

World Youth Day cross comes to Unionville parish

BY CHRISSIE O'BRIEN
Special

Only a handful of York Region Roman Catholic Churches are receiving the seven-foot World Youth Day Cross as its cross-Canada pilgrimage ends in Toronto during the giant, week-long World Youth Day celebrations.

Unionville's St. Justin, Martyr parish is one them.

"We are very excited and honoured to have the cross come to our parish," said Reverend Michael Busch. His church has a full day's events planned around the cross when it arrives on Sunday.

Reverend Busch says people from all walks of Christianity are welcome to attend the celebration.

"World Youth Day is about young Christians coming together; it's not just a Catholic thing," said Larissa Marks, director of the Youth ministry at St. Justin, Martyr.

"It is going to be an awesome, life-changing event."

In 1984 the simple wooden cross was entrusted by Pope John Paul II for the world's young people to carry as a symbol of their faith. It represents the spiritual solidarity of all Christians.

The Greater Toronto Area is the 72nd and final stop in the Canadian pilgrimage, which began in April, 2001 in preparation for Youth Day celebrations. They take place July 23-28 in Downsview. Pope John Paul II is still slated to attend, although his ill health has cast a shadow over plans.

Meanwhile, young people are invited to gather with their families at St. Justin, Martyr parish (on Hwy. 7 east of Warden Avenue) to receive the cross, which is scheduled to arrive at 8 a.m.

Masses to celebrate the mystery of the cross are at 9

and 10:30 a.m.

A third mass, with Bishop Anthony Meagher (a World Youth Day committee delegate), is at noon.

Two hours later a four-kilometre walk with the cross begins in the church parking lot. It ends at Toogood Pond, but not before a presentation of the Way of the Cross, which is a dramatization of what Christians believe is the last day of Jesus Christ.

"Six young people can carry the cross at a time, and there are seven places along the route where people will switch," said Rev. Busch.

The stations of the cross will be celebrated around the pond before the walk returns to St. Justin, Martyr at around 5 p.m.

During the evening the church is open for private prayer.

A special 9 p.m. service, with song, scripture readings and the opportunity for reflection, wraps up the day.

"We are hoping for 600 or 1,000 people to attend the

celebration," said Rev. Busch.

"Given everything that happened in the last year we're opening this event to Christians and non-Christians. We want to bring people together to celebrate the life of Jesus."

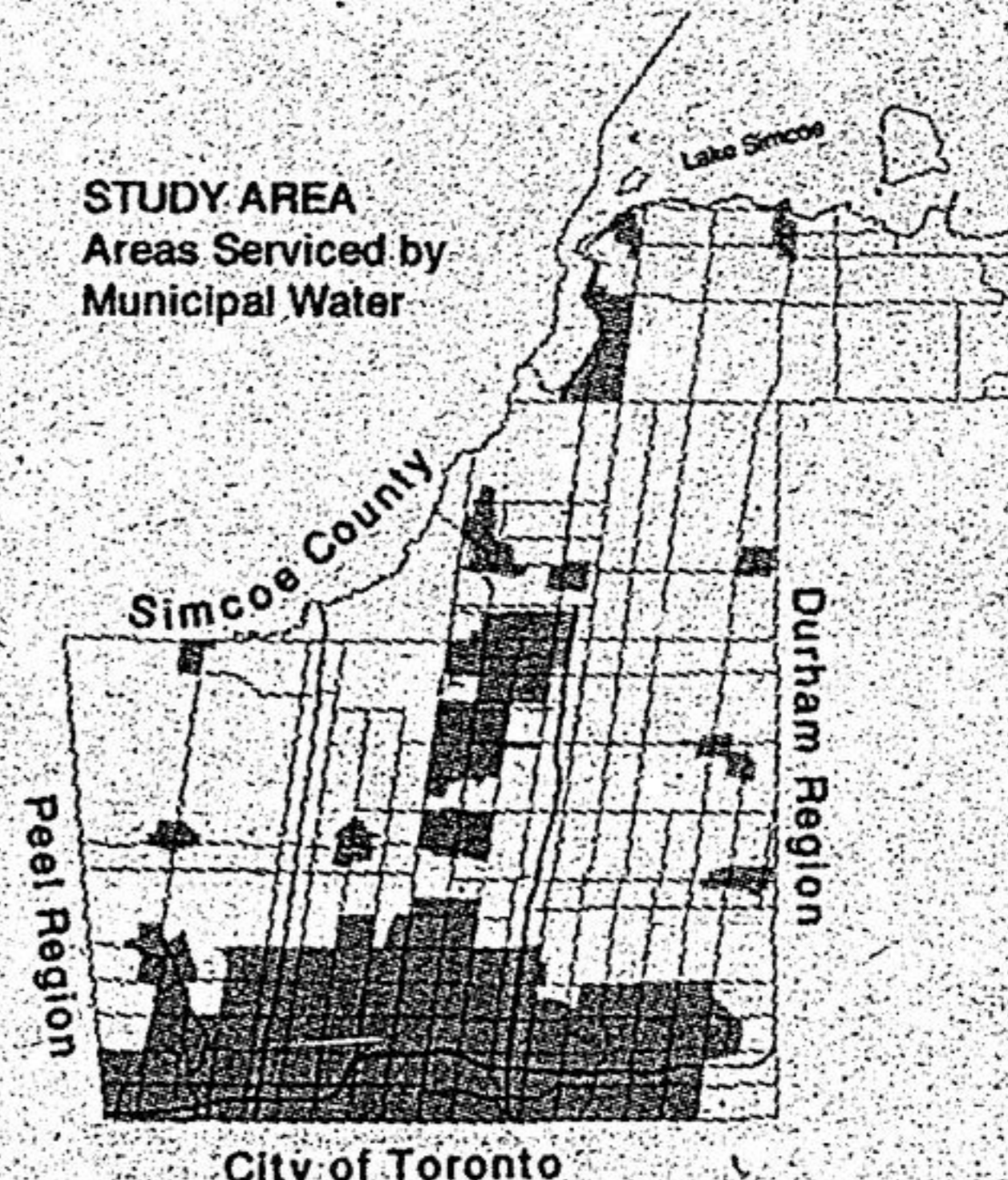
Ms Marks is more realistic about why some will gather, admitting "We have guys that come because there are girls who will be in tank tops."

The Regional Municipality of York LONG TERM WATER PROJECT MASTER PLAN UPDATE NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

THE STUDY

The Regional Municipality of York has commenced an update of its Long Term Water Project Master Plan last reviewed in 1997. The Master Plan is a long-range plan that integrates infrastructure requirements for existing and future land use with environmental assessment planning principles. Master Plans for infrastructure projects are typically updated every five years to ensure the infrastructure program (eg, pumping stations, treatment facilities, water mains, etc.) remains consistent with the changing needs of the community served. It is the most appropriate tool to examine the Region's water infrastructure system in order to outline a framework for planning for subsequent projects. Once complete, the update will result in a revised Long Term Water Project Master Plan document that will identify and recommend water infrastructure projects required to satisfy growth in the Region to the year 2036.

STUDY AREA Areas Served by Municipal Water



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Public consultation is a key component of this study. The proposed consultation plan provides for public information centres at two points in the study: Fall 2002 to review the problem and alternative solutions; and early in 2003 to review the preferred solution. Additionally, there will be opportunity provided to review and comment on the final Master Plan report expected in early spring 2003.

STUDY CONTACTS

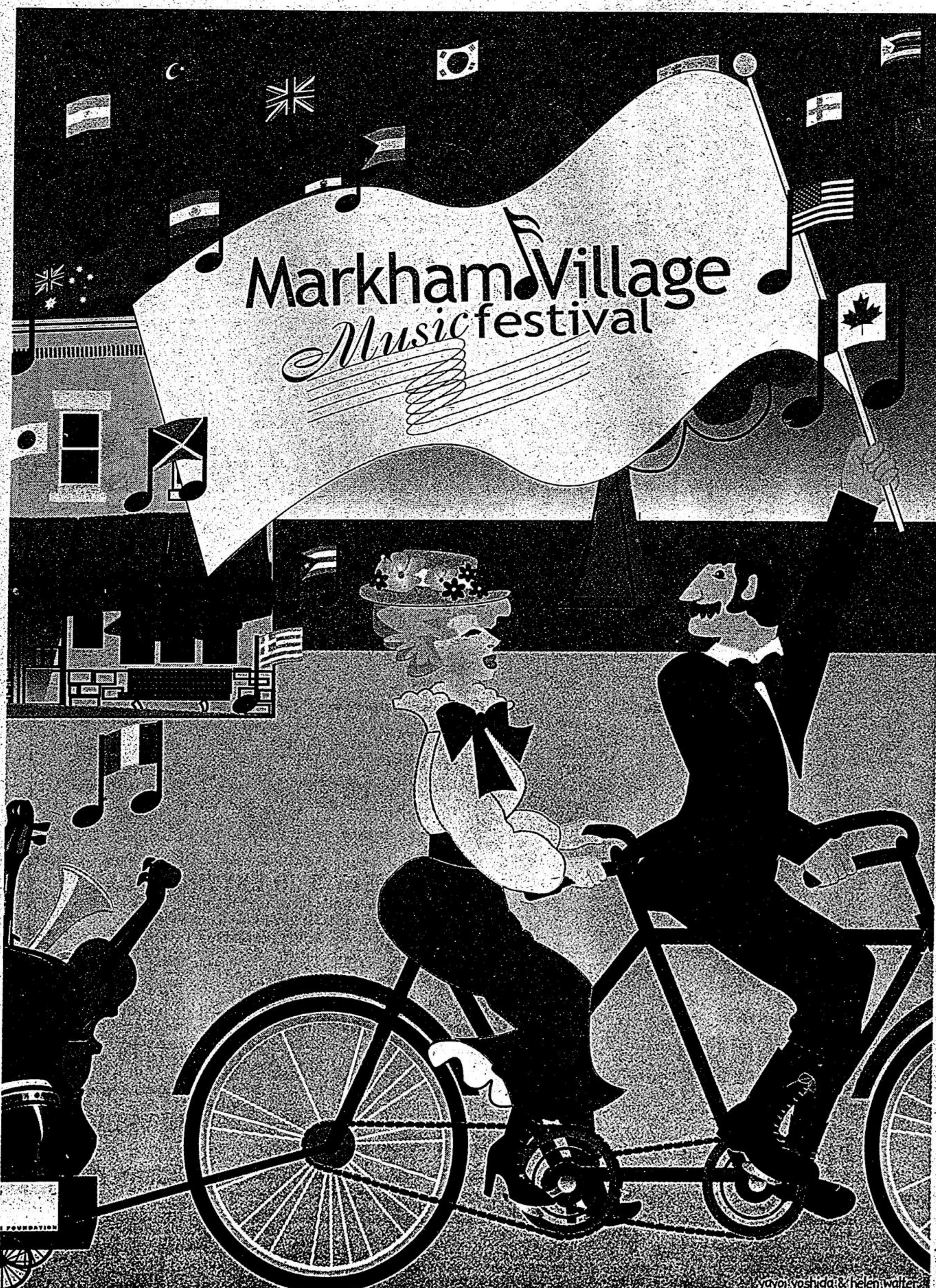
If you have any questions about the Long Term Water Project Master Plan Update, or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact:

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York Region



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Markham Main St. North (Hwy 48 & 7) and Morgan Park