

# Region completes 'progressive' official plan

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Staff Reporter

York Region has "accomplished another milestone" this week with the completion of its first-ever official plan document approved by council in Newmarket Thursday.

The first draft outlines a "progressive" regional plan encompassing suburban, urban and rural citizens and land uses, and which emphasizes a strong economy, protection of the natural environment and building and sustaining healthy communities.

The plan also forecasts employment in the region will more than double, offering 580,000 jobs from 250,000 employment opportunities

available today.

"The official plan will set the stage for managing growth in the region for the next 30 years," announced regional chairman Eldred King in a prepared statement. "The region needs a plan to provide certainty about where new development is to occur, how much and when. This kind of certainty is important for making decision and to ensure a sustainable natural environment, economic vitality and healthy communities. The decisions that will be influenced by the official plan include business investment, new home construction and public spending on infrastructure such as roads and sewers."

Calling the document a "pro-

gressive plan" for the future, Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, official plan steering committee chairman, praised staff for preparing an "excellent blueprint" reflecting York's growth guidelines and aspirations for the next 30 years.

"As the province looks to York Region to accommodate substantial growth this (draft official plan) deals with all the issues" faced by the region, he said.

The one-year planning staff endeavor, headed by planning director, John Livey, has involved the public and taken many citizens' comments and suggestions into account, Scarpitti added.

This official plan also takes

into consideration a doubling of population over the next 30 years from 538,000 to about 1.1 million people.

"We know there will be significant growth pressures in York Region over the next 30 years," Livey stated.

He said the plan is not yet carved in stone and can be revised every three years based on international and local economics, growth and immigration status.

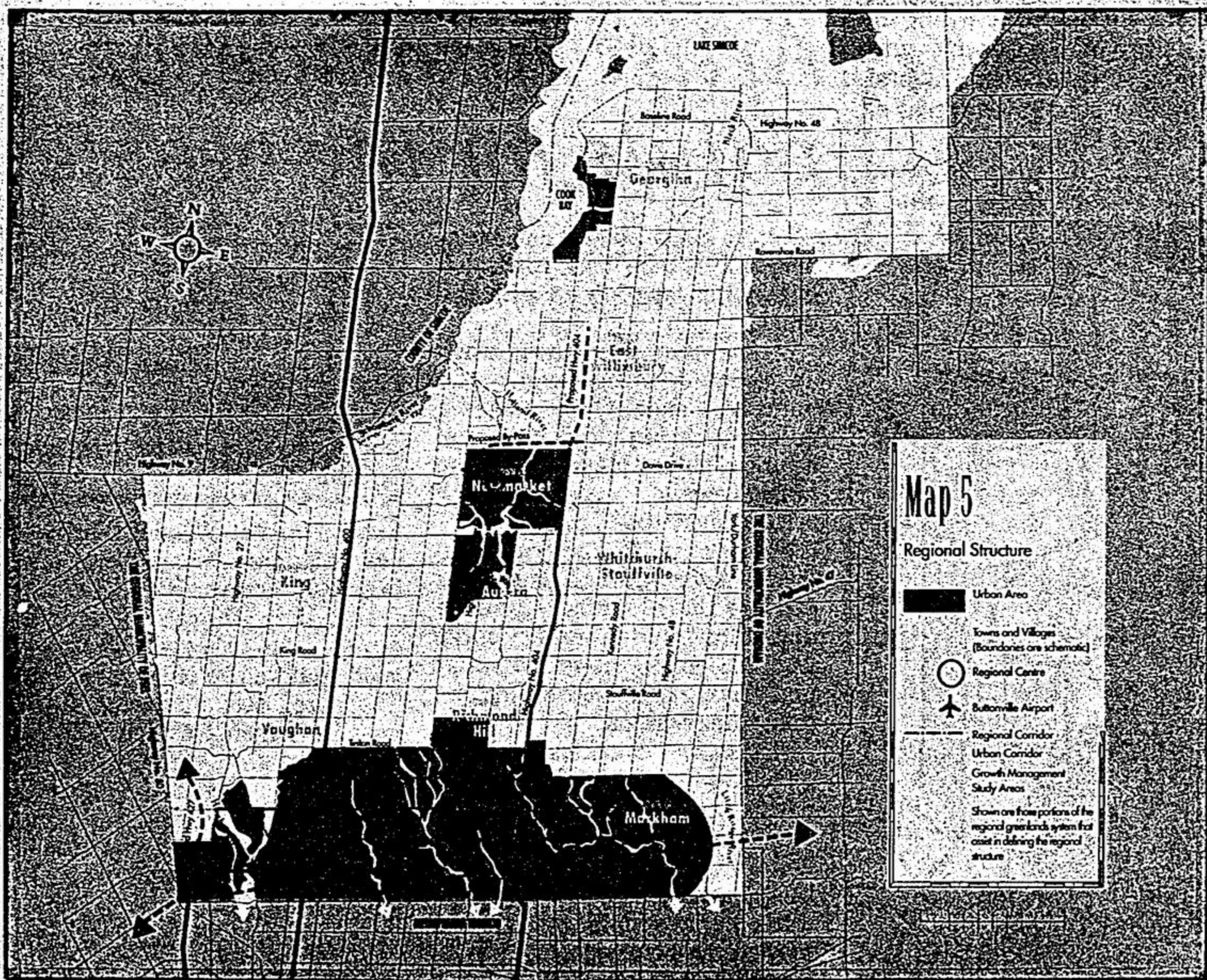
Highlights of York Region 2021 include:

- protection of environmental systems and areas such as wetlands, forests, ground and surface water systems and the Oak Ridges Moraine;
- identification of a regional greenlands system composed of

natural areas, natural corridors and connection links;

- establishment of urban boundaries within which most of the projected population and employment growth will occur;
- establishment of a system of centres and corridors which provides a focus for residential and commercial development;
- protection of agricultural, rural and natural resource areas; and;
- creation of a network of transportation and public works that will service anticipated development in a cost effective way.

Copies of the draft plan are now being printed and public meetings in each of the nine regional municipalities are slated for November.



## New official plan launched

York Region released its official plan this week to the press. Above is the regional structure of the area, with greenspaces, urban areas and growth management areas.

# Candidates spar over jobs, economy at election debate

(From page 2)

there is a need to get the banks making loans to the businesses again, he said. Grant brought up the government's plan to spend \$125 million on new helicopters. "We have mixed up priorities," Grant added. "I suggest we rethink where we do waste our money."

Attewell pointed out government changes to the Small Business Loans Act as efforts to stimulate investment in that area. Although considerably less than in previous years, The Bank of Nova Scotia has put out \$100 million in small business loans this year, he noted.

Bergson feels most of Canada's unemployed would not be out of work if not for the Free Trade Agreement. The National Party wants to cancel

that agreement and reject the North American Free Trade Agreement. The party would also stop Registered Retirement Saving Plan (RRSP) and Pension fund money from going out of Canada. Instead, the money would be used to stimulate the national economy.

When it came to defending free trade, Attewell pointed out one of every three jobs in Canada is dependent upon trade. He is confident Canadians can compete in the global market.

The focus of this election is leadership, Attewell believes. "More than ever before we need a special type of leadership." With promises to end patronage and encourage consultation at all government levels, Kim Campbell represents that new leadership, he said.

## Canada Post fires back at council

(From page 1)

"We are not closing down your post office; it will continue to exist, it's just the way it's used that is changing," he added.

Craig insisted that the majority of local residents have already been using the

"conveniently-located" stamp shops at Shopper's Drug Mart and local Beckers stores for some time.

When officials complained parking is a "premium" at the A&P plaza, Craig rebuked the statement by saying council should have taken parking

concerns and growth into consideration when they approved the design of the mall.

Craig said he and two associates will attend a meeting with the Save Our Post Office Committee next week to reiterate its position.

# Church St. home not in compliance; town orders alterations

(From page 1)

the town had never "physically" gone out and measured the structure, which she said is 10-inches over regulation size on each side, according to an independent survey.

Chairman Nick Tatone promised if staff has been ignoring any violations the town will get to the bottom of it.

"If staff should have stopped the construction and didn't, we'll look at this," Tatone said.

The Laings and the Morgans — who have been fighting for a year to have the builder of the \$220,000 home brought into compliance — own lots with a minimum 100-foot frontage on either side of the newly-constructed home.

The residents, who say they still want the town to rewrite its bylaw to protect other citizens from going through the same process, say they have spent thousands of dollars in legal wrangling, home exterior repairs and landscaping improvements to fix upsets they allege were caused by the construction of the Church St. home during the last few months.

They said Friday the builder should have been fined instead of receiving a slap on the wrist.

## Majority still undecided

A whopping 66 per cent of polled Whitchurch-Stouffvillites say they are undecided on who to vote for in the Oct. 25 federal election.

The *Stouffville Tribune* undertook a random, informal telephone survey last week of area residents to gauge which way the local electorate is leaning.

The next highest percentage tabulated was that of those who say they will boycott the election — marking 12 per cent of those polled.

For those who have decided which way their loyalties

lie, 7.5 per cent say they will back Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville Liberal candidate Jag Bhaduria, followed closely behind by 7.4 per cent who say they will vote for Progressive Conservative incumbent MP Bill Attewell.

Reform Party candidate Joe Sherren received 5.5 per cent of the take.

Not one of those polled said they would support New Democrat candidate, Jack Grant, or National party contender Sheldon Bergson, or Natural Law party rep Stephen Porter.

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