



The Tribune *Stouffville*

**ECONO
TAXI**
640-5466

Vol. 105 No. 22 A Metroland Community Newspaper Wednesday, June 2, 1993 24 Pages 50 cents

York's Vision 2021 plan opened up to public

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How do Stouffvillites envision their community and their region three decades from now? Should there be lots of green space, less housing, more commercialization? Do residents want more schools, more affordable housing or subsidized daycare? Local residents will get a kick at the planning cat on June 15 when York Region's 'Vision 2021' document will be presented at Latham Hall at 7:30 p.m. York officials will be on hand to hear Whitchurch-Stouffville's idea of what road the region's future should take. So far, York politicians are afraid their strategic plan will foster false expectations for res-

idents hoping to create a regional paradise. The strategic plan will be used as a planning guide for the next three decades. It will look at quality of life issues as opposed to the official plan, which deals with land use and hard services. Councillors got a peek at an early draft of the strategic plan at a special meeting last week. It is based on comments received from residents during public meetings in April and May. Intersol Consultants will now take the draft back to the public for reaction before council deals with the document July 8. But the draft is full of lofty ambitions and some regional councillors are worried it could

create pipe dreams. "We have to be careful we don't raise unrealistic expectations for the public," said Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson. For example, residents have called on the region to widely expand the region's green spaces and trail systems. But Jackson pointed out municipalities are only legally allowed to demand developers put aside five per cent of any new subdivision for park land. "There may be some disappointed people who come back and say, 'but you (promised),' " she said. Meanwhile, Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell took shots at residents' suggestions that governments provide more non-profit housing.

He insisted the private sector could build more diversified housing if governments would drop restrictions like rent controls. Chairman Eldred King admitted the plan isn't necessarily something that will ever be implemented. Councillors are also worried the draft reflects the concerns of special-interest groups, rather than those of ordinary citizens. It is based on responses from 125 residents who attended a series of workshops in April and May. Two hundred people also filled out workbooks outlining their concerns. Some of the key recommendations in the draft report include:

- promoting safe communities where people can live, work and play;
- enhancing services for seniors, youth and the disabled;
- providing post-secondary institutions;
- increasing the mix and affordability of housing;
- fostering opportunities for high-class and diverse businesses;
- protecting agricultural and environmental resources;
- restricting urban sprawl.



KING



Eye to eye

Ben Voss gets a close up look at a Surinamese Saturday. The snake belongs to snakeman Gary Hallford at the Clarendon Public School. Spangreat, Toronto's Paul Houson, one of the exhibitors.

Sewage proposal 'duplication': King

The town's on-going attempts to expand its sewage treatment plant are a waste of time for everyone involved, said the region's top politician yesterday. York Region Chairman Eldred King said Whitchurch-Stouffville's incessant attempts to stretch its sewage capacity from 11,000 to 21,000 have already been adequately dealt with by the region. "This proposal is only a duplication of what already exists," the chairman said. King is reacting to a May 29 *Weekender* article which reports of the town's further attempts to get its plant expanded and which calls for a meeting with York environmental experts and the province. But any such attempts "would be a waste of time" of work already performed by the region several years ago, King said. A resolution passed last week requests York staff meet with CMS Rotordisk, a firm which promises an end to the town's sewage woes. CMS officials say the plant could be expanded by nearly double capacity with the installation of its high-tech equipment to help the over-worked plant treat raw sewage. But King said the CMS proposal is a repeated "salesmanship job" by a firm which has nothing new to offer. Two years ago, the region heard proposals from four different firms promising expansion capabilities to small-town communal sewage treatment plants like Stouffville's, King (Please see page 3)

Town forced to reject provincial road subsidy

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Due to bad timing, the town is set to lose a \$1.5 million provincial road subsidy for Hwy 47 improvements due to begin this year. Local politicians are expected this week to turn their back on a Ministry of Transportation subsidy - a \$322,000 local project over two years for the town. After being set last month to begin a major highway transfer and overhaul of Main St. from the west connecting link at the 10th Line all the way to the 9th

Line, staff says the ministry won't subsidize the project if the majority of the work isn't complete by the end of the year. But staff road expert Paul Whitehouse said in a report that the first portion, west of the 9th Line, couldn't begin to get underway until October because of the necessary utility relocations, road widenings and environmental assessment paperwork. Although other sections could begin without a clinch, the ministry is only offering the subsidy for a specific por-



WHITEHOUSE

tion, west of the 9th Line. Town consultants confirm the project couldn't possibly begin in time to meet the province's construction timing criteria - which could threaten the town's subsidy chances in 1994 to complete what would already be started. "There would not be sufficient time to have the project substantially completed

this year which could put the town at risk of having to complete the project next year without subsidy," Whitehouse said. The town had set aside \$95,000 this year for the first portion, but it is being suggested politicians re-direct the money to other projects. Putting off the project will not hurt the town's chances of re-applying for the subsidy "in the future," the report shows. Council is expected to debate the matter this week.