

# Concerns that one highway extension could lead to another through King

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urgency in the last couple of weeks after Vaughan City council forwarded a request to the Ministers of Transportation, and Municipal Affairs and Housing, asking that the environmental assessment being conducted on the proposed extension be expedited, and she said City councillors have “specifically recommended” it follow the hydro corridor, which also runs into King, west of Nobleton.

Schaefer pointed out there have been previous expressions from Township council of opposition to the road running through King, and she said CCKT wanted confirmation that’s still the case.

She also said CCKT member Margaret Coburn has been heading up a committee looking at this issue for several years. That includes the 427 extension, as well as the more recent GTA West corridor study.

Schaefer said they have concluded that while the initial decisions regarding the 427 extension will likely not impact directly on King, the Township will be at risk because of the extensions that will come later. She called that “a very logical subsequent development.”

She added that whichever route is chosen for the first extension, it will influence the direction of subsequent extensions.

While she said there will be no extensions into King during

the current term of council, there will be decisions taken that will require action.

Most of the King lands in question are on the Oak Ridges Moraine, but Schaefer pointed out the moraine conservation plan allows transportation projects if their need can be demonstrated and there aren’t any “reasonable alternatives.”

The research conducted by CCKT has revealed the lands in western King are “a veritable microcosm of the moraine,” she remarked.

Coburn told councillors a new resident to the area had apparently studied a map of King and concluded the west side of the township would be a good place for the road because “there’s nothing there.”

“That got us going,” Coburn told council, adding CCKT started devoting energies to determining what is there. They found more than 200 farm properties, some provincially significant wetlands that are essential to wildlife, at least one kettle lake, numerous recreation opportunities, including Cold Creek and trails, businesses like Puck’s Farm and heritage features.

She added CCKT made a presentation to Vaughan — King — Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara in January 2005, discussing transportation issues, and alternatives to more roads. They included expanding public transit, maximizing the use of existing highways, promoting the movement of bulk freight by rail and ship and following through on smart growth strategies.

Schaefer maintained the risk exists because the province takes a piecemeal approach to the EAs. She said they have questioned officials at public open houses, and have been told there is no effort being made to integrate the 427 and GTA West corridor studies. That means the overall impacts of these projects are not being considered.

She pointed out the 427 studies have been looking at three options so far, each with different end points in Vaughan.

“But as we have all learned, roads don’t stop,” she said. “They grow and continue.”

## York and NCC celebrate Peggy’s Wood property donation

Representatives from York Region, East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) joined members of the Dunlap family Friday to celebrate the donation of the 18-hectare (43-acre) Peggy’s Wood property.

Peggy’s Wood, located on Bathurst Street, just south of Green Lane, named for the late Margaret Dunlap Crang (known as Peggy to her family and friends) has been donated to York, via NCC, to ensure the protection of its biodiversity features in perpetuity.

“The Dunlap family is to be congratulated for their generosity and long-term vision in helping to protect such an environmentally-significant property,” said York Region Chairman Bill Fisch. “With this 43-acre donation, this beautiful, wooded property will be protected and maintained for the benefit of generations to come.”

The Peggy’s Wood property forms part of the largest

“It’s a very short-sighted mistake, not to be looking and the whole picture,” she added.

Councillor Cleve Mortelliti observed this is a complex issue, adding it appeared they were asking the province to revamp the EA process.

Schaefer was concerned that by the time the EAs are complete, the only lands that will not have been developed will be the ones they are trying to preserve.

“We really have to push to get the province to be more long-term in its process,” she remarked.

Township CAO Scott Somerville suggested the matter be referred to staff so a full report could be prepared. For one thing, he said it’s important to understand what it is Vaughan is up to.

Councillor Jane Underhill wondered if they could pass a resolution opposing the extension running into King, but Somerville said the Township had already gone on the record as being against it, since 2003.

“That doesn’t disappear with changing councils,” he observed. “That’s council’s official position at this moment.”

Councillor Bill Cober stressed the need for the Township to work its way into the province’s thinking. He added a major highway running through King could have budget implications, pointing to the number of calls the fire department has to respond to on Highway 400.

He suggested studying the platforms of the various provincial political parties, since an election is just months away. “The electioneering has commenced,” he observed.

Councillor Linda Pabst agreed with the need for a complete staff report, commenting it would add clout to action the Township takes.

Mayor Margaret Black briefly suggested holding action until after the October election, and then dealing with a new government. But Somerville pointed out Sorbara will not be representing King after the election (he’s running in Vaughan), so his influence would be lost.

Black also agreed with the need for a strong staff report, so the Township’s action doesn’t appear to be NIMBY.

forest ecosystem in Newmarket, according to information issued by the Region. The area protects the headwaters of the Holland River, provides cold water supply for sensitive aquatic habitats, enhances water quality in the area and provides refuge for a variety of animal species. The heavily forested landscape, which includes eastern hemlock, white cedar and sugar maple, is home to a variety of animals including white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and eight species of amphibians and reptiles.

Following the passing of “Peggy” Dunlap Crang in 1995, her family decided to protect the area from potential development by donating Peggy’s Wood to conservation. NCC helped make the family’s wish a reality with the support of the Region, as part of its Natural Greenlands Conservancy Joint Venture.

NCC accepted this gift in 2006 and transferred title to the Region to add to its growing network of conservation lands. York and NCC are now jointly committed to developing a management plan for Peggy’s Wood that will protect its biodiversity, while permitting limited public access. This community conservation project is supported by Environment Canada’s Eco-gifts Program and has attracted additional support from Ontario’s Ministry of Natural Resources and NCC donors.

“The Peggy’s Wood project is a great example of what Ontarians can accomplish by working together,” said Donna Stewart, NCC’s regional vice-president, Ontario. “We are grateful for the leadership and commitment shown by both the Dunlaps and York Region in helping protect Ontario’s natural heritage.”

NCC is a non-profit, non-confrontational organization that takes an interest in land conservation and the protection of biological diversity. Its plan of action involves partnership-building and entering into creative conservation solutions with any individual, corporation, community group, conservation organization or government body that shares its passion. Since 1962, NCC and its supporters have protected more than 1.9 million acres of ecologically significant land nationwide.

York has partnered with NCC and other environmental organizations to secure, protect and restore green spaces, in an effort to expand forest coverage to 25 per cent of its land base. Under the auspices of the Greening Strategy, passed by York Regional Council in 2001, the Region and its partners have successfully protected more than 530 hectares (1,300 acres) through property donations and conservation easements.



## Lions busy in Schomberg

Saturday was an eventful day for the Schomberg Lions. Bill Koppens was feeding pop cans into this crusher, which Lion John Bradbury called a “community invention.” About 1,200 of these cans can be condensed into a bundle that can be sold for about \$25. Those who didn’t want to watch cans being crushed could check out some of the items available at the garage sale. Jacob Zantingh, 3, and Hollie Dobson, 8, were looking through the inventory in this box of toys.



### Rotary Club of Alliston House Tour



**Saturday, June 23, 2007  
9:00AM—4:30 PM**

*Enjoy these distinctive, delightful homes*

**Tickets:  
\$25.00 (includes lunch)**

**Available at:**

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| Queen St. Station       | Cookstown |
| Tottenham Paint & Paper | Tottenham |