

Sewer construction may be delayed

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

Builders are worried a private prosecution that charges York Region harmed fish habitat may delay approval of sewers blocking construction of thousands of homes.

Federal Fisheries Act charges stemming from trunk sewer construction in Markham were put off Friday until Dec. 15 and no trial date has been set.

"It's not good news for our

industry," Paula Tenuta, municipal government advisor for the Greater Toronto Home Builders Association said outside a provincial courtroom in Newmarket.

Though the charges laid by environmentalists in July concern the completed first phase of the 16th Avenue trunk, the association believes Ontario's Environment Ministry may delay approvals for the sewer's final phase and for another sewer link in Richmond Hill called the 19th Avenue inter-

ceptor until they are resolved, Ms Tenuta said.

The 16th Avenue project, an expansion of the York-Durham Sewer System, has been delayed for 16 months over environmental concerns and is delaying home construction as far north as Queensville.

At least one large builder sent letters to home purchasers this week warning of delays because of the region's lack of servicing capacity, Ms Tenuta said.

When the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority approved the region's plan in July to mitigate environmental harm to the Rouge River along the 16th Avenue route, York Region chairperson Bill Fisch predicted the Federal Fisheries Department and the Environment Ministry, two agencies holding up the project, would quickly approve it and work could begin this fall.

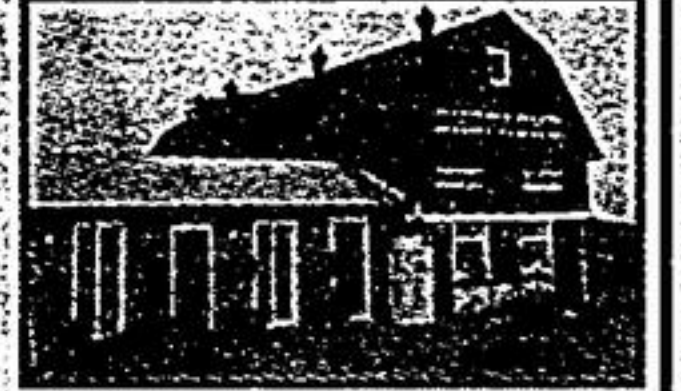
The region is trying to have the charges thrown out before the case can be heard at trial.

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Man dies after fleeing accident

A Toronto man is dead after leaving the scene of a minor accident in Markham Wednesday and crashing into a hydro pole.

Two vehicles were involved in the collision at Woodbine Avenue and Steelcase Road around 2 p.m.

York Regional Police say one of the vehicles, a white 1994 Ford Tempo, fled the scene.

Accelerating east on Steelcase, the driver lost control of the car and struck a pole near Victoria Park Avenue.

Police, Markham firefighters and York Region paramedics rushed to the scene, but the 46-year-old driver was already dead.

It was the 30th death in 26 traffic accidents across York Region this year compared to 18

deaths in 17 collisions during the same time period last year, police said.

Investigators are asking witnesses to the collision to call 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7703, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Youths arrested

Five youths have been arrested in connection with a series of community centre change room robberies in Markham over the summer.

A number of lockers in pool change rooms at the Milliken Mills and Centennial community centres were broken into between July 16 and Aug. 28.

Personal documents and more than \$22,000 worth of property including cell phones, cash

and car keys were taken while victims were going for a swim.

In two cases, cars were also stolen from parking lots.

Two 16-year-olds and a 15-year-old from Markham plus a 16-year-old and 17-year-old from Scarborough have been charged with nine counts of theft under \$5,000, two counts of theft over \$5,000 and fraud under \$5,000.

To avoid becoming a victim, York Regional Police say residents should keep valuable property in the trunk of their vehicles in situations where it will be unattended.

Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call police at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7541, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

—Martin Derbyshire

York Region

**HUMAN SERVICES
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The Road to Inclusivity: An Action Plan for York Region

is a region-wide plan of action to work towards making York Region ethno-culturally inclusive. An action plan of this magnitude requires input from many people.

The Human Services Planning Coalition (HSPC) and the Inclusivity Plan Action Group invite you to participate by completing a questionnaire. You can do so online at: <http://www.region.york.on.ca> under "What's New" or by completing a printed copy.

To receive an information brochure and questionnaire about *The Road to Inclusivity: An Action Plan for York Region* by mail or for assistance in facilitating a group response, contact Sandi Pelly at (905) 830-4444 or toll-free at 1-877-464-9675, Ext. 1504 or by e-mail at sandi.pelly@region.york.on.ca

Please complete your questionnaire by
September 30, 2004.

Thank you for your continuing support in the HSPC and in working together to create strong, caring and safe communities in York Region.

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www.driveforcancer.ca
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