

Child pornography violent crime: York chief

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ed out and you wonder if we will ever be successful in stopping this type of

offence."

Child porn possession carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison, but judges rarely hand down the maximum.

In the absence of heavy-handed

mandatory minimum sentences, the judiciary relies on precedent to set sentencing standards. And Canadian court history is filled with light sentences for child pornographers.

But police often charge it appears judges want to hand out as little jail time as possible.

A technician found 35 images of child porn on 18-year-old Vaughan resident Matthew Hartsgrove's computer hard drive when he took it in for service in September 2004.

Police were called, Mr. Hartsgrove was arrested and subsequently convicted.

He was given a conditional discharge, put on probation for a year and police were ordered to have his hard drive erased before giving it back to him.

Things weren't much tougher for Markham resident Randy Weber.

Three years ago, the children's soccer coach and IBM employee was convicted of possessing and distributing child porn.

The maximum sentence for distribution is 10 years behind bars, but Mr. Weber didn't serve a day.

He received a 13-month conditional sentence.

Last July, the federal government passed a bill designed to get tough on child porn.

The bill made changes to the Criminal Code, which ensure all child pornography offences committed after November 2005 are subject to a mandatory minimum prison sentence. That means no more conditional sentences or house arrest. But the minimums range from just 14 to 90 days in prison.

Still not enough, according to the Newmarket's Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness, which has been lobbying the government for tougher child porn laws for more than a decade.

"Is this a nice small first

step? Sure it is," said retired Toronto cop and current centre director of public safety John Muise. "But 14 days is not exactly hard time. We need to be talking about years, not days."

Child porn sentences should reflect the horrific nature of the crime, Mr. Muise said.

"Have you seen some of these images? We're talking sinister stuff here. Badder than bad," he said.

"These are not just the musings of a pervert's imagination, these are real images. Every pedophile who views these images is encouraging their trade and manufacture and the manufacture is about abuse."

The fact every child porn image contains the image of a victim must be considered in sentencing, Chief La Barge said.

"The image of that little girl or boy is an image of a victim," he said.

"Whether they are from Eastern Europe or South America, these victims must be protected. Some see this as harmless, but it is a sexual assault."

"This is a violent crime and we, as a humane society, must do something about it. Those involved must pay the consequences and 18-month conditional sentences with three months house arrest is not enough, in my mind."

Light sentencing may frustrate the officers privately, but publicly they press on.

"Once it hits the courts, it's out of our hands," Det. Thomson said. "All we can do is educate ourselves, educate the Crown (attorneys), prepare the case the best we can and make sure there isn't anything left open that may compromise the investigation."

Provision of Additional Capacity for the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant



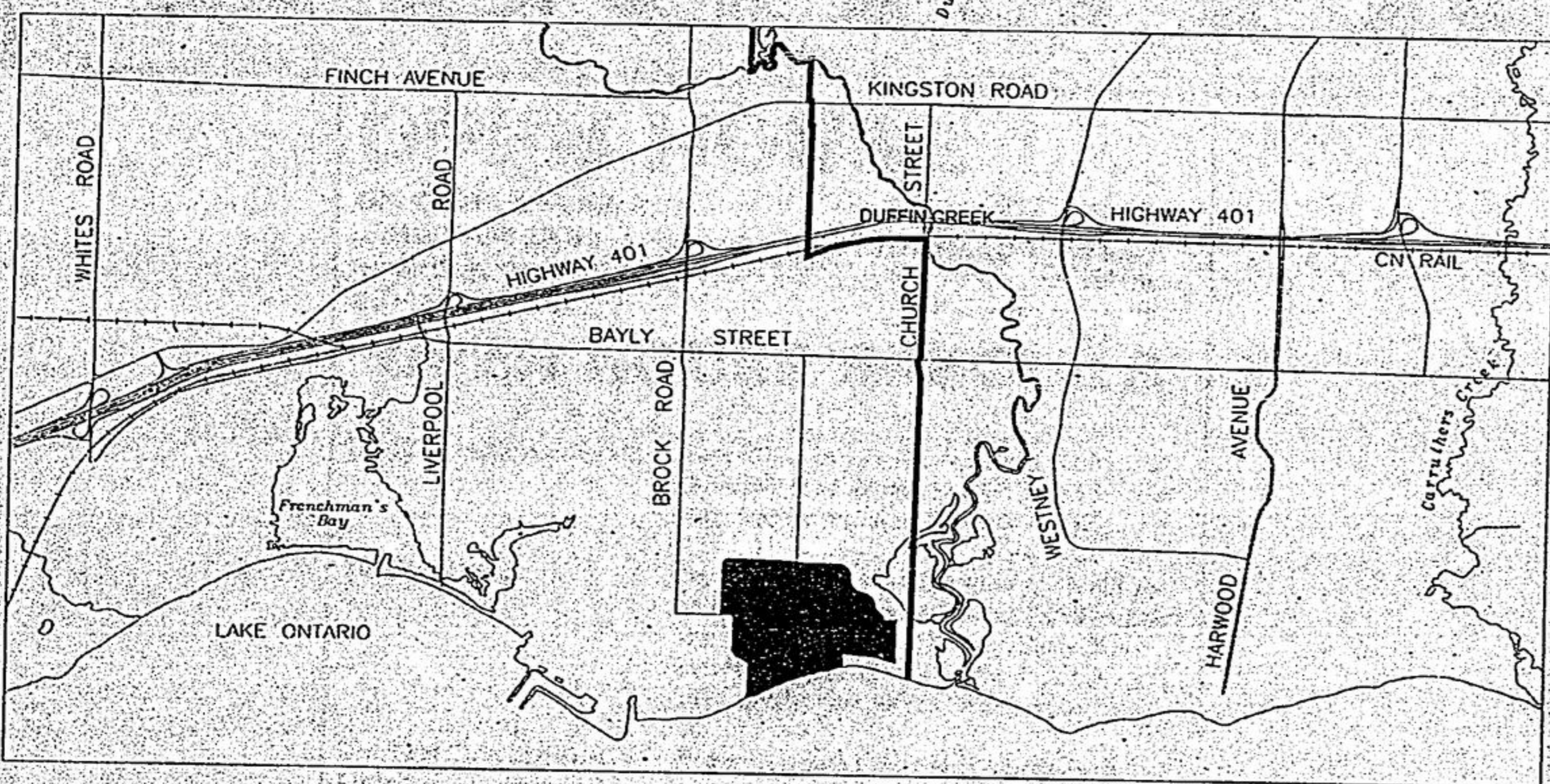
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

The Regional Municipalities of York and Durham are undertaking a joint study to identify the preferred method of providing additional wastewater treatment capacity at the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) to service future growth in the urban areas of York and Durham Regions.

Located in the City of Pickering, the Duffin Creek WPCP treats the wastewater flows collected by the York-Durham Sewage System (YDSS), which provides sanitary sewer service to portions of York Region (Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Aurora, Markham & Vaughan) and Durham Region (Ajax & Pickering). Population and employment growth forecasted for the existing and future service areas of the YDSS will ultimately generate sanitary sewage flows beyond the existing capacity of the Duffin Creek WPCP. The Regions are seeking approval from the Ministry of the Environment to increase the average day capacity of the Duffin Creek WPCP from 420,000 cubic metres/day to 630,000 cubic metres/day.

This study is proceeding under **Schedule C** as described in the **Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (June 2000)** document. The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) is a **five-phase** process that includes an extensive evaluation of the impacts of proposed projects on the technical, natural, social/cultural, and economic components of the environment. We are currently finalizing the **third phase** of the study, which involves an assessment of the alternative design concepts for expansion of the WPCP, and selection of a preferred expansion concept. Numerous studies are being carried out as part of this phase to identify the potential impacts of the preferred expansion concept, and measures for mitigating these impacts. The studies are scheduled for completion over the spring of 2006, and include a receiving water impact assessment, a natural features impact assessment, and odour, air emission, and noise assessments. The **fourth phase** of the study will involve the filing of an Environmental Study Report (ESR) for public review and comment. The ESR will include comprehensive details on the studies undertaken, data collected, issues raised by stakeholders, and any other matters covered during the study. The **fifth phase** will involve the implementation of the recommendations.

DUFFIN CREEK WPCP LOCATION



Members of the public are invited to attend an Information Centre on **Wednesday, April 5, 2006, between 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room, 75 Centennial Road, Town of Ajax.** A brief presentation will commence at 7:00pm. Attendees will have an opportunity to examine and provide comment on the preferred expansion strategy, as well as the plans for mitigating impacts. We encourage your involvement in this study.

Please visit the project web site at www.region.durham.on.ca/duffincreek for further information on this study. Project studies are being posted on the project web site as they become available. You may also contact either of the following:

Mr. Rich Tindall, P.Eng.
Project Manager
Regional Municipality of Durham
Works Department
605 Rossland Road East, Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Phone: (905) 668-7711, Ext. 3547
Toll Free: 1-800-372-1102
Fax: (905) 668-2051

Ms. Adrian Coombs, P.Eng.
Project Manager
Regional Municipality of York
Transportation and Works Department
17250 Yonge Street, Box 147
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
Phone: (905) 830-4444, Ext. 5098
Toll Free: 1-877-GO4-YORK
Fax: (905) 836-4590

Email: info@duffincreek.com

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