

Sun-Tribune

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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.

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OPINION

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Editorial

NIMBY move short-circuiting

The Liberals are making a sham of their own clean energy policies by allowing NIMBYism to trump the environment in Ontario.

Energy Minister Brad Duguid pulled an ace out of his pocket last Thursday in cancelling plans to build a controversial gas-fired power plant in Oakville.

Mr. Duguid revealed the hypocrisy of his party's alternative energy policy when he said the need for the Oakville peaker plant — first identified in 2006 — has changed due to new demand projections for electricity in the area.

Maybe that was a rabbit he pulled out of his pocket.

Even as Mr. Duguid touted the Liberal's "conservation" projects already under way, data clearly shows Oakville's peak electrical demand already exceeds capacity of the transformer stations serving the community, without factoring in any of the town's ambitious growth plans. Not to mention Oakville's own economic forecasts a population growth of close to 40 per cent by 2021, almost double the provincial average.

The about-face will cost taxpayers \$1.2 billion — the amount the province is required to pay TransCanada Corp., the company contracted to build and operate the Oakville plant.

Given the party's crumbling fortunes, if one believes the polls, the Liberals are loath to jeopardize a seat in this upscale community to the west.

Energy conservation be damned. Taxpayers' dollars be damned.

York-Simcoe MPP Julia Munro summed it up best: "This was only done to save the political career of (Oakville Liberal MPP Kevin) Flynn," the Conservative MPP told a hastily called news conference Friday in the Holland Marsh, where the Liberal government's plans for another peaker plant are bulldozing ahead.

What this decision to backtrack reveals is that the Liberals will, indeed, bow to special interest pressure/NIMBYism if it threatens their dwindling power in this province.

Does Premier Dalton McGuinty not remember his speech to Scarborough naysayers last year when citizens objected to his wind turbine "green" energy plan there?

Only safety and environmental concerns will be legitimate objections to his green energy acts, he scolded.

"But don't say, 'I don't want it around here.' ... NIMBYism will no longer prevail," Mr. McGuinty added.

Well, NIMBYism will prevail after all, if a Liberal MPP in your community is about to be tossed out of office by angry NIMBYs who don't want a peaker plant in their neighbourhood.



STOUFFVILLE STUDIO TOUR OCT. 16 & 17

Letters to the Editor

How Whitchurch-Stouffville can get even better

When we first purchased our new home in Stouffville in 2004 I was worried about all the driving I was going to be doing every time I needed to purchase office supplies and clothes. When our house was finally finished and we moved in May 2006, we still had a small town with few services.

Since that time, I have seen a huge change and I no longer have to drive to Markham, Newmarket or Aurora for clothes, office equipment and supplies as they can all be purchased in Stouffville.

We now have Nineteen On The Park, our new arts centre, a new double ice pad, new fire hall, sports fields at Bethesda Park and a wonderful dog park, just to mention a few. I would say we have plenty of new recreational services to keep pace with a growing town.

The parks and splash pads in the new subdivisions are wonderful places to meet neighbours. The only things missing are an indoor soccer field and a good seniors centre.

Stouffville Road has been widened and we have a tree-lined boulevard from Hwy. 48 to the Ninth Line, which is a huge improvement.

Most of the town's residents realize you must have growth to get services. If the town does not build new houses and provide services, no large companies will move to Stouffville. Only if we have a good quality of life here will companies such as IBM and American Express move here.

When you have a good commercial base, residential property taxes are reduced. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the residents of Stouffville could work, live and play in Stouffville?

I think it makes good financial sense to purchase a new town hall. Most people go into debt to purchase a house but realize that it is a wise investment and makes more sense to pay a mortgage for 25 years than pay rent forever.

I have been involved in fundraising for Nineteen On The Park and have joined local clubs and found Stouffville to be a very friendly and inclusive. If you want to volunteer, you could be busy seven days a week. Many new residents are actively involved in volunteering here.

For my part, I would like to say thank you to the residents, clubs and stores for giving me such a warm welcome to Stouffville.

JUNE O'DONNELL
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Paying forward from sale

I am having a huge moving sale this weekend, but not for the usual reasons. I am vacating my apartment to move to London to enter the Teen Challenge program for six months.

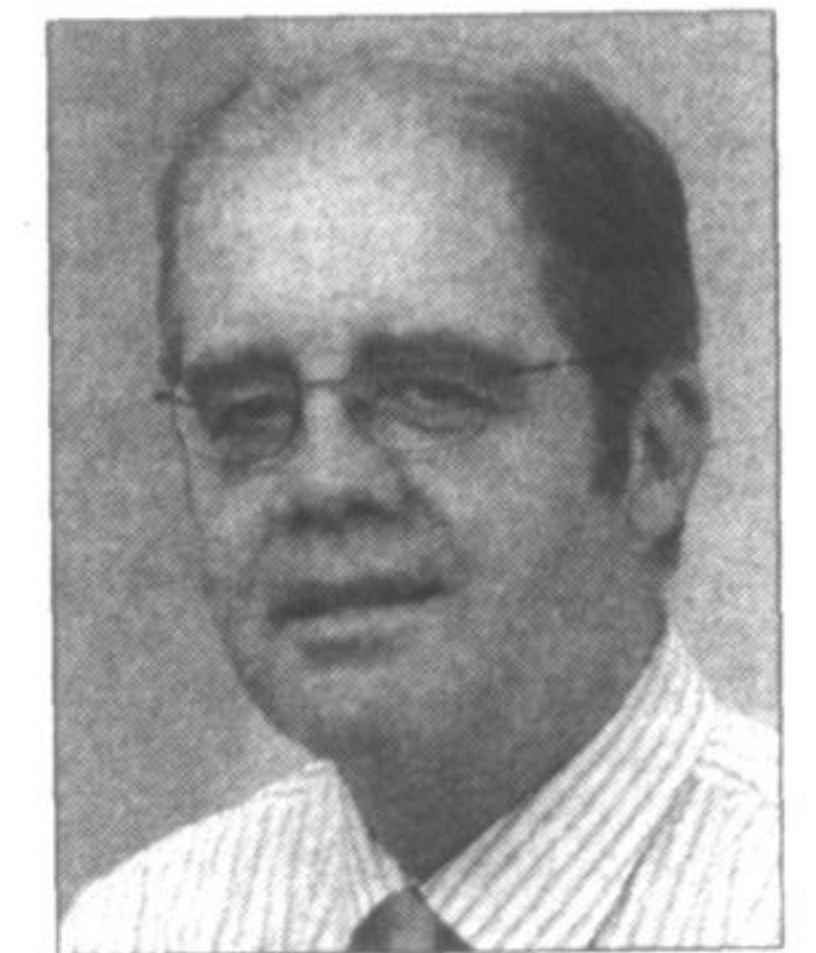
I have learned being selfish does not work. The sale will help me help others who have addiction problems, whether it be with oxycontin like myself, or any other drug that has an effect on how we see the world.

The sale will be held Saturday and possibly Sunday at 14635 Ninth Line on Musselman's Lake.

At the sale, I will provide garbage bags and gloves and encourage residents to clean up around the lake. Maybe one of our election candidates will help me pay for the bin the full bags will go into.

For more information, go to my Facebook page.

JASON JENSON
MUSSELMAN'S LAKE



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Fake campaign promises from non-candidate

Like a tardy schoolboy, it looks like I missed the deadline to register as a real candidate in the Oct. 25 election by a good month.

There aren't many good spots left on public property in my hood for election signs anyway.

So, I'll launch a fake candidacy consisting of plans if elected — which I can't really be — I would have instituted.

Real candidates, feel free to cherry pick any or all of this stuff:

- A summer concert series for Civic Square. We're not talking Lady Gaga or the Stones, folks. Just a few local guitars and singers serenading the home folks in lawn chairs with picnic baskets. The spot is an under-utilized gent.

- A Shop Stouffville campaign with business hours that are convenient to shoppers. The customer is always right.

- A sports council pulling together all forms of athletics and recreation. A website promoting groups and their games, from high school field hockey to Jr. A pucks, is a start. Let's support our home town teams, fans.

- The introduction of one-way streets to the Greater Metropolitan Stouffville/Ringwood Area. Start with Commercial (behind our office) and maybe Blake streets. Hey, if we can handle roundabouts on main drags, why not.

- More sidewalks. Not on back streets and crescents, but on major thoroughfares, where kids skip to school and adults should be walking to the plaza. You know those missing links. Let's be safe out there, Stouffville.

- The re-introduction of a historical society. Our museum does fine work, but so can heritage-minded residents. Love those walking tours back in time.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.