

**From:** "howard doughty"  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 7:58 PM  
**To:** officemayor  
**Cc:** Karen Cilevitz, David West, Godwin Chan, Castro Liu, Joe DiPaola, Tom Muench, Carmine Perrelli, Greg Beros  
**Subject:** A town or a city?

Greetings:

Thank you for the invitation to "weigh in" on this issue.

1. In light of the fact that the current premier seems keen on doing a "Mike Harris North" and amalgamating some number of quasi-independent municipalities into another "megacity" (curiously, just as the mayor of Mississauga seems eager to bail out of Peel Region), I wonder whether this matter won't soon be moot.

2. If, however, Richmond Hill is to remain nominally independent for a while, I suppose the question becomes whether a name change would provide any "leverage" for extra benefits when we are mushed together with Vaughan, Markham, Thornhill and/or Aurora plus whatever other communities are forced into what will undoubtedly be just as big a mess as the single "City of Toronto." (No efficiencies there! But plenty of rancour and worse when the province pushes deeper into the transit business). In light of painful experience, I cannot even guess what "political" (in the worst sense of the word) consequences await us.

3. If, on the other hand, we are destined to remain more-or-less free to determine local matters as either a "city" or a "town," I must opt for remaining a "town." It would, I am sure, take more than a vacuous exercise in "re-branding" to charm all those eager, innovative, (Chinese? European? Mexican?) firms into pouring their millions into our "little nicer" spaces. In the meantime, however, I would feel ever-so-slightly silly boasting about out (not-quite-world-class) "city" status. Besides, isn't being a (mighty) snowball's throw from "King City" discomfiting enough?

4. Nonetheless, while I (sort of) have your attention, I do hope you and your associates finesse some of the sillier issues that seem to pre-occupy you. While I do endorse the symbolic (though mostly hypocritical) gesture of acknowledging the fact that we are squatting on aboriginal land, I hope you will spend no time acknowledging every immigrant group that has settled here since Lord Simcoe ordered the surveying of Yonge Street a couple of centuries ago. And, please, don't even think about "O Canada!" as an opening exercise ... it's been well over 60 years since I had to perform the empty ritual of mouthing those words in elementary school and I have no interest in enduring such performances again.

5. There are, of course, more pressing matters (greater even than plowing the ends of people's driveways when the town vehicles pile ice and snow at the front of our lots - usually immediately after I've shovelled and have to dress and go out again).

6. Restoring the library budget, for example, would be my top priority among the many matters that are currently being neglected/discounted (especially since I have to witness the new Oak Ridges branch - the pale pachyderm in pursuit of a palace - every time I venture out onto Yonge St. with the intention of travelling south).

7. There's lots more ... but I suspect I may have already lost your interest. So, I shall fade away to contemplate the broken china that's piling up in the provincial shop and the micro-melodrama spinning out of control in Ottawa - never mind the hideous spectacle burdening my many American friends south of the border ... at my leisure.

8. A final plea: would you please get smart and reverse your venal and venomous attack on Councillor Cilevitz! ... Just a thought!

Cheers!

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