

# SmartRide 'doesn't do it' for York Region's growth patterns

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doesn't do it," regional spokesperson Patrick Casey said yesterday.

"It doesn't do it for our needs and for our growth patterns."

But Bill Pearson, a spokesperson for SmartRide, said land on

the Finch corridor is available cheap and the route has fewer problems than Hwy. 7. "We were trying to find the most economic

solution here," he said yesterday.

"It's about what is the most effective way to get people out of their cars."

Last week, SmartRide said it could build 106 kilometres of rail lines and stations over a 10-year period. Commuters should then be able to cover almost all of the network's annual operating costs of \$80 million to \$100 million a year, Mr. Pearson said.

GO's \$965-million proposal calls for a two-lane bus route by 2011 that stops at York University, goes north to meet Hwy. 407 around Keele Street and runs along the toll highway until Markham Road, where it heads south to Hwy. 401.

York and its chosen consortium filed

a business plan with the province and federal government last month, but Mr. Casey said it contains confidential information and won't be released.

## YORK REGION PROMISE

In October, the region promised to start its transit plans immediately by spending \$50 million from 2003 to 2005 in a capital program called Quick Start, if federal and provincial governments would promise matching amounts.

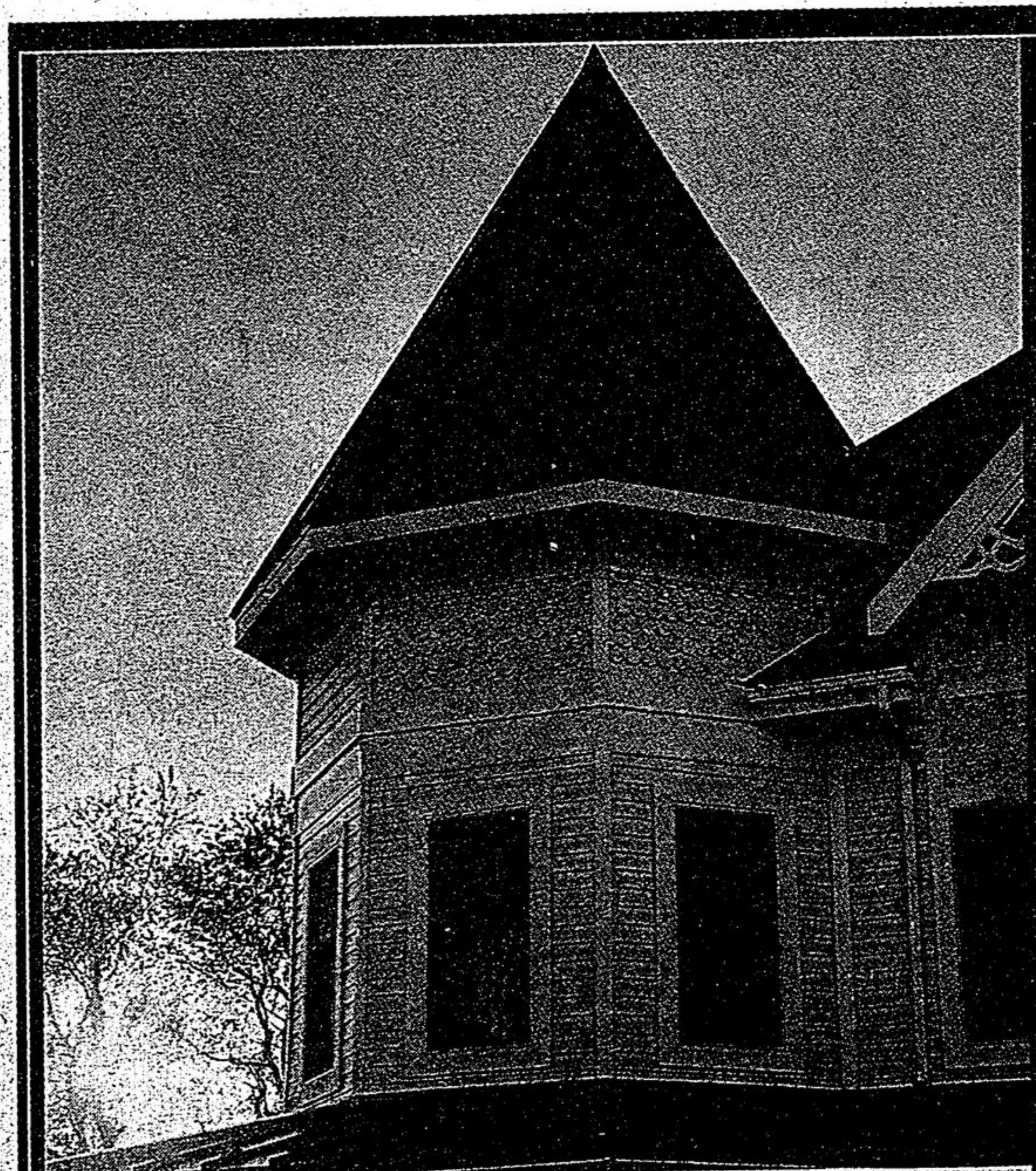
A possible factor in next year's funding quest is Vaughan's continuing campaign for a \$1.4 billion Spadina subway extension to its corporate centre at Hwy. 7.

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the Hudson Bay Company would like to congratulate the winners of the Hbc Gift Card Promotion. The Hbc gift card is new and works just like a debit card for purchases at any of the Hbc banner stores, the Bay, Zellers and Home Outfitters.

Pictured from left Shuck Ying Chin with grand-daughter Chelsea Williams, Arlene Milnes and Sharina Soriano.



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