

INSIDE: Letters A6
Families B1
Sports B20
Classified B21

A11 The health-care system faces challenges in 2001, with a push for capital funding for major expansions

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR
EVENT: New Year's Eve family celebration
WHEN: Dec 31, 6:30 to 9 p.m.
WHERE: Stouffville Memorial Park



A3 The voters of Ontario were fed up by the time the federal election occurred in November. Nease shares his favourite cartoons

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Stouffville Tribune

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QUOTEABLE QUOTES

'We have killed this vampire twice before and we just don't know whether this will pop up again. How ironic that it's occurring near Halloween.'

— PIERRE BELANGER SAID IN OCTOBER, AFTER THE CAMPAIGN ORGANIZER AGAINST THE ADAMS MINE LANDFILL SITE RAISED CONCERNS THE PROPOSAL MAY BE RESURRECTED.

'If that train ever leaves Toronto, it is never going to arrive. The garbage will never go into that site. I, and others, will see to that.'

— DAVID RAMSAY TIMSKAMING-COCHRANE MPP EXPLAINED IN SEPTEMBER, BEFORE YORK REGION COUNCIL AGREED TO RAIL-HAUL ITS TRASH TO THE ABANDONED ORE MINE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO.

'Let's go to Switzerland, Germany and France, but let's not do anything about it. After 12 years of debate, what have we achieved? Nothing.'

— JOHN WEST AURORA COUNCILLOR, COMMENTING IN OCTOBER AFTER YORK REGION FAILED TO SETTLE ITS WASTE DISPOSAL CRISIS BEFORE NOVEMBER'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

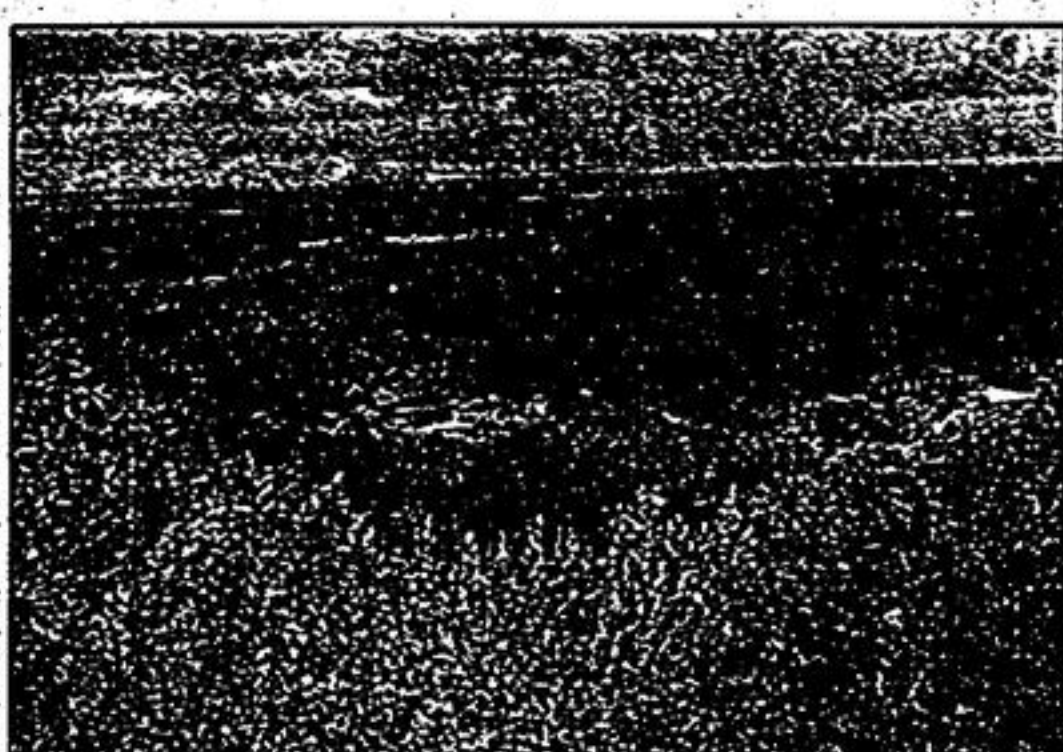
'I cringe every time I see those budget lines. The province has just gone away and left us with this one. It doesn't mean a bloody thing when you think the economy can change and it will all fall on York Region taxpayers to carry the load for Toronto.'

— DON COUSENS MARKHAM MAYOR COMMENTING ON A DIRECTIVE THAT THE REGION HAD TO PAY ANOTHER \$4 MILLION TOWARD TORONTO'S SOCIAL COSTS THIS YEAR, UP TO \$84 MILLION.

'The architect for today's disunity was Preston Manning ... he chose to launch a new party, split the vote and give rise to the political fragmentation we know today. My only astonishment comes from the fact that some well-intentioned Progressive Conservatives are gullible enough to swallow this absurd message.'

— BRIAN MULRONEY THE FORMER TORY PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON SUPPORTING FORMER MARKHAM TORY MP JIM JONES, WHO LATER RAN AS A CANADIAN ALLIANCE CANDIDATE.

YORK REGION'S NEWSMAKERS OF 2000



THE OAK RIDGES MORAINÉ
The environmentally sensitive York Region land form was the focus of heated debate for election candidates, environmentalists and developers. Its preservation will continue to dominate the headlines in 2001.



JOE WAMBACK
Father of a beating victim, the Newmarket resident ran as a Tory in the federal election.



JOYCE FRUSTAGLIO
Vaughan regional councillor worked diligently on York Region's non-smoking bylaw.



LORI PATRICK
Newmarket courthouse employee's complaints led to the discovery of toxic mould in the building.



MATHIEU TURGEON
Markham trampolining champ, who trains in Richmond Hill, earned a bronze Olympic medal.

ENVIRONMENT TOPS HEADLINES

BY ROY GREEN
Staff Writer

There were many newsmakers in 2000 — heroes and villains, winners and losers, the well-known and the formerly obscure.

But the biggest story in York

Region in this first year of the '00s was the environment.

The Oak Ridges Moraine, the derailed garbage train to Kirkland Lake, the Big Pipe in King Township, the slime in Lake Simcoe and the shocking discovery that the safety of some-

thing as elemental as the water we drink can no longer be taken for granted.

Typing "moraine" into this newspaper's archives reveals a list of 75 recent stories on that sensitive land mass, 54 of them this year.

The moraine, a 12,000-year-old land mass, is southern Ontario's rain barrel, collecting precipitation and storing it in aquifers — immense underground layers of sand and gravel. Fully one-third of it crosses York Region and much of that is

under siege from developers. Development plans in Richmond Hill, Whitchurch-Stouffville, King and Aurora may all hinge on the outcome of an extensive and lengthy Ontario Municipal Board hearing that began in May in Richmond Hill and is currently in recess.

The leading newsmakers in this issue in 2000 include Richmond Hill Councillor Brenda Hogg, who led that council's fight against development on the moraine, and Liberal MPP Mike Colle, who introduced two private members' bills at Queen's Park to protect the moraine.

After years of debate, there is still no answer to the question,

'Where will York's trash go after Keele Valley?'

Given the stakes, the resumption of the OMB hearing in the spring will ensure the issue will be a major story in 2001 and beyond.

2000 was the year the region thought it had solved the garbage crisis in York Region, piggy-backing on a Toronto plan to ship our waste via train to an abandoned iron ore mine in Kirkland Lake. This would have started when the Keele Valley landfill site closes in 2002.

But Metro council scrapped the plan, putting York back to square one. After years of debate, there is still no answer to the question asked in this newspaper in November: Where will York's trash go after Keele Valley?

The point man in this never-ending story is Markham Regional Councillor Gord Lan-

See NEWSMAKERS, page A8.

Traffic and trash must be region's top priorities for '01

BY PATRICK CASEY
Staff Writer

Gridlock Garbage. Just two words, but both carry huge implications for York Region as more than 730,000 residents prepare for 2001.

Although transportation and waste disposal and diversion options were hot topics in the past 12 months, regional councillors will soldier on next year as they continue a desperate search for solutions to both issues.

In each case, possible answers are plentiful, but they arrive with one significant catch — money.

Editorial: York Region must tackle these issues in 2001/page A6.

Despite the lack of monetary commitments, regional chairperson Bill Fisch pledged to solve the garbage riddle before the end of next year.

And improving transportation woes for commuters will be an ongoing venture.

"We won't be able to build everything we need next year, but we are working on a variety of different types of transportation systems," Fisch explained in a recent interview. "Things are starting to happen."

"Regrettably, some of these projects just don't happen overnight. It has taken three years to get transportation to the top of the political agenda and we are beginning to make a difference. Before, it wasn't even on the radar screen."

Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson was more succinct.

"We are facing huge challenges in York Region and we are at the tip of the iceberg," Jackson noted. "We are dealing with the huge influx of

new people and businesses in York Region and we have to deal with and handle the traffic.

"We have to push for mass transit and subway and GO train expansion. That's the two most important issues."

The financial numbers are

staggering for transportation, including:

• \$347.1 million York Region directed into transportation and works projects this year.

• \$880 million to take Toron-

See GARBAGE, page A10.

Spiritualist offers insight into our fearless leaders

How will they fare as they take us into 2001?

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

While no one can say for sure what the future of York Region holds, Markham spiritualist Heather Hill Gibson can tell us a little about the politicians running it.

After advising us to close our eyes and imagine the people we asked about, Hill Gibson offered some interesting insights.

Regional chairperson Bill Fisch will begin this year look-

ing forward, she said. He's progressive, inspires loyalty and brings respect to the region.

"He's a catalyst and there are areas where things will come to fruition this year," she said. "There's a partnering of some kind to come, but I don't know what it is. He's a bit of a risk taker. He can take people through a stormy and difficult time and when things look dark and gloomy, he can bring people out of it."

She sees change surrounding Fisch over the next nine

See CHANGES, page A10.



Bill Fisch is a bit of a risk taker, spiritualist Heather Hill Gibson says.

Environmental protectionists find success in election campaigns

IT WAS THE YEAR TO BE GREEN

BY SARAH PARKER
Staff Writer

Green was the colour to be — and the colour to beat — this year in federal and municipal election campaigns in York Region.

Several candidates rode into public office on environmental tickets and 2000 also saw the return of the environmental activist.

Brenda Hogg would know. She was elected

deputy mayor of Richmond Hill in November due to her strong, consistent stance on halting development and protecting green space.

"It's been a big year," said Hogg, who believes it was a case of too much happening too soon and, when push came to shove, the people started shoving back.

Development, and the

protection of green space have been pressing issues for some time, Hogg said.

She agreed environmental campaigns "suddenly took root" this year, but insisted this is merely the beginning.

The Greater Toronto Area has been growing at a tremendous rate at the expense of the environ-

See RAPID, page A12.



Environmentalist Erin Shapero was elected to Markham council on a platform based largely on protecting the environment.

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