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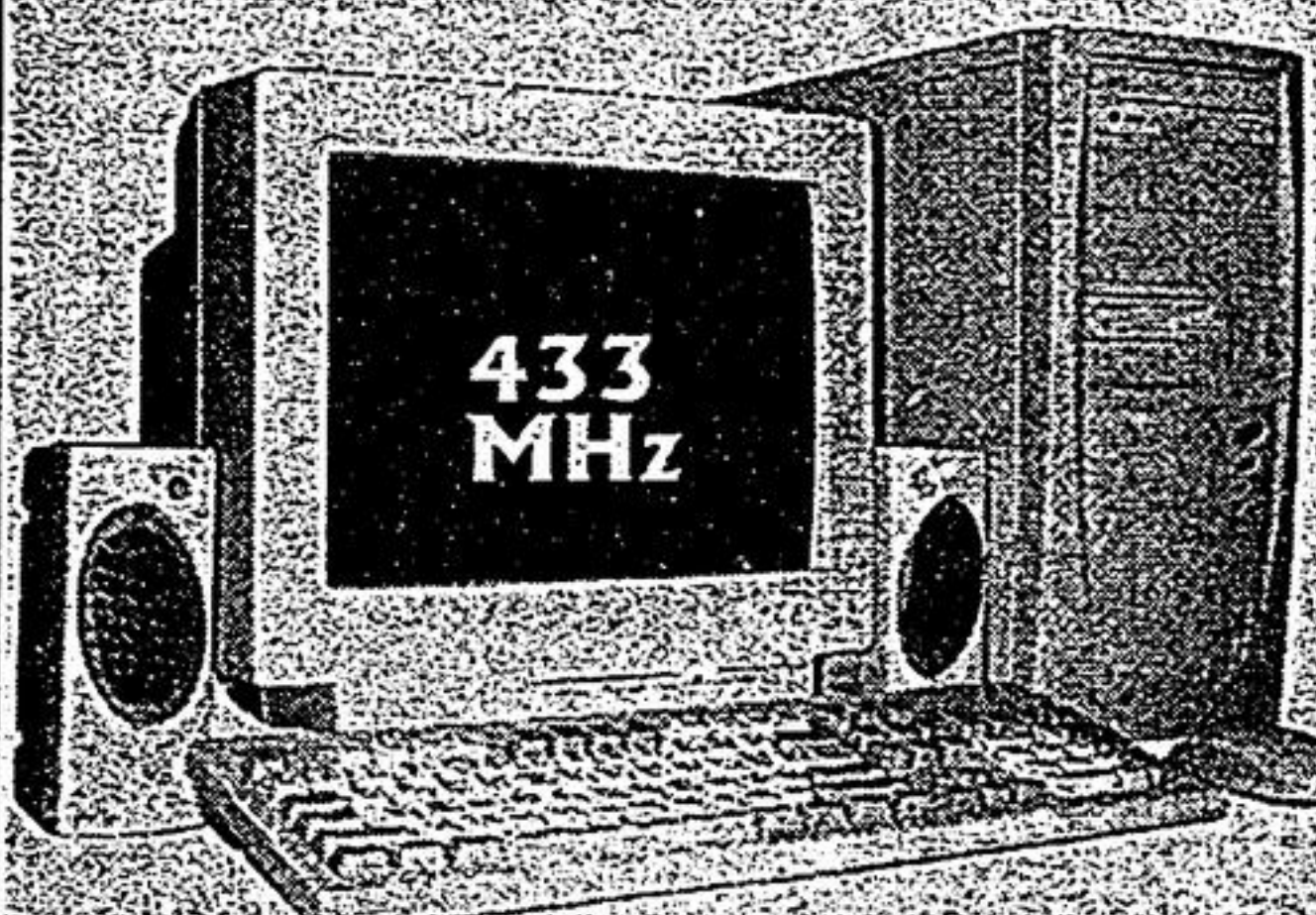
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# Vaughan, Markham fight plan

From page 1.

transit commission, which would operate transit in Newmarket, Aurora, Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan — despite the strong objections of Markham Mayor Don Cousens and Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson.

On Thursday, Cousens and Jackson unsuccessfully urged regional council to reconsider, arguing there isn't enough information about the implications of an urban transit commission taking over local transit.

They're worried about their level of service being eroded and their taxpayers paying to improve service in other municipalities.

Cousens pressed council to hold off asking the province to approve legislation until the region has a chance to explain the commission to Markham council.

"At that point, at least, good faith will have been taken," he said.

"Don't say, 'To hell with Mayor Don Cousens. Please don't leave me out on that limb. That would not be a good way of dealing with someone who has been such a strong partner in going forward with the Region of York."

Cousens insisted he's not using delaying tactics to quash the idea of regional transit, even though the region will have to get legislation passed by the end of December if it hopes to start forming the commission in January so it can be up and running by Jan. 1, 2001.

"There's no other benefit, other than goodwill and good communication, so there is a good sense of sharing."

Despite all the studies, Jackson said many of her concerns haven't been addressed.

"The answers are not there. The answers that we want are not there. There are so many questions."

"If I were to say today, 'What is the rush?' I'd be laughed out of the room because we've been working on this for at least 10 years. So I won't say that. But I will say, 'What is the last minute rush?'"

While details such as the level of service and labour issues still have to be ironed out, other councillors insist the time is ripe to launch the commission.

However, they agreed to make presentations to any local councils with concerns.

"If you don't set the course of action and get on with it, we're going to spin our wheels, waste our time. We'll be back into the election and it won't get done," Markham Councillor Gord Landon said. "I think we've realized the public wants this."

Vaughan Councillor Michael DiBiase argued the region could lose out on federal and provincial funding under a new infrastructure program being considered if it doesn't proceed with regional transit.

"The federal government is willing to give us infrastructure dollars and we can't get our act together. It's ridiculous," he said, adding the region should be looking at major transit works, including extending the Yonge Street subway up to Hwy. 7.

## Dry well mystery being plumbed

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

York Region is one step closer to finding out why residential wells are going dry in Vandorf.

Monitoring wells, designed to help identify why Marjorie Crescent residents are experiencing severe water problems, are being drilled in the hamlet.

The Bradley family was thrilled to see the well drilling equipment turn up at their home.

Ivanka Bradley said a new well needs to be drilled on her property. For others, all that was needed was having pumps reset at lower depths.

The Bradleys and six other households on the street have been without well water since June.

In late October, two wells on Lady Diana

Crescent, located in the same subdivision, went bone dry while half of Vandorf's 115 private wells are running the risk of drying up, local residents have been told.

"These people can't go into the winter without a water supply," said John Sibbald, superintendent for York Region's water-wastewater department.

Deepening the wells costs about \$3,500 while a new well costs between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

A cost-sharing plan between the region and the homeowners will be ironed out, and it's hoped the Ontario Ministry of the Environment will also cover some of the costs.

Since the wells went dry, residents have relied on water supplied by the region. A 1,200-gallon tank of water is on each of the seven properties.

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