

Education needs improvement: residents

(From page 1)

Organizers were kept busy writing local residents' ideas

and suggestions about how better include Stouffville's needs for the next 30 years. More

than 20 pages of suggestions, comments and concerns were gathered throughout the three-

hour meeting.

Education and the way it's governed, levied and administered, topped the list as the area causing most concern amongst Stouffville residents, who largely would like to see the entire process revamped.

Former councillor Doug Alles said school facilities such as swimming pools and gymnasiums should be opened to the community instead of being closed during the summer to offset spiralling levies.

And Chamber of Commerce president Helene Johnston said she'd like to see less non-teaching staff on the school boards to eliminate expensive service duplications and unnecessary administrative costs.

"The way it is now, consultants and consulting the consultants," Johnston said.

And businessman Casey Van Maris said he'd like to see the heavily-administered school boards eliminated and replaced with smaller volunteer boards geared closer to schools in the immediate community.

Several residents also stated they want shared busing to cut costs and want education to get back to the basics of reading, writing and mathematics.

Stouffville residents also said many of the 'vision' statements presented to York so far are lacking rural area concerns,

needs and expectations - and appear to be geared only to urban centres.

And Lemonville resident Marion Wells said there should be stiff penalties imposed on people who abuse land and its valuable resources, urging support for farmers and their efforts.

Other areas discussed included quality of community life; affordable housing; business and job development; environment; and role of regional government.

Previously held workshops and meetings show York Region residents want to see less government and more public involvement. Public meetings with Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Georgina will take place this week before a second vision draft is presented. York officials are currently working on their Official Plan for the future and the Vision 2021 comments will be incorporated into the final plans.

AN INVITATION TO A PUBLIC MEETING YORK REGION 2021

Come and continue the dialogue on York's Vision for the future. Give us your ideas on such topics as: managing York's environment, its economic development, its housing needs, its services. Talk to us about your vision of the role of Regional government as we move into the future. We hope to see you at:

Aurora Council Chambers
100 John West Way

June 21st 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Markham Civic Centre
101 Town Centre Blvd.

June 22nd 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Vaughan Civic Centre
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.

June 23rd 7:30 to 10 p.m.

King Township Municipal Office
3565 King Rd.

June 24th 7:30 to 10 p.m.

If you would like a copy of the Draft Vision Document in advance of the meeting, please call York Region Administration Department at 895-1231 or 362-2464.



Cuts hurt: MTRCA

Important environmental protection programs will be greatly affected this year because of an expected \$2.1 million provincial subsidy cut, the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) announced this week. The authority said the province's social contract proposal will mean environmental management and protection work will suffer because of forced employment reductions by 25 people this year.

About 16 full-time staff have had hours reduced and funded vacant positions are not being filled to meet the budget cuts imposed by Queen's Park, MTRCA officials announced.

The authority will also put an end to about 123 seasonal and casual jobs affecting outdoor appreciation and recreational opportunities for the public. Included is the elimination of all grass mowing in all MTRCA properties - many of which are located in Whitchurch-Stouffville, officials said. "Major maintenance has been but drastically," a press release revealed.

The \$2.1 million budget cut includes reduced provincial operating grants (\$700,000) and elimination of the Conservation Land Tax Rebate Program (\$800,000).

The authority also predicts further funding cuts from municipalities as the province continues its subsidy reductions at lower levels of government.

DOMINION CANADA



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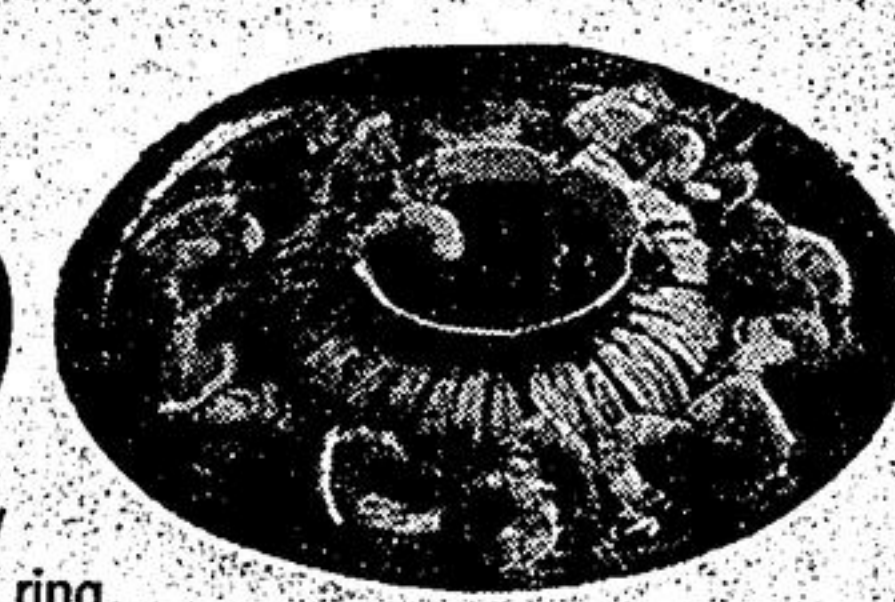
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Dear Jim,
Great news! You were right. Sincerely Yours is the best! I called and replied to the tall adventurous redhead. Guess what? I'm meeting her tonight. Let you know how it goes.

Sincerely Yours
Peter