Determined Province Proposes Regional Municipality On East Side Of Ours

(Continued from page 1) some mechanism is required to determine the priorities over broader local areas.

"The fringe areas surrounding a large urban area are often subjected to heavy development pressures as the urban centre continues to expand. It is important therefore, to include the urban area and the area around it within one system of local government. In this manner, the large urban area is often financially capable of providing services to the surrounding area. As the urban centre grows, the need for orderly planning of the surrounding area, in terms of providing parks, greenbelts, recreational areas, industrial lands, etc., will become more appar-

o"Any system of local government must be able to respond to the needs of its residents. For an effective interchange between a resident and his local government, that government must not be too remote. At the same time the system must have a strong financial base to support a competent administration to deal with complex, modern problems and to implement its decisions.

Referring to the East of Metro Toronto Region proposal, the Ministry goes on to say, "It (the proposal) is founded on the knowledge that the present municipal systems in this area are incapable of meeting many of the serious and complex challenges that must be met."

Treasurer MacNaughton made a statement on the need for a better system of municipal government.

"In many parts of the province, the local government units are the same as those existing a century and a quarter ago. In the area east of Metro, the population has climbed from less than 60,000 to well over 200,000. The functions performed by municipalities have increased by a similar order of magnitude. In the mid-19th Century, municipal councils were clearing houses for local controversies dealing with roads, schools and a few other elementary services.

"Social security was unknown; pollution control was unheard of; water supply was a matter of individual concern and no one was yet catering to the "horseless carriage". In fact, the main criterion for local government boundaries was how far a man had to ride to

the county seat. "Think for a moment of the responsibilities that we have heaped upon a system of government designed for the horseand-buggy days: community planning, zoning bylaws, capital borrowing, road building and maintenance, welfare, parks, recreation and a host of other matters which have a tremendous impact on how we live.

"Would our forefathers expect us to continue with their system after all the changes we have experienced? Can we expect our children to live under a system that wasn't designed to cope with these pressures?

"All of us, however, tend to react to changes in the local government system. We have a nostalgic, emotional tie to our municipalities. We are reluctant to see them change. We demand to know what benefits we can expect if we sacrifice our traditional and familiar system of local government," said Mac-Naughton, going on to explain the advantages regional government offers in the fields of planning and servicing, responsiveness, administration and protection, and dealings with other governments.

Provincial Treasurer Mac-Naughton in his Oshawa statement went on to deal with the proposals for the northern Ontario County townships and villages that are being considered for inclusion in our York Region here.

"By any measure of community interest, Rama and Mara Townships aren't oriented to southern Ontario County. They are overwhelmingly oriented toward Orillia and Simcoe County. Similarly, the orientation of Brock, Thorah, Scott, Beaverton and Cannington isn't toward the south (of Ontario County). In these cases it is more difficult to be precise, but they have a much stronger orientation toward Orillia, Lindsay and par-

ticularly Toronto,' he said. Thus the two most northern Ontario County townships adjacent to Orillia are to be joined to Simcoe County. Being adjacent to our York Region and oriented toward Toronto. the middle - northerly Ontario County townships of Scott, Brock and Thorah are to be brought into our new regional municipality. With them come their urbanized village centres of Cannington and Beaverton.

The ministry statement explains the MacNaughton proposals for the northern Ontario County townships as being based on previous studies. These included the inconclusive Oshawa Area Planning and Development Study (OAPADS) begun in 1969 and terminated in 1971. OAPADS produced four discussion papers and a report by researcher Don Paterson recommending a two-tier region for Ontario County plus two westerly townships of Durham. The Toronto-Centred Region plan and the international airportsatellite city plan for Pickering-Markham came later and were used by the provincial government to modify the Paterson plan into the present East of Metro region municipality proposal.

The Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs December Oshawa statement discusses the Paterson Report as it applies to northern Ontario County areas now considered for inclusion in our region.

"All of Paterson's research and all public statements by township councillors and politicians from Oshawa, Ajax and Bowmanville make it very apparent that the townships of Rama, Mara and Thorah, Brock and Scott including the villages of Beaverton and Cannington, aren't a logical part of Oshawa region. By almost any measure of community, the orientation of these seven communities is toward Orillia (in Simcoe County to the north), Lindsay (to the east in Victoria County) or Toronto. They all have an economy based on agriculture and Lake Simcoe oriented tourism. Residents of all of them tend

to travel to Orillia, Lindsay and Toronto more than Oshawa.

"(Origin - destination studies show Orillia as the most frequent destination of traffic from the townships of Rama and Mara). Additionally, the Toronto-Central Region (TCR) plan specifies an easterly growth in the south of Ontario County and a more limited northerly growth. This trend will accentuate the distinction between the rural north and the urban south.

"It should be noted that local opinion on Paterson's report reflects this apparent lack of community. Without exception, the seven northerly Ontario County municipalities expressed a desire to be included in a rural region rather than with the urban south. Oshawa, Bowmanville and Darlington have asked officially that the north be excluded and other southern municipalities may share that

"The major problem with excluding the northern seven municipalities from an East of Metro Region is that there are no immediate prospects for municipal reform in Simcoe or Victoria. However, because of of common perspectives and a sense of community shared by Rama and Mara with Orillia. it is likely that their inclusion with Simcoe County wouldn't result in a loss of community identity.

"In the future, the area of Ontario County north of Uxbridge will be less and less oriented to the urban south. Almost without exception, the municipalities in this area have expressed strong opposition to inclusion in an Oshawa region, If the north end of Ontario County isn't to be forced into the East of Metro region, it is incumbent upon the Government to ensure that those municipalities aren't left in a state of suspended animation. The remaining area is neither large enough for planning considerations nor does it possess sufficient financial resources to support a two-tier structure of local government on its own.

"It is therefore suggested that the wish of the present

municipal councils in the north part of Ontario County, to remain in a rural county or region, be honored. This can be done while at the same time reflecting emerging communities of interest (ie. by joining them to our York Region and Simcoe County).

"In view of historical and emerging patterns of communities of interest, and given the Toronto-Centred Region plan, the municipalities of Rama, Mara, Thorah, Brock, Scott, Beaverton and Cannington shouldn't be included in an East of Metro region," concludes the Ministry statement on this subject.

The Ministry statement discusses the proposed changes for York Region and the effects these changes would have.

"It is proposed that the townships of East Gwillimbury (now in York Region) and Scott (now in Ontario County) amalgamate to form an area municipality in York Region. Scott has indicated a desire to remain in a rural county or region, which York is, and East Gwillimbury is the least populated township in York. Thus, their amalgamation will serve the interests of both municipalities. In view of local wishes, planning considerations and financial factors, it would appear that inclusion with York Region would be beneficial.

"The communities of Brock, Thorah, Beaverton and Cannington are clearly not oriented to the proposed Oshawa region. Their orientation is toward Orillia, Toronto and to an extent, Lindsay. Not only have these four municipalities indicated their desire to be united if amalgamations are going to take place, but they have also indicated an interest in remaining with a rural region. Additionally, they feel that inclusion with Victoria or Simcoe County isn't a tenable alternative. It is therefore suggested these four municipalities amalgamate to create an area municipality in York Region (to be represented by an additional regional councillor and have their own local council).

"The inclusion of this area in York would have several salutory effects. In the first

place, tax increases for the four municipalities will be less significant than if they were included in the East of Metro region. Secondly, they will be included in an essentially rural area as they desire. Thirdly, their services would improve considerably, as such things as regional police and regional welfare will be provided. Fourthly, the four municipalities will be amalgamated and won't be merged with any other area. And finally, all of the south shore of Lake Simcoe

will fall within one region. "It is further proposed that the extreme southwestern corner of Uxbridge Township and the extreme northwestern corner of Pickering Township, which don't form part of the airport and community land sites, become part of the York Region within the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"The amalgamation of East Gwillimbury and Scott to create an area municipality in the Region of York would result in an area municipality of approximately 11,500 persons (the second smallest in York). There would be no need for any change in representation on the regional council. On the basis of preliminary financial data, there would be a reduction in the taxation of Scott (approximately \$5 per capita) if Scott became part of York Region.

"The amalgamation of Brock, Thorah, Beaverton and Cannington would create an area municipality in York of 7,227, from which the head of the council would become a member of the regional council. If the four municipalities became an area municipality within the Region of York, the tax increase would be restricted to about \$1 per capita as compared with na increase of approximately \$27 per capita if they were included within an East of Metro region," says the Ministry statement.

The statement also explains the decision to propose the addition of the other two northern Ontario County townships to Simcoe County instead of to York Region

"It is proposed that Rama and Mara Townships be included as

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SPECIAL

municipalities in Simcoe County. There is clearly a shared community of interest between these two townships and Simcoe County. Like Simcoe County, both townships have an economy based largely on agriculture and both are largely dependent on Lake Simcoe oriented tourism. Orillia is the most common destination of traffic originating in Rama and Mara, and is clearly the only urban municipality with any significant impact on the area.

"The entry of Rama and Mara into Simcoe County will be the least difficult of any of the changes. It is clear Rama and Mara are closely oriented to Simcoe and that such an alignment is overdue. Representation from Rama and Mara would result in an increase of three members on the Simcoe County Council. Preliminary studies indicate that if Rama and Mara were included with Simcoe County, municipal tax levies would be reduced compared with what they are at present (a reduction of about \$9 per capita)."

The Ministry statement goes on to discuss the effects of the proposed East of Metro region on municipalities to the north. It emphasizes reform is yet to come for municipalities to the north of our York Region and to the north of the proposed new East of Metro region yet to be named. This probably leaves open the possibility of further future changes to the northern boundaries of our York Region as the adjacent Simcoe, Peel and Victoria Counties are municipally modernized.

(An even more complicated issue is the question of our York Region's southeast Markham Town boundary with Metro Toronto and with the proposed new East of Metro region, involving as it does the highly controversial federal-provincial scheme for a new international airport and satellite city on lands now mostly in Pickering Township and Markham Town. A future report in this newspaper will explore the provincial government's December Oshawa announcement on this Markham boundary issue—Editor.)

Corner Bayview Ave.

and Markham Road

School Board Approves Book Of Blood Passions

day night it looked as if rider, which stated that a sions." the beginning of it.

rence gave to an unsuspect- "How often are we going generations." ing public way back in 1915, to have all that?" asked Mr. and which he was immediate- MacKay. ly prosecuted for.

Now, nearly 60 years later, the author of Lady Chatterly's Lover and other tomes, found himself on trial before the board, which had been asked to approve the book for an advanced grade the book on their own, "but 12 class in York schools.

much, as the way the staff | said. had warned about its pres-

time was the one D. H. Law- ence for all participants."

He said he received a lot

of calls from parents who children being "exposed to these books."

The students could read

MacKay of Markham, who be his greatest work, is de- ed.

cation might not even reach "highly sensitive and mature that it "portrays the agonies prove it. senior class, might result in and ecstasies abounding in

> were concerned about their over the weekend, and felt than high school.

I don't think we should make cerned about the board set- be making a decision after It wasn't the book so it available," Mr. MacKay ting itself up as censor. He we read the book," said Mrs. the teacher involving writing emmended by the staff were: The novel, which Lawrence should have the freedom to Richmond Hill Trustee board's approval. entation, Trustee John is said to have considered to present the works they want- Robert Houghton, said the Trustee Doreen Quirk of and Writing and Transcrip-

of Markham who agreed with Mr. MacKay, said he had read sections of the book it was more for university

Trustee Donald Cousens book.

Sam Chapman, director of education, said he was consaid he thought teachers Coburn.

While some people seek look, told the meeting. dark, inscrutable nature of Chapman, and wondered if who knew the books; besides, way was that there was no the pot of gold at the end of Mr. MacKay said he was man," with penetrating in- the board would now have to the board didn't have time to approved list of textbooks a rainbow, for a while Mon- concerned about the staff sight into his "blood pas- read the shorthand book, read them all. which had also been recom- Censorship was the wrong tion anymore. York County Board of Edu- study of the novel by a The report goes on to say mended, before it could ap- word to use in discussing the Mr. Cousens said that he

Only "The Rainbow" this a valuable literary experi- the love affairs of one Eng- of King, felt the staff should ham, said. lish family throughout three have been more explicit in

> Trustee Douglas Allen of Richmond Hill, said he supported the purchase of the books involved, but wondered if more time couldn't be given so the board could

moved that "The Rainbow" scribed in the staff report as Trustee John Honsberger road before." Committees the reasons that the recombe sent back for another a "complex study of the of Markham agreed with Mr. had been set up by people mendations were made this discussion.

Trustee Margaret Coburn Trustee Donald Sim of Mark- a strong left or right winger, saying why it wanted the to approve the book on the

basis of the warning issued by the staff. "I don't think this book is one the board should put its imprimatur on," he said. "It

should be deferred." Mr. Cousens asked that the book be referred back to the committee. However, Sam "I don't think we should Chapman said that such a move would only result in

board had "gone over this Markham said that one of tion Skill Development.

from the Ministry of Educa-

board's role with the books, wasn't trying to come out as but had felt a "fair amount The board was being asked of concern" about Rainbow. He said it was a beautiful book and could be "edifying"

> if well used. His amendment to have the book referred back to the committee for further information was lost.

The original motion to approve the Lawrence book was carried 9 to 6. The other three books reca report designed to win the Walden by Henry Thoreau,

Pitman Shorterhand (correct)

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