

Monitoring moraine's health hands-on experience

More than 25 Whitchurch-Stouffville residents got first-hand experience in monitoring water quality on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The field day was a follow-up to community workshops held in Whitchurch-Stouffville and other municipalities in September as part of the Monitoring the Moraine program.

Residents of all ages waded into streams to identify and count tiny

Our Town with Hannelore Volpe

insects called benthic macroinvertebrates as a means of assessing the health of their habitat.

Harold Sellers, executive director of the Oak Ridges Trail Association, and Sonia Dong and Joyce Chau of Citizens' Environment Watch led the activities, which included checking

licens on trees as indicators of air quality.

The Monitoring the Moraine initiative is a partnership between Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition, an organization instrumental in the creation of the ORM Conservation Act; Citizens' Environment Watch, a community-based monitoring organization and the Centre for Community Mapping, which provides communities with web informatics.

Next spring, Monitoring the Moraine organizers host workshops to train volunteers in scientific methods to track the health of local moraine features.

Volunteers will also be trained to track municipal compliance with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan through collaboration with other groups along the moraine. For more information, contact: Mary McGrath, executive director, Citizens' Environment Watch 416-

978-4144 or Debbe Crandall, executive director, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition 905-880-3465.

Big Pipe concerns headed to council

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents and representatives from the Friends of the Rouge are bringing their water concerns to council Nov. 15.

The residents are part of a group that went to a Toronto council Oct. 20 to

ask Mayor David Miller that dewatering during the construction of the York Durham Sanitary Sewer System be halted until more information can be gathered on the long-range impact of the project.

Residents in Markham and as far north as Bloomington Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville have noticed water levels reaching unprecedented lows this summer.

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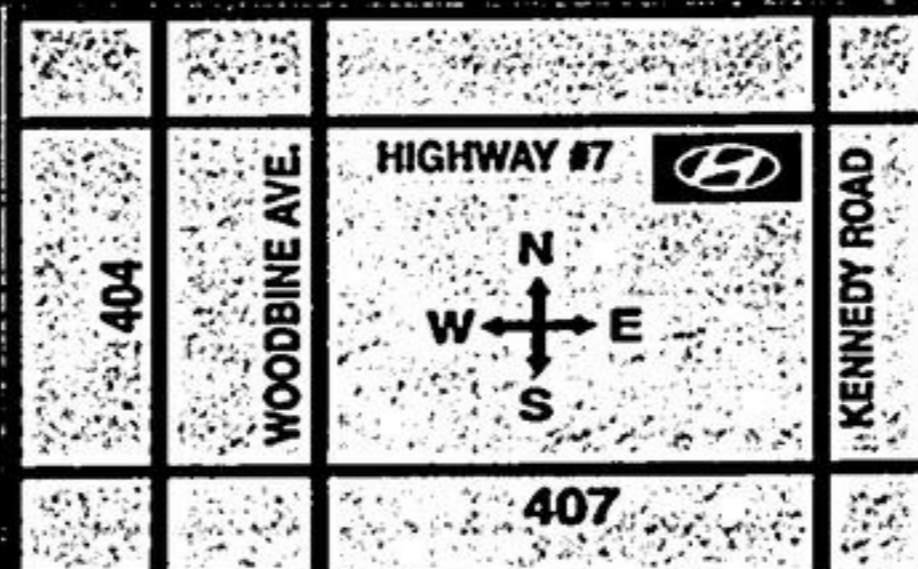
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