

Expanded authority welcomed by region

BY ROGER VARLEY
Staff Writer

The provincial government's promise to reform the Municipal Act to give municipalities greater powers was welcomed by York Region chairperson Bill Fisch.

"Assuming these things happen, it's good," Fisch said of the changes outlined by Municipal Affairs Minister Chris Hodgson at the recent annual convention of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Chief among the changes would be to give municipalities

and regions "broad authority" over public utilities, waste management and parking — among others — and to recognize them as levels of government.

In a speech to AMO, Hodgson said the new Municipal Act "will recognize that municipalities are responsible and accountable governments."

"That important principle will be established in the introduction to the proposed legislation."

"You would have thought that," Fisch said. "But the Municipal Act is 100 years old and it hasn't been updated for 40 years."

Sitting in the lobby of the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston where members of York Region council were attending a two-day retreat, Fisch said the proposed changes will give local governments powers they didn't have before.

Among those new powers are



BILL FISCH
Changes will make local governments more efficient.

the ability to establish housing corporations and borrow money "with less red tape involved".

Regional chief administrative officer Alan Wells added local governments will be able to enter into partnerships with the private sector once the reforms are in place.

"York Region has a large printing operation," he said. "But under current legislation we can't go after private printing jobs because we would be in competition with the private sector."

Fisch also welcomed the proposal to give municipalities the same legal powers as any person to

conduct day-to-day business. Right now, municipal governments need legislative authority from the province to act.

The changes will make local governments more efficient, Fisch said.

"Currently, time and (provincial) red tape makes us less efficient."

Fisch said he would like for the reforms to include different types of revenue sharing, including shares of provincial sales and gasoline taxes.

"Then they'd really be listening to us," he said.

GO Back in Style



Bonus

BODY GLOVE Slingpack™

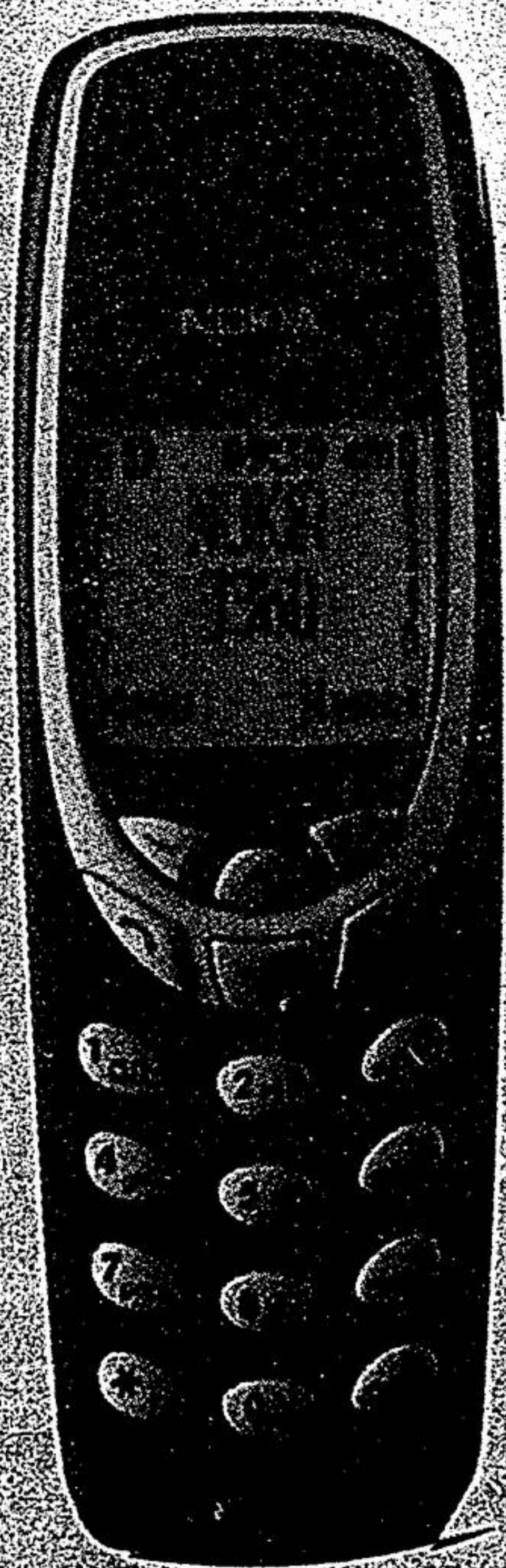
valued at \$50

With every

Rogers™ AT&T®
activation!

First 3-months **FREE**
2-way text messaging*

For only **\$25**
Get unlimited
weekends
and 150
Anytime
minutes



Nokia 3360

\$0**

- 2-way text and e-mail messaging
- downloadable ring tones
- notes and reminders
- games, & more

& keep
in touch

ROGERS™ AT&T®

WIRELESS

4560 Hwy. 7 E. Ste. 300
(Hwy. 7 & Old Kennedy Road)

(905) 513-8448

OPEN: SATURDAY 10AM - 6PM

*Offer ends August 31, 2001

When you purchase messaging pack of \$7/month which includes Mobile Message, Enhanced Voicemail and 100 sent or received 2-way text messages. Additional messages 10 cents each. Airtime and roaming and long distance charges where applicable. All prices shown in this ad are exclusive of any applicable taxes. The advertised products are available at participating Rogers/AT&T stores. Some items may be limited to the quantity available at time of sale. Rogers/AT&T does not accept liability for pictorial or typographical error. Prices subject to change at any time. Rogers/AT&T reserves the right of limit call length in unlimited periods. Unlimited weekends for duration of contract. Offer valid until September 30, 2001. Offer applies on 1 and 2 year terms starting at \$25 monthly service fee. While supplies last. Offer valid until September 3, 2001. **After \$50 mail-in credit on a 2-year term minimum \$25 monthly service fee. Offer valid until September 30, 2001. Rogers Communications Inc. Used under License. AT&T Com. Used under License. © Mobile Message and Enhanced Voicemail are Registered Trademarks of Rogers Wireless Inc.

UPDATE FOR GO TRANSIT PARKING PROPOSAL AT CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

For the information of all residents and interested parties, the matter of the proposed shared use of parking between GO Transit and the Town of Markham, at the Centennial Community Centre (Bullock Dr. and McCowan Rd.), will be considered by Markham Council on August 28.

Should Markham Council proceed with the proposal, all those interested will be invited to attend a future public meeting to express their views. Notification of this meeting will be provided, once details are confirmed.

For more information contact the Clerk's Office at 905-475-4744.



Website: www.city.markham.on.ca

a beachcomber
hot tub
the great escape

Dozens of spas to
choose from.

Starting at
\$3,895⁰⁰

when you buy a new
beachcomber hot tub

you can get extra value options
worth over 1600, for a limited time!

now only **178**



ROGERS/BEACHCOMBER HOT TUBS
294-8030

HOURS
Mon - Fri 9-5
Sat 9-5
Sun 10-5