

**York Catholic District School Board**

**Notice Regarding Financial Statements**

The York Catholic District School Board's complete audited 2002-2003 financial statement package, auditor's report, notes to the financial statements and annual report are available on our Website at [www.ycdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.ycdsb.edu.on.ca)

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York Catholic District School Board  
320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, ON L4G 3G8

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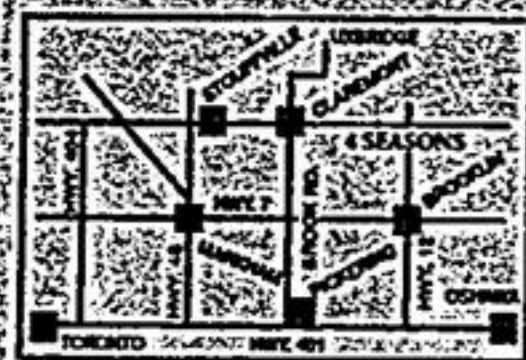


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**Region pressured to cut road salt use**

BY MIKE ADLER  
Staff Writer

Bitterly opposed by environmentalists and built with tunnels especially for amphibian use, the Bayview extension in Richmond Hill is different in another way.

It contains one of a few stretches of road where York Region cuts back its usual applications of winter salt, by 10 per cent.

"It's a nice gesture but I don't think it's going to do much," said Natalie Helferty, a local biologist.

She's concerned salty runoff from the new section of Bayview will kill frog and salamander eggs in a swamp beside it, find its way into streams and accumulate in groundwater.

"Our rivers are heavily salted and heavily polluted in the spring runoff," she said this week.

Toronto-based environmentalists in the RiverSides Stewardship Alliance supplied some proof of this three years ago, by releasing salt-sampling results from local rivers. One Humber River sample, taken near highways 7 and 400 in Vaughan, had 1,540 parts salt per million — about six times the amount considered drinkable.

Brian Harrison, the region's roads and transportation director, said York is doing all it can to stop road salt from reaching rivers and lakes.

"We have to keep the roads safe for the travelling public. In managing it better, we're hopefully using less."

The region drops about 34,000 tonnes of salt a year, using computer-controlled spreaders that drop less as the truck slows down. Sensors under roads also let the region know when weather may produce ice.

Six trucks in the region's fleet will also be equipped to spray a salt brine that is more precise and more effective at preventing ice than dropped salt crystals.

"We're still getting our feet wet with it because it is a new technology," Mr. Harrison said.

The brine can't replace salt, he said: It will stick to snow, for instance, that would otherwise blow off roads.

You'll see the anti-icing (solution used) ahead of a storm but not during a storm."

Though City of Toronto officials say they can cut salt use 25 per cent by applying brine on ice-prone areas, York has no targets for reducing salt.

More on RiverSides' low-salt campaign is available at [riversides.org/review/riversides/low\\_salt\\_diet.htm](http://riversides.org/review/riversides/low_salt_diet.htm)

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