

Residents like current ward system

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"This is very premature," stated Lemonville resident Dave Probert, who asked that the issue be deferred. In March, council asked town staff to create four municipal ward boundaries — there are currently six wards — for the 2003 election. Later that month, in a report, staff called the move premature and recommended the town realign boundaries in 2004 in time for the 2006 election. Councillors agreed.

"The problem is not too much representation," said Stouffville resident Randy Mole, "it is not enough." He added that although "the provincial government wants efficiency, we want representation." A move by the Ontario government to have fewer politicians is the thrust behind municipalities looking at how they can streamline their local governments.

Musselman's Lake resident Pat Cashman, a former Whitchurch councillor, stated that "I put the ward system in Whitchurch because I couldn't do it all." Noting that the population in his area hasn't changed significantly since 1965, he said, "I think we are run by the developers in this town." He recommended having a regional councillor from the municipality.

Stouffville's Fred Robbins, who ran unsuccessfully for council in the last election, was concerned that a four-ward system would create an urban-rural split, with most resources going to the area of greatest population.

Fewer phone calls would be returned if there were fewer councillors, Stouffville resident Jeanne Major, who ran for mayor in the last election, said.

"I am here tonight because I read about it in the local paper," said Loretta Lavell, a Stouffville resident. "Keep the six-ward set-up. Don't go to four."

Rapid population growth, which should start with the arrival of the "Big Pipe" either late in 2003 or in 2004, will eventually force changes in ward boundaries. Keeping the status quo "is not a permanent option," noted town clerk Michele Kennedy, who has been involved in running municipal elections since 1988. If nothing is done, by the year 2021, there will be a projected population of more than 22,000 people in Ward 6; in southern Stouffville, compared to only 2,759 people in rural Ward 1 in the Vandorf area. This would make it impossible for the municipality to have roughly the same number of people in each ward in keeping with the concept of representation by population.

Other factors in determining ward boundaries include keeping communities intact and not split between two wards, having the ward boundaries fall on major roads or along railway lines and making sure the new ward structure can stay in place for several elections.



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The Regional Municipality of York
ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

THE COUNCIL OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK PROPOSES TO PASS A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING:


1. **INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS TO AURORA ROAD (Y.R. 15) AND WARDEN AVENUE (Y.R. 65), TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, PROJECT 9416**
 - (a) the construction of the turning lanes in the intersection of Aurora Road (Y.R. 15) and Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65) in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville;
 - (b) the provision of new traffic signals and associated illumination at the reconstructed intersection of Aurora Road (Y.R. 15) and Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65);
 - (c) the carrying out of all related works and undertakings in connection with the above; and
 - (d) the acquisition of the necessary lands and interest in lands for the works described above.

Pursuant to section 300 of the *Municipal Act*, the Transportation and Works Committee of the Regional Council will, at its meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on the 22nd day of May, 2002 in Committee Room "A" at the Regional Administrative Building located at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, hear any person who claims that his/her lands will be prejudicially affected by the by-law and who applies to be heard. Anyone wishing to be heard is requested to advise the Office of the Regional Clerk, attention Elma Stevenson (telephone 905-830-4444 or 905-731-0201, ext. 1303). If any party entitled to be heard does not attend at the hearing, the Committee may proceed in his/her absence and he/she will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceedings.

The proposed by-law and plans showing the proposed works may be inspected at the office of Paul Jankowski, Director, Infrastructure Design and Construction Branch, at the Transportation and Works Department located at the Regional Administrative Building at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket (telephone 905-895-1200 or 905-764-6345; ext. 5088).

DATED at Newmarket this 9th day of May, 2002.

DENIS KELLY
Regional Clerk
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1



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