

POLITICS: Urban and rural areas have opposing agendas

Carving out the region's future

FROM PAGE 1.

our municipalities," Jackson said. "We have enough governments now. But the GTSB is important. One level has to go. If I had my druthers, it would be the region."

Once regions are eliminated, Jackson said the 30 municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area would be reduced significantly. She advocates three cities in York.

Aurora Mayor Tim Jones agrees with Jackson — all except the part about amalgamating Aurora with any other town.

But Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson is

worried large municipalities are only looking out for their own interests.

He argues small towns don't have the resources to pay for services — such as social services, public health, water and sewers, policing and transit — without the help of their neighbours.

"From a rural perspective, I don't think the GTSB is going to do a lot for Whitchurch-Stouffville and I think the region is providing services better," he said.

"It would be a very big concern if all the big boys amalgamated and the GTSB was looking after social services and ambulances. I think we would be lost. I don't think we would get the same level of services as we are getting with the region."

"(GTSB chairperson) Alan Tonks has said rural areas won't be forgotten. I think we will be forgotten."

'We will always protect our municipalities'

• Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson

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Rouge Park group spending questioned

BY MIKE ADLER
STAFF WRITER

What some call the gateway to the Rouge — 10 acres of Scarborough land with a commanding view of Rouge Park — is up for grabs.

The Rouge Alliance, overseer of the park, suddenly has a provincial windfall to spend. It's proposing to use all \$2.5 million to buy the Glen Eagles site from developers.

But Markham may not let them have it. The town is eyeing areas along the Rouge in Markham it could buy with a share of the money, and it's presenting a list of its priorities at an emergency meeting of the alliance tomorrow.

"We feel they should be looked at," said Markham Councillor Randy Barber, a representative on the alliance.

Although he was present when the alliance tentatively voted this month to put the money toward Glen Eagles, Barber complained to Markham council this week that "a number of individuals highjacked the meeting."

The council passed a resolution asking the alliance to establish criteria for spending the funds.

But another voting member of the alliance, environmentalist Glenn De Baeremaeker, said Glen Eagles, overlooking the point where the main Rouge forks away from the Little Rouge, is essential for the entire watershed.

"We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save an important piece of land," said De Baeremaeker, president of Save the Rouge Valley System.

The province's funds for purchases have to be locally matched, dollar-for-dollar. Glen Eagles will cost a total of \$6.5 million to buy from developers, who already have started to sell housing units on it, De Baeremaeker said.

The Rouge Park follows the course of the river to its headwaters in Stouffville.

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