

# Early warmth foils projects

While Mother Nature has been teasing us in recent days by offering us a sampling of spring, it wasn't exactly what the Ministry of Natural Resources was anticipating this early in the year.

With the warm weather removing much of the snow cover that was in evidence just a couple of weeks ago, the ministry's Aurora District office was hoping the white stuff would remain in place just a little while longer so it could conduct a couple of projects.

The absence of snow put a damper on the ministry's attempt to capture at least 50 wild turkeys for its provincial network transfer.

Under this program, birds captured by the ministry would be transferred to areas within the province where they are needed. Ian Buchanan, a ministry biologist from the district office, said plenty of birds had been sighted in areas near Brock, East Gwillimbury and the northern part of Uxbridge Township.

"We had flocks of birds, some up to 50 and 100. But once the



Mike Hayakawa

snow went away, they broke up and didn't come on to our baits."

*'We're still trying to get the birds on our baits, but with the snow all gone, there's too much food out there for them now.'*

Buchanan noted the absence of snow has enabled the birds to find other sources of food that are now exposed.

The ministry, however, is still making attempts to entice at

least some birds.

"We're still trying to get the birds on our baits, but with the snow all gone, there's too much food out there for them now," he pointed out.

The removal of most snow cover has also prevented the ministry from assessing deer movements during the winter months.

Buchanan noted the ministry had a helicopter lined up to enable biologists to get a bird's eye view of potential winter habitat areas that deer utilize in the region.

"We were going to look for deer tracks and see what areas are good for winter cover," he said.

The deer wintering areas that were to be looked at included portions of East Gwillimbury, Georgina and Brock.

"We needed the information for the urban development pressure that's going on in York Region along with road development," Buchanan said.

As well, he noted the information would be useful to help in managing deer populations.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE



FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

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### Highway 407 East Partial Extension

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), acting as the Responsible Authority (RA) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) is engaged in a screening level Environmental Assessment (EA) as required under Section 20(1) of CEAA for the above noted project.

The 407 East Partial Extension involves:

- the construction of a 15.9 km 4-lane (ultimate 10 lane) toll highway from the Highway 407 Centre terminus (Highway 48) in the west to its terminus at Highway 7 east of Brougham in the Region of Durham

Construction of the Highway 407 East Partial Extension can be commenced once the requirements of the federal EA have been completed.

Public consultation is a significant component of the Highway 407 East Partial Extension CEAA review. As part of DFO's federal environmental assessment under CEAA, it is within the Minister's discretion to invoke CEAA subsection 18(3) - *Where the Responsible Authority (RA) is of the opinion that public participation in the screening of the project is appropriate in the circumstances, the RA shall give the public notice and an opportunity to examine and make comment on the screening report.* The CEAA screening report prepared by the RA (in this instance DFO) will be available for public comment at the following locations:

Markham Community Library 6031 Highway 7 Markham, Ontario L3P 3A7	Pickering Public Library Whitevale Branch 475 Whitevale Road Pickering, Ontario L0H 1M0	Reg. Municipality of Durham P.O. Box 623 605 Rossland Rd. E. Whitby, Ontario
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The Screening Report will be available for the comment period: February 9, 2000 - March 10, 2000. All comments must be received prior to March 11, 2000.

Accompanying documentation produced through the provincial EA process will also be available at the above locations.

If you would like to receive further information or provide written comments on the CEAA screening report, please contact:

Referrals Co-ordinator  
Fisheries and Oceans, Canada  
Fish Habitat Management - Ontario Area  
867 Lakeshore Road  
P.O. Box 5050  
Burlington, Ontario  
L7R 4A6  
Tel: (905) 336-4595  
Fax: (905) 336-6285