

**Halton round-up**

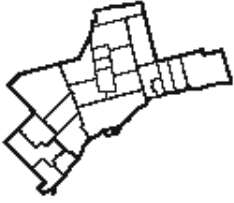
Something old, something new

**Milton growing pains**

Build a road, they will come

**Issues over the top**

Accolades to Vaughan clerk



# Novæ Res Urbis

## GREATER TORONTO AREA EDITION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006 • VOL 9 • No 48

REGIONAL CHAIRS READY TO BE ANOINTED

## Pushing for greater democracy in Durham

By Anne Marie Aikins

Current **Durham Region** chair **Roger Anderson** is expected to be uncontested at today's inaugural meeting of council and will once again be voted by regional councillors as the region's CEO. During the recent election, however, voters in **Ajax**, **Pickering** and **Oshawa** overwhelmingly supported the idea of directly electing the position of regional chair. Armed with this "irrefutable" evidence of support, newly re-elected Ajax mayor **Steve Parish** hopes to convince regional council that it is time to recognize the significance of the position.

"Durham is at a new stage of maturity and people clearly said they support the idea of directly electing the regional chair," Parish said. "There is a high level of responsibility vested in this office and so many regional issues, like public transit, waste and housing."

"It is extremely important that there be a public debate on the chair's vision for the region."

Parish has attempted to get the issue passed before, but failed to get the necessary triple majority. At least five of the eight municipal councils must support the idea and then it must also get support from two thirds of regional council members.

"Regional council does not support it," Anderson told NRU. "Steve will try again like he does every year, but fortunately three municipalities don't speak for eight."

A member of Ajax council since 1985, Anderson lost his seat in 1997 when he ran against the incumbent for the mayor's job. Parish received 9,470 votes—more than twice that of his opponent.

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GREENBELT TAKES A HIT IN YORK REGION

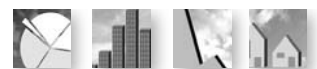
## Province steers clear of urban expansion appeal

The **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing** has appealed components of an official plan amendment approved by the **Town of Georgina** to expand the Keswick urban area northeast of Woodbine Avenue and Ravenshoe Road to facilitate the creation of the Keswick Business Park. The *Keswick Business Park Secondary Plan* and the accompanying regional official plan amendment that were approved by **York Region** council in November, would result in 640 acres of agricultural land within the greenbelt being incorporated into the Keswick urban area. The province's appeal has been scoped to address specific concerns pertaining to the impact of the proposal on the Maskinonge River and Lake Simcoe and refining the greenbelt natural heritage system in the area.

"We didn't appeal the regional urban expansion," said municipal affairs and housing ministry greenbelt team manager **Victor Doyle**. "We have accepted the principle

*continued page 6*

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## COMING UP

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6

**Inaugural Durham Region Council Meeting**, 10:00 a.m.

**Inaugural Halton Region Council Meeting**, 10:00 a.m.

**Inaugural Hamilton Council Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 7

**Profiting From Sustainability: Low Impact Development Techniques that Yield High Impact Results**, CUI/Riversides, Metro Hall, 55 John Street, Toronto, 7:45 - 9:45 a.m.

**OPPI Winter Social**, Courtyard Marriott Downtown Toronto, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**Inaugural York Region Council Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.

**Inaugural Peel Region Council Meeting**, Rose Theatre, Brampton, 7:30 p.m.

### MONDAY DECEMBER 11

**Oakville Public Meeting on Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment on Parking Standards Downtown**, Oakville Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13

**Action Niagara—Designing the Future**, Niagara Economic Development Corporation, Sheraton Fallsview Hotel and Conference Centre.

**Special Meeting of Hamilton Council**, Rate Budget, 7:00 p.m.

**Mississauga Council**, 9:00 a.m.

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 14

**OPPI Training Workshop on the Growth Plan**, Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 475 Yonge Street, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**York Region Council**, 9:30 a.m.

**Peel Region Council**, 9:30 a.m.

## NRU TALKS TO NEW BURLINGTON MAYOR

# Lots of new faces in Halton

Although he spent 10 years as a school board trustee in **Halton Region** early in his political career, newly elected **Burlington** mayor **Cam Jackson** was sworn in this week as a municipal politician for the first time in his long political career. Jackson represents one of a number of new faces—both politicians and bureaucrats—in Halton, a region that is experiencing unprecedented growth.

Jackson gave up his seat in provincial politics for more than 20 years to take a run at replacing the very big shoes of outgoing mayor **Rob MacIsaac**, who was recently appointed chair of the **Greater Toronto Transportation Authority**, because he wants “greater transparency and more accountability at the local level.”

“What I heard at the doors during my campaign was that people want to be more involved with their local governments,” Jackson told *NRU*. “They want more of a voice and more opportunities to participate.”

“They also want better planning and the pace of change to slow down somewhat to make sure we can afford all this growth,” he said. “We need to make sure we have the infrastructure in place to support all this growth.”

Jackson will also take his seat at regional council with a former colleague, **Gary Carr**, a former Liberal **Oakville** MPP and Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, who is now the regional chair replacing outgoing chair **Joyce Savoline**. Carr is a “committed and dedicated politician and hard worker,” Jackson said, and

very capable of leading a new team of politicians and staff.

There will also soon be a new CAO at the region—**Jane MacCaskill**, commissioner of corporate services, was appointed acting chief administrative officer as a

**“What I heard at the doors during my campaign was that people want to be more involved with their local governments.”**

- Cam Jackson

result of former CAO **Brent Marshall**’s decision to retire to enter the race for Savoline’s job.

“This is a difficult task doing both those roles and not a situation that can be sustained for any length of time,” Jackson said.

Marshall is not the only senior staffer to have left the region this year. **Ho Wong** has been appointed acting director of planning and transportation services replacing outgoing director **Jane Clohecy**, who was appointed planning commissioner in **Oakville** in September. Wong was the long range planning and transportation director.

And of course the other most significant change is a new mayor in Oakville—**Ann Mulvale** was defeated by a candidate who has dogged her the last couple of elections. Former journalist **Rob Burton** is not familiar to Jackson, but he seems “genuine and sincere,” and he looks forward to working with all of them. •

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NOVÆ RES URBIS  
GREATER TORONTO AREA

## Infrastructure plays catch up with growth

One of the top concerns for voters in the **Town of Milton** during the recent municipal election was the pace of growth, newly re-elected councillor **Wendy Schau** told *NRU* following the inaugural meeting of council this week. Identified by the province as a major growth area, the town's population has nearly doubled in the past five years, and is expected to double again to 106,000 residents by 2021. The area is largely rural and agricultural land, but a long-standing residential development proposal that proposes to cut a chunk out of the Niagara Escarpment took another step forward recently leaving residents wondering where it will all end.

"Voters are very concerned about the speed of growth and whether our infrastructure can handle the growth," said Schau. "All this new building has certainly been perplexing for our residents especially given the traffic gridlock it has caused."

Another concern for Schau is that the residential development approved has been almost entirely single-dwelling homes with only one condominium building being built.

"This is certainly a weakness in our growth strategy," she said. "We need a range of housing to meet people's needs."

"The city planners tell me that this usually comes later, but we really need it now so as to not eat up all our land resources."

Road re-construction and building has not kept up with the pace of development, Schau said, which has caused massive traffic headaches for existing residents. It may have also caused some potential homebuyers to think twice about purchasing a new home in an area they have trouble getting to just to see a model unit.

The town's main developer, **Mattamy Homes**, is building homes in Hawthorne Village on Derry Road, which for the past year has been under re-construction to increase the number of lanes. Mattamy, which recently received the homebuilder of the year award from the **Ontario Home Builders' Association**, entered into an agreement with the town and region to provide a \$30-million, interest-free loan to accelerate the road work.

"We were very grateful for this assistance," said Schau. "The town's infrastructure has not been able to keep up with the speed of growth so this loan, which allows for flexibility to pay back as our budget can accommodate, was very welcome."

"There is another complicating factor, however; our main arterial roads are regional roads," Schau said. "We'd like the region to speed up its pace of



construction as well."

The councillor was also disappointed by a recent decision by the **Ontario Municipal Board** rejecting a dismissal motion, which means a hearing will soon get underway for a residential development in west Milton.

In late summer, counsels for the Town of Milton, the **Niagara Escarpment Commission**, **Halton Region** and **Conservation Halton** appeared on a motion to the OMB to dismiss the appeal of a long-standing application by **Central Milton Holdings** to develop escarpment lands.

Back in April, **Glenn Schnarr and Associates** submitted a revised detailed concept plan on behalf of the developers proposing a residential housing development containing 298 units—down significantly since it was first proposed more than a decade ago. Town council rejected that plan as well because it "does not support any urban development on the subject land."

Although the OMB had some concerns about the appeal, not enough to warrant a dismissal apparently, Schau said. Hearings are scheduled to resume January 24, planning and development director **Mel Iovio** told *NRU*. Although the region supports the development, the town, NEC and Conservation Halton have opposed it, he said.

Coupled with the residential growth, the town forecasts 178 per cent increase in industrial/commercial space to 25 million square feet; a 64 per cent increase in employment lands to 2,225 acres and a doubling in employment to 53,360 jobs by 2021.

Milton's secondary plans are based on smart growth principles, Iovio said, including protecting watersheds. Council also recently adopted a transit orientated land development plan and trail system improvement strategy.

"We are currently examining the province's recently released built area boundaries and next year will launch an intensification study," Iovio added.

"We have a large urban boundary with lots of area left to be developed, including large blocks of land reserved for higher density." •

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Another look at North Leslie decision

RE. NORTH LESLIE OMB APPROVAL FOR LAST ORM SITE (GTA EDITION NOVEMBER 29)

The comments made on behalf of Save the Rouge Valley System in NRU's story on the outcome of the Richmond Hill Bayview East/North Leslie OMB hearing undoubtedly left your readers thinking that SRVS had won a huge victory.

I was co-counsel to the main landowners' group at that hearing, with particular responsibility for environmental issues. The environment-first plan approved by the board was created, and advanced at the hearing, by our clients, allied landowners, the Town of Richmond Hill, the York Region and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Save the Rouge Valley System opposed that plan, saying that it did not properly protect the environment. It advanced a very different plan, which was rejected by the board.

Even a casual reading of the board's decision prior to publishing the NRU story would have revealed that the board:

- Wrote that "the extensive and current fieldwork and analysis undertaken by the owners' and public agencies' witnesses...is to be preferred over the SRVS witnesses;"
- Found that the evidence of three key SRVS witnesses

was "just not helpful;" and

- Concluded its discussion of the natural heritage system by saying that "the landowners and the public agencies are to be congratulated for their spectacular yet sensitive vision."

The absence of a reference to Save the Rouge Valley System in the latter comment is particularly instructive.

As for SRVS's claim that "we've gotten 30 per cent of the land designated through the greenbelt," NRU readers should know that that the bulk of that land was already set aside for protection by the landowners and public authorities before the greenbelt legislation, and that the area the province actually included in the greenbelt is a tiny fraction of what Save the Rouge Valley System lobbied for unsuccessfully.

The credit for the natural heritage system plan approved by the board goes to those who created and defended it—our clients, the other landowners, municipalities, conservation authority, and the natural heritage and planning witnesses called by them.

Michael Melling (Davies Howe Partners)

## GTA IN BRIEF

### Economic development forum explores new powers

At a forum this week in **Toronto**, economic development and trade minister **Sandra Pupatello** appeared to talk about local economic development for municipalities in the GTA—new powers, new opportunities and ongoing challenges. The forum, sponsored by **Urban Intelligence**, **NRU Publishing Inc.**, **MIPIM**, **Ontario Chamber of Commerce** and **G.P. Murray Research**, heard from a panel of experts, including Urban Intelligence senior consultant **Richard Joy**, a former senior advisor to the minister of municipal affairs, economist **Peter Tomlinson** (**Peter Tomlinson Consulting**), and **Brampton Downtown**

### Development Corporation

president **Robert Milligan**. Final remarks were delivered by Ontario Chamber of Commerce president **Len Crispino**.

### Dion a good choice for municipalities

The **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** and **Toronto** mayor **David Miller** congratulated **Stéphane Dion** on being chosen leader of the **Liberal Party of Canada**. In his response to a FCM questionnaire sent to all leadership candidates, Dion endorsed an active role for the federal government in Canada's cities and communities. Dion's record also demonstrates a clear link between investing in environmentally sustainable

infrastructure and dealing with climate change, Miller told reporters.

### OPSEU peeved no RFP on liquor bottle recycling

Premier **Dalton McGuinty** came under fire from union leaders when they heard he handed a \$75-million contract to a major corporation without following normal tendering practices, the **Ontario Public Services Employees Union** said. The province will pay \$15 million in the first year of a five-year contract to brewer's retail to run its new deposit/return system for wine and liquor containers. OPSEU is on record saying that any deposit/return plan should be run by the **Liquor Control Board of Ontario**.

## Democracy in Durham continued from page 1

Anderson did not lose his political clout for long, however; regional council appointed him as chair a few weeks later.

Interestingly, it was that same year that former housing minister **Al Leach** introduced a bill that would allow the voters of the former **Region of Sudbury** to directly elect the regional chair to “improve the accountability of municipal government,” he said at the time. The amendment was requested by regional council.

**“It is extremely important that there be a public debate on the chair’s vision for the region.”**

- Steve Parish

Parish has been on council since 1980, mayor since 1995. Despite Anderson’s resistance, Parish intends to introduce a motion at regional council as quickly as possible, hopefully by January, he told *NRU*, to request the province introduce the necessary changes to legislation allowing the public a say on who heads its regional government.

The three municipalities that voted to support a general election for the chair hold a majority of seats on council (15 out of 28). Newly elected **Uxbridge** mayor **Bob Shepherd**, however, told *NRU* that he’s not completely taken with the idea of directly electing a regional chair.

“I haven’t given it much thought, but it seems that regional council may be the most appropriate judge of who best can lead regional council,” he said.

Undeterred, Parish’s mission has gained some momentum from outside the GTA.

In **Niagara Region**, the chair is occupied by an elected regional councillor as appointed by regional council. At a recent Niagara caucus meeting, **St. Catharines** regional councillor **Peter Partington** was acclaimed as regional chair, for a second term.

Erie-Lincoln MPP **Tim Hudak**, however, has introduced a private member’s bill calling on the direct election of the regional chair by the “people who foot the bill—Niagara taxpayers.”

“Direct election of the chair will strengthen the chair’s hand in securing a better deal for Niagara from the provincial and federal governments,” Hudak said.

“A competitive region-wide race for regional chair will bring greater focus to regional issues and the region’s use of tax dollars.”

General elections also worked well in other regions

**“Direct election of the chair’s will strengthen the chairs hand in securing a better deal for Niagara from the provincial and federal governments. A competitive region-wide race for regional chair will bring greater focus to regional issues and the region’s use of tax dollars.”**

- Tim Hudak

with similar budgets and geographic scope, Hudak said.

**Halton Region** voters elected **Joyce Savoline** as chair in 2000 and recently elected **Gary Carr** after she retired. Halton is the only region in the GTA that the public directly elects its chair.

Long-time **Waterloo Region** chair **Ken Seiling** was re-elected by voters during the November 13 election by a 70 per cent margin. After two years as a councillor and seven years as mayor of Woolwich Township, Seiling was first elected by regional council as regional chair in 1985. In 1997, he became the first directly elected regional chair in Waterloo Region.

**York Region** chair **Bill Fisch** has held his post since 1997—chosen by regional councillors. For nine years prior to his appointment, he was a **Markham** councillor and regional councillor. York spokesperson **Patrick Casey** told *NRU* that Fisch has made it known he wants to continue on in the job as chair. Council votes on Thursday evening.

**Peel Region** chair **Emil Kolb** is also elected by other members of regional council. He has been chair since 1991. Although he told *NRU* that he looks forward to sitting for the next four years working with six new faces on council, Peel council will decide his fate on Thursday. •



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## Chamber talks economic policy

Many of Canada's top business leaders were in **Ottawa** this week to discuss economic and business policy at the two-day **Canadian Chamber of Commerce** board meeting. Members discussed issues ranging from Canada's productivity and competitiveness, to fiscal policy, to labour market concerns.

### DURHAM

#### Durham dreams of new arts centre

A packed room is expected tonight in **Pickering** to hear a grant

announcement and introduce a team that is expected to build the Durham West Arts Centre by 2011.

### HALIBURTON

#### Frost Centre gets green light

The province has taken another step forward toward re-opening the **Frost Centre** by approving **FCI Group** as the preferred proponent, said Peterborough MPP **Jeff Leal** who made the announcement on behalf of public infrastructure renewal minister **David Caplan**. The government is discussing with the company the finalization of a long-term lease to operate the facility with an emphasis

on environmental and outdoor education programs.

### HALTON

#### Oakville open house

**Oakville** staff will host a public open house December 14 to consider town-initiated official plan and zoning by-law amendments for lands located south of Lakeshore Road West between Brock Street and Forsythe Street. The existing zoning by-law allows residential and limited-commercial uses. The proposed amendment will be presented to the public for discussion at the open house.

## Greenbelt takes a hit continued from page 1

of the business park and we are looking at specific matters relating to water quality and the policy interpretation of the greenbelt."

Notice of the province's appeal has brought mixed reviews from greenbelt watchdogs. **Pembina Institute** environmental governance director **Mark Winfield** noted that the appeal demonstrates that on one hand, the province is willing to intervene and pursue issues within the greenbelt; on the other hand, the province has not challenged the need to develop the greenbelt in an area where the watershed is already showing significant signs of stress.

"At the end of the day the issue is about turning 640 acres of greenbelt-protected countryside into a business park, and we would have hoped for a more robust response by the province on these issues," said Winfield. Members of the **Greenbelt Alliance** have argued that the Business Park Secondary Plan does not fall within the transition provisions of the *Greenbelt Plan, 2005* and that both the region's and town's official plan amendments should not be permitted.

According to Winfield, no substantive work was undertaken to initiate the proposal prior to the December 16, 2003 deadline under the *Greenbelt Plan*; and that the Keswick Business Park Study was not approved by Georgina council until April 2004.

Georgina director of planning and building **Harold Lenters** told *NRU* that the work was undertaken well in advance of the deadline as part of the development of the town's secondary plan for the Keswick urban area.



"When we reviewed the Keswick secondary plan, the terms of reference included a consideration for and analysis of the need to expand the Keswick urban area east of Woodbine for possible future urban development."

Lenters added that Georgina has clearly met the requirements through the completion of reports and the expenditure of funds. He indicated that the policy that ended up in the

Greenbelt Plan allowing urban expansion studies that had been initiated largely came about through the town meeting with provincial authorities.

According to Doyle, the province agrees.

"We are satisfied that it met the grandfathering provisions of the Greenbelt Plan. The municipality initiated this back in 2002."

According to Winfield, the appeal does make room for other parties to appeal the decision; however, he notes that there is a feeling of disappointment that the province is now leaving it to other people to raise this issue. Winfield pointed to estimates by the **Neptis Foundation** that suggest that there is enough land available to accommodate 30-to-40 years of growth before municipalities will approach the greenbelt, and that these sorts of expansions directly into the greenbelt are not necessary. •

## NIAGARA

### Niagara landfill expansion gets EA approval

The proposed **Niagara Waste Systems** landfill expansion in **Niagara Region** has received environmental assessment approval, with conditions, environment minister **Laurel Broten** announced recently, to ensure the Niagara Escarpment, the surrounding watershed and the region's communities are protected. The landfill has been approved to take up to 850,000 tonnes of waste per year, which will help to address the demand for disposal capacity for the industrial, commercial and institution sectors. The site is also approved to accept municipal solid waste.

## PEEL

### Mississauga planning fee updates

**Mississauga** staff has recommended approval of a by-law revising *Planning Act* processing fees. The annual review of fees has resulted in an increase in planning application fees, amalgamated committee of adjustment fees, new municipal services inspection fees for condominium and site plans among the many changes. Increases for planning application fees are part of Mississauga's second phase comprehensive review that was initiated last year with the aim of moving towards full cost recovery of planning application fees. A consultant was hired to review the operating costs associated with the processing of development applications in all departments in Mississauga. Pending the completion of the study it is recommended that planning fees increase by 30 per cent to cover current operational costs.

### Brampton public meetings

**Brampton** staff will host a public meeting scheduled December 11 to

consider the following applications—

- **Ashley Developments Ltd.** for official plan and zoning by-law amendments and draft plan of subdivision to permit a residential development northeast of Hurontario Street and Roycrest Street in Brampton. The applicant proposes six single-detached houses, similar to adjacent lots to the south of the site.
- **City of Brampton and Creditview Development Inc.** for a zoning by-law amendment to permit a residential development north of James Potter Road within the Credit Valley Secondary Plan area. The applicants propose to rezone an existing one hectare right-of-way along the Creditview Road to permit single-detached, semi-detached and townhouse units and align them with approved residential developments to the east and west of the site.
- **Credit Valley Block 5 Landowners Group Inc.** for an official plan amendment to implement a block design plan for a residential development in an area bounded by Creditview Road, Queen Street West, Chinguacousy Road and the Orangeville-Brampton railway. The developer proposes 2,570-residential units and two commercial sites in the plan area.
- **N.H.D. Developments Ltd.** for official plan and zoning by-law amendments and draft plan of subdivision to permit a residential development south of Regional Road 107 in Brampton. The developer proposes 98 single-detached houses on the 12-hectare site.

## YORK

### Vaughan election irregularities overblown

After being reconfirmed as the winner in the **Vaughan** race for mayor, **Linda Jackson** was sworn in last week and

sat in ousted mayor **Michael Di Biase's** chair. Di Biase demanded that he be sworn in given what he claims were "serious irregularities" during the election.

Municipal and planning lawyer **Andrew Jeanrie (Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP)**, however, told *NRU* that the "small human error with one of the ballot boxes had no impact on the election results."

"Clerk **John Leach** did an impressive job and handled the recount and the whole election in a fair and equitable manner," said Jeanrie, who represented Jackson during the recount.

### New Richmond Hill mayor comes out swinging

At this week's inaugural meeting of **Richmond Hill** council, newly elected mayor **Dave Barrow** outlined his vision for the town over the next four years with managing growth dominating the agenda. Barrow said that one of the many big projects the town will undertake next year will be a comprehensive review of the official plan beginning with the creation of a task force, which will get underway in June.

"Our new official plan will not be drawn on maps of greenfields as in the past, but rather it will be the realization of the wishes and aspirations of the people who already live and work here," Barrow said. "It will not be a plan about land; it will be a plan about people."

He also promised to tackle gridlock by moving the town's new transportation master plan from paper to implementation. The newly minted mayor vowed to get more vocal about the funding gap that exists between what the provincial government receives and what it then allocates back to municipalities to cover costs associated with social housing, health care and social services.

*continued page 8*

# ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD NEWS

## Hearing set for Brampton seniors facilities

In a prehearing decision issued November 6, board member **Jason Chee-Hing** set the date for appeals by **G.C. Jain Investments Limited** for official plan and zoning by-law amendments to permit a residential development at **7005 Mayfield Road**, east of The Gore Road in **Brampton**. The developer proposes to permit a seniors residence, a temple and a community facility. The hearing has been set for April 16, 2007.

Solicitor **Ronald Webb (Davis Webb)** represents the appellant. Solicitor **Ted Yao** (City of Brampton) represents the city. Solicitor **Stephen Garrod (Garrod Pickfield)** represents the **Region of York**. (See OMB Case No. PL030972.)

## Prehearing scheduled for Beechnut appeal

In a prehearing decision issued November 15, board member **Susan Schiller** set a further prehearing date for appeals by **Beechnut Development Corporation Inc.** for a zoning by-law amendment and a draft plan of subdivision to permit a residential development along Concession 2 in **Oshawa**. The next prehearing has been set for April 16, 2007.

Solicitor **John Alati** represents Beechnut. Solicitor **Lonny Knox** (City of Oshawa) represents the city. Solicitor **Mimi Singh (Durham Region)** represents the region. (See OMB Case No. PL050999.) •

## GTA IN BRIEF

*continued from page 7*

### York Region hosts water supply EA meetings

**York Region** staff will host a public consultation centre as part of a class environmental assessment to identify the preferred approach to getting additional water supply capacity to meet approved growth targets in the communities of Ballantrae, Musselman Lake and Bloomington in the **Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville**. Previous studies identified the need for additional capacity in the event that any of the existing wells is not operational. Alternative options include expanding or upgrading the existing groundwater supply system, connecting to the York water system, or obtaining water from another source. A water resource exploration program to identify potential

groundwater well locations will be carried out as part of the project. The meeting is scheduled December 6 in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

December 6, York Region staff will host a second public consultation centre as part of a class environmental assessment to identify the preferred approach for providing water supply and storage facilities to service the future residential and employment growth in **King City** until 2021. The public consultation centre will provide an overview of the project, the water resource exploration program, and study findings to date. A preliminary evaluation of alternatives has recommended a surface water supply system, with watermains located along one of the three routes that would connect to a newly constructed feedermain to carry treated water to

**Aurora and Newmarket.**

### Aurora public meeting scheduled

**Aurora** staff will host a public meeting to consider applications for amendments to the zoning by-law and draft plan of subdivision to permit a residential development within the Prato Estates subdivision, east of Bayview Avenue in Aurora. The developer proposes to rezone four parcels of land within the subdivision. Applications for two of the parcels propose to rezone the land from open space to detached residential uses to permit five-detached houses and to remove the walkway requirements on the site. The remaining two parcels require zoning by-law amendments to correct mapping changes. The meeting is scheduled December 19. •

## GTA PEOPLE

Although their terms were not scheduled to expire until early next year, **Ontario Municipal Board** vice chairs **Donald Granger, Jan Seaborn** and **Susan Campbell** had their terms renewed for five years. Granger has been on the board since 1997; Seaborn since 2000; and Campbell since 2004.

**Gary Calvert** has been appointed as the **City of Barrie's** interim city administrator replacing **Peter Lee**, who is retiring

as CAO in December, after 36 years of service with the city. Calvert will continue to be commissioner of Barrie's corporate services and development services divisions.

**Walter Robinson** was appointed chief of staff to newly elected **Ottawa** mayor **Larry O'Brien**. Robinson is the former director of the **Canadian Taxpayers Federation**.