

Hydro

Hydro officials told to find 'better way' in power-link plans

(From page 1)

new transformer stations built.

"We need to strengthen the north to south lines. If we are ever going to send more power from north to south we need extra lines," Sala said.

Sala said voltage capacity is being drawn "very fast," and attributed the overload to rapid population growth in the communities of Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill.

"We need to feed a growing load in the northern part of northern Ontario. We need to do something to bring electricity along to the west - there needs to be a solid link or connection," she added.

But York officials slammed Ontario Hydro's plans.

Markham councillor Carole Bell told Hydro's senior project engineer, John Sinclair, "there's got to be a better way."

Bell said the "mess" at Bayview Avenue and Hwy 7 "should never be repeated."

Bell accused Ontario Hydro of engineering the "hideous" towers to save the company money.

"We wouldn't let developers leave that type of blight on municipalities. It is really bad - look at the mess you're leaving," Bell said.

But Sinclair said he could not "apologize" for a design (at Bayview and Hwy 7) approved 20 years ago.

"There are all sorts of alternatives now - that was done a long time ago," Sinclair said.

But York Chairman Eldred King asked the engineer why Ontario Hydro doesn't implement any of the alternatives. The methods of construction of tomorrow are still being used today, King said.

And Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson said Ontario Hydro "can march across our land and do what they want."

Markham councillor Gord Landon asked why Ontario Hydro can't run the wires underground.

"The towers are atrocious. When you look at the blight in the middle of communities. Is there no way to bury them?" Landon asked. Barton, however, said the technology needed to bury wires for more than 500 kilovolts at one time has not been tested nor proven and is extremely costly.

"What do you think you're doing? Why should we pay a 7.9 per cent increase when you put up your so-called improvements?" Ontario Hydro thinks it's God," said King mayor Marg Britnell.

Britnell also accused hydro of erecting the towers here and then selling the power to US communities.

"If you're going to export it, we shouldn't have the (price) increase," Britnell said.

Bell urged officials to give the project a thumbs down unless York hires a power consultant to protect the region's interests.

Officials voted to send the issue to committee for further discussion and recommendation.

Ban cigarette vending machines: York council

(From page 1)

to minors:
— all stores in York selling tobacco products would have to hold a special license.

— vending machines for cigarettes will be banned.

— Stricter warnings/labelling on cigarette packages.

— York will press the government to make cigarette packages plain white with stronger warning labels.

— Smoke free public places.

— Smoke free workplaces.

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Top school

Jeremy Schell, 4 and his mother Sandy Schell present teacher Julia Topping with The Tribune plaque to acknowledge the school's

efforts in this year's Terry Fox Run last week. The award is given each year to the school in Stouffville that contributes the most to the annual run.

Airport deal 'undemocratic': Council

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

York Region officials acted "undemocratically" when they committed taxpayers to a \$2-million deal with a private citizen, local officials said last week.

The Buttonville Airport issue was discussed last Tuesday night after officials read a resolution passed Sept. 10 by Richmond Hill council. The neighboring municipality is calling for an investigation into the dealings surrounding the airport. Richmond Hill politicians, as reported in *The Weekender*, are protesting York's "lack of process" after an 11-7 vote Aug. 27 committed public funds for the next seven to 10 years. Richmond Hill councillor David Cohen said citizens were not properly notified and accused the region of "ramming the deal down taxpayers' throats."

Richmond Hill council is opposing a three-way legal deal between Markham, Buttonville owner Michael Sifton and York Region taxpayers.

"I've always had a concern of how this issue was handled. People were told they would be informed (the day of the vote) and some were informed only 40 minutes before the meeting took place," said Mayor Fran Sainsbury, who opposed the deal.

"I hope the Ontario Municipal Board will deal with this," she added.

Teen fight leaves boy bleeding on street

At lunchtime last Friday, a group of high school students gathered on the front lawn of a Main Street home while several of their peers exchanged punches.

One boy was knocked to the ground, and apparently suffered an eye injury.

He was taken for medical treatment, while the rest of the students dispersed.

SDSS vice-principal Jay Hooper said the school is concerned about student violence and is willing to work with the community to help overcome problems that may arise in future.

A spokesman for York Regional Police suggested that any citizen witnessing this type of event should contact police immediately.

"If (the students) are from the local high school and the officers arrive after the fact, they will speak to the staff of the school," he said.

"If they are trespassing on your property, the best thing is to give us a call right away." Teens

involved in such incidents can be charged with assault, which is a criminal offence, the spokesman noted.



Ready to read

Library Week is being celebrated in Stouffville, and the staff at the Main St. library, including Barb Smith and Maureen Redshaw, were in the spirit of things this weekend.

Photo/LORI EMMERSON