

Open House



Your community, your say.

York Region is planning for the future and wants your input

The Regional Municipality of York continues to plan for the future and is looking for your input and ideas. York Region is expected to grow to 1.79 million people and 900,000 jobs by 2041. To accommodate this growth and be at the forefront of best practices, York Region is reviewing and updating a number of its long-term strategic plans.

Three plans under review are:

- **The Regional Official Plan** outlines the policies of York Region to guide growth management, economic, environmental and community planning decisions.
- **The Transportation Master Plan** establishes the vision for transportation services, assesses existing transportation system performance, forecasts future travel demand and defines projects and strategies to address road, transit and active transportation needs.
- **The Water and Wastewater Master Plan** ensures water and wastewater systems meet current and future demands and are able to provide safe, cost efficient and reliable services to the Region's communities.

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Input from residents and the business community is key to the success of these updates. Comments and feedback on any or all of these plans can be given through York.ca, social media and at open houses. The first round of open houses includes:

Municipality	Location	Date	Time
City of Vaughan	Novotel Toronto Vaughan Centre 200 Bass Pro Mills Drive	November 11, 2014	6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Town of Newmarket	Newmarket Community Centre 200 Doug Duncan Drive	November 12, 2014	5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
City of Markham	Thornhill Community Centre 7755 Bayview Avenue	November 18, 2014	5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

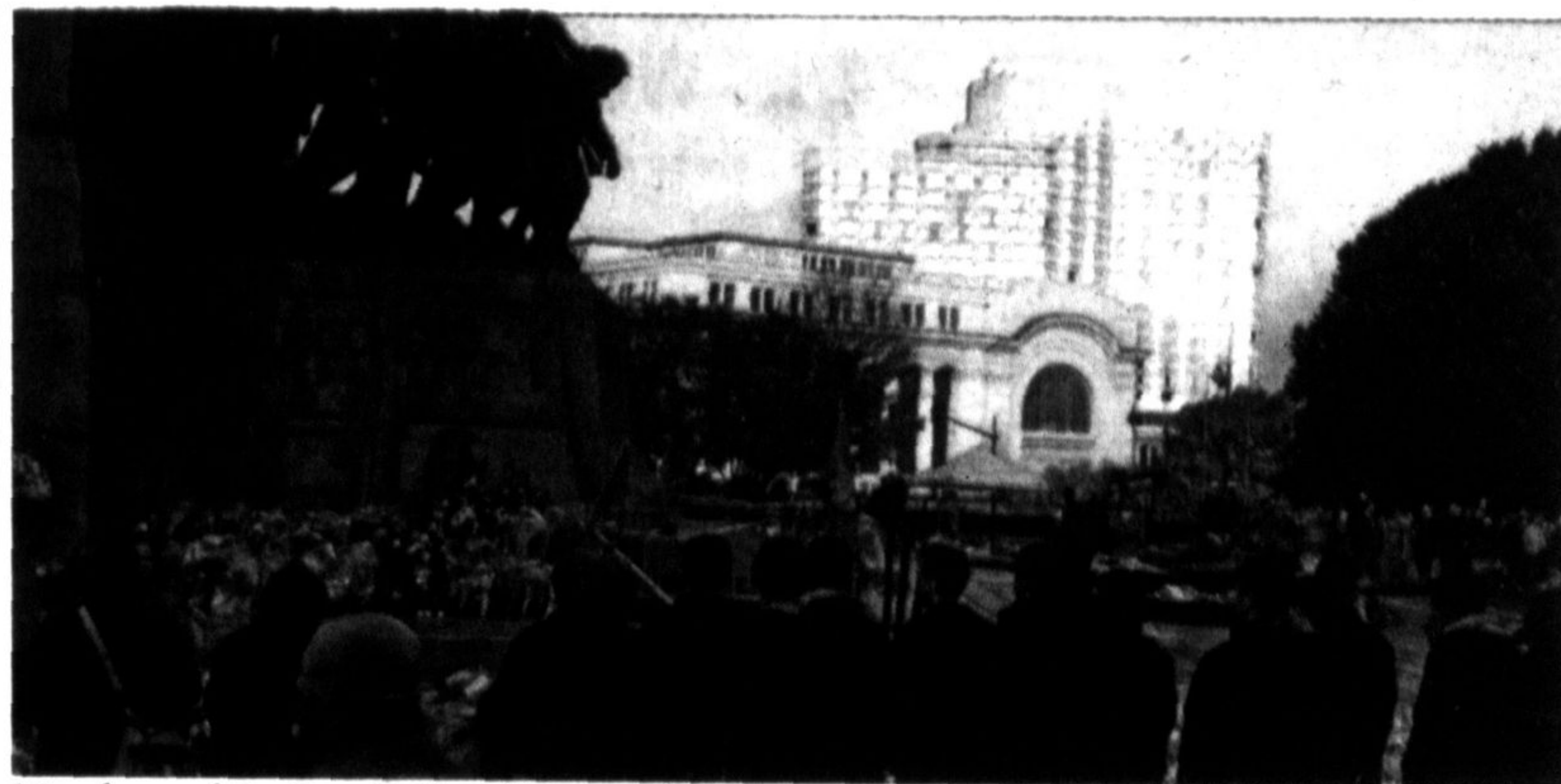
If you require accommodation to fully participate in an open house, accessible formats or communication supports, please contact 1-888-256-1112 or AccessYork@york.ca

Master Plan updates will follow requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment master planning process. Completion of these reviews is expected in early 2016.

For information about the projects and upcoming events, visit www.york.ca

Input regarding these plans is being collected in accordance with applicable legislation.

Personal information you submit will become part of the public record available to the public, unless you request this information remain confidential.



Members of the Stouffville Clippers AA hockey team paid their respects at the National War Memorial in Ottawa last weekend. In the city for a tournament, they left a stick at the site.

Calandra feared for life during Ottawa attack

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Paul Calandra thought it was only a matter of time before he was going to be killed.

Believing the House of Commons' guards, who are largely unarmed, had been killed by multiple gunmen in the hallway outside the caucus room, the Oak Ridges-Markham MP and Stouffville resident along with about 170 other MPs and senators barricaded themselves in the room last week.

"The basic mentality of it was that we expected these people ... we would fight as long as we could, hopefully (it would) be long enough the prime minister would be safe and other people in the building be safe," Calandra said of the attack on Parliament Hill Oct. 22.

One of the MPs helping to barricade a door, along with Calandra, stood atop a speaker holding a flagpole with a sharp maple leaf at the end. If an assailant were to get through the barricade of tables and chairs, that MP was to "spear the person". Others had objects to "beat at (their) legs" with, Calandra said.

The ordeal inside the House of Commons began around 10 a.m. The MPs and senators were not let out of the caucus room until about 8 or 8:30 p.m. The first gunshot heard outside the caucus room came while Prime Minister Stephen Harper was speaking. He barely paused, according to Calandra.

"Most of us just thought it was a table falling," which happens all the time, he said.

Then two more shots rang out and "that's when everyone knew it was gunfire".

A couple of MPs escaped but everybody else remained in the caucus room as they "realized a gun battle was going on," Calandra said.

About five or six MPs are ex-police officers, including Daryl Kramp, who got the room's attention. Among his statements was "if the bastards come in, let's kill them," Calandra said.

There were no party lines being toed as men and women worked together to barricade themselves inside the caucus room by blocking the doors with tables and chairs. During all of this, Harper remained in the room. His RCMP security detail, normally stationed outside the building, had yet to arrive.

When they did, they were initially denied

entrance into the room. As there were no cell-phones and limited communication available among the security guards who were inside, it took time to verify their identities, he said.

The prime minister was eventually removed and taken to safety. But it was about 15 minutes after the first shots rang out.

While barricaded, Calandra wondered if this was a co-ordinated attack and Ottawa was not the only city under siege. He also feared for his family. They were safe.

"For a number of weeks, the prime minister was very serious about the threats. So I think we all knew we were a potential target. You just don't know how to prepare for that," he said, of Martin Couture-Rouleau running down two soldiers, killing one in Quebec Oct. 20.

Ottawa's SWAT team eventually secured a door with a bathroom just outside of it. MPs were also able to retrieve their cellphones, which are always left outside the caucus room, according to Calandra.

They tried to call out to check on family and get information, but with so many people trying at once, the signals got jammed, he said. Calandra has no idea how long they were holed up in the meeting room before Sergeant-at-arms Kevin Vickers was allowed to enter.

"He was white-faced, very pale, matter of fact," Calandra recalled of Vickers telling them a person entered centre block with a gun. Vickers engaged in gunfire with him and he was now dead. They gave Vickers a standing ovation.

For about 90 minutes after that, the MPs and senators lay on the floor and remained quiet, he said. They pooled together food and drinks they had for those who were diabetic.

While barricaded within the caucus room, Calandra said he went from assuming he was going to die to they might get out.

By the next day "(I was) more angry than I was frightened," he said.

"I've never not felt safe and still do today," Calandra said. "Like I do every day, I enjoy every second of the day I am there."

The number of emails, texts and calls Calandra received from riding constituents was "overwhelming" and "very much appreciated by me and my family and staff."

- With files from Torstar News Service