

W. Nile victim 'beautiful woman'

BY CHRIS TRABER
Staff Writer

A Richmond Hill woman who died in Florida last Sunday of West Nile virus always met life's challenges head on, the family's rabbi, Moshe Stern, said.

Judy Teperman, 59, was bitten by a mosquito while vacationing with her husband, Irving, in Miami last month.

The Tepermans were decorating a recently purchased condominium in Hallandale, Fl., when Mrs. Teperman took ill, Rabbi Stern said.

"The family is distraught and in shock. When she

went on holidays she wasn't sick. It started with a rash and she became increasingly ill. There were arrangements for an air ambulance to bring her home, but she passed away Sunday," Rabbi Stern said.

He described Mrs. Teperman as a "beautiful woman inside and out. That's the best way to describe her."

"Judy was highly devoted to her family and took on a number of responsibilities well beyond the call of duty. She gave of herself to friends and the community. That's why there were more than 1,000 people at the service."

Anti-tower group gaining support

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very clear to me that when they make an announcement, I'll receive a letter on Hydro One letterhead."

Reached at his office Thursday, Mr. Marcello said, "What the mayor is telling you is (we) haven't sent those letters and documents to the Ministry of the Environment. There will have to be another public meeting before we go through a formal notification process. The community got their information last night of what we intend to do. We expect to file the package in October and the environmental approval process allows for people to submit written comments."

Mr. Cousens said Mr. Marcello is "drawing conclusions that will make it difficult for them. If things start to go off course and to me, they haven't to this point, Markham will ask for a judicial

review. For him to say he's going to precipitate that class (environmental assessment) right now is unfounded."

Richard Johnson, a member of the Aurora chapter of Stop Transmission Lines Over People (STOP), said the announcement didn't come as much of a surprise.

'OPTIONS DISREGARDED'

"Hydro has totally disregarded any other possible options presented to them since the beginning of this process," Mr. Johnson said, adding the group has been picking up support through an online petition.

"There are 756 petitions signed and we've delivered 100 lawn signs. The message is starting to pick up momentum. The only way we're going to win this fight is if it becomes a political issue."

Hydro's plans call for the current 80-foot towers to be replaced by 135-foot towers

spaced 900 feet apart, compared to the present 1,200-foot distance. It says if the upgrade isn't complete by the winter of 2006, the region could experience brownouts or blackouts, particularly in peak usage periods.

About 1,500 residents in Markham and Aurora have protested the plans, saying they are concerned about visual impacts, declining property values and potential health concerns over electromagnetic fields associated with hydro transmission lines.

The region, Catholic school board and councils in Markham, Aurora, Vaughan and King have also expressed opposition to the project.

Gary Schneider, Hydro One's manager of transmission approvals, told the audience at Wednesday's meeting in Newmarket that putting the towers in the existing hydro corridor would have less of an impact on real estate values.

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