

Town wants region to take over Hwy. 48

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville wants Hwy. 48 downloaded from the province to the region.

Town council passed a notice of motion Tuesday that was put forward by Mayor Wayne Emmerson at its May 3 meeting that requests York Region initiate discussions with the province to seek the road's transfer from where it begins in Markham through to Georgina.

"I think it's time," Mr. Emmerson said when he presented the notice of motion May 3. "The province should not be a part of Hwy. 48. We can't plan our municipality."

The resolution was forwarded to councils in East Gwillimbury, Markham and Georgina for their support, as well as York Region's MPPs.

— Sandra Bolan

Level of fire service not reduced, chief argues

BY AMANDA PERISCO
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Central York Fire Services in Newmarket and Aurora is dismissing claims by its union that public safety is at risk when crews are moved around for training.

Although all four fire stations are equipped with a full crew and truck while training takes place, the Central York Professional Fire Fighters Association is claiming the move puts you in danger.

"The decision to send one of the five trucks to Richmond Hill only reduces the level of service to the community," association president Brent Heppell said.

The move could also put rural Whitchurch-Stouffville at risk, since Central York responds to service calls in the

Vandorf area, Mr. Heppell added.

But it's common practice to send crews out for tactical training, whether it be in a pool to practise a rescue situation or a junk yard to practise an extraction rescue, fire chief Ian Laing said.

RURAL WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

And fire training is no different.

For three days this week, one Central York crew and truck were in Richmond Hill providing training to some of the 22 firefighter recruits.

It is live training, during which firefighters face a real fire in a controlled environment.

"This is part of the development of a firefighter," he said. "I wouldn't feel com-

fortable sending a crew into a fire without live fire training. This isn't something you can learn out of a book. Responding to fires is less frequent, but there are high risks."

Sending a crew for training is no different than sending a crew to neighbouring municipalities to fill in at a fire station when a situation arises, Mr. Laing argued, noting he plans to send another crew for training later in the year when the fire service unit is up to six full crews.

"Everyone needs to get this training," he said. "In the past, we would load everyone on a bus and send them to Gravenhurst for training and then pay overtime to fill those spots. We can't do that anymore. We have to make do with what we have."

“Will my Green Bin waste be left behind?”

York Region is asking residents to make the switch from plastic bags to compostable bags to line the Green Bin or kitchen container starting May 1.

It is part of a phased approach to move towards a more sustainable, environmentally-friendly process.

As we continue this mandatory program over the next year, Green Bin waste will not be left behind. Program participation will be reviewed throughout the year. Enforcement needs, if any, will be determined at a later date.

Residents are encouraged to use compostable bags to reduce the amount of plastic sent to landfill. Plastic bag liners are removed from the final composted product and sent for disposal. In contrast, compostable bags are made of plant-based materials that break down naturally into compost.

Compostable bags are available at most grocery and hardware stores throughout York Region. Many different brands are available. Be sure to look for certified compostable bags with this logo:



Make the switch to compostable bags effective May 1, 2011

For more information, please visit www.york.ca/waste or call 1-866-665-6752

York Region