

Residents oppose lake water, Stouffville councillor says

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to lake-based water sooner than later," he said.

Mayor Sue Sherban noted at the meeting councillors Ken Ferdinands and Clyde Smith, who were absent, were in favour of connecting to a Lake Ontario water supply due to concerns about dewatering of the aquifer.

Councillor Susanne Hilton said at council that a well, at Bloomington Road and the York-Durham town line, should be developed since it's needed to eventually bring water to the hamlet of Bloomington.

"If you are going to run something to Bloomington," she said, "why not run it to Stouffville instead of lake-based water?"

Many of her constituents have told her they don't want Lake Ontario water.

Also, once there is an abundant water supply, Mrs. Hilton said, there is the potential for growth and development to expand to the environmentally sensitive Oak Ridges Moraine.

"That is my biggest worry," she noted.

The process to find more water capacity for Stouffville began with a class environmental assessment in 2003.

Originally, the plan was to drill test wells to find additional groundwater that could supply a Stouffville population of up to 28,000 before hooking up to Lake Ontario water by 2011. A good supply of water has been found through test wells in the Tenth Line and Bloomington Road area.

Mr. Siminovskis questioned why money should be spent to build two wells since this area will eventually be hooked up to the Lake Ontario water system. It would be connected to the reservoir at Stouffville and McCowan roads.

Over the past two years, the lake-based system has expanded quite a bit, Mr. Siminovskis told the Stouffville Sun-Tribune.

He said there is still enough water in the lake-based system to meet long and short-term needs.

The cost of hooking up to lake-based water is estimated at \$4.1 million, versus up to \$8 million for developing new groundwater wells and then hooking up to city water.

The connection, Mr. Siminovskis said, could be as early as 2007 or 2008.

Lake and well water would be blended as it has been in Aurora and Newmarket.

Existing town wells would be kept in reserve, he explained, "in case we need them in future."

York Region is hosting an open house Jan. 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Whitchurch-Stouffville council chambers, 4th Floor, 37 Sandiford Dr.



SUE SHERBAN: Some councillors favour hooking up to Lake Ontario water system, mayor said.

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