

## Stouffville fighting for sewage

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trolled by the Region of York, not local municipalities.

"My council will ask for water and sewage up and down the 404 if Newmarket thinks they can get it," he said. "I don't know what they are doing. York's plans say there is no sewage capacity for that quadrant."

Emmerson said his council's position remains the same — there's no reason to meet with Newmarket.

"I'm not giving up my land, there's nothing else to say. I don't know what they want to meet for," he said.

Emmerson added if Newmarket wants to talk about boundaries, all nine of York Region's municipalities should be included in the talks.

"If that's what they want, let's bring the whole region into it," he said.

But York Region politicians quietly agreed to abandon boundary issues last year, after no one could agree on any solutions.

Newmarket also wants to meet with East Gwillimbury. At stake is a section of Yonge Street property south of Green Lane, slated to become home to a 4,000-seat mega-theatre and regional commercial centre.

The project is expected to bring record-high commercial taxes for East Gwillimbury, a rural municipality that depends on residential properties for 92 per cent of its tax base. Newmarket has always coveted the area, but didn't become serious until Metrus Properties submitted a plan for the 16-screen Famous Players theatre and commercial complex.

Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor has said it makes sense for his town to control the area so it can be planned as an extension of the town.



JUST TO SAY THANKS: St. Mark Catholic School principal Don Hathway, centre, hands out gifts to the school's volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Tea held Tuesday.

Photo by STOERD WITTEVEEN

## Mayors indifferent to GTSB and its mandate

LISA QUEEN  
Staff Writer

York Region politicians are reacting with thinly veiled indifference to moderator Alan Tonks' recommendations for the Greater Toronto Services Board.

The report, released Tuesday, is just the latest in a long line of studies about governing the GTA.

But by yesterday afternoon, most York mayors hadn't even received a copy. And most weren't in a hurry to get one.

It was a different story four years ago when the former NDP government appointed Metro Toronto United Way president Anne Golden to head an exhaustive study.

Politicians were clamoring for the report released in January 1995.

Reaction to the study, which recommended wiping out regional governments in favour of a strong GTSB, was immediate and mixed.

Residents and municipal leaders then lined up to express their concerns to the Libby Burham panel, appointed to gather feedback on the Golden report.

Waning interest was revived when the province set up the David Crombie Who Does What committee to reinvestigate the issue.

By the time facilitator Milt Farrow came along to review the Crombie panel's recommendations, many people had lost interest.

In March, the province introduced draft legislation on the GTSB and appointed Tonks to consult with municipal politicians.

He is recommending the board run

Instead of the 28 seats suggested by Queen's Park, Tonks wants to see 40 representatives.

Every municipality and region will be at the table but votes will be weighted based on population — approximately one vote for every 50,000 residents. The 40 councillors will cast a total of 110 votes on any given issue.

For example, Toronto has 11 seats, but will have 55 votes, giving the city half the representation on the board. However, the city's representation is slightly diminished on GO issues because Hamilton-Wentworth will be allowed to vote.

York Region will have a total of 10 seats — one for each of the nine municipalities plus the regional chairperson.

The region gets two votes or 1.8 per cent of the total.

Markham will have three votes or 2.7 per cent.

Vaughan gets two votes or 1.8 per cent.

Richmond Hill has two votes or 1.8 per cent.

Each of the other towns has one vote or 0.9 per cent of the total.

York chairperson Bill Fisch, who hadn't seen Tonks' report, complained a board with more than 20 representatives would be too unruly.



TONKS  
moderator



EMMERSON  
one vote

GO Transit and co-ordinate major services that cross regional boundaries, such as garbage, roads and water and sewer — a somewhat stronger mandate than the province's original draft.

While Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach agreed the GTSB should run GO, he said the board should only act as a discussion forum on other issues.

Tonks has also deviated from the Tories' model of representation

## French debate divides public board

JENNIFER BROWN  
Staff Writer

Public school board trustees want more information before they decide to cut the core French program for children in grades 1 to 3.

Following a presentation from Canadian Parents for French and an hour-long debate Monday night, trustees

deferred a recommendation to cut the program — which provides 40 minutes of instruction daily — until the June 9 budget meeting.

In March, the new provincial funding formula eliminated the board's \$3.3-million grant to fund primary French, forcing local officials to find the money or cancel the program.

But giving school boards the ability

to cancel a program doesn't mean they have to do it, said John Ryan, a member of Canadian Parents for French York Region chapter.

"The cost is not a major item at all," Ryan told trustees. "You don't cancel a valuable program just because it is legal or convenient from a curriculum or administrative point of view."

Will

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## Union requests a conciliator

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we could get down to meaningful negotiations on Friday."

It was the union's belief that the board has had the necessary funding information for the past two months and were ready to proceed.

But less than an hour before the sides were to discuss monetary issues, Johnston said the talks ended when board negotiator Maria Ciani told the union she wasn't ready to debate money issues.

"There's something bigger going on here," said Johnston, noting Richardson was seen at the hotel but left before talks began. "We were ready to agree to what is basically a rollover deal."

However, board vice-chairperson Karen Barker said Richardson wasn't available Tuesday and there were plenty of other issues to be discussed.

"I understand the federation wanted to talk about staffing and we didn't — it's that simple," Barker said. "We asked to defer discussion to Monday and suggested there were dozens of issues we could talk about given the federation is seeking 350 changes to the current collective agreement."

But under the revised negotiating process of Bill 160, there's little delay in moving toward a strike position. And with school ending in two weeks, the union wanted to move fast.

"We've gone from zero to 100 in no time flat. The time frame is very short," said Johnston. "We wanted to position ourselves so the members know where they stand before the end of the year."

The two sides will meet again today and tomorrow to work on contract language, but issues around staffing and compensation won't be discussed until Monday.

Teachers had entered the talks seeking a 3-per-cent pay hike, but insist that is simply their opening offer.

Johnston said the union has looked at the funding available to the board and believes there is no need to adjust staffing.

"We're convinced only minor adjustments need to be made. We think the funding formula can work here, the money is there. If the board would just share the financial information they're not being truthful with us."