

Region rejects call for bridge

BY PATRICK CASEY
Staff Writer

York Region's transportation committee has rejected a suggestion to build a \$1.6-million bridge to save a dry gully in the Jefferson Forest that will soon comprise the Bayview Avenue extension.

A proposal to create the 45-metre bridge 600 metres north of Stouffville Road was scaled down from an original suggestion to erect an 180-metre-long bridge to completely span the valley. However, the cost of the massive bridge was pegged at more than \$6 million and would increase the total cost of the extension to nearly \$16 million.

But the committee rejected the idea of a bridge entirely, opting instead for a box culvert, measuring four metres wide and four metres high, under the road. A separate standard drainage culvert is also proposed for storm water.

The two structures will cost a total of \$350,000. "This doesn't necessarily kill the whole idea because it could come back during our budget process, but it has been done on a purely economic basis. We have to proceed with the culvert and not the bridge," said Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell, chairperson of the transportation committee.

"I have concerns about filling the valley because once you fill it, you can't (empty) it. I'm sympathetic, much in the same way I am about freezing development on the Oak Ridges Moraine. But that costs money."

Michael White, vice-president of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, said it's wrong to replace a thriving area of trees, grass, flowers and shrubs with slabs of concrete.

"I am a little disappointed that Mr. Bell did not support us on this. This was the least the committee could have done," White said following the meeting. "The Bayview extension is not even needed at this time."

"Once covered with dirt, the valley sides will not be reforested. The concrete, in a few years, will be covered with paint inscriptions placed by unhappy youth."

Instead of a beautiful archway that is part of the Jefferson Woods, there will be a dark concrete hole under a huge embankment, adding ugliness to inconvenience, contributing to misunderstanding and fear of the woods.

"This should be put on hold until we deal with all of the transportation problems in the region. We need to take 30 per cent of the traffic off the road," he added. "This is a case that will cost us an awful lot in the future."

Meanwhile, the region has plans to install an additional culvert with a dry earth bottom at the Snively Marsh area to allow frogs and toads to pass beneath the road. A pair of culverts will be constructed between Lake St. George and Lake Wilcox to allow wildlife and water to pass beneath the roadway.



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Gerry Nicholls, *VP, The National Citizens' Coalition*
Scott Brison, *MP, Finance Critic, PC Party of Canada*

All are welcome to attend.

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Holy Spirit, Thou make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen.
Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After the 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favour has been granted.



Our Mother of Perpetual Help

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adorned, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world. Now and forever, our Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day by the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Its never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin (never known to fail). All most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me here, you are my Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to secure me in the necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days and then you must publish. It will be granted to you.

Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems. Light all needs so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days and after 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer should be published.

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