

Mix housing to help families: report

From page 1.

nity to move toward some good prevention for the homeless in York Region," committee member Monica Auerbach explained following the meeting. An executive director of Transitional and Supportive Housing Services, the organization operates shelters for families and men in Newmarket.

"It responds to our problems, and the recommendations are reasonable. Education is one of the most important things we have, as well as action and response. We have to keep reminding people of the problems because our shelters are overflowing every single night.

"It is a York Region problem and this report is a York Region solution, not a Toronto one," said Auerbach.

The report said new residential projects should be evenly split between detached homes and semi-detached and row houses, as well as apartment complexes, especially since a growing low-income and shrinking medium-income groups will increase the demand for affordable housing.

So too will an aging population as the average household size declines to 2.91 people from 3.31 residents in 1996.

However, Vaughan Regional Councillor Michael Di Biase expressed concern with a report promoting the huge need for rental housing units, insisting the demand for larger homes in his municipality outweighs the need for smaller dwellings.

"It's all about supply and demand. And I am a little bit leery to go ahead and approve a general policy across York Region when the needs of different municipalities must be addressed," warned Di Biase.

"The City of Vaughan has a number of draft plans that have come back from builders, and there is no demand for semi units and apartments. I wouldn't

want to see a policy come from the planning department that states all of a sudden we need a 50 per cent ratio when there is no market for it."

But in a presentation to the committee, regional planner Brian Dick told members a quick glance at York Region's official plan underscores the reality that the demands for affordable housing units are not being met.

"The official plan is for 1,000 units every year, but we are not providing any," he said. "Production of rental and apartment units are very poor."

"Housing is a growing concern for York Region employers, and new employees are becoming harder to attract. Incentives are now being used to draw applicants to York Region jobs, such as bonuses, stock options from high-tech companies, travel expenses and road tolls for Hwy. 407."

The causes of homelessness, meanwhile, are rarely simple.

Some people are affected by health problems and the inability to find their role in society, while others may have recently been discharged from institutions. Some are youth or women suffering from abuse, and families with at least one person working are still ending up in shelters.

The series of recommendations include:

- developing a regional policy that allows non-profit housing developments to be waived from paying development charges;
- waiving or deferring municipal

taxes related to the development or re-development for low-income housing.

- developing a housing-first policy for use of regional and municipal-owned lands;

- the region acknowledging that second suites or basement apartments form an important component of rental housing and local bylaws should be amended to make them legal;

- the establishment of a housing trust fund to help meet the region's affordable housing needs;

- improving the service infrastructure for homeless people by assisting those in the transition from homelessness to permanent housing, initiate volunteer training and management sessions to provide support to the homeless and regional council approving \$5,000 to support a community-driven public education program on the plight of the homeless;

- reviewing emergency and other shelter facilities;

- developing a regional youth strategy to help prevent teenage homelessness.

"We are fortunate that this problem is not as serious as it is in some of the other regions," pointed out Markham Regional Councillor Tony Wong, chairperson of the homelessness task force.

"It is important to deal with it now before it gets worse."

Unanimously approved in principle, minor revisions will be made to the draft report before it is sent to regional council on Sept. 28 for a final vote.



Pat Robinson
INC.

Trustee in Bankruptcy

Call for a free personal discussion:

- Help with creditor problems
- Proposal to creditors
- Personal & Business Bankruptcy
- Financial counselling

Richmond Hill 9555 Yonge St. • #401 (at Wedrick) (905) 508-9493
Aurora 15105 Yonge St. • #201 (at Church) (905) 727-2577
North York 45 Sheppard Ave. E. • #201 (at Yonge) (416) 410-6648

Toll Free • 1-877-727-2577

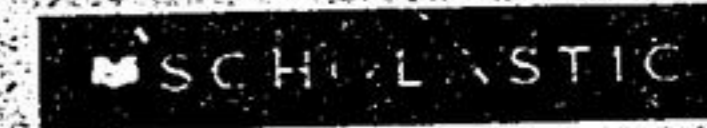
Email: pat@patrobinson.com

Web: www.patrobinson.com

ST Music
Conservation

Thank You!

Toronto and Region Conservation, in cooperation with ST Music, would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the "School Picnic and Environmental Day" held in June this year. These sponsors help to support the education of our youth, please remember them when making purchases. For more information about the event or its sponsors visit our website at www.trca.on.ca.



GO FOR YOUR PERSONAL GOAL!



Marnie McBean, four time Olympic Medalist

GoodLife Fitness supports Canada's National Rowing Team!

Canada's National Rowing Team Members train at GoodLife Fitness.

Join now! Support Canada's rowers and yourself.

GoodLife Fitness will donate a portion of September's proceeds from all new memberships to support our National Rowing Team.

ONE YEAR ONLY \$295

Without any long-term contracts!

No hidden cost. No extra fees.

50 clubs to choose from!

NEW LOCATION NOW OPEN!

GoodLife
FITNESS CLUBS

475-9288 • 3500 Steeles Ave. E.

Offer expires September 30, 2000. Offer valid at Barrie locations only.

'Vehicles flying all over', witness said

From page 1.

sion. The collision was of such intensity parts of both vehicles were flying all over the place, headlights were flying, fluids were leaking, there was smoke and clouds of dust. It was horrible."

Lam was to appear before a bail court judge late Thursday and Staff Sgt. Al Ledger said police would be looking for strict conditions, such as giving up his passport and driver's licence, if he was released.

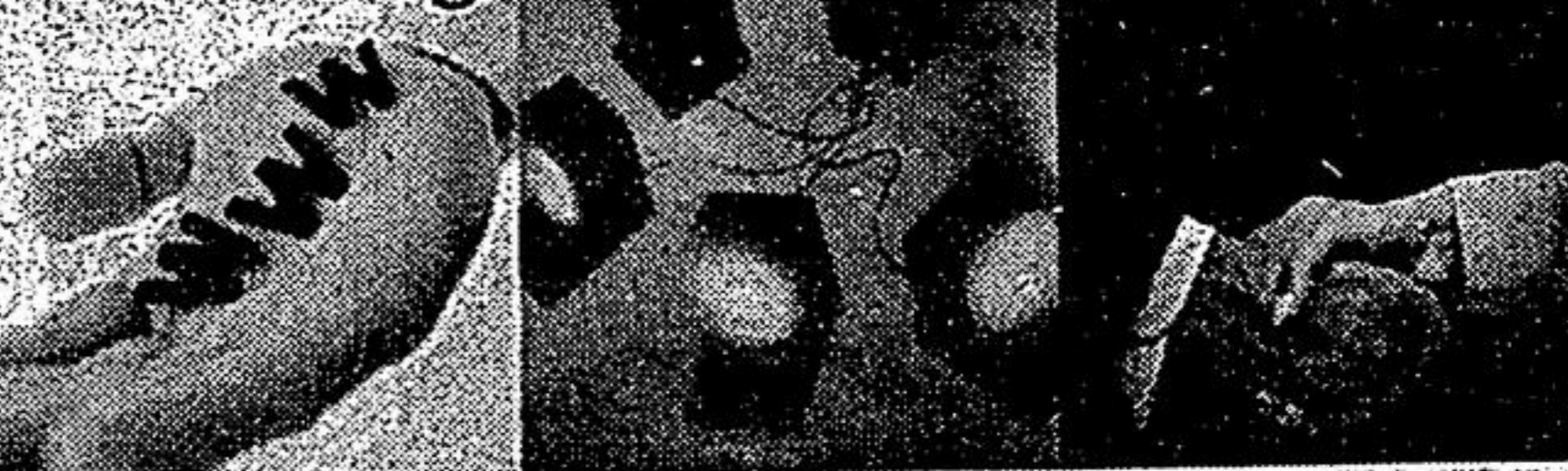
Pike's long-time friend Serena Leggo was relieved to hear of the arrest.

"Finally," she said. "It feels like a long, long time. It's been three months and it's not getting any easier, it's only slowly sinking in that I won't ever see her again."

Leggo has collected more than 300 signatures she hopes will convince York Region politicians to install traffic signals or some other traffic calming measures to make the area — Woodbine Avenue between 14th Avenue and Esna Park Drive — safer. She and friends have witnessed several collisions in the same area and believes something must be done.

"Whatever can be done, I don't really care what. Had there been one safety measure in place at that plaza, she may have been involved in the collision but she may have survived," Leggo said.

seeking business partners



New Internet Service Provider Enters Local Market

The latest dot.com success story could be YOU. Join Galaxy Internet's comprehensive Partnership Program and begin offering ISP service and specialized content. We can easily "re-brand" your company or organization as an ISP.

We supply all the equipment.
We do all the billing and administration.
You Market your brand, we deliver the service.

To learn more about how you can earn monthly income as an Internet Service Provider, contact:



GALAXY
INTERNET

(416) 861-1031

Erin Rubbens, Partner Development

Wake up & Smell the Coffee ...

and Perk up & Your Profits!



How would you like to meet 80 people & introduce your firm and services all before 9 a.m.

◆ Receive a list of all in attendance to follow up and build your contact list. You can do this & more at THE MARKHAM BOARD OF TRADE Networking Breakfasts.

Call the MBT today to get the dates of upcoming networking events and more info on membership.

(905) 474-0730, ext. 0

Membership means Business

