

Letters

Former Stouffville resident laments loss of character and wildlife as community grows

To the Editor:

I was shocked and distressed when I drove along Stouffville Road the other day for the first time in about five months. I left the town a year and a half ago after living there for 15 years. A pleasurable time, generally. I made many friends and both my sons got their education there. It was a country town with a heritage, but then the golden arches came in and I said to myself, This town's character is going to be crushed. And I was right. The west end of Main Street is one long fast food outlet!

Don't get me wrong. I'm not against progress, it's a necessary part of any community's growth, but the development that is taking place appears characterless; steel beams, concrete blocks and stop lights. It seems there are no trees being planted, which would help preserve the feeling of country.

Talking of trees, what happened to the many that have been cut down on Ninth Line? I know that this is in preparation for the 'big pipe'. I remember a couple of years ago driving south to Toronto in the early morning, having to stop to let a couple of deer cross the road with their fawns at their leisure. If the developers and planners have their way, will all the trees be cut down? Bye bye wildlife.

Then there is the plan to build a new east-west road south of Main Street, from Tenth Line to Hwy. 48. This, I assume, is to service the approximately 3,400 houses

that are going to be constructed over the next four years on what used to be prime arable land on either side of Ninth Line. And I understand that there are plans to build a shopping plaza on Hwy. 48 to house a Wal-Mart, Home Depot, a giant Canadian Tire and a new beer store. Just what Stouffville needs, huge box stores.

It's not all bad news, I hope. As the town grows, maybe some real businesses, industry and commerce, that offer real jobs with decent wages and benefits, could be encouraged. The town's tax income will increase and with the influx of families, some of the money can be put aside to provide funding for teenage entertainment to keep young people out of the park late at night. Maybe the old town hall could finally be converted into a community theatre. Maybe the budget for trees could be increased.

I wish you Stouffvillites good luck for the future from a city closer to the country than you really want to know.

David Street
Toronto

LETTERS?

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