

# Cheers, jeers as ventilation plan nixed

From page 1.

said Mr. Ferrabee.

"I was just absolutely appalled and shocked by the manner in which it was done."

He said the committee's decision means operators must adhere to requirements of the bylaw, spending tens of thousands of dollars on enclosed, ventilated smoking areas.

"I would be very concerned as a small business person in that community," Mr. Ferrabee said.

Health committee chairperson Joyce Frustaglio, however, said the proposal was given a fair review before being rejected.

"I think the region has been more than fair and more than open-minded on

this issue," said the Vaughan councillor.

The committee decision was backed by Michael Perley, director of the Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco. He said the region should reject any option that would expose people to second-hand smoke.

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"It is absurd to suggest any ventilation technology could come close to eliminating even the majority of toxins in such a majori-

ty of different physical settings," Mr. Perley said.

"Ventilation cannot be a solution to the second-hand smoke problem indoors for a number of technical and practical reasons."

He also accused the association of being in cahoots with the tobacco industry in promoting the ventilation alternative, "a strategy pro-

moted and supported by Canadian and American tobacco companies ... to avoid imposition of smoke-free policies."

Mr. Ferrabee called the comment a "shameless" part of the lobby group's "smear campaign", aimed at eliminating smoking.

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