

# Weekender

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## Ratepayers lose court fight over Bullock Dr.

By STEVE HOUSTON  
Staff Reporter

The Markham Heritage Area Ratepayers' Association has lost its Supreme Court of Ontario battle with the town to stop the extension of Bullock Dr.

And a spokesman for the group said Thursday the decision will likely end the group's 20-year battle to stop the extension project.

In a decision handed down Wednesday, Mr. Justice William Anderson threw out the group's bid for a permanent injunction to stop construction on the road extension.

In a separate move, Mr. Justice Anderson directed a court official to determine if any damages against the town or the contractor were incurred.

The association was successful prior to the Supreme Court hearing in obtaining a temporary injunction that stopped construction on the road for 10 days.

Markham Solicitor Ray Kallio

said the town would seek to recover costs from the ratepayer's for the court battle. He estimated that as much as \$10,000 was spent by the town.

"We're pleased with the outcome," said Mr. Kallio. "The town certainly had done everything it was supposed to do (in approving the extension)."

According to Mr. Kallio, the association based its bid for the permanent injunction on three points:

- Council passed the resolution to extend the road behind homes between McCowan Rd. and Hwy 48 in bad faith. The judge ruled there was no evidence of bad faith.

- An Official Plan amendment is needed to extend an arterial road. The judge ruled that Bullock Dr. is a collector road; thereby not in need of such an amendment.

- The extension connected two provincial highways requiring provincial permission. The judge

ruled that no provincial objection existed to warrant action.

"We've pretty well explored all avenues," said Heritage Area Ratepayers' spokesman Jim Worsley in an interview following the decision. "It's been a long, hard battle — 20 years."

He added that a court directive to pay the town's costs for the legal dispute would likely bankrupt the association.

He said a meeting with the association's solicitor next week will determine the group's next move.

"The law has now stated how it is," he concluded.

Regional Councillor Ron Moran said work on Bullock Dr. will continue. The extension will link up with Main St. at Parkway Ave. and is slated for completion in late September or early October.

"The town is delighted but we're not surprised," said Councillor Moran. "The taxpayers are the winners again."

## Markham could benefit from new housing plan

By ALEX NEWMAN

The Town of Markham will probably be affected by a three-part, \$220-million housing program announced yesterday in Kingston by Premier David Peterson.

To ensure that affordable housing is available to all, the Liberal government has aimed this program at low and moderate income earners and first-time homebuyers.

The policy guidelines will encourage municipalities across the province to set aside 25 per cent of all new housing units as affordable housing.

Builders, the provincial government believes, will welcome the program since escalating house prices have narrowed the market of potential buyers, and this strategy will open that market to lower income earners.

Municipalities, like Markham, whose housing market is top end of scale and whose individual housing designations are geared

more to luxury or move-up housing will be affected.

Although the program claims it will "be sensitive and flexible to local needs", the province has final authority on approval of most subdivision plans.

Premier Peterson also said yesterday the provincial government would work with municipalities providing roads and services where necessary.

In addition, government lands will come on stream to create 12,000 new units, 35 per cent of which must be dedicated to affordable housing or non-profit units.

Targetted over 5 years, the program is expected to create 28,000 new units.

The third component of the strategy — a provincial Home Ownership Savings Plan (OHOSP) and the first of its kind for the province — will provide a tax credit of \$400 per \$1,000 saved toward the downpayment of a first home. The credit will be issued on a sliding scale so that low income

earners will receive the greatest benefit.

While this only applies to the first \$1,000 saved, the government hopes to encourage renters to save for a home. With 240,000 individuals expected to apply for this program each year, the cost to the province in lost revenue will be \$50 million a year for 10 years.

Extras in the program include measures to preserve and upgrade 23,000 existing rental units over the next three years; the extension of rent-geared-to-income assistance to 2,500 existing non-profit housing units; and funds to produce 3,600 new non-profit housing units.

To meet the demand for community-based accommodation for those with support care needs — the physically and mentally handicapped, battered women, drug and alcohol dependents — the Liberal government is designing a community living project that will create 1,000 special needs housing units and is expected to cost \$19.4 million a year.



### A tall tale

Markham's Mary Warburton (right) watches her daughter Lynn Stabins, visiting from England, measure one of the tall sunflower plants in the St. Constantine Dr. backyard nursery of the Markham Public Library. — Steve Wilavice

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Markham's theatre  
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