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T.O. politician talks tough over York sewage system

From page 1.



BILL FISCH: York Region sewage system no threat to Toronto, York Region chairperson said.

bypassed the law, they snuck around the law — you're busted York Region," said Toronto Councillor Glen de Baeremaeker, a longtime opponent of the project. But Mr. Fisch said the region used state-of-the-art technologies to ensure the Big Pipe expansion meets environmental protection guidelines set by the ministries of Environment and Natural Resources, the federal fisheries department and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. "Gravity sewers do not leak sewage into the aquifer. This system poses no threat to the City of Toronto and no threat to York Region," he said.

An Evening with Peter MacKay
 Deputy Leader - Conservative Party of Canada

This Special Fundraising Event is presented by Federal Conservative Candidate **JOE LI** and the Markham-Unionville Conservative Electoral District Association

Date & Time: TUESDAY, Nov. 8th, 2005 Reception - 6:00 pm
 Dinner - 7:00 pm
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Mr. Fisch, Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell, Markham Mayor Don Cousens, King Mayor Margaret Black and East Gwillimbury Mayor Jamie Young attended the meeting.

"Thursday was a very unhappy experience," Mr. Cousens said. "We were talking through a process and not talking as a friend. It was a terrible example of how politics should be done."

But Markham Councillor Erin Shapero pointed out 11 out of 92 politicians from across York Region are against the Big Pipe.

"Putting in massive trunk sewers through our water supply on the Oak Ridges Moraine is not a good idea," Ms Shapero said.

The region has implemented a \$30-million environmental monitoring and well-mitigation program to ensure the project is sustainable and does as little harm as possible, Mr. Cousens said.

'Putting in massive trunk sewers through our water supply on the Oak Ridges Moraine is not a good idea'

Erin Shapero
 Markham councillor

The Toronto committee's stand is backed by Jim Robb, head of the Friends of the Rouge Watershed.

"This decision reflects the fact that York Region is harming the environment and is making some serious mistakes. We need a full environmental assessment," he said.

Mr. Miller told the Toronto committee York Region's plan had not had enough scrutiny because it had been approved in small stages and that full environmental assessment was never done.

Toronto Mayor David Miller asked Mr. Miller what the city should do.

"Once before, Toronto did intervene in the Oak Ridges Moraine debate," he replied. "It was going forward very negatively."

"Toronto intervened and, as a result of that intervention, the process was brought to a stop and a satisfactory result came out of that process."

"It had the effect of correcting the thinking, stopping the barrelling ahead and causing logical people to come up with a reasonable solution."

"I suggest you have that option again."

The committee's recommendation is to be ratified by city council Monday.

— with files from David Nickle