

# Community input being sought on future of regional forests

The Region of York is asking residents to reflect on the future of their forests.

The York Regional Forest represents 5,000 acres of conifer plantation, hardwood woodlands, treed swamps and creeks. It also is one of the most significant natural areas in the region. Established in 1924, the forest is owned and managed by the Region of York.

To administer these lands for both current and future governments, the region is preparing a two-year management plan. To ensure the plan responds to citizens' wishes, the region will hold three public information sessions to:

- describe the contents of the 20-year management plan and the five-year operating plan,
- answer questions as they relate to the regional forest and
- receive your comments regarding the regional forest.

According to Leonard Munt, regional forestry co-ordinator, there are several reasons why the public should become involved in planning the various forest tracts. Among these are:

- encouraging greater appreciation of the region's natural

environment,

- learning about the long history of the York Regional Forests,

- discovering opportunities to become more involved in exciting volunteer projects,

- participating in the decision-making process that will guide the next 20 years of the forest's future.

"Even if you don't visit the forests regularly, you have a stake in their future," Munt said. "Come and see what your forest is all about and how you can be part of this beautiful resource!"

Meetings are on at the following dates and locations:

Nov. 18 — York Region Administration Centre, 17250 Yonge St., Newmarket, Committee Room B, 6 to 9 p.m.

Nov. 19 — Ballantrae Community Centre, Room 2, 6 to 9 p.m.

Nov. 20 — Pefferlaw Public Library, Pete's Lane, Pefferlaw, 6 to 9 p.m.

There will be a 45-minute presentation starting at approximately 7 p.m. Don't miss it!



## YORK CATHOLIC TEACHERS

Are compelled to Dispel the Myths Being Issued by the York Region Roman Catholic Separate Board (Y.R.R.C.S.S.B.)

The Y.R.R.C.S.S. Board says: Teachers in other Boards have paid for their grid restoration.

The York Catholic Teachers respond: Teachers in the York Region Public School Board had their grids restored in 1995, at no cost to teachers, by a mediator appointed by the Province.

The Y.R.R.C.S.S.B. illegally and immorally fired 120 of our colleagues in 1994, in addition to the 120 layoffs that were required by the Social Contract. As a result, this Board has saved in excess of \$21 million to date. This action has also increased our pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) to a level unacceptable for the second richest Separate School Board in the province!

The Y.R.R.C.S.S. Board says: York Catholic teachers are highly paid compared with other teachers.

The York Catholic Teachers respond: The cost of living in York Region is one of the highest in Canada. What the Board does not tell you is that starting salaries for teachers are far lower than many others.

The salaries of the most experienced teachers in the Public Board are \$1,200 per year higher than in the Separate Board. In fact, an on grid teacher, in the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, taking a position in the public system would be paid \$10,000 more than they are being paid, today. Every other board has recognized teacher experience during the Social Contract; something this Board is refusing to do.

The Y.R.R.C.S.S. Board says: The cost of one increment is \$7.6 million over the next 4.5 years.

The York Catholic Teachers respond: The Board's accounting of this is simply an inflating of costs. The Board has reserves of \$12.6 million. The Board will save a further \$18.9 million from the illegal layoffs over the next 4.5 years. This is an incredible amount of savings, at the cost of higher class sizes and significantly fewer resources. By denying the experience gained by its young teachers, the Board is being fundamentally unfair!

What the Y.R.R.C.S.S. Board has NOT told you, is that it has offered to increase class size in Grade 3 to 33 students from the current 31 students.

The York Catholic Teachers respond: Increasing class size has never been on the teachers' agenda.

The York Catholic Teachers are willing to meet with the Board, at any time, to reach a

**FAIR AND JUST SETTLEMENT!**

# Meeting held for polio survivors

The Ontario March of Dimes Post-Polio Program is holding an inaugural meeting for polio survivors in the York Region area on Thurs., Nov. 20 at 7 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Observatory Towers, 25 Marshall Street in Richmond Hill.

Post-Polio Syndrome, or the late effects of polio, are the names given to new health problems affecting individuals who contracted poliomyelitis earlier in their lives.

With the introduction of the Salk vaccine in 1955, most people thought they had seen the last of polio. Since then, the majority of men and women who survived the disease have led full and productive lives.

Now, a growing number of people who had polio in the past have started to experience new symptoms. The symptoms may vary and can include generalized weakness, muscle and joint pain, excessive fatigue or diminished endurance related to respiratory involvement and substantial decrease in functional ability.

In addition, emotional difficulties often result from encountering new problems related to an old disease.

If you once had polio and are experiencing new symptoms, it's important to know you are not alone.

Like thousands of others, you may be experiencing the late effects of polio, and there is somewhere you can turn for support, the latest information, and good advice from people who can help you understand the late effects of polio. It is hoped that everyone who had poliomyelitis in the past will take this opportunity to attend and learn about Post-Polio Syndrome.

For more information, contact Judi Lytle at (416) 425-3463 ext. 213 or 1-800-263-3463 ext. 213.

**MARKHAM**  
the MARK of EXCELLENCE

Together Let's Create

**MARKHAM'S  
FUTURE**

We would like you to be involved in planning Markham's future library, recreational and cultural facilities.

You are invited to a:

**SEARCH CONFERENCE**

Wednesday,  
November 19, 1997

6:45 pm to 10:15 pm

Milliken Mills

Community Centre,  
7600 Kennedy Road,  
Unionville

To confirm a spot  
please contact Stuart Taylor  
(905) 477-7000 ex. 618

Help create Markham's future master plan!