

Naturalists see moraine as Algonquin, escarpment corridor

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

Noah, the story goes, saved the world's animals by building a refuge from an all-consuming flood.

NOAH is also the name some environmentalists fighting to save the Oak Ridges Moraine now use to describe part of their ultimate, long-range agenda.

Their NOAH — the Niagara Escarpment-Oak Ridges Moraine-Algonquin Adirondack Heritage System — is a set of large-scale natural corridors running across southern Ontario along the escarpment

and moraine and from Algonquin Provincial Park into New York State.

York Region, where the two corridors could intersect and where many fear urban development could overrun the moraine contains the most pressing threats to the plan, says John MacKenzie, its chief proponent.

"The real pressure point out of all of this is still Richmond Hill and Vaughan," said MacKenzie, director of a group called Public Spaces.

The moraine on which the provincial government has

frozen development for six months, stretches for an unbroken 160 kilometres to join the escarpment, a similar landform protected by strict provincial regulations.

MacKenzie, a planner on the Save The Rouge Valley System team opposing the proposed moraine developments in Richmond Hill, has been quietly lobbying government and opposition MPPs on the NOAH concept.

Last week, he gained some backing from fellow conserva-

See BIG, page 15.

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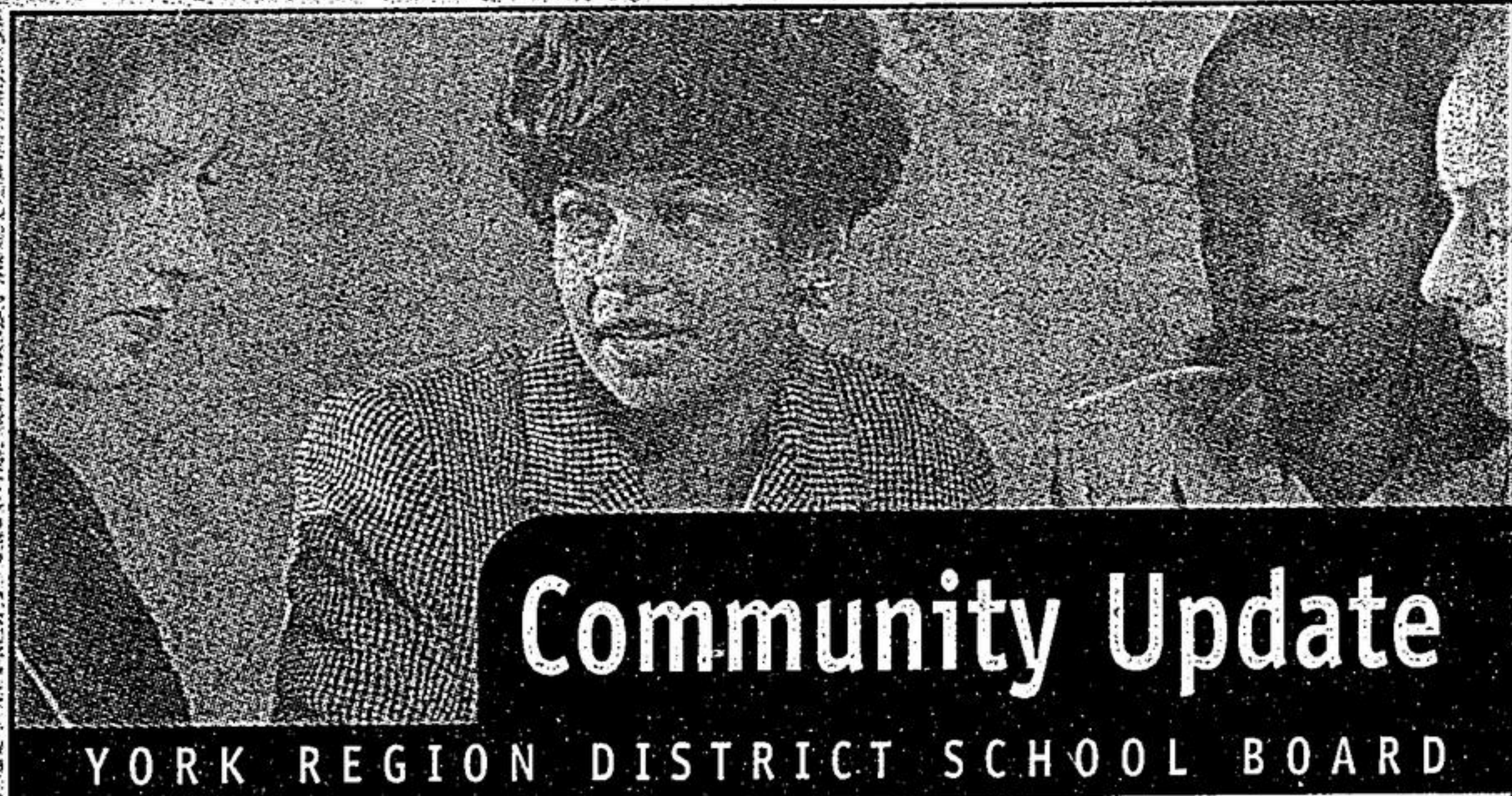
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Community Update

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Secondary School Attendance Boundary Review

The York Region District School Board introduced its new Capital Strategy in 1999 to coincide with the new capital funding mechanism from the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Throughout the region, seven new secondary schools have been scheduled to open within the next four years followed by additional schools shortly thereafter. Attendance areas for these new schools are required. The Board will be undertaking a review of all secondary school attendance boundaries within the municipalities of Vaughan, Markham, Aurora and King City. This review will invite public input and will begin in September 2001. Recommendations will be presented to the Board in early 2002 for September 2002 implementation.

Community meetings will be organized to review boundary options. Announcements identifying the time and location of these open sessions will be made known through the local media as well as through the School Councils and school newsletters.

Your input is encouraged. We look forward to your involvement in creating new secondary school communities for the students of York Region.

For further information contact the Community Education Centre - Secondary at (905) 884-4477.



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