



Message from the Chair - YREA mentors youth group

We were fortunate to have two high school students present themselves at our AGM in March. As a result, YREA has made a commitment to fostering the newly formed Youth Environmental Network of York Region (YENYR). Headed up by Vino Jeyaplan as Chair, this group of enthusiastic students from Markville High School is already busy with ambitious plans for a youth environmental conference for Markham students in spring. They see the need to raise awareness of environmental issues among young people in York Region and as a group wish to encourage youth to contribute to the well being of the communities in which they live through local initiatives and action plans.

Although their first environmental conference targets students in Markham, they wish to build communications between like-minded youth groups from high schools all over York Region. These bright young people need our support and encouragement. Setting a fine example among their peers, they are taking measures to protect our planet, realizing it is theirs to inherit.

YREA has devoted a page on our new and improved website to YENYR, so please go to www.yrea.org for news of developments of their activities.

Gloria Marsh
Gloria Marsh



photo by Mike Barrett

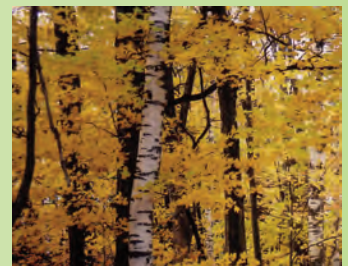
Members of YENYR from left - Dylan Di Lecce, David Li and Chair of group, Vino Jeyapalan

New look of YREA website and newsletter

As we continue to make changes and improvements to our website and our Greenworks newsletter, we thank our volunteer Sylvia Halligan, who also wears our membership coordinator hat, for her creativity and commitment to YREA. As well as being responsible for the pleasing, innovative appearance of our website, she has taken over as Greenworks editor with this issue. During the restructuring we missed a summer newsletter, for which we apologize. Hope you take a few minutes soon to browse our fresh new website at www.yrea.org.

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Trash Cans & Green Bins

This issue of Green Works inaugurates the trash can and green bin section, a YREA take on darts and laurels. To show our ever optimistic side, we have mostly green bins to report this time. We encourage our readers to send in trash can and green bin info to membership@yrea.org.

Earth & People Gentle, Cotton Ginny, sustainable style



This Canadian company is worth supporting. With the recent launch of their 'OLOGY' clothing line, made from 100% sustainable fibres such and bamboo, soy, corn and certified organic cotton, their socially and environmentally responsible practices are not just green washing. They know it is good for business. We can shop with confidence at Cotton Ginny knowing they and their partners uphold a code of conduct whereby the ethical treatment of workers is maintained and they do not employ forced or child labour. The production of their garments is also in compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations.



Climate change busters



Congratulations to Richmond Hill, Markham, Newmarket, York Region and East Gwillimbury for committing to Partners for Climate Protection. This program is part of a worldwide plan through which municipalities set Kyoto-style targets for reducing harmful emissions through local initiatives. One of YREA's election questions, and an area of concern to us, it is gratifying to see leadership on this issue from these municipalities. Hopefully, Aurora, King, Vaughan, Whitchurch-Stouffville, and Georgina will so follow.

Garbage Busters



Another issue on our election questionnaire was asking that waste issues be dealt with through local planning in the building design stage for businesses, shopping centres, apartments and condos. That is just what is happening with high rises in Vaughan and Markham with Richmond Hill soon to follow. Kudos also to Tridel for voluntarily building diversion facilities into new buildings. Now, we need shopping centres to get with garbage busting.



Green Washing Lawncare Companies

When hiring a lawn maintenance company, question them extensively as to what products and methods they use. Weed and feed companies that use toxic chemicals know their days are numbered and many are using 'green' catch words to keep their customers. Ask what exact 'organic fertilizer' or 'natural' weed control products they use and don't be hoodwinked by companies offering IPM – integrated pest management. IPM is not possible for a private home where workers rush in for 20 minutes every ten days. IPM is another way of saying 'business as usual'.

All subdivision developers



who register restrictive covenants on the land titles, forbidding home buyers from erecting pole-to-pole clotheslines.

Mayor with a mission - Phyllis Morris,



the mayor of Aurora, who is pushing the Ontario government to designate the clothesline as a "good, a service, or a technology", which under the Energy Conservation Leadership Act could exempt clotheslines from current restrictions and to everybody who uses a clothesline to dry their clothes instead of a standard clothes dryer.

Congratulations, Ivanhoe Cambridge,



owners of Upper Canada Mall for switching to Bullfrog Power, the only 100% green electricity retailer. The Newmarket mall is one of 13 Ivanhoe Cambridge-owned shopping centres in the province included in the deal that will see 30 per cent of common areas powered by Bullfrog. The alternate source of energy used at Upper Canada Mall will leave enough on the grid to conventionally power 125 homes a year.



Comments on the Bradford By-Pass

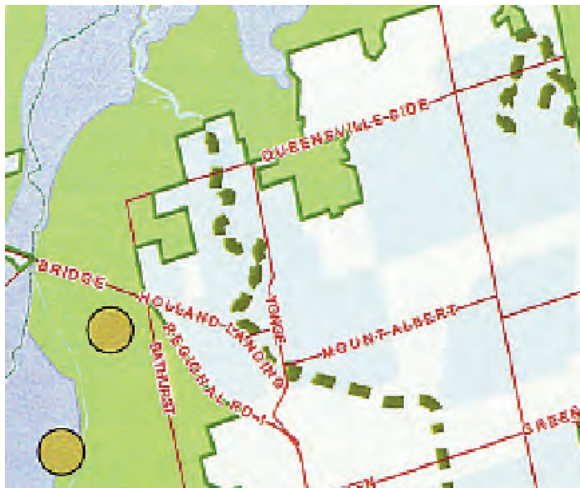
Jeff Laidlaw, Councillor, Ward 2

As a first term politician, I spend a great deal of time listening and trying to gauge where people are coming from, and where they're going.

Lately, while York Region has stated that the Bradford By-Pass is some 30 years distant in terms of coming to fruition, one cannot help but hear many Regional and Municipal politicians pushing to have this project put on the table considerably sooner.

Some of the concern logically occurs from reviewing the *Places to Grow* Plan and the identified settlement areas in the Holland Landing, Sharon, and Queensville area.

In the map to the right, the light blue areas represent areas where growth is to occur, the white areas represent what York Region has now come to identify as the "Whitebelt"; an area to be considered for growth beyond the year 2031, and the green areas, are, as you may have surmised the "Greenbelt" areas.



There is unquestionably a need to respond to the traffic challenges the anticipated growth will create, and while the Queensville and Mt. Albert Roads are both good and will handle significant increases in volumes, there is also the issue of the recognition of the need to achieve north/south access.

In that respect, one of the plans appears to be to re-open Bathurst Street from Green Lane to Yonge Street, and more likely and realistically to the area of the proposed Bradford By-Pass.

For those unfamiliar, the Bradford By-Pass is intended to run in an area approximately two kilometres north of the Queensville Sideroad, from Highway 404 in the east to Highway 400 in the west. Apparently, an Environmental Assessment was completed for this proposed routing in 2002 and the land around the proposed routing has been legally designated as undevelopable, thus protecting the intended road bed. The Ministry of Transportation has acquired lands around the areas of the proposed interchanges.

Strictly speaking, from a grid pattern, and with the review of anticipated growth, without the consideration of costs, there is a sort of sound logic to the proposal. Essentially, the Bradford By-Pass, if implemented, will divert the traffic from local feeder roads, take it to one of the two major north-south arteries, and allow relatively simplistic access to the City of Toronto.

Having said that there are some other thoughts and factors which appear to have conveniently been sidestepped in the process. Premier McGuinty recently announced his intention of introducing a Lake Simcoe Protection Act, in the event that he and his party win in the upcoming election.

The proposed Bradford By-Pass is almost exclusively located on lowlands in and around the south end of Lake Simcoe. There are no less than three rivers/river tributaries in the immediate path, abundant Holland Marsh like farms, and ample commercial venues.

The picture below shows Queensville Road at the left of the image looking west towards River Drive Park.



Even allowing for careful and considerate construction methodologies, there is simply no

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way to mitigate the drainage impact that will be created in the Lake Simcoe watershed through the construction phase, and then ultimately through the extensive use of the road.

To the right, an aerial shot showing typical landmass configuration in the area for the proposed Bradford By-Pass; the East Holland River in the foreground with Lake Simcoe in the background.



On the left is a typical landmass configuration in the area for the proposed Bradford By-Pass; the East Holland River in the foreground with Lake Simcoe in the background.

The marina pictured on the right lies directly in the path of the proposed Bradford By-Pass.

There is, of course another consideration in all this. The Ontario government consistently speaks to the issue of Smart Growth. They have, however, appeared to have forgotten that the concept of

smart growth does not encompass greenfield development; and further, that one of the many intents of smart growth is that people live, work and play all in the same area.

To build the Bradford By-Pass seems to me to be counter-productive to the idea of a Lake Simcoe Protection Act, an inferred admission that the Province of Ontario does not adhere to the principles of smart growth, and a recognition that even thirty years hence we will still be relying far too heavily on the car as our primary means of transit.



Thanks and more thanks

The York Region Environmental Alliance functions with a tireless volunteer board and one staff person. We are always grateful for donations of time or money from members, friends and associates, all of which make our goals a little easier to attain.

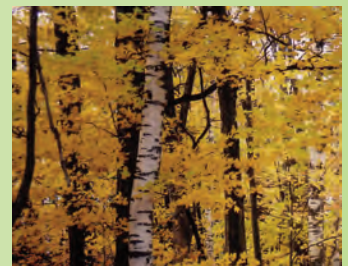
This time around -

Our heartfelt thanks goes to Tomàs MacKenna of Dublin and Joanna Williams and Mark Gurney of Windsor England, who stayed at Toadhall Bed & Breakfast and left YREA generous donations. What would we do without such kindness?

Closer to home, thumbs up goes to Martin Chen and Pamela Courtot for also supporting us with donations. Every little bit helps.

On October 10th, be an informed voter

The Clean Air Alliance has put together information on how each party stands on the Nanticoke coal-fired electricity generating station – Canada's #1 source of greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change. Visit their website <http://www.cleanairalliance.org> and click view Nanticoke pamphlet.



Love my green bin

Gloria Marsh

More thrilling for me than receiving a present (most of you know how I feel about that), I awaited the delivery of my green bin with eager anticipation. Even though I compost, I was chucking about 15 lbs of kitty litter in the garbage every week. Now with tissues, diapers, dairy, meat, fish and other food scraps all green bin candidates, what is left for the garbage bag? Tsk, tsk, all those polystyrene take-out containers and fish and meat trays as well as cling wrap, plastic vegetable bags and heavier plastic food wrappers.

I said to myself, I can reduce this even further, so instead of covering bowls headed for the fridge with cling wrap, I use plastic bowl covers, sort of like small shower caps, which come in different sizes (10 for \$1 at the dollar store) and can be washed and reused for years. I also reuse my vegetable bags many times by just turning them inside out and giving them a rinse. Once they are dry I put a number of them in my cloth shopping bags, ready for the next visit to the grocery store.

To solve the odour problem of styrofoam fish trays and the like not being picked up for two weeks, I put these smelly items in the freezer until garbage day. Now if only all foods came in the compostable or recyclable containers that do already exist, we'd have very little garbage left and even less need for incinerators. I love my green bin.

Events News

Maude Barlow, Social Justice Advocate and Author

Too Late to Panic – Protecting Canada's Water & Energy Supplies
Monday, October 1, 8:00 p.m.,
Markham Theatre
Call 905-305-SHOW or
www.markhamtheatre.ca for tickets

Opportunities for Municipalities

Ron Mitchell, Board member of Concerned Citizens of King Township (CKKT)

The following are key ideas from *Opportunities for Municipalities*, which emerged from a brainstorming session at the Oak Ridges Moraine Symposium, held on February 12 and 13, 2007. Until all municipalities follow through with these far-reaching measures, this will not be old news, but worth promoting and repeating.

- ✓ Initiate and promote EA's of larger geographic scales which will further enhance the health and protection of the ORM
- ✓ Attract development companies like Senator Homes who won a 'Moraine for Life' Award for their re-design efforts in a 260+ residential home development on the ORM in Vaughan
- ✓ Apply consistency in reviews of new building and recreational developments to ensure the health and protection of the ORM
- ✓ Improve educational awareness of the ORM through Outreach programs to Township residents and Township Volunteers
- ✓ Establish stewardship bodies throughout the Township
- ✓ Enforce ORM policies throughout the Moraine including buffer zones in new development areas
- ✓ Train and develop Township staff in ORM policies
- ✓ Ensure enforcement of water policies to aid in water conservation
- ✓ Ensure that groundwater is not depleted during development projects
- ✓ Conduct Sustainable Operating Practices and promote and attract Sustainable Businesses
- ✓ Enhance tourism to their Township through enhanced ORM signage and tours
- ✓ Promote natural (and cultural) heritage projects related to the ORM
- ✓ Promote sustainable growth
- ✓ Engage real estate companies, developers and the farming community who truly aspire to promoting and enhancing the health of the ORM
- ✓ Promote acceptance of 'limits to growth' through sustainable development projects

NOTE – Watershed Plans were scheduled to be completed by Municipalities by April, 2007

Some memorable comments and new words

- Plant sewers in the spring and watch new houses spring up in the fall (attributed to the new urban farmer in 2001)
- NIMBY is old hat – it's now NOPE - not on planet Earth
- "Locavore" is someone who eats food produced locally