

Ministry to review new tolls, taxes on driving

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users based on distance travelled, taxing non-residential parking spaces and allowing municipalities to charge their own fees on vehicle registration, as Toronto has recently done.

Reaction from York Region residents to the study's findings have ranged from apathy to the verge of outrage. Most seem to think Mr. Kitchen's ingredients for healthier infrastructure are a recipe for disaster.

One motorist fueling at a Petro-Canada station on Yonge Street said the proposed tolls and taxes are relatively small, but he's still not in favour of them, arguing the price of driving is high enough. "It's not too much, but it's not good,"

he said. "The taxes on gas are too expensive as it is."

York Region resident Mike Crock agreed existing taxes on fuel are more than enough. He said he was especially opposed to the idea of charging tolls on highways.

"People can't afford to drive on (Hwy.) 407 as it is," he said.

"And all of the other highways were paid for years ago. The federal government should be giving more money to the provinces."

New tolls and taxes would be an equally tough sell for motorist Dorothy Eddy.

She said she doesn't think the government needs to take any more from its citizens.

"No, thank you," she said, with a laugh. "They take enough of my money."

For the complete article, go to yorkregion.com

In fact, about the closest thing to an endorsement for the study came from one Newmarket motorist who said he rarely drives outside of town.

The driver, who didn't want to give his name, said he probably wouldn't notice new fuel taxes or road tolls.

Support for the study among politicians has been equally hard to come by. Nicole Lippa-Gasparro, a spokesper-

son for Ontario Transportation Minister Jim Bradley, said the ministry will look over the study's recommendations. Her response didn't specifically rule out the possibility of a fuel levy, as those decisions fall under the auspices of the Finance Ministry, but did clearly state Ontario's existing highways are not about to become toll routes.



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Check deed before putting clothes out

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of Musselman's Lake said.

His family has used a clothesline as long as he can remember.

With rising energy costs and global warming, "every little bit helps," he said.

To have the most impact in making a change, municipalities would have to support the initiative, he added.

Councillor Phil Bannon hopes that residents take the opportunity to address their concerns regarding this issue.

How do you feel about the ban on clotheslines in some communities?
e-mail jmason@yrmg.com.

He noted that many developers provide washers and dryers to new homeowners and that many two-income families have very little time left in the evenings to do things like hang up clothes outside.

There are no municipal bylaws prohibiting anyone from having a clothesline outside, senior bylaw enforcement officer Keith Saunders said.

He receives a couple of calls each month from residents asking if they can hang up a clothesline.

His advice to them is to check the deed to their property for any stipulations.

Because the issue isn't under its jurisdiction, the town can't enforce any complaints when it comes to rogue clotheslines.

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