

# Moraine recommendations awaited

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reduced to 30 in the final version. Crandall said types of rural industrial, commercial and institutional businesses to be permitted in such areas — a source of controversy — have been better defined. A Zellers store would not be possible, she said, but small-scale retirement homes, service centres for the agricultural community, and aggregate processing or asphalt plants would be.

Urban settlement areas, the panel's fourth recommended land-use for the moraine, were marked down a further per cent to eight.

Crandall, a panel member, was part of a similar process that led to a 1994 report recommending protection for 26 per cent for the moraine. She called results of the current advisory process involving politicians, developers and environmentalists "a whole lot better," arguing its plan would allow virtually no development on 92 per cent.

STORM and FON, a group which also had a representative on the panel, said they released details of the final plan yesterday to encourage the government to act.

Crandall defended a panel's recommendation for a review of the plan every 10 years (a period increased from draft's five years) as nec-

essary to add changes that could make it stronger. "There is no legislation that exists that can't be amended from time to time," she argued.

But Glenn De Baeremaeker, president of Save The Rouge Valley System said such protection is meaningless unless it is permanent. "A 10-year review is an invitation to the development industry," he said after Crandall and Beck finished. "They're speculators; they'll wait 10 years. That's just the normal business cycle for them."

De Baeremaeker — whose group goes to court Friday to try to stop Bayview Avenue's extension through the Jefferson Forest in Richmond Hill, a core area on the moraine — promised to lead a campaign urging Premier Mike Harris to ignore the panel's recommendations and declare the moraine a provincial park.

He said the Parkway Belt system of green spaces the province promised in 1975 to separate Toronto from suburban municipalities to the north such as in York Region, has practically disappeared.

Wynn Walters, co-ordinator of the Citizens Alliance of Uxbridge, said he is convinced the panel listened to comments from thousands who attended recent public meetings on the moraine

or otherwise "securing moraine land against development." The panel has said it believes "more than \$250 million" is needed for such work.

No detailed map of the panel's recommended land-use boundaries was available Wednesday.

Alexandra Gillespie, a spokesperson for Hodgson, said no date has been set to introduce legislation. But the ministry will attempt to have its protection in place by its self-imposed Nov. 17 deadline.

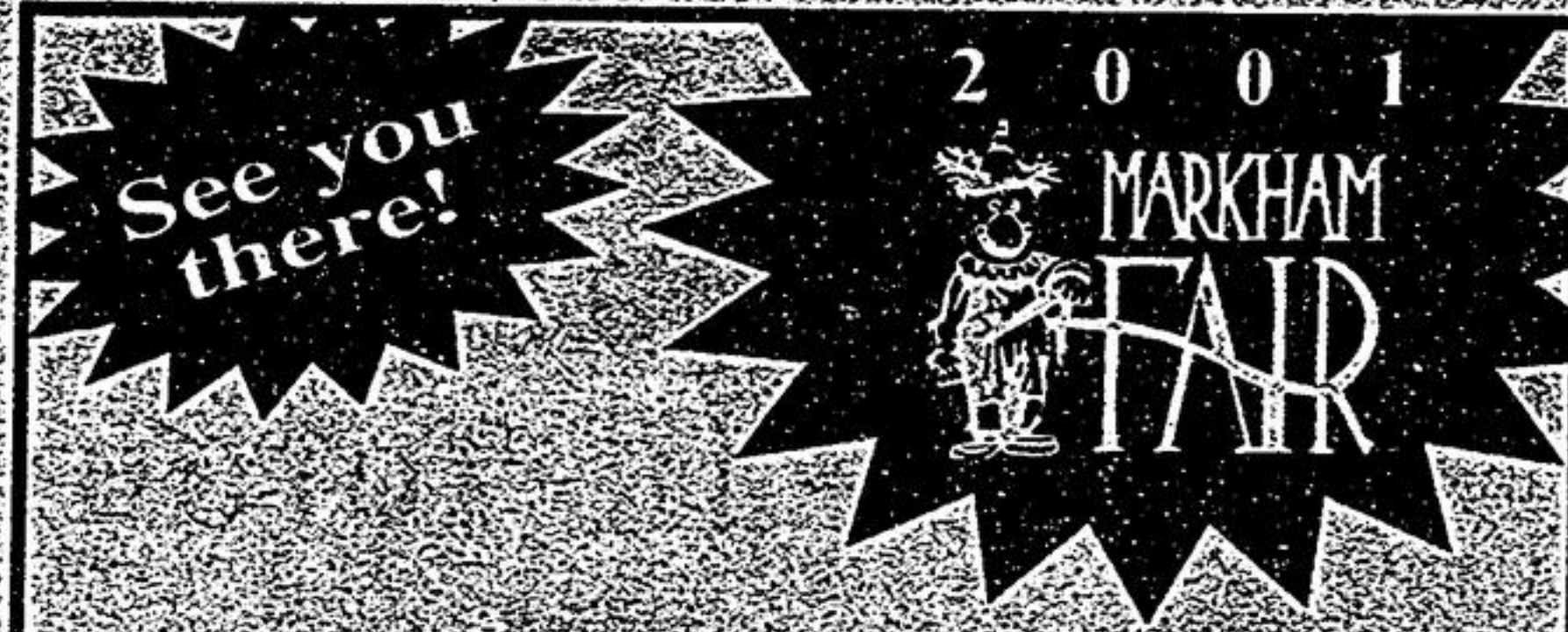
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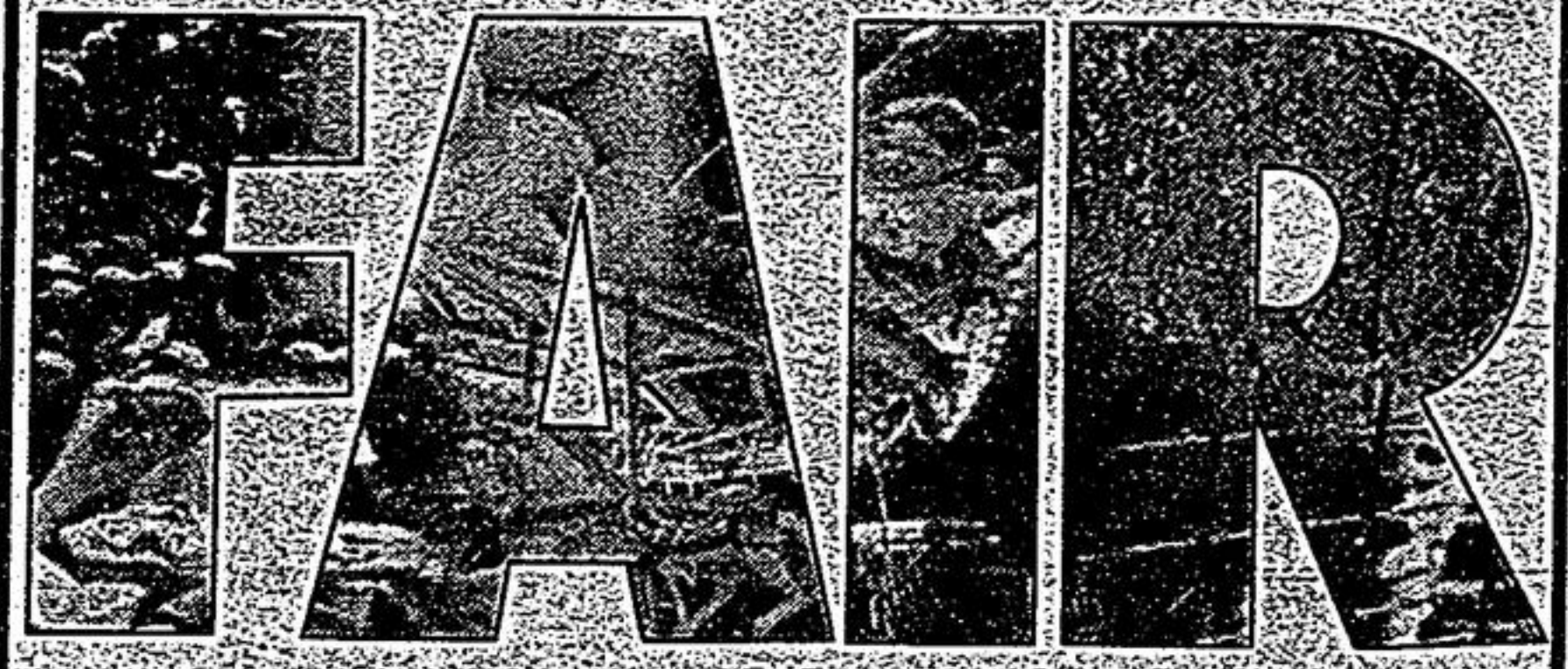
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