

**Take out anyone?**  
Challenging growth in waistlines

**Clip and save**  
Durham voter kits in the mail

**Simcoe County plans ahead**  
Seeking new planning director



# Novæ Res Urbis

**GREATER TORONTO AREA EDITION**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2006 • VOL 9 • No 43

CASTLE GLEN OMB WRAPS UP

## Fitting old plans under new planning reforms

By Anne Marie Aikins

An **Ontario Municipal Board** hearing into the largest development in the history of the Niagara Escarpment wrapped up last week, ending three years of proceedings. The proposed resort development by **Castle Glen Development Corporation** is located just south-east of Blue Mountain in the **Collingwood** area—an area the **Ontario Greenbelt Alliance** listed as one of the top 10 “greenbelt hotspots” under threat from “poorly-planned development that could destroy significant natural features.” The plan was resurrected from 30 years ago when an official plan amendment “may have” been granted but should never have been allowed to be grandfathered under Ontario’s new planning reforms, says the **Castle Glen Ratepayers Association**.

“If the amendment was granted for this plan 30 years ago, the developer should have been required to use it or lose it,” co-president **Bruce Harbinson** told *NRU*. “A developer should not be allowed to significantly amend a plan that was granted under different planning rules and proceed so many years later.”

Castle Glen is a magnificent property, he said. “We want to build on the support of local residents, the **Blue Mountain Watershed Trust** and many other organizations, backed by thousands of supporters, who have called for the Ontario government to acquire the site and join it up with the adjacent Pretty River Provincial Park.”

The resulting provincial park, Harbinson said, would

*continued page 5*

JOYCE SAVOLINE BIDS ADIEU TO POLITICS

## Working hard to ensure former CAO replaces her

Although less than two weeks is left before she retires, outgoing **Halton Region** chair **Joyce Savoline** has been busier than ever these days. She finds herself in the “unexpected, but necessary position” of vigorously campaigning, Savoline told *NRU*, to ensure that the best leader replaces her in the upcoming municipal election. In Savoline’s opinion, there is no other person capable of filling her shoes as regional chair than her former CAO—**Brent Marshall**, who entered the race September 29 right after he tendered his resignation.

Marshall’s campaign, however, has been anything but smooth sailing—local media have relentlessly pursued him questioning his credentials. He also faces formidable opponents.

**Brian Burton** wants the job as regional chair. The long-time Halton resident, who waged strong opposition

*continued page 6*

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## COMING UP

NOVEMBER 4 - NOVEMBER 8

**Canadian Urban Transit Association's Fall Conference and Trans-Expo**, "Communities in Transit", co-hosted by the TTC and GO Transit, Fairmont Royal York Hotel and Automotive Building-Direct Energy Centre in Toronto, [www.cutaactu.ca/toronto](http://www.cutaactu.ca/toronto).

MONDAY NOVEMBER 6

Green Divas for Council, **Celebrating Green Women Candidates for GTA Councils**, Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen Street West, Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7

**Housing Outlook Conference**, CMHC, Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, 116 King Street West, Hamilton.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10

**Local Food UK Style, Caledon Speaker Series with Jeanette Longfield**, SGI Caledon Centre for Culture and Education, 20490 Porterfield Road, 7:30 p.m., 905-584-6221.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Planning Dinner**, University of Waterloo Planning Alumni of Toronto, Hank Dittmar keynote, Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 20

**Citizens' Assembly Consultation**, YMCA, 20 Union Street, Brampton, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 21

**Citizens' Assembly Consultation**, Durham College, 2000 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

**Citizens' Assembly Consultation**, YMCA, 151 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22

**Citizens' Assembly Consultation**, Oakville Public Library, 120 Navy Street, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 28 - NOVEMBER 30

**Real Estate Forum**, Real Property Association of Canada, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 1-800-660-7083, ext. 233.

NOVÆ RES URBIS  
GREATER TORONTO AREA

NEW STUDY CHALLENGES THE CAUSE OF 'HUMAN SPRAWL'

## Thin people drawn to cities

As health spending on obesity-related illnesses continues to rise, many suggest that urban planning geared towards active and healthy living could be an important tool to curb obesity. Studies have discovered that city dwellers are thinner than their rural neighbourhoods leading many to blame urban sprawl for making people fat. A new **University of Toronto** report, however, challenges that assumption—researchers found no evidence that urban sprawl affects weight.

"Someone who does not like to walk is more likely to be obese and is more likely to live where one can easily get around by car," said UofT economics professor **Matthew Turner**, one of the study's authors. "Thus, the finding that people in sprawling neighbourhoods are heavier does not imply that sprawl causes obesity."

The joint research project, conducted at the University of Toronto, **London School of Economics** and **Universitat Pompeu Fabra** in Spain, found that people living in sprawling neighbourhoods tend to be heavier than those living where development is compact and there are many shops and amenities within walking distance. However, this is not because sprawling neighbourhoods cause people to gain weight, Turner said. These populations are heavier because individuals more at risk for obesity tend to live in such places.

The researchers matched a



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recently available satellite image of the United States to confidential survey data that reports the weight and address of a sample of nearly 6,000 individuals for six years. Since about 80 per cent of the people in the sample changed residences during that period, researchers could check whether people gained weight when they moved to a more sprawling community.

"If you think that sprawl causes people to gain weight, then people who move from compact to sprawling neighbourhoods should gain weight—they don't," said co-author **Diego Puga**, a professor with **Universitat Pompeu Fabra**.

This means that plans to redesign the environment will not lead to cities that cause people to be thin; rather, they are likely to create cities to which thin people move.

"Our results provide a basis for thinking that smart growth type designs will not cause people to be thinner," Turner said. "This means policy-makers who try to combat the obesity epidemic by encouraging these designs are wasting tax dollars."

"The public health battle against obesity should be fought on other fronts," he suggested. •

Ian A.R. Graham, Publisher  
(iang@nrupublishing.com)

Lynn Morrow, Editor  
(lynnm@nrupublishing.com)

Anne Marie Aikins, News Reporter  
(annemariea@nrupublishing.com)

Shayna Stott, Planning Reporter  
(shaynas@nrupublishing.com)

Jeff Payette, Layout  
(jeffp@nrupublishing.com)

SALES/SUBSCRIPTIONS

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NRU Publishing Inc.

Editorial office  
26 Soho Street, Suite 330  
Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1Z7  
Tel: 416.260.1304  
Fax: 416.979.2707

Billings department  
46 Old Bridle Path,  
Toronto, ON M4T 1A7

# Trusting Canada Post with your vote

There are less than two weeks left until voters go to the poll in the upcoming municipal election. However, a number of voters in **Durham Region** only have a few days remaining to put their ballot in the mail.

Introduced in 2000 in three municipalities, the process essentially allows eligible voters, who are lucky enough to be included on **Municipal Properties Assessment Corporation's** list, to register their vote without ever leaving their homes—except to drop their ballot in the mail. Voters using **Canada Post**, however, are urged to drop their voting package in the mail no later than November 3 to guarantee delivery in time for election day—10 days later. Postage has been pre-paid.

Not much is expected in **Ajax** in the way of change this year. **City of Toronto** planner **Renrick Ashby** is currently on leave

taking a run at becoming a councillor in Ward 2 against incumbent **Joe Dickson**. In the **Township of Brock**, the mayor's race is relatively interesting with Mayor **Keith Shier** being challenged by Regional Councillor

**Voters using Canada Post are urged to drop their voting package in the mail no later than November 3 to guarantee delivery in time for election day—10 days later. Postage has been pre-paid.**

**Larry O'Connor** and former mayor **Terry Clayton**. A former two-term councillor, **Harold Lodwick**, has been acclaimed in Ward 2.

When **Clarington** mayor **John Mutton** is not attending court for outstanding assault charges or attending old-timers hockey games with Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**, he is busy campaigning to keep his job. Regional Councillor **Jim Schell** thinks he has a good shot at unseating the controversial mayor.

In **Oshawa**, the election is literally a family affair with three members of the **Nicholson** family on this year's ballot. Regional Councillor **Brian Nicholson** is running for re-election; **Kyle Nicholson** would like to be a councillor in Wards 1 and 3; and Councillor **Mike Nicholson** wants to be a regional councillor so is running against incumbent **Nester Pidwebecki**.

Not much change is expected in **Pickering**, nor in **Scugog** where three incumbents have been acclaimed including Regional Councillor **Jim McMillen** and councillors **Bobbie Drew** and **Georgia Brock**.



In the **Township of Uxbridge**, Mayor **Gerri Lynn O'Connor** is not running for re-election. Regional



Source: [www.bvdp.de](http://www.bvdp.de)

Councillor **Susan Self** and Councillor **Bob Shepherd** are fighting over her job. There will be lots of change on the new council given that councillors **Bev Beach** and **Kathleen Wasylenky** are not running again. And in **Whitby**, Mayor **Marcel Brunelle** is being challenged by Regional Councillor **Pat Perkins**. •

See candidate listing page 4

**Brampton**

**BRAMPTON URBAN DESIGN AWARDS 2006**

**Enter your Brampton project(s) in one or more of the following categories\*:**


- Best New Building
- Best New Landscape
- Central Area Design—A new category for projects in the Central Area of Brampton
- Most Promising Project

**Other categories will be selected from the submissions:**

- Best New Neighbourhood
- People's Choice Award
- Best Overall

\*Projects must be completed between 2001 and 2006

**Deadline for Submission is December 1, 2006**  
 An application can be downloaded from [www.brampton.ca](http://www.brampton.ca)  
 For more information and details, call 905-874-2928  
 or e-mail [designawards@brampton.ca](mailto:designawards@brampton.ca)  
 TTY 905-874-2130



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## Durham Region candidates

MUNICIPALITY	OFFICE	CANDIDATE
Ajax	Mayor	Mayor Steve Parish, Lidia Kuleshnyk
	Regional Councillor-Wards 1&2	Regional Councillor Scott Crawford, Oliver Forbes, Al Williams
	Regional Councillor-Wards 3&4	Regional Councillor Colleen Jordan, Lynn McGurk-Weil
	Councillor-Ward 1	Councillor Shaun Collier, Robert MacArthur, Errol Massiah
	Councillor-Ward 2	Councillor Joe Dickson, Renrick Ashby
	Councillor-Ward 3	Councillor Joanne Dies, Sam Ribeiro
	Councillor-Ward 4	Councillor Pat Brown, Leslie Davies, Lisa Patel
Brock	Mayor	Mayor Keith Shier, Regional Councillor Larry O'Connor, Terry Clayton
	Regional Councillor	Councillor Debbie Bath, Councillor John Grant, Jay Yerema-Weaver
	Councillor-Ward 1	Councillor Karen Windatt, Mike Manchester
	Councillor-Ward 2	Harold Lodwick (ACCLAIMED)
	Councillor-Ward 3	Councillor Reg Starr, Anthony Woodruff
	Councillor-Ward 4	David Marquis, Peter Prust, Christopher Wilson
	Councillor-Ward 5	Councillor Allan Simpson, Ted Smithy
Clarington	Mayor	Mayor John Mutton, Regional Councillor Jim Schell, Jim Abernethy, Richard Ward, Wayne Chaskavich
	Regional Councillor-Wards 1&2	Councillor Don MacArthur, George Van Dyke, Kevin McAlpine, Arnot Wotten, Mary Novak
	Councillor-Ward 3&4	Regional Councillor Charlie Trim, John Buddo, Linda Gasser
	Councillor-Ward 1	Councillor Adrian Foster, Oudit Rai
	Councillor-Ward 2	Blair Smyth, Colin Argyle, Steve Rowland, Ron Hooper, John Sturdy, Terry Lynch, Mike Slocombe, Philip Carlton
	Councillor-Ward 3	Kevin Anyan, Willie Woo, Kyrke Innis, Lou DeVuono
	Councillor-Ward 4	Councillor Gord Robinson, Paul Jones, Wendy Partner
Oshawa	Mayor	Mayor John Gray, Alexander Kemp, Dawn Turner
	Regional Councillor-Ward 1	Regional Councillor Brian Nicholson, Yogel Patel, Gord Vickers
	Regional Councillor-Ward 2	Regional Councillor Robert Lutczyk, Lanny Joseph, David Purdy, Doug Ross, Murray Strong
	Regional Councillor-Ward 3	Regional Councillor Nester Pidwerbecki, Councillor Mike Nicholson
	Regional Councillor-Ward 4	Regional Councillor Joseph Kolodzie, Pauline Beal, John Rzeszut
	Regional Councillor-Ward 5	Regional Councillor Cathy Clarke, John Henry, Lynne Marie McCarthy
	Regional Councillor-Ward 6	Regional Councillor April Cullen, Bruce Smith, Douglas Terwilligar
	Regional Councillor-Ward 7	Regional Councillor John Neal, Mary Jo Cunha, Steven Gamsby
	Councillor-Wards 1&3	Doug Bain, Tim Dobson, Dough Hawkins, Kyle Nicholson, Maryanne Sholdra, Dave Thompson
	Councillor-Wards 2&4	Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Johnny Milosh
	Councillor-Wards 5&6	Councillor Louise Parkes, John Burns, Dave Chyznak, Robert Goheen, Michael Kettela
Pickering	Mayor	Mayor Dave Ryan, John Newell
	Regional Councillor-Ward 1	Regional Councillor Maurice Brenner, Bonnie Littley
	Regional Councillor-Ward 2	Regional Councillor Bill McLean, Jurgen Degen
	Regional Councillor-Ward 3	Regional Councillor Rick Johnson, Seven Gardner, Kevin Modeste
	Councillor-Ward 1	Councillor Kevin Ashe, Jennifer O'Connell, Paul White
	Councillor-Ward 2	Councillor Doug Dickerson, Brian Evely, Eileen Higdon, Dan Myall
	Councillor-Ward 3	Councillor David Pickles, Lisa DePass
Scugog	Mayor	Mayor Marilyn Pearce, Ann Cowman
	Regional Councillor	Regional Councillor Jim McMillen (ACCLAIMED)
	Councillor-Ward 1	Councillor Larry Corrigan, Cecil Lamrock
	Councillor-Ward 2	Councillor Bobbie Drew (ACCLAIMED)
	Councillor-Ward 3	Councillor Lynn Philip Hodgson, Doug Puddester
	Councillor-Ward 4	Councillor Blair Martyn, Colin Kemp
	Councillor-Ward 5	Councillor Georgia Brock (ACCLAIMED)
Uxbridge	Mayor	Regional Councillor Susan Self, Councillor Bob Shepherd, Anne Holmes
	Regional Councillor	Councillor Howie Herrema, John Gibson
	Councillor-Ward 1	Councillor Bev Northeast, Susan Fedorka
	Councillor-Ward 2	June Archibald, Edward Beach, Ted Eng, Carol Kuula, Patrick Molloy
	Councillor-Ward 3	Tara McCullough, Pat Mikuse, John Sillaots, Donald Walker
	Councillor-Ward 4	Heather Bailey, Jack Ballinger, Frederick Bryan, June Davies, Dan Gaudenzi, Dan Young
	Councillor-Ward 5	Jim Byers, Brian Fowlow, Gordon Highet, Robin John
Whitby	Mayor	Mayor Marcel Brunelle, Regional Councillor Pat Perkins
	Regional Councillor (3)	Regional Councillor Joe Drumm, Regional Councillor Gerry Emm, Bill Hepburn, Don Mitchell, Moe Pringle, Dave Sansom
	Councillor-Ward 1	Councillor Sue Pitchforth, Richard Lloyd, Adam McEwan
	Councillor-Ward 2	Ayoub Ali, Chudi Asidanya, Marty Gobin, Elizabeth Roy
	Councillor-Ward 3	Councillor Shirley Scott, Steve Jones, Terry Lee, Craig McCullagh
	Councillor-Ward 4	Councillor Lorne Coe, Douglas Patfield

## Castle Glen continued from page 1

stretch across many kilometres of Ontario's finest escarpment lands. The province has been unwilling to discuss the request, Harbinson said, until the legal proceedings are completed.

Covering almost 1,600 acres perched atop the Niagara Escarpment, the area forms part of the UNESCO World Biosphere Designated Zone. It is over 70 per cent forested, is the source for headwaters of Silver Creek—a prime salmon and trout spawning river in Georgian Bay—and Black Ash Creek. The area also has two provincially significant wetlands and is home to numerous threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna.

This kind of low-density urbanization is the reason the **Pembina Institute** recommended to the province that the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area should be included in the greenbelt and protected from leap-frog development.

Much to the residents' surprise, Harbinson said, the **Niagara Escarpment Commission** supported the development's Phase 1 application, but has since modified its stance, asking for significant reduction in land available for development and golf in Phase 2. No development has proceeded due to ongoing class environmental assessments.

The development calls for over 1,700 homes and condominium units, 54,000-square feet of commercial and retail space, 300-hotel units and conference facilities. To attract buyers, the development will also have three golf courses, a beach club and a wedding chapel complete with a gift shop.

The proposal started out as an application for a three-season resort development.

"This is a 30-year old development application that should never have been allowed to be resurrected," said **David Donnelly (Gilbert's LLP)**, legal counsel for **Environmental Defence**. "There are many 'sleeper-cell' development applications from years gone by that should not be permitted under Ontario's new planning reforms."

"How can a development application rise from the dead after 30 years, and still be approved under so-called reformed planning rules?" Donnelly said.

"Someone should call former premier **Bill Davis** to perform an exorcism on these kinds of applications." •

**"Someone should call former premier Bill Davis to perform an exorcism on these kinds of applications."**

- David Donnelly



## Planners and Urban Designer

Weston Consulting Group Inc. is a well established and dynamic land use planning firm celebrating 25 years in Ontario. We offer comprehensive planning services to our private and public sector clients throughout the GTA. We are currently hiring motivated professionals to accommodate this growth.

### Land Use Planners (Junior, Intermediate, Associate)

Candidates will have a minimum of 1 year land use planning experience in a municipal or consulting environment. A Bachelors Degree with a focus on Community Planning, Geography, or other related topic is also required.

Candidates for the Associate position will have considerable and varied Ontario planning experience, MCIP, and have provided expert testimony before the Ontario Municipal Board.

### Urban Designer

As an integral member of the consulting team, you will possess a sound knowledge of urban design practices and computer assisted graphics. You will have strong analytical and organizational skills and the ability to work with clients, urban designers, architects and planners. Successful candidates will provide key design and illustration support on a wide variety of interesting, creative and challenging development projects.

### Qualifications:

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- Architectural background is preferred

These positions are available immediately. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. We thank all applicants in advance; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Qualified candidates should submit a covering letter with their resume, in confidence via email to [tcymbaly@weston-consulting.com](mailto:tcymbaly@weston-consulting.com) or fax (905-738-6637) to:

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General Manager  
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L4K 5K8

## New municipal tool for green development

Yesterday marked the start of the second annual **Toronto Regional Green Building Festival**. This year's theme focuses on the need for the integration of design, development and financing to promote the development of higher efficiency buildings. The first day showcased the role of public-private partnerships and innovative financing approaches to facilitate both large and small scale green developments.

To encourage Canadian municipalities to implement green building strategies, **Canada Green Building Council** and the **Toronto and Region Conservation Authority** unofficially launched their new tool aimed at encouraging municipalities to support both public and private sector green development.

The toolkit includes sections that address—

- Defining green buildings
- Opportunities and challenges

- The business case for green building
- Training and education
- Municipal plans and policies for public facilities
- Municipal plans and policies for private facilities
- Monitoring and verifying green buildings
- Practices and technologies

The Green Building Council, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the **Association of Municipalities of Ontario** are

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## Savoline bids adieu continued from page 1

to **Oakville's** original OPA 198 development plan, ran against Savoline in 2003, finishing second. Former Halton MP and **Oakville MPP Gary Carr**, who Savoline said found himself without any place to land in January, entered the race in May.

**“My daughter told me that it was much better to leave before you need the job more than it needs you.”**

- Joyce Savoline

“I didn't expect to be in the position of feeling it was necessary to campaign for Brent,” said Savoline, who has been in political life for the past 24 years, 12 as regional chair. “I wouldn't be working so hard to get him elected if there were other options in the field.”

“Halton Region is the best kept secret in the province. But, we are never in the media because of Brent, because he ensures there are no surprises leaking out,” she explained.

“He has never been a bureaucrat—always a team player and always inspiring complete loyalty from his employees.”

“We need his continued leadership in the regional chair's office,” said Savoline, who appointed corporate services commissioner **Jane MacCaskill** acting CAO when Marshall retired.

In spite of the election and her soon-to-begin retirement, Savoline continues to enjoy her political life with one more round of committees and council before her term ends. She is currently weighing a number of offers, she said, but plans to make no decision until the

new year.

“My daughter told me that it was much better to leave before you need the job more than it needs you,” Savoline said.

“I wanted to leave the job when I knew I'd miss it.” •

### Municipal/Property Development Group Joins Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP

#### Move augments FMC's strength in Commercial Real Estate, P3, Infrastructure and Public Policy

Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP (FMC) welcomes Patrick Devine, one of Canada's best known property development lawyers, together with associates Jason Park and Katarzyna Sliwa and land use planners Robert Blunt and Andrea Paterson. Patrick heads the Municipal and Property Development Group in FMC's Toronto office, where he advises property owners, land developers and municipalities on land use planning and development approval matters throughout Ontario. Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP is one of Canada's largest business law firms, with over 500 lawyers in six offices across Canada and one in New York.

**Patrick J. Devine**

Direct Line: (416) 863-4515 Fax: (416) 863-4592

E-mail: [patrick.devine@fmc-law.com](mailto:patrick.devine@fmc-law.com)



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partnering to distribute the Green Municipal Toolkit, which will be available for purchase on December 1.

## **Tourism Toronto launches GTA campaign**

**Tourism Toronto** has launched a new \$1-million annual marketing initiative to augment the “Greater Toronto Region’s cultural tourism experiences” in the hopes of increasing the potential for significant tourism draws throughout the region. The program was developed to “build on the momentum of Toronto’s surging cultural energy and its positioning as global centre of creativity.” As one of its first projects, Tourism Toronto has partnered with the **City of Mississauga** to build a light sculpture suspended above the ice rink in Civic Centre Square, adjacent to Square One Shopping Centre.

Tourism Toronto will invest selectively in compelling opportunities with partners that demonstrate a solid business potential to attract visitors and increase visitor’s length of stay. For the selected business proposals, Tourism Toronto will match new investment by partners of between \$100,000 and \$500,000 per project, which must be first-time or one-off events, or represent substantial expansions of existing visitor experiences. The program could invest in up-to-10 projects per year.

## **Honouring a friend of the greenbelt**

During a reception tomorrow evening at the **Royal Ontario Museum**, Canadian singer and songwriter **Sarah Harmer** will be honoured by the **Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation** for her leadership in protecting Ontario’s greenbelt. The

singer’s song and film, *Escarpment Blues* and *I Love the Escarpment Tour*, has drawn public attention to mining that threatens unique Niagara Escarpment lands.

Harmer’s efforts are also captured on film, with a concert tour along the escarpment’s Bruce Trail. Harmer and band mates hiked, paddled and rock climbed the spine of the escarpment, starting from the northern tip on the Bruce Peninsula, and winding through Mount Nemo, in north **Burlington**—the site of both the proposed quarry expansion and Harmer’s childhood home.

Proceeds from the awards ceremony and film screening, which is co-sponsored by **Planet in Focus**, will be given to the community group **Protect Escarpment Rural Land**.

## **Celebrating environmental leadership**

The **Fairmont Royal York Hotel**, **Metro Toronto Convention Centre**, **Exhibition Place**, **Direct Energy Centre** and **Niagara Region** took some of the top honours for the **Recycling Council of Ontario 2006 Ontario Waste Minimization Awards**. The **City of Barrie** received a gold and bronze award in the promotion category. **York Region** received two honours, including a gold award in the promotion category for its blue box campaign. The **City of Vaughan** received a bronze award in the same category. Facility management awards went to **Ivanhoe Cambridge** (Oshawa Centre), **Menkes Property Management**, **Oxford Properties** and **SNC Lavalin ProFac Inc.** The **City of Owen Sound** received top honours in the municipal category, followed by the **City of Orillia** and the **City of Toronto** received an award of merit.

## **Panel recommends energy science investments**

A report from a national advisory panel created by the Government of Canada calls for an increased focus on energy science and technology to ensure long-term growth and sustainability in the Canadian economy. The report highlights a number of areas that need to be strengthened if Canada is to remain a key energy player in the world.

## **GO Transit enhancements**

**GO Transit** is currently implementing a number of service enhancements across its transportation network that will provide more service and reliability to its passengers. The multi-year expansion program is funded by the federal and provincial governments, and the GTA and Hamilton municipalities.

The addition of a third rail track in two locations on the Lakeshore West train line, which operates between **Hamilton** and Union Station in **Toronto**, will improve reliability and provide the capacity to add more trains. Third tracks are being added between Kerr Street in **Oakville** and Port Credit in **Mississauga** (target completion date March 2009) and between Burlington Junction and Bayview Junction in west **Burlington**, benefiting the Aldershot and Hamilton GO stations (target completion date September 2007).

On the Georgetown corridor, work is starting on a railway underpass north of Bloor GO Station in west Toronto. Currently, the Georgetown line crosses an east-west **CP Rail** freight line which limits GO’s ability to run more trains and means that trains are often delayed by freight trains crossing the intersection.

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A new layover facility is also being constructed east of **Milton** to provide capacity for additional and longer trains with a target completion date of July 2007. Milton is undertaking construction of a grade separation at Thompson Road and **Halton Region** is undertaking construction of a grade separation at the extension of the James Snow Parkway. In addition, modifications to the GO stations on the Milton corridor will lengthen existing platforms to accommodate the new 12-car GO trains and associated work will enhance platform service.

### Innisfil goes green

The **Town of Innisfil** broke ground in late September on the largest ever public building project in the town's history. The \$9.3 million project for a new 38,000 square foot administration building for the town will include the council chamber, offices, community rooms and a reception hall among its features and is seeking LEED certification.

The project is being designed and built by **Aecon Buildings Ottawa** and **Griffiths Rankin Cook** and will integrate sustainable design elements. Features are to include wetlands for stormwater management, reduced water use, and a 35 per cent reduction in energy use over standard office buildings. The design team is hoping to achieve LEED silver certification.

### DURHAM

#### Durham transit strike nears end

Nearly a month into a strike by public transit workers, **Durham Region Transit** reached a tentative settlement with the **Canadian Auto Workers**. The union members voted overwhelmingly in favour of accepting their new, and first collective agreement. During the special meetings of the commission

and council held yesterday in **Whitby**, councillors voted unanimously to accept the tentative settlement with the CAW. Transit is expected to be up and running again later this week.

"We look forward to the return of employees, and the return of services to our riders, and are confident that Durham Region Transit and **CAW** will work together successfully to provide an effective, efficient transit system," said general manager **Ted Galinis**.

### Ajax looking to make Planning Act changes retroactive

Ajax Council has asked municipal affairs and housing minister **John Gerretsen** to make *Bill 51, the Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act*, retroactive to December 12, 2005. By making the reforms to the *Planning Act* contained in *Bill 51* retroactive to the date of its first reading, Ajax is hoping to avoid appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board against the town's official plan for recent applications to convert employment lands. Following a lengthy OMB hearing that resulted in the board deciding to permit the conversion of employment lands along Rossland Road, the town has received two more conversion applications for employment lands. (See *NRU GTA October 11.*)

### HALTON

#### Oakville releases cutting edge urban forest modeling

**Oakville's** parks and open space department has completed a report, *Oakville's Urban Forest: Our Solution to Our Pollution*, that uses the results of a leading edge modeling project to provide a quantification of the structure, function and value of the town's urban forest including its role in greenhouse gas mitigation. The town partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service to become one of a small group of international municipalities to implement the forest service's Urban Forest Effects Model. The model showed that Oakville's urban forest makes a significant contribution to the town's air quality—in 2005 the urban forest removed 172 tonnes of "criteria pollutants" from the air and

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The logo for BMI/Pace features the lowercase letters 'bmi' in a blue sans-serif font, followed by a vertical orange bar, and then the lowercase letters 'pace' in a larger blue sans-serif font.

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# ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD NEWS

## Board approves high density on Kipling

In a decision issued September 20, board members **Draga Barbir** and **Karlene Hussey** allowed appeals by **Bruno Lisi** and **Michael Andreatta** for official plan and zoning by-law amendments and settlement of site plan details to permit a residential development at **8018, 8026, 8032 and 8048 Kipling Avenue**, north of Highway 7 in **Vaughan**.

The applicants proposed a five-storey, 102-unit residential condominium with 14 townhouses and one single-detached house fronting onto Kipling Avenue. The development requires the re-designation of the four lots from medium- to high-density residential.

The parties reached a settlement prior to the beginning of the hearing.

**Michael Goldberg (Goldberg Group)** provided planning evidence in support of the application. He gave the opinion that the proposed development is appropriate for the area and will have no significant impact on the adjacent properties.

The board allowed the official plan and zoning by-law appeals and withheld its order on the site plan until all details have been completed.

Solicitor **John Alati (Davies Howe)** represented Bruno Lisi and Michael Andreatta. Solicitor **Claudia Storto** (City of Vaughan) represented Vaughan. Solicitor **Neil Smiley (Fasken Martineau)** represented **Canadian Pacific Railway**. (See OMB Case No. PL051199.)

## Peel ROPA 13 hearing date set

In a pre-hearing decision issued October 20, board member **Marc Denhez** set the hearing date for an appeal by **840966 Ontario Limited, 1212949 Ontario Limited** and **David Harris** against the Region of Peel approval of Regional Official Plan Amendment 13.

ROPA 13 updates the schedule in the official plan for core areas of the green lands system, particularly as it pertains to valley and stream corridors.

The board scheduled March 27, 2007 for the hearing.

Solicitor **Gerald Swinkin (Blake, Cassels)** represents 840966 Ontario Ltd. Solicitor **Neil Davis (Davis Webb)** represents David Harris. Solicitor **Robert Filkin (McCabe, Filkin)** represents the Region of Peel. (See OMB Case No. PL060098.)

## Mississauga appeals dismissed

In a decision issued October 23, board member **Reid Rossi** allowed a motion by **Erin Mills Development Corporation** to dismiss without a hearing, an appeal against a zoning by-law amendment to permit residential development on Burdette Terrace in **Mississauga**.

Erin Mills proposed a plan of subdivision that included semi-detached houses along Burdette Terrace and the City of Mississauga approved the proposal.

**Sivam Vinayagamoorthy** appealed Mississauga's approval. He expressed concern with the potential impact of constructing semi-detached houses on the property value of his house across the street from the proposed development.

The board heard that the draft plan of subdivision had been approved, proper statutory notice had been given for the public meeting and the proposal had not been appealed.

**Robert Cutler (Bousfields)** provided planning evidence for Erin Mills. He gave the opinion that the

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# ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD NEWS

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appeal is without land use planning merit and the application conforms with the city's official plan.

The board found that Vinayagamorthy had provided no land use planning grounds for his appeal. The board allowed the motion and dismissed the appeal.

Solicitor **Lynda Townsend (Townsend Rogers)** represented Erin Mills Development Corporation. Solicitor **Michal Minkowski** (City of Mississauga) represented Mississauga. (*See OMB Case No. PL060734.*)

## Board amends North Oakville hearing dates

In a pre-hearing decision issued October 26, board member **Donald Granger** amended the dates for the hearing of appeals against the **Town of Oakville's** failure to approve an official plan amendment establishing the North Oakville East Secondary Plan area.

In March 2004, area landowners filed appeals with the board for approval of the *North Oakville East Secondary Plan*, a plan devised by area landowners and developers—known as **NOMI** or **North Oakville Management Inc.**—for the 2,200-sq. ha. area bounded by Dundas Street, Sixteen Mile Creek, Highway 407 and Ninth Line in Oakville. (*See NRU GTA June 21.*) The town subsequently developed its own secondary plan for the area, and the parties consented to a board-conducted mediation process.

The mediation is scheduled December 4 and the full hearing is scheduled February 5, 2007.

Solicitors **Catherine Lyons** and **Robert Howe (Goodmans)** represent Oakville. Solicitor **Tom Lederer (Davis & Company)** represents **Green Ginger Developments**. Solicitor **Roger Beaman (Thomson, Rogers)** represents **Mattamy Homes Limited, Eno Development Limited** and **Bressa Developments Inc.** Solicitor **Barry Horosko (Bratty & Partners)** represents **Oakville 23-2 Inc.** Solicitor **Mark Flowers (Davies Howe)** represents **Belmont Properties Inc.** Solicitor **Ira Kagan (Kagan, Shastri)** represents **Osmington Inc.** and **Danigire Holdings Incorporated**. Solicitor **Russell Cheeseman** represents **Star Oak Developments Limited** and **Mel Oak Developments Inc.** Solicitor **Randolph Smith** represents **Trinison Management Corporation**. Solicitor **Stephen Waque (Borden Ladner Gervais)** represents **Halton Region** and **Conservation Halton**. Solicitor **J. Pitman Patterson (Borden Ladner Gervais)** represents the **Halton Catholic District**

**School Board.** Solicitor **William Thatcher (Thatcher & Wands)** represents the **Halton District School Board**. Solicitor **Ronald Webb (Davis Webb)** represents **808306 Ontario Limited, Grandee Holdings Limited** and **Diam Contractors Limited**. Solicitor **Thomas Barlow (Fasken Martineau)** represents **Memorial Gardens Canada Limited**. Solicitor **Patricia Foran (Aird & Berlis)** represents **Timsin Holding Corp.** Solicitor **Brian Duxbury** represents **David Bazar** and **Marie Monique Deguire**. Solicitor **Michael Melling (Davies Howe)** represents **Redthorn Co.** Solicitor **Blair Taylor (O'Connor, MacLeod, Hanna)** represents **Shell Canada Products Limited**. Solicitors **Andrew Salen** and **Paul Ginou (Fraser Milner)** represent the **Ontario Realty Corporation**. Solicitors **Patrick Harrington** and **Jane Pepino (Aird & Berlis)** represent **Argo (North Oakville I) Ltd.** and **Argo (North Oakville II) Ltd.** (*See OMB Case No. PL041188.*) •



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## GTA IN BRIEF

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removed 22,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This is equivalent to all of the local industrial and commercial emissions of particulate matter, 7 per cent of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and more than double the amount of sulphur dioxide emissions— these are significant contributors to the creation of smog.

The report calls for recognition of the urban forest as infrastructure within the official plan.

### YORK

#### **Richmond Hill shuttle bus project**

**Richmond Hill** councillors approved \$10,000 in funding for a community shuttle bus pilot project at last week's meeting. The shuttle buses will provide free, door-to-door service within two business parks in Richmond Hill and Markham. The buses will be accessible to employees and residents from both municipalities and is designed to reduce automobile trips during the midday period. The project is intended to eliminate up to 150 car trips daily during the lunch time rush. The new shuttle service will operate in a loop on Thursdays and Fridays

for a 16-week period beginning in December.

#### **Richmond Hill transportation master plan update**

Town council approved an update of **Richmond Hill's** transportation master plan. **iTrans Consulting Inc.** was retained in February to prepare the update, which recommends several initiatives. These include: focusing transportation infrastructure investments on the need to move people as opposed to vehicles; designing road systems in business parks that are adequate to move goods to and from expressways and between business parks; developing an effective pedestrian and cycling plan; creating a Village Core transportation plan to support both rapid transit and on-street parking; expanding the Smart Commute 404-7 program to the entire town; and providing an all-day service on the Richmond Hill GO rail line and the extension of the subway to Highway 7 by 2021.

#### **East Gwillimbury completes business program**

**East Gwillimbury** has released the

final report on the Business Retention and Expansion Program that was initiated by the town in 2005. The purpose of the report is to assist the town in assessing the status of the business community and developing steps to improve the environment for business in the town. The report identifies seven key issue areas that were derived from the results of a survey. It recommends measures such as tax incentives for building façades, local broadband wireless service, a new energy supply, a business improvement association, local business education and recruitment, and pedestrian-friendly commercial areas. •

#### **Erratum**

Contrary to a report in last week's issue of NRU GTA, **Markham** regional councillor **Khalid Usman** is definitely not retiring and is actively campaigning for re-election. NRU regrets the error.

## GTA PEOPLE

**Simcoe County** is looking for a director of the newly created position of planning and development. The current director of planning, **Ian Bender**, who played a critical role in the development of the county's first official plan, will continue to work with and advise the county in its transition to the new planning environment and the development of an updated official plan. Both positions will report to corporate services general manager **Rick Newlove**.

**Robbie Grewal** has been appointed an economic development officer with the **Town of Milton**. Formerly, Grewal was an associate with **urbanMetrics Inc.**

**Johanne Gallant** has been appointed chair of the Canada committee with the Canadian Tourism Commission, replacing **Québec City** tourism general manager **Pierre Labrie**. Gallant is the director of airport commercial development at the **Moncton International Airport**.

**Rod Seiling** has been appointed chair of the **Ontario Racing Commission**. Seiling is president and CEO of the **Greater Toronto Hotel Association**.

The **Region of Peel** was recognized for achieving the Canada Award for Excellence gold trophy from the **National Quality Institute**.

**Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited** received a 2006 **Canadian Consulting Engineering** award for its explosive detection systems at Canada's airports.

The **Salt Institute** has recognized the **City of Mississauga** with an excellence in salt storage award.

**Toronto Pearson International Airport** has been selected as the Best Global Airport 2006 by the **Institute of Transport Management**.