

# Land talks officially finished

By Chris Simon

It's official, there will be no further land negotiations between Barrie and Innisfil anytime soon.

Town council unanimously passed a resolution to formally cease further negotiations between representatives from the municipality and City of Barrie during a meeting last week. The resolution will also require the town's planning and development department to investigate other ways to meet the servicing needs of the

Innisfil Heights area.

Innisfil entered into negotiations with Barrie over 18 months ago, with plans to swap development and Highway 400 servicing lands on an equal basis.

However, Innisfil representatives walked away from the bargaining table earlier this year, after a proposal from provincial facilitator Alan Wells' asked for the town to give up three times the amount of development land to Barrie as they would receive for servicing in the

400 corridor.

"It's an opportunity for this council to take another step forward in trying to create the opportunities we've outline in our business plan," said mayor Brian Jackson. "We've had difficulties, and by ceasing these discussions and participating fully in the county growth process, hopefully we can realize some benefits to our population for employment opportunities."

As part of the town's resolution, staff will also ask the Ministry of Public

Infrastructure Renewal to complete the future population allocation that is contained in the province's growth plan. Over the next 25 years, the population of Simcoe County is expected to grow by several hundred thousand people.

Barrie's population is expected to rise from 133,500 to 175,000, while the number of Innisfil residents will increase also increase significantly.

However, the province has also left an unallocated

population of about 77,000 for the South Simcoe area. Innisfil now wants that population to be distributed based on current geographical boundaries, through Simcoe County's growth management process. That process is expected to be complete by June.

"The county (will) be respectfully requested to provide Innisfil with a fair share of stranded population anticipated for the Barrie area in the (provincial) growth plan," said councillor

Paul Wardlaw.

Jackson said Wells' proposal would have failed to recognize future development of the 400 corridor, thus compromising the town's ability to expand Innisfil Heights and compete with other local municipalities. However, the town's resolution also addresses Innisfil Heights. Staff will be asking the county to include the 400 corridor expansion in its growth plan.

"This allows us to move forward," said Jackson.

# Warden's term could be extended

By Richard Blanchard

Simcoe County Council is heading towards major changes in its governance system, which will likely see county council elect the current warden to a two year term instead of a one year term.

And the title, warden, may be changed to chair.

County councillors spent Thursday morning discussing changes to the governance system of the county.

Councillors broke into smaller groups to discuss the warden's term, size of coun-

ty council and other facets of the governing structure.

By the time that the meeting ended at noon, county councillors had recommended by a large majority for county council to stay at 32 members, though a significant number argued that council should actually be reduced to 16 or 17 representatives. Bradford West Gwillimbury mayor Doug White said that he wondered about the effectiveness of a council as large as the county's.

"We're as big as some of the provincial legislatures,"

he said.

Other argued that that there would not be any appreciable cost savings with reducing the number of county councillors in half.

County councillors were also split over the use of the title "Warden" or "Chair" as the title for the head of council.

Current warden Tony Guergis told county councillors that he was aware of the the long historical significance of the title warden, but said the county is increasingly lumped with the Regions of Peel, York and Durham,

which all use the title "Chair" for its head of council.

"I have no problem with the title "Warden" but I wonder if there is better recognition of the role of "Chair"," he said.

A slight majority of councillors gave their support to a two year term instead of the current one year or a four year term for the warden/chair's position.

Oro-Medonte deputy mayor Ralph Hough said that he couldn't support a four year term which would give county council no

option to change its head of council.

"If you came in here as I did last year without any county council experience, I don't think that its fair to elect someone as head of council for a four year term," he said.

"What if you're not happy with him or her in a year or two?"

The recommendations from the special council meeting will be sent to the governance subcommittee which will submit a report back to county council in the near future.

## Potma appointed to town heritage committee

The Innisfil Municipal Heritage Committee has a new member.

Barbara Potma was appointed to a four year term on the committee during a town council meeting last week. Potma was appointed after several candidate applications were considered.

**YOUR KIDS ARE STARTING TO LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE.**

**The drug world is targeting your child.**

In our communities, cheap and addictive drugs are being peddled to our kids. Drugs with names that disguise the damage they can do – everything from poor performance at school to memory loss, paranoia and addiction.

**What can parents do?**

**Plenty!** Because, believe it or not, most young teens consider their parents to be credible sources of information about illegal drugs. Learn the drug language, before your kids do.

For a free booklet with tips on how to talk with your kids about the dangers of drugs call **1 800 0-Canada** or visit **drugprevention.gc.ca** for more information.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

**Canada**

Love drug (ECSTASY)

Green (MARIJUANA)

shrooms (HALLUCINOGENIC MUSHROOMS)

Powder (COCAINE)

Jib (METHAMPHETAMINE)

Hippy Flip (HALLUCINOGENIC MUSHROOMS WITH ECSTASY)