



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Bethesda Road resident Bryan Emery (left) and Whitchurch-Stouffville Councillor Clyde Smith discuss lowered water during a tour of troubled spots Thursday at Mr. Emery's property.

'People are losing their wells ... something has to be done'

From page 1.

Bryan Emery, a 40-year resident of Bethesda Road, has had to drill his well deeper twice over the past 18 months. Mr. Emery needs water for personal use and for an irrigation system tied to a greenhouse business.

"I've had to drop my well down another 10 metres for the second time," Mr. Emery said. "The well ran out of water last spring and again in the fall. Before the construction (of the sewer), I had an excess of water. I've had all the water I could use for the past 40 years." Mr. Emery wants the region to take responsibility.

"People are losing their wells," Mr. Emery said. "Something has to be done. The region has gone ahead without proper research and we end up paying the price."

Mr. Emery and Mr. Donnelly are scheduled to join Jim Robb of the Friends of Rouge Watershed Thursday on a panel to explain the class action lawsuit.

The meeting is expected to attract residents from both communities as well as York Region officials and members of Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville councils. It will be held at Lemonville Community Centre at 13453 McCowan Road from 7 to 9 p.m.

Mr. Subramanian is confident the 16th Avenue-dewatering project is not impacting wells in the Bethesda Road area, suggesting an unusually dry summer may be to blame.

"Participation is about 50 per cent lower than last year," he said.

Meeting co-organizer Dave Probert of McCowan Road expects a well attended meeting.

"We will get a full house," Mr. Probert said. "Common sense tells us that, unfortunately, the dry wells could be linked to the sewer project. It's affecting in excess of 100 wells from just north of Bethesda Road to 16th Avenue in Markham. We've had at least 15 residents, including those from Markham, contact us with well problems. Of those, three people had to get new wells drilled."

The region's dewatering project started in 2002. However, work was held up

while officials studied a number of wells that went dry north of 16th Avenue.

York Region introduced a well-mitigation program that ensures residents receive a new or deeper well or are hooked to municipal water if problems are caused by the dewatering project.

About 100 of 2,500 wells from Stone Mason Drive and the 16th Avenue area to just east of Woodbine Avenue at 16th have been impacted in the past two and a half years, Mr. Subramanian said. "Of those, we provided six deeper wells and a few had to have new wells drilled," he said.

A flyer, published by meeting organizers, states York Region is removing 25,000 to 50,000 litres each minute from ground water aquifers.

'Before the construction (of the sewer), I had an excess of water. I've had all the water I could use for the past 40 years.'

Bryan Emery
Bethesda Road resident

"This groundwater removal rate would fill a large swimming pool every one or two minutes and it is posed to continue every minute for more than two years. Half of this ground water is being dumped into the York sanitary sewer," the flyer states. "This groundwater removal is draining a 200-square foot hole in the aquifers. If de-watering continues, the aquifer hole will stretch from Yonge Street to Pickering Town Line and from Oak Ridges Moraine to Steeles Avenue."

Mr. Probert is calling on residents to contact both provincial and federal elected officials, including Prime Minister Paul Martin, asking them to intervene.

"I want residents to ask them (elected officials) to stop the groundwater removal before more damage is done," Mr. Probert said.

For more information about the well problem and the Sept. 8 meeting, call 905-640-3965 or 416-835-9550 or 416-703-1100.

LABOUR DAY WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE REMINDER!

Monday, September 5, 2005 is Labour Day.

There will be no garbage, Blue Box, Green Bin or yard material collected on this day. Area collection services will take place one day later for the remainder of the week.

This means:

If your regular collection day is:	Your materials will be collected on:
MONDAY (AREA 3 & 4)	TUESDAY, September 6
TUESDAY (AREA 5 & 6)	WEDNESDAY, September 7
WEDNESDAY (AREA 7 & 8)	THURSDAY, September 8
THURSDAY (AREA 9 & 10)	FRIDAY, September 9
FRIDAY (AREA 1 & 2)	SATURDAY, September 10

For area identification and collection dates, please refer to your 2005 waste collection schedule.

Don't Miss the Truck! Have your material curbside by 7:00 a.m.



Waste Management Department
Tel: 905-415-7535
Email: wastemgt@markham.ca
Website: www.markham.ca



TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

LOOK IN TODAY'S PAPER IN THE FLYER SECTION FOR THE NEW 2005-2006 GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE!

This flyer did not appear in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Sept. 4, 2005 edition of The Stouffville Sun-Tribune as originally scheduled. The Stouffville Sun-Tribune apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.