

# Caledon Citizen

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## Our highways grid should be tourist-friendly

Anyone who is skeptical about our concern should get a copy of the Ontario government's official 2006-07 road map.

In our submission, no other North America jurisdiction has been as cavalier as Ontario in its treatment of tourists. We have, today, a system of provincial, county, regional and municipal roadways that may make some sense to some local politicians but must be utterly bewildering to a visitor from outside the province, particularly if he or she last visited in the mid-1990s.

The road between Pearson International Airport and Stayner - now known as Airport Road - is shown on the government map as a straight line with three different numbers and two different colours. It's County 18 in Dufferin and 42 in Simcoe and shown there in red, indicating a "major road" (whatever that means), but south of that it's numbered 7 and shown in grey as a "minor road." A tourist wanting to reach Pearson Airport without going on a minor road would detour to the east and go down a red line marked as 50, then somehow find their way to the airport using the inset Toronto area map, which suddenly shows that by turning right along something numbered 107 they can return to that old minor road 7, which finally is named as Airport Road and shown (south of 107) in RED.

There's the case of the former provincial highways which, in some cases, have either shrunk to the point of almost vanishing or have become uniquely Ontarian, as intermittent routes designed to baffle the traveller. Our best local example is Highway 9, which used to run from Kincardine to Newmarket, but now is missing in action between Harriston and Orangeville. However, there are many other examples, a couple of classics being Highways 3 and 7, which remain provincial highways and marked as such in some places but bear an assortment of different numbers where they've been downloaded.

Much of the blame must rest with the former Mike Harris Conservative government, which dumped about 5,000 kilometres of King's Highways on the shoulders of local municipalities claiming they all had no purpose beyond meeting local needs and therefore should be paid for entirely by local property owners.

However, the McGuinty Liberals have done absolutely nothing thus far to fix the mess other than acknowledge that at some point something must be done to preserve and enhance the infrastructure.

For reasons never explained, the downloading aimed at reducing the provincial deficit was accompanied by removal of all the highway markers, which seemingly had been regarded as there merely to denote ownership, rather than to guide the travelling public. Peel Region was one of the few recipients of the downloading which at least erected new tiny markers showing that the various roads were formerly highways.

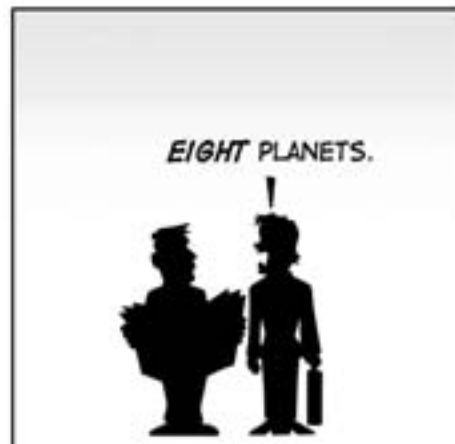
Ontario's highway system might be said to have gown "like Topsy," with relatively little in the way of long-term planning to this day. However, anyone who looks today at a government road map produced in the 1950s would see that at one point the King's Highways system made a lot of sense.

But we also had some routes that seemed to have been designed to fulfill several purposes, an example being Highway 24.

Today, only one small stretch of 24 remains, between the southern edge of Cambridge and its junction with Highway 403 in Brantford. And although most of the original highway is still numbered 24 or 124, it has disappeared altogether between Caledon village and the edge of Shelburne.

Surely the time has come for government actions aimed at making the existing road network truly tourist-friendly. Our suggestion would be that Transportation Minister Donna Canfield quickly set up a task force that would include some planning experts and experienced municipal politicians, as well as representatives of her ministry, to recommend an entirely new system of major, secondary and tourist highways, the maintenance costs of which would be shared by the province and municipalities based on origin destination studies. The task force's mandate should minimally require the designation of at least one east-west provincial highway route that avoids entering the present and future gridlock in the GTA.

The next step should be for the province and municipalities to work out new numbering for county and regional roads that now form logical routes but have several numbers, even within a county or region.



## Our Readers Write

### Global warming propaganda

How disappointing to see yet another Kyoto rant, this time in the form of an attack on a respected columnist who does his homework, by someone who obviously has not bothered ("How has his head in the sand," Our Readers Write, Aug. 2).

For the thousandth time I must point out that the statement "The case for global warming is a fact accepted by every major scientific body," is a propaganda myth.

If anyone is still interested in finding out what is actually going on, "global warming" is the rallying cry of lunatic fringe environmentalists and posturing politicians, who maintain that it's all our fault, and who want people to think they are doing something useful, while ignoring actual environmental problems which are well-known, and which could be tackled given the political will, with a dash of common sense.

I refer to polluted drinking water, which kills 2 million children every year, poisonous emissions from chemical plants and factories.

**Bad news/good news**  
I moved to Bolton seven and a half years ago to retire. I had been informed from a friend that it was the perfect setting for me. He was absolutely right. I had to agree until a new mayor had been elected. Everything started to change after that.

Consequently, I was an avid and loyal reader of the two local newspapers here, the *Caledon Citizen* and the *Caledon Enterprise*, both of which are free and delivered right to your door. They are both interesting, informative and up-to-the-moment reporting. It was until almost every paper carried with it, a face of a person I didn't want to see. I have to admit, I read it only once I've had dinner as not to spoil it.

On a positive note, I'm happy that come November (election time), that face, will no longer appear on the pages of your newspapers. This town will finally have clean newspapers and a new mayor! Wahoo!

Luigi Bulgaretti  
Bolton

ries, and so on. All these can be rectified using today's technology, but at a price which neither business nor government is willing to pay. So, everyone concentrates on global warming, which is shorthand for us being a bunch of rotters for doubting their hysterical nonsense.

Then we come to "climate change" - an entirely different matter, which is used interchangeably by people like your reader who haven't bothered to study the subject.

Earth's climate is always changing, for reasons which nobody understands, and there is absolutely nothing we can do about it. In any case, what possible use is the Kyoto Accord when the worlds two biggest polluters - the United States and Russia - refuse to have anything to do with it?

To recap, the oft-repeated "fact accepted by every major scientific body" is just not true.

Several years ago the American Academy of Sciences issued a statement endorsed by more than 100 eminent climatologists debunking the whole concept. Increasing numbers of people are coming to realize that the IPCC is a collection of self-serving fools, and Al Gore is a stupid jerk.

Depend upon it - the "real and immediate threat" is environmentalists.

John C. Tysoe  
Cheltenham

### Mayor keeps us informed!

We have found the Mayor's Reports to be very informative with regard to all issues in the Town of Caledon and Region of Peel.

We are kept informed about the activities of our neighbouring communities in this far-flung town that perhaps we would not be aware of otherwise.

We would like to thank the newspapers for providing the space, which is a genuine public service to the community.

For anyone to suggest that the mayor is using the report as electioneering is unfair.

Mary & Hugh Phelan  
Bolton

# Caledon Citizen



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