

Orangeville Citizen

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The humblest Citizen of all the land, when clad in armour of a righteous cause,
is stronger than all the hosts of Error. - WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Worst bottlenecks are gone, yet problems remain

IT TOOK A LONG TIME, but Dufferin residents living at or below Camilla finally have a four-lane highway to Toronto, and a freeway once they reach Snelgrove.

One of Ontario's first provincial highways, Highway 10 originally ran between Lakeshore Road in Port Credit and Owen Sound.

Its importance as an artery was underscored in the Roaring Twenties when concrete was selected instead of asphalt when it was paved through Dufferin, and even after the Second World War the concrete surface was in much better shape than the asphalt that had been used on the highway below the Niagara Escarpment.

The highway was widened to four lanes to a point just south of Forks of the Credit Road in the 1960s and a fifth lane for left-turning traffic was added in the 1990s, but the roadway kept its basic two-lane design south of Orangeville long after it had been widened north of the town.

We never were able to get any credible explanation for the long delay in tacitly acknowledging that traffic volumes were just as high above the Escarpment as they were below, or that winter driving was far more hazardous because of the higher elevation.

Of course, the worst bottleneck faced daily by commuters was in Caledon Village, where traffic signals cut the road's capacity roughly in half and lineups on weekends often stretched more than a kilometre.

Although that bottleneck could and should have been dealt with by widening the road to four lanes through the intersection, the contract to accomplish that feat (while also installing sidewalks and handsome street lighting) was the last to be awarded.

Thankfully, Brampton-based Aecon

Construction won the contract and completed it before Graham Bros. finished the widening project to the north, which had been awarded at least a year earlier.

Finally, last week saw another huge improvement, with Highway 410 finally being linked to Highway 10 just south of Caledon's Valleywood subdivision. As a result, Toronto-bound traffic on 10 no longer has to cope with half a dozen signalized intersections through Snelgrove and along Mayfield Road to reach 410.

With the construction projects all essentially completed before the first snowfalls, the roughly 80 kilometres (50 miles) between Orangeville and downtown Toronto should take travellers less than an hour on off-peak hours and the main challenge will be the rush-hour gridlock routinely encountered between Brampton and Toronto.

If nothing else, the highway improvements ought to improve Dufferin's prospects for economic development.

However, at least three more improvements are badly needed for Highway 10 to play its proper role as the main trunk route between the Greater Toronto Area and the Bruce Peninsula.

Heading that list is the need for a Shelburne bypass.

It simply makes no sense for a highway that's four busy lanes as far north as Camilla and merges with Highway 89 at Primrose to be funnelled into two lanes through the Shelburne business district, much less for today's huge transport trucks to negotiate an 80-degree turn heading from Main Street on to Owen Sound Street.

Interestingly, the situation in Shelburne today closely mirrors that in

Orangeville 50 years ago, when planning began for a Highway 10 bypass that would reduce traffic volumes on Broadway and First Street.

Almost as high a priority should be assigned to extending the four-lane highway to Primrose. We don't think there's any doubt that current traffic volumes are remarkably similar north and south of Camilla.

A third project that should get high priority is the roadway between Chatsworth and Owen Sound, which handles highways 6 and 10 and in summer months has volumes comparable with those on the four-lane portions of Highway 10.

Looking further into the future, we think a good case could be made for the eventual extension of 410 — possibly as a toll road — as far as the Owen Sound area.

With the Muskoka and Georgian Bay vacation areas now pricing themselves out of the reach of so many Ontarians, the Bruce Peninsula generally, and the Sauble-area beaches in particular, are clearly poised to become similarly popular playgrounds.

That being the case, such a northward extension of 410 would make the area even more attractive and provide economic stimulus to an area that has lagged behind others in Southern Ontario.

The argument in favour of making it a toll highway would be strengthened by the existence of Highways 10 and 6 as free alternatives.

As for the appropriate route, we would favour one well west of Highway 10, which would terminate at Springmount, just west of Owen Sound.

If nothing else, such a facility would leave Sauble Beach (Ontario's best?) a mere two-hour drive from Hogtown.



Any word on the stimulus spending for 2009?

It's time to turn to reserves

AT BUDGET TIME, politicians at all levels of government would do well to look to the Scriptures for clues about good financial planning.

The lesson taught by an ancient king's dream of seven plentiful years and seven of poverty is that in good times the storehouses should be filled to overflowing, thus for there to be provisions available in bad times.

If the politicians prefer, they could turn to Aesop and the fable of the grasshopper and the ants — the summer of toil to prepare for the winter. The sunshine hours are the time to prepare for the inevitable darkness.

In modern budget terms, of course, this means that ample reserves should be created when cash is flowing, and those reserves to be used when money is in short supply.

It requires a lot of political will to do that. Society expects an abundance of governmental services in the good times, and complains when

those services are not there when things go sour.

Everything is cyclical. The stock market rises and falls but generally has an overall upward trend. The edict there is "buy low and sell high." The wealthy among us do just that. The rest of us buy high and are forced to sell low.

We agree wholeheartedly with Orangeville Deputy Mayor Warren Maycock that the current recession is the time to use reserves to stabilize taxes — but only if the politicians had the foresight and the political will to create adequate reserves in the good times.

Therein lies the problem at many levels. Although our federal debt is low by comparison with those of other industrialized nations, it's approaching half a trillion dollars, with few if any reserves to offset the debt.

Locally, Mono is one of the few municipalities with no debt and even there, the town council has had to dip into its reserves to prevent a tax increase in 2010.

CITIZEN MAILBOX

Canadians are the worst polluters?

We've been judged as one of the top three Worst Polluters in the World (We've been judged and tried by population density that we are in fact with out mistake one of the three worst polluting countries of the world. Doesn't sound right does it?)

Beijing prepared to play host to the 2008 Olympic Games using the official Blue Sky ratings, yet grey, acrid skies rated an eye-reddening, bronchial causing failing grade. As athletes reported after three or four they start getting a dry cough, and having problems "dislodging the knot that develops".

Later, players "start to feel the strain which the lungs are under while running. All of a sudden, everything gets harder. A run that you can easily do back home, suddenly becomes a real effort. It's a very odd sensation." and it wasn't just the Canadian teams.

Healthy athletes from around the world could not compete because of health

Should Council be a cut?

On the front page of the Citizen published 19 November, I read that "Town Facing Tough 2010 Budget Challenge."

Turning then to Page A5, I read "Council approves pay raise recommendations". It seems Council doesn't relate page 1 to page 5. Not only a pay raise but double digit raises all round the table. The reasons for these raises seem noble at first reading, to attract the best possible people and to take into consideration the time and effort put into this part time job.

However, these reasons just don't hit the mark.

People who want to be on Council, should approach the job knowing that it is not a place to get rich, but a place to serve their community out of concern and desire. If I am correct in believing that some or all of these positions are part time, I would assume that the positions are not the only source of income for these folks. If in fact, Council is a second income, our town politicians are probably eating pretty well.

How many people in the present economy can boast a thirty or seventeen percent increase?

From what we see on the news every day, many people are fortunate to have employment at all. Those who find themselves unemployed due to

issues from Beijing's environment. Maybe they should have used masks and respirators like the locals.

In Chi Minh City, Vietnam, pollution is so bad that Japanese cargo ships are refusing to dock for fears it will corrode the hulls of their boats.

In Mexico environmental abuse is measured by the children that are born and the kinds of physical defects they have to do to slack environmental enforcement. In India chemically infested ships lay along the shore line and are cut down by torches there the welders uses only a set of goggles to protect their eyes while inhaling the chemically infested fumes and smoke burning off the hauls as they are cut down. Nobody even gives a second thought to the chemicals that are leaching into the water were the poverty stricken families live, drink, bathe, play and swim.

As I headed up north this

the economy, no longer enjoy the prospect of a raise.

I happen to belong to an organization that pays me 35 days a year for my efforts. I put in close to one hundred days a year. Basic math would tell you that I work quite a few days for nothing. But wait, that is not true. I do it for several reasons, I love doing it, and most significantly, it is important and meaningful. Perhaps this type of reasoning is too mundane for someone with a political career in mind.

This speaks to the reasoning that you need to pay to get the best people to run in the next election. I would hope the best people for the job would do it out of the need to serve, not the need to get paid.

I have no qualms about town politicians being paid. I do have a problem with people who purportedly want to serve the townspeople but continually attempt to alienate them by their actions.

In the front page article, the Mayor indicates that some services may have to be cut to meet the budget crisis. I would postulate that the populace might think that in the next election, the services of the present Council might be one of the items to be cut.

It brings to mind something a lady named Marie Antoinette once said, "Let them eat cake" Terry Filce via e-mail

past weekend, just a couple of hours north of Toronto, I can fill my coffee pot with out using tap or bottled water, just what mother nature offers me, sit it on a cosy fire and take a deep breath of fresh air while looking up into a crystal clear sky full of stars. I can't help but think "Hhhum have to be a group of dim-witted people to rate Canadians as one of the "Worst Three Polluters" in the World. Maybe what they need to do is go to Chi Minh City, Vietnam, dunk there coffee pot into the harbour and have a good cup of coffee to wake themselves up."

I can't help thinking to

A farewell to the community

Thanks Dufferin and the business community in particular. The many years spent in this community starting as Campus Manager of Georgian College and then Executive Director of the Orangeville & District Chamber of Commerce (now Greater Dufferin Area Chamber of Commerce) was educational, enjoyable, and certainly beneficial in all aspects. My association with the Homebuilders Association, the Dufferin Federation of Agriculture, Physician Search Committee, the Manufacturers Association and various other associations and committees proved that progress is possible when people come together for a common purpose in this case, the growth and development of our community.

The cooperation and support received from our local newspapers, the Orangeville Banner and the Orangeville Citizen and their staffs, assisted the many ventures undertaken with their efforts to not

Is the YMCA needed here?

As some of you may know the Highland Companies is working diligently, with great expense, to bring a YMCA to the Town of Shelburne. They have "partnered" with six municipalities to do this.

A telephone study was just completed which showed an 89% support rate for the YMCA in these municipalities. I am sure there will be very expensive full page ads in all the local papers this week, paid for by Highlands, outlining the very scientific nature of the study. That may be, but the figures that you really need are these:

myself "Shame on them, have they no class or intelligence?" And then what do I see when I return? As I watch the news I see Dr. Suzuki on TV making his comments on the Canadian environment and we should be leading the way.

I believe Canadians have pushed pretty hard to clean up as not only my taxes reflect but the way jobs are pulling out of Canada with another 4,300 jobs lost last month and I bet you most of them have gone to places like Mexico and Asia. What's wrong with this picture - am I missing something?"

Joe Knipfel
St. Catharines, ON

only promote events and activities but also to maintain a communication link between the business community and the citizens at large.

Within all of this we must remember the cooperation and ongoing support of the staff and members of the various municipal councils who were very significant in the success of the many projects and programs that occurred. We have also received positive and ongoing support from our MPPs and Mps during this 14-year period.

As Phylis and I move on to our new residence in Toronto, we do so with fond memories of this community and the many friends and acquaintances we will leave behind. To each of you our sincere thanks and best wishes. We will be thinking of you and will drop in from time to time for special events and community activities.

Farewell.
Waldo and Phylis
Henderson

Total population in the six municipalities: 29,400 (Source: Stats Canada) Total phone calls made in the survey: 2,500 Total people who actually answered the phone and took part in the survey: 428 (Source: Steve Boone, YMCA)

That means 1.4% of the population was surveyed and 89% of those overwhelmingly supported a YMCA.

Would the local youth of Shelburne benefit from a YMCA? Probably. I do know the people in the 5 rural partnering municipalities will not

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