

# Task force unsure what its work will protect

Ministry to develop greenbelt map before end of year

BY MIKE ADLER  
Staff Writer

Ontario's greenbelt task force handed its final report to the province this week without knowing what its six months of work on the project will actually protect.

But chairperson Rob MacIsaac was certain the protected area won't enter Simcoe County, though many say proposed developments there threaten to swamp York Region roads and push suburban sprawl further north.

Dozens of environmental groups and some York Region politicians have demanded the province expand the greenbelt north to foil builders trying to "leapfrog" the Oak Ridges

Moraine and other lands the greenbelt will protect.

But the province's emerging growth management plan can deal with the issue, Mr. MacIsaac said.

"Leapfrogging isn't inherently bad, as long as you're planning for it," the Burlington mayor added before giving the panels recommendations to Municipal Affairs Minister John Gerretsen at the Kortright Centre for Conservation in Vaughan.

It's now up to Natural Resources Ministry staff and other provincial officials to draw maps of the protected areas and release them along with a draft greenbelt plan this fall.

Apart from the Holland Marsh and tender fruit-growing lands in Niagara, the task force deliberately avoided naming areas the greenbelt should protect.

Mr. MacIsaac, however, said he expects "fingers" of protection — mostly along river valleys and streams — to reach through

urban areas. Connected green corridors should link previously protected Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment lands with Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe, he suggested.

One task force member later said she's confident this means greenbelt protection for Rouge Park, the Oak Ridges Trail and the East Humber Valley Complex containing Boyd Park in Vaughan — all of which the task force calls important "cultural, recreation and tourism features" that risk being degraded through loss of surrounding greenspace.

"It's recognized here and these are what we expect to have included," said Deborah Schulte, a Kleinburg resident who is also a member of Friends of Boyd Park, a group that opposes the extension of Pine Valley Drive through part of the Humber complex.

The task force received 1,000 submissions and talked to more than 60 groups as it refined principles for the greenbelt. The

province wants a greenbelt in place by Dec. 15 — when a one-year freeze on new Greater Toronto Area development ends — and has appointed a special team to address agricultural issues.

"Is everybody going to be happy with what we've recommended? Absolutely, not," Mr. MacIsaac said, but added the panels work "reflects the values of Ontarians" and the province will make sure it works with the growth management plan.

"If they do them both together, then we'll know what the rules are," said Fraser Nelson, a task

force member and chairperson of the Urban Development Institute's York Region chapter.

"This is not bad news for the development industry, it's good news," he added.

Natalie Helferty, a biologist and ecological consultant from Richmond Hill also on the panel, said her biggest concern is residents won't accept intensification in urban areas, something the greenbelt plan will need. People must understand keeping development from spreading will protect greenspace and farms, boosting quality of life for everyone, she said.

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Carmen Pastore has been in the hair dressing industry for the past ten years and was previously employed at an upscale downtown salon called Epoca Hair Group, which has allowed him to take his passion to the next step. While working, Carmen has continuously polished and upgraded his skills and knowledge, and is up-to-date on the latest trends and techniques of the industry. Carmen's career training started early. Eager and passionate for the hairdressing field, he took a wide variety of courses, including study in Atlanta, New York and Toronto. He has also worked closely with the Aveda Institute in Minneapolis Minnesota.

Carmen's many years of hard work and dedication soon paid off, and he was nominated for many awards such as Newcomer of the Year, The Canadian Hair Styling Awards, and the Contesa Awards. Carmen also went on to win the same awards in the "Men's" category the following year.

Carmen has also contributed his expert advice and knowledge of the industry to a wide range of specialty magazines which have always been supportive of his creative and unique work and ideas. Two of these popular magazines include Salon Magazine and Canadian Hairdressing Magazine.