

Every year, the number of cars on the road, often occupied by a single person, seems to multiply exponentially on hwy. 400 and 404 and any other route that leads into the big city.

The drive home isn't much better. So far, all four major party leaders have come out saying Ontarians deserve better than to become virtual prisoners in their automobiles for 10, 15 and, in some cases, 20 hours a week. And the economic implication of all this congestion is nearly as

costly as the social one.

It is then safe to say, in terms of transportation issues, York Region faces a multitude of obstacles, but has a myriad of possible solutions at its disposal.

In terms of improving public transit in the region, each party presents a slightly different approach, but all agree more is needed.

The Liberals spent a number of months leading up to the election introducing a whole host of transit initiatives, each more ambitious than the last.

One of the more recent was MoveOntario 2020, a \$17.5-billion plan that would see, among other things, construct a new subway into York Region under Yonge Street, up to Hwy. 7 in Richmond Hill. This,



Sean Pearce

Analysis

along with the subway to Vaughan, would give the region a subway in the east and west portions with the idea it would help more people to park their cars and choose transit instead.

Of course, the only problem is determining whether or not the cash-strapped TTC, who would have to pay the operating costs, will be able to foot the bill in the long run. Is the subway even the best possible solution for York Region in the long haul?

The Progressive Conservatives don't seem to think so. The PCs, under John Tory, have vowed to create a new funding model for Ontario, one that sees all gas tax collected going back to municipalities.

That way, it is the municipal governments that can decide for themselves how they should spend the cash.

In a similar fashion, Mr. Tory has said it should be the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority, the experts, recommending these major transit projects and not politicians. More to the point, the much touted plan for the subway, seeing as how it may take at least four to five years to get things under way, might simply be too little too late.

The time for rapid transit and action is now, Mr. Tory said.

The NDP also has said it favours

increasing public transit and, in some cases, freezing fares to keep from deterring would-be riders with increasing prices. That might be a valid point seeing as how the York Regional Transit committee is in the midst of implementing a possible fare increase at this precise moment.

The Greens are, naturally, also in favour of more public transit as the answer to congestion and, to that end, are advocating the diversion of 75 per cent of all funds currently budgeted for highway construction, up until 2012, toward transit.


The one thing all parties seem to support is the extension of GO Transit's rail corridor through the region to Barrie and the implementation of all-day rail service in York. Of course, improved and enhanced transit in York Region will not get everyone out of their cars and on to trains, buses or even subways.

The Liberals seem to have recognized this and have been working away building and expanding the province's network of high occupancy vehicle lanes in the hope if people must drive, they will, at the very least, carpool.

Work on the long-discussed extension of Hwy. 404 to Georgina also seems to be under way.

The PCs, among them former minister of transportation Frank Klees, have come out saying York Region needs more than future subways and even enhanced transit. The extension of Hwy. 404 to Georgina, Hwy. 427 to Orangeville and the construction of the Bradford Bypass are of vital importance, Mr. Klees said.

If these major arteries were built or extended, the logic goes, congestion would decrease dramatically as there would be less need for through traffic to clog up roads such as Davis Drive, Wellington Street or Woodbine Avenue on a daily basis.



'The Earl'

Heated inclosed patio still open

Welcome to our pub and restaurant.
"You'll be a stranger here but once."

Daily Drink Specials from 3pm - 5pm

BRING THE ENTIRE TEAM & "The best wings in town" are on us

Cheer on the Leafs & your favourite NFL Team at the Earl

and enjoy drink specials and 2-4-1 Wine

Karaoke every Thursday Night starting at 9:30 pm, Weekly prizes

905-642-EARL (3275)
6204 Main St. Stouffville, Ont.

Best Choice for Dining Out



PATHWAYS PARENT CHILD RESOURCE CENTRES

FREE weekday and weekend programs for you and your children from birth to five years of age.

Come join us.

Call for information (905) 471-1620

This message brought to you as a community service of The Markham Economist & Sun

HAUNTED ADVENTURE

5 Horrifying Attractions

- Terror Trail Trek
- Howling Hayride
- Murder Motel
- Haunted Barn
- Black Cavern
- Hot-Line

905-640-2347

Open October Weekends

See Our Website for Dates and Times

www.HauntedAdventure.ca

WAL-MART

CORRECTION NOTICE

The Ladies' George Cowl Neck Sweaters (#341029673/80/7/94...) advertised in our Anniversary flyer (ending October 4th) will be arriving late.

The Ladies' George Plus V-Neck Sweaters (#351010649/56/663/70...) advertised in our Anniversary flyer (ending October 4th) will be arriving late.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.








The Earl

\$500 OFF Your Meal

(Limit one per customer, cannot be used in conjunction with any other special offers)



SEPTEMBER'S OUTSTANDING CARRIERS

<p>SHARNAE</p>  <p>Interests/Hobbies: Soccer & Basketball</p> <p>Saving Money/Points for: Going back to Africa.</p>	<p>DOMINIC</p>  <p>Interests/Hobbies: Playing sports like baseball, tennis, basketball and badminton; I like to talk on MSN, Facebook, play computer and video games; I like playing at my friends house and watching T.V.</p> <p>Saving Money/Points for: I'm saving the money for University and have money to use on things I want to have. I'm Saving points so I can win prizes that I like.</p>	<p>SIMONE</p>  <p>Interests/Hobbies: Soccer, hockey and baseball</p> <p>Saving Money/Points for: Saving up for a Laptop.</p>	<p>JOHNNY</p>  <p>Interests/Hobbies: Piano and swimming. I enjoy being a carrier, reading, math, and reading the Bible.</p> <p>Saving Money/Points for: University and a computer.</p>	<p>MIKE</p>  <p>Interests/Hobbies: Basketball, tennis, table tennis</p> <p>Saving Money/Points for: A computer</p>
---	---	--	--	--

To be a carrier for the Economist & Sun/Sun-Tribune call (905) 294-8244