

Political landscape faces change

FROM PAGE 18

ment — the next two decades — will be unlike anything York politicians and residents have ever seen.

Because, in addition to the growth the political landscape is changing.

Beginning in January, the Greater Toronto Services Board will start making decisions that will affect how major services are delivered in York. Hospitals and school boards are scrambling to find ways to cope with fewer provincial dollars.

Meanwhile, the face of York is changing, according to regional officials, who are hosting a series of workshops this month that will study planning requirements for the millennium.

Compared to the rest of the GTA and Canada, York has more baby boomers, a louder baby boom echo, fewer seniors and a population that is more family-oriented, younger, wealthier and better educated.

But that profile is changing.

The region will have to spend at least \$2 billion on infrastructure such as roads and sewer pipes over the next 20 years.

Officials caution that single-family homes will have to give way to more varied housing types to accommodate a growing population of seniors, single-parent families, adults choosing not to have children and unrelated adults living in the same household.

York is attracting more immigrants. In 1996, 36 per cent of the population was made up of residents who had been born outside of Canada. Twenty-four per cent were visible minorities and the mother tongue of 33 per cent was neither English nor French.

The region will have to spend at least \$2 billion on infrastructure such as roads and sewer pipes over the next 20 years if it hopes to compete with other North American centres for development and prosperity.

Despite the challenges, the families salute York as a great area to raise children and a prosperous region in which to live.

"Growth has its ups and down," Bill said. "When I grew up, you could literally walk through people's back yards. Everybody knew everybody. I used to snowmobile through the fields where there are houses now. But I haven't lost any sleep over growth in Richmond Hill."

Victor is happy his family made the move to York from Montreal.

"I think people should be proud of living in this area," he said. "This is a great area. Compared to Montreal, recreation for children is far better here. The services for new mothers here are better. There's more of a family perspective here."

"But we do wonder where the future will take us."

Take part in planning seminars

York Region's report card process continues this week with public workshops and forums.

The Official Plan Report Card, also called Planning for the Millennium, allows residents to give regional officials their input on how well York Region is meeting their needs now and for the future.

Residents are encouraged to take part in the process by providing their ideas and comments at any or all of the workshops.

Forums scheduled for this week include:
Oct. 7: Greenlands Planning and Practice — This mobile workshop, running from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., explores some of the region's greenlands system. Participants will learn about the regions why these areas are important in York Region, with speakers from the regions planning, transportation and works departments, King Township planning, Richmond Hill parks

development and from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Moderate hiking is involved. The bus leaves from the region's administrative headquarters in Newmarket at 12:30 p.m. Pre-register by calling 895-1231 or 773-3004. \$10 fee is payable on departure.

Oct. 7: Community Services for the Future — Policing, health care, social services, emergency response teams — this forum examines how York Region can continue to provide high-quality services with a rapidly growing population. Speakers will include regional, social services, education, health and police officials from York Region. The seminar will be held in the seminar room at the regional headquarters in Newmarket.

The Economist & Sun and Stouffville Tribune are sponsors of The Official Planning Report Card series.

Fall, 1998

MIKE'S MATH LESSON

25 more minutes per day = 25 more students per day

22 = 30 or 31 or 32 or 33...

TOPIC:

Understanding the numbers "22" and "25"

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To have people believe that "teachers are only being asked to teach an extra 25 minutes per day".
- 2) To have people believe that all classes in high schools in Ontario have 22 students.

THE TORY LESSON PLAN:

1. Insist that 25 extra minutes is really very little to ask of teachers. Do not explain how the 25 minutes are to be used.

Teachers have offered to lengthen classes so that each student will have more time in each class. The Tories reject this because this would not eliminate teaching positions. They want each teacher to have 25 more students, not 25 more minutes. Teachers need more time for the students they presently teach, not more students to teach.

2. Always refer to "capping class sizes" and never use the word "average" when promising smaller classes.

The class size of 22 refers to a Board-wide average which includes all staff, not just the classroom teacher. In most schools classes are the same size or larger than last year. The only way to reduce class size is to establish an absolute maximum for every class. Ask your children how many students are in their English or Math classes this semester.

TORY MATH DOES NOT ADD UP



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