

Rouge lands added to greenbelt

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

It was a moment Pierre Berton would have loved.

Premier Dalton McGuinty shook Janet Berton's hand first, as he entered Kleinburg's McMichael Gallery yesterday to unveil a Golden Horseshoe greenbelt plan he said will "fulfill our shared responsibility to our children".

Mrs. Berton had a front-row seat as Mr. McGuinty described a greenbelt that includes Boyd Park, the Woodbridge conservation area the celebrated author had urged people last year to "get mad as hell" to save.

It's no coincidence so much of the McMichael's collection of Canadian Group of Seven and First Nation artists reflect Canada's natural landscape, Mr. McGuinty said.

"Our environment and our responsibility to it helps define who we are as Canadians, as Ontarians."

While Boyd was left out of the province's draft plan for protecting 1.8 million acres of Golden Horseshoe farms and natural features, the final plan protects not only Boyd, but also the Rouge River in Markham and the Leslie North area of Richmond Hill.

The plan makes clear land-use planning along the Rouge in rural Markham must comply with the greenbelt plan or the Rouge North Management Plan, whichever is stricter.

OMB APPEAL

Landowners challenged Markham's adoption of the Rouge plan last year by appealing to the Ontario Municipal Board.

The town and Rouge plan supporters had, for years, called for stronger, provincial protection.

"The Rouge Park is sacrosanct. It should be protected through special legislation," Frank Scarpitti, York's planning chairperson, said before yesterday's announcement.

The greenbelt will be reviewed every 10 years, but Mr. McGuinty predicted it will change little in coming decades, arguing "the people won't allow" further disappearance of the countryside.

"They're staring in the face of the downside of sprawl", including bad air days and added costs for businesses, he said.

The premier also hit back at critics, including area farmers, who say the greenbelt won't help farming survive in the Greater Toronto Area.

"Some people would prefer we pave over thousands of acres of farmland," Mr. McGuinty said, arguing the best way to ensure farming continues "is to make sure we've got farmland".

Earlier, he praised Humber River valley that the Bertons have loved as an example of a now-protected belt of countryside Ontarians are lucky to have. "Come fall, you'll see a show of colours (there) that can't help but take your breath away."

Mrs. Berton handed the premier a walking stick of local walnut and oak, fashioned by artist David Eadie.

"We hope you have fun trailing through the trails of Boyd Park with this cane," she told him.

Including Boyd in the greenbelt doesn't make a proposed Pine Valley Drive extension through the park less likely, since the plan doesn't rule out new roads, Vaughan Mayor Michael Di Biase said.

Children from three Vaughan public schools, each one wearing a green scarf, flanked the premier at his announcement.

Protesters, including two people dressed as chipmunks, marched at

McMichael's front gate. The demonstration was organized by the developer-backed Greenbelt Coalition and Tory critics of the plan.

"This is more about the art of politics than it is about good science," Conservative Municipal Affairs critic Tim Hudak said inside the gallery.

The province will have a greenbelt council to advise the minister and review the plan, Mr. McGuinty said.

But the Liberal election platform promised a greenbelt commission, which would have had to present all evidence on why some lands were included and others weren't, said Ralph Capocci, the Greenbelt Coalition's executive director.

"That would guarantee that the process has to be transparent," he said.



DALTON MCGUINTY: Premier announced expanded greenbelt at York Region news conference.

GREAT SELECTION • SUPERIOR QUALITY • EXCELLENT SERVICES

CERAMIC FACTORY OUTLET

IMPORT TILE STORE!

- CERAMIC & PORCELAIN TILES
- INDOOR & OUTDOOR
- GRANITE & MARBLE TILES & COUNTERS
- MOSAICS
- LAMINATE FLOORING

SALE UP TO 50% OFF selected items

1215 TWINNEY DRIVE UNIT#5 • NEWMARKET
905-898-2115 • www.canbis.ca Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9am-5pm, Fri. 9am-6pm, Sat. 10am-2pm

GREAT SELECTION • SUPERIOR QUALITY • EXCELLENT SERVICES

MATTRESS HAVEN

the Sleep Factory

NEW LOCATION NOW OPEN IN VAUGHAN (MAPLE)

SALE AT BOTH LOCATIONS

MATTRESSES

STARTING AT \$119 per pc.

SOLD AS SETS ONLY

Coupon not applicable.

ADJUSTABLE BED FROM \$1182	MILAN BED \$287	WATERFALL DAY BED \$87
A-FRAME FUTON COMPLETE \$118	IRON FUTON COMPLETE \$174	IRON FUTON BUNK \$248

the Sleep Factory

MATTRESS HAVEN

Village Shoppes Plaza
74 Main St. North,
(Main St./Markham Rd./Hwy. 48)
Markham 905-472-7504

LOTS OF PARKING AT REAR
FRONT AND BACK ENTRANCE AVAILABLE

HOURS
Mon, Tues, Wed. 10:00 am-7:00 pm
Thurs.-Fri. 10:00 am-8:00 pm
Sat. 9:00 am-6:00 pm
Sun. 11:00 am-5:00 pm

VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS

Map: Kennedy Rd. / Hwy 7, 16th Ave., Main St., Markham Rd. / Hwy 48, 407

ON SALE SATURDAY, MARCH 5 TO FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2005

bulk barn

Guaranteed top Quality!

SUPER SPECIALS

natural or red	1.10/100g	Pistachios	4.99	lb
	.77/100g	Turkish Apricots	3.49	lb
loose pack	.29/100g	Pitted Dates	1.29	lb
	1.10/100g	Walnut Halves or Pieces	4.99	lb
whole, sliced, slivered or ground	1.21/100g	Blanched Almonds	5.49	lb
Neilson selected varieties including macaroons & rosebuds	.66/100g	Bulk Chocolate	2.99	lb
Wilkinson	.55/100g	Wine Gums	2.49	lb
	.62/100g	Party Mix	2.79	lb

Vitamin & Herbal Supplement Specials

1,000 mcg, 60 tabs	Swiss Herbal Super B12	5.99	ea
	Swiss Herbal STD Echinacea Purpurea 500 mg, bonus 90 + 45 caps	8.49	ea
	EHN Lean + 60 caps or Crave Free 120 caps	21.49	ea
	Organika Ginkgo Biloba Extract 60 mg, 60 caps	6.59	ea

Quality, value and selection since 1982

Canada's largest bulk food retailer & more. Now 84 locations and growing. Franchise locations available in Ontario and Atlantic Canada - (905) 886-6756

Store Locations

MARKVILLE MALL (905) 475-7220
SCARBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE (416) 296-0287
FAIRVIEW MALL (416) 498-7541

ON WEDNESDAY SENIORS* & STUDENTS* SAVE 10% ON THEIR TOTAL SHOPPING BILL, EXCLUDING SPECIALS & GIFT CERTIFICATES.

*Must provide valid identification. While supplies last. On advertised items we reserve the right to limit quantities.

www.bulkbarn.ca

VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS