

No answers for Stouffville on GTA growth

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A change of government at Queen's Park has left local officials with a lot of unanswered questions.

A representative from the Office of the Greater Toronto

Area (GTA) could not tell Council last week how a future growth study will affect Whitchurch-Stouffville because of the office's uncertainty of who will be appointed as the new minister.

And because the Sept. 6 provincial election saw a New Democrat government swept to a

majority, Liz McLaren says her new minister will not be known until next month.

Mrs. McLaren, from the Office of the GTA, presented officials with a study option report, but a lot of concerns could not be answered, such as policy change options.

However, Whitchurch-Stouffville must be a part of the future planning scheme for the GTA as massive and rapid growth in neighboring municipalities will affect the community, she said in a 45-minute presentation.

"The GTA is at a turning point and if neighboring communities are growing this is going to impact on you," she told Council.

Although GTA growth future planning and study options are currently being undertaken, it is not known which direction the plans will take, Mrs. McLaren added.

The GTA consists of 35 municipalities throughout five regions.

The GTA study objective is to develop three concepts that will provide basic needs such as water, sewer, solid waste, human

and environmental services for a growing GTA population.

She pointed out three growth options the office has been studying to properly plan into the future and used the City of Moscow, which "cannot stop growth" as an example of poor planning.

"We have learned from Britain and Russia that you can't stop growth. Moscow planned there would be four million people - now there are eight million living there," she said.

"If they can't stop people coming in, we won't have much luck. Industry will likely go south of the border if not in the GTA. We can't close our eyes and say it's not going to happen," she added.

The GTA office has developed three possible concepts to prepare and plan for inevitable growth.

They include:
Option 1: to spread the growth across 350 square miles of agriculture land - "the easiest to implement and what we're used to."

Option 2: a central plan where growth would be planned on current undeveloped land, or 140 square miles of agricultural land. She said this option would require more government intervention at all levels.

Option 3: a "nodal concept" where growth concentrates around certain growth areas or existing centres using 230 square miles of agricultural land.


"These are all options York Region will have to think about," she said.

The options can be implemented by creating more freeways and arterial roads; intensifying the current rail systems and by making road improvements, or creating more rapid transit links between centres, she said.

Council asked questions after the presentation, but many could not be answered because the GTA office is not sure who will be heading the ongoing study until next month.

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

1990 ANNUAL MEETING

Monday October 22nd, 1990 at Parkview Village Auditorium

DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.
MEETING AT 8:00 P.M.


THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO

1. Receive the Annual Report and Reports of the Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee.
2. Appoint Auditor for fiscal year ending July 31st, 1990 as required.
3. Election of Board of Directors and Committee Officers.
4. A resolution to increase the size of the board.

Once again, dinner tickets are only \$10.00 each and should be purchased at the Credit Union before October 15, 1990.

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STOUFFVILLE POLICE BRIEFS

York Regional Police say York Brick on Hwy. 48 at Bethesda Sideroad, was entered by thieves between 6:15 p.m. Sept. 18 and 6 a.m. Sept. 19.

York Region police reports said the culprits entered through a north side door, possibly using a key.

A power saw and hand sander, worth more than \$800, were taken.

Police suspect three men in the break in. Two, aged 20 and 22, had been suspended Sept. 17 and a third, aged 20, had been fired the same day.

Car vandalized
A Stouffville teen was charged after a car was vandalized at a high school dance Friday night.

The 16-year-old was arrested in connection with the break in of a car in the parking lot of Markham District High School.

The car, belonging to a York Region police officer, was damaged to the tune of \$500.

The young offender was charged with theft under and two counts of mischief to property.

He is set to appear in court Oct. 29.