

**EMS wins blood donor challenge**

With three blood donor clinics scheduled, the region has announced its emergency medical staff won the annual challenge among police, fire and EMS employees, with almost 10 per cent of staff donating blood for the Sirens for Life challenge.

York Region Police, York Central Fire Services and EMS collected more than 100 units of blood.

Clinics are scheduled for Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the regional administration building on Yonge Street in Newmarket, Sept. 29 from 2:30 to 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion and

Oct. 1 at Upper Canada Mall in Newmarket. Call 1-882-2-donate for an appointment.

**Employees launch United Way drive**

York Region launched its United Way staff campaign Friday, aimed at collecting \$100,000 for 2005.

"In 2004, the target goal was \$85,000 and we actually raised \$96,154," spokesperson Jennifer Mitchell-Emmerson said.

Fundraising events include a softball tournament, barbecue and silent auction, Christmas craft sale, sale of a recipe book and employee payroll deductions.

**'They're putting sewer pipes in drinking water'**

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Ms Shapero agreed, saying the location is not appropriate.

"The location, the size and the way it's being built are wrong," she said. "They're putting sewer pipes in drinking water. There has to be more sustainable solutions."

The sewers will have no effect in Toronto, said Bala Araniysundaran, infrastructure design planner for York Region.

"Any impact is to the north of 16th Avenue (in Markham) and we have a mitigation program in that vicinity," Mr.

Araniysundaran said.

"These projects are being monitored weekly and monthly by the (federal) Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Natural Resources and Environment ministries and Toronto Region Conservation Authority.

The region is spending about \$200,000 a month on tests, Mr. Araniysundaran said.

The works committee ignored information from its own staff, regional chairperson Bill Fisch said.

"I'm not convinced they took all the facts under consideration," he said.

"The City of Toronto's own staff

report acknowledges that our investments in the region have not and will not impact Toronto."

Even if Toronto council approves the motions, there is little room for change, according to Thornhill MPP Mario Racco.

"I understand all the approvals have taken place; I don't know there's much the (environment) minister could do," Mr. Racco said.

The region has all the approvals it needs for the 16th Avenue project but is still awaiting the go-ahead for a sewer along 19th Avenue in Richmond Hill, Mr. Araniysundaran said.

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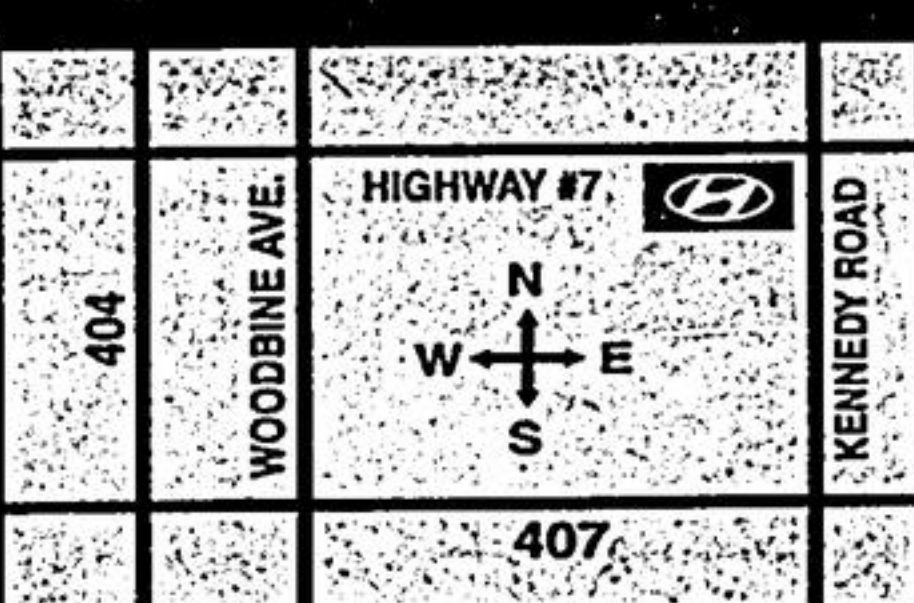
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