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16 Candidates are staking their claims all over the place, despite new sign restrictions.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Children's water festival
WHEN: May 25 to 28
WHERE: Bruce's Mill, 764-6345, ext. 5044



12 Send in the clown. Turn kids' parties into a circus with a little help from an expert.

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SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1999

TO REACH U.S. (905) 640-2100

Region backs off mega-city study

Amalgamation a Tory priority, council warned

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

Waving a copy of the Tory platform, Michael DiBiase warned his fellow regional councillors Thursday that Mike Harris plans to turn York Region into a mega-city if he wins next month's election.

But despite the warning, councillors narrowly rejected hiring a consultant to examine the best way to redraw York's map.

As a result, Markham Councillor Frank Scarpitti believes council has missed the chance to shape its own destiny.

Although Tory MPP Frank Klees assured the councillors they would be allowed to decide their own future, Scarpitti pointed out Harris didn't even mention his mega-city plans for Toronto during the 1995 election.

Although the new Tory election platform doesn't come right out and say Harris will merge municipalities in the regions surrounding Toronto, DiBiase said the campaign document provides clues of his intent.

The Vaughan councillor pointed out Harris trumpets his party's record of cutting government — including slashing the number of municipalities and school boards, resulting in 2,200 fewer politicians than in 1995.

And the document warns the job isn't completed.

"We've found lots of ways to cut government waste, fraud,

See TOWNS, page 5.

COURTNEY TREMPER INQUEST: Jury asked to determine if dog owner is responsible for death

Dog attack 'homicide'

BY JENNIFER BROWN
 Staff Writer

The jury deliberating at the inquest into the death of Courtney Trempe is being asked to call the little girl's death a homicide.

In her closing submissions to the five-person jury on Thursday, the Trempe family's lawyer, Christine Zablocki, asked them to find that Courtney died as a result

of actions taken by the dog's owner, Kelli Reybroek.

The eight-year-old Stouffville girl died last April when Reybroek's dog attacked her as she and a friend were playing in the backyard of Reybroek's home.

In determining how a person died, an inquest jury can choose from five categories: natural causes, accidental, suicide, homicide or

undetermined.

"Based on the overwhelming evidence in this case, the only proper verdict that can be reached is homicide," Zablocki said.

"The definition of homicide that is generally accepted is that a person committed homicide when directly or indirectly they caused the death of a human being," she said. "Based on the evidence we

have heard, it is apparent the person, which would be Mrs. Kelli Reybroek, who directly or indirectly went to her house where her dog Mosley was asleep and opened the door, awakened the dog and the dog was allowed to leave the house through an open door, which the dog went through and ran toward

See LEGISLATIVE, page 7.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

JUST ONE OF THE KIDS

Shane Schneider holds kid Gib as Jim Harrott and Melissa Brooks, all Grade 6 students at Glad Park Public School, pet the young goat at the York Region Heritage Fair at Markham Museum Thursday.

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