

Region

York council has tips ready for services board

By KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Reporter

York Regional Council has offered the province six general recommendations on how the Greater Toronto Services Board should be run.

It remains to be seen, however, how seriously Premier Mike Harris and his appointed GTSB head Milt Farrow will take the regional input.

"I think since day one Milt Farrow likely had in the back of his mind 90 per cent of what he wants to do," said Regional Councillor Fred Cox and chair of the region's governance committee.

"Out of courtesy he went to municipalities and to the regions for their input. But the whole idea is that transportation, water, sewage, economic development are all

seen as functions that should be coordinated and there's not much debate about that."

Cox said the worry is who exactly will sit on the board - elected representatives or provincially appointed reps. As well, the region wants to ensure the GTSB does not become another level of government.

"I am baffled, mystified and stunned that, although I'm in

favor of a services board, I don't know how any intelligent person thinks it can be implemented without changes to the regional governments," Cox said. "The government has got to take those things - transportation, water - away from us before the GTSB can operate, especially considering Metro is soon to be one city."

Cox expects some announce-

ment from the province on the future of the regions April 1. That's the date municipal candidates can begin to register for the municipal election, expected in the fall.

The recommendations include: That the GTSB be given a legal mandate to coordinate services; that it not function as a separate level of government; that it provide planning to ensure efficient delivery of services; that it provide dispute resolution for GTA-wide issues; that it have one elected rep for every 400,000 population; and that there be a government review of the GTSB's structure, mandate and operation within two years.

Local man defrauded

A Stouffville man was left holding the bag after he handed over \$33,000 to two fraud suspects for the purchase of soft-sided hot tubs.

In August, two suspects told the man if he invested \$25,000 in the unnamed Markham company for the purchase of six demonstration hot tubs he would get his money back in 30 days, plus one-third of the profits from the sale of 110 hot tubs. He handed over a cheque in August. In September, the man was told the company needed \$5,000 to set up a booth at a home show to generate orders. A few weeks later he was told the pair needed another \$6,000 because the first show hadn't prompted even one sale. He said he could only afford \$3,000 and handed it over.

By October the man began to suspect something wasn't quite right and had his lawyer research the company, which revealed false information and the fact not one hot tub had ever been sold.

The two suspects are described as male white, about 30, 6' tall, and both about 200 pounds.

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