

Metro councillor says York should pay for subway station

by John Montesano

York's administration says it's prepared to pay a share of the cost to bring a subway to campus despite claims by a Metro councillor that it isn't enough.

York will not charge the TTC to run a subway under campus land and could be prepared to donate the land for the station or let them lease it for \$1 a year for an extended period, said York vice-president Ian Lithgow.

Metro Councillor Howard Moscoe said he will not support a campus station unless York pays its share of the costs or turns over about 50 per cent of the enhanced value of their lands as a result of the subway.

"What they're offering is no big

deal," said Moscoe. "Splitting the enhanced value of the property is considerably more than donating a right-of-way."

Lithgow said the administration is doing everything it can to bring the subway to York but suggested Moscoe has a personal agenda to keep it off campus.

Plans to connect the Yonge and Spadina subway lines are in their final stages.

One option, a Keele-Steeles loop, would cost \$1.2 billion and travel from Wilson station past York campus to Steeles before turning east to join the Yonge line.

The May 1992 Let's Move Program environmental assessment is also proposing a \$900 million Dufferin loop that would continue north of Sheppard straight to Steeles and then east to join Yonge.

Two years ago, the provincial government budgeted \$5 billion through

its Let's Move Program — a department of the TTC — for transit improvements in Metro. It will contribute up to 75 per cent of the construction costs with the balance being shared among local and regional governments.

Let's Move will recommend a plan to Metro council as early as this Fall. Metro council can accept the recommendation or send its own plan for final approval by the provincial government.

"I'm prepared to support a subway line to its door if York will pay its fair share," said Moscoe. He says he has support at the TTC and among other Metro councillors but would not single anyone out.

Metro councillor Norm Gardner is not one of those supporters.

"My feeling is that it should go in that direction (to York campus). What I see is a far greater amount of revenue, as far as ridership, new investment that would warrant the greater expenditure."

Gardner said Moscoe seems to have something against York and should not be looking to try to screw things up so that nothing takes place.

"Moscoe runs around half-cocked anyway," he said.

Moscoe argues the Dufferin loop could easily serve York students and

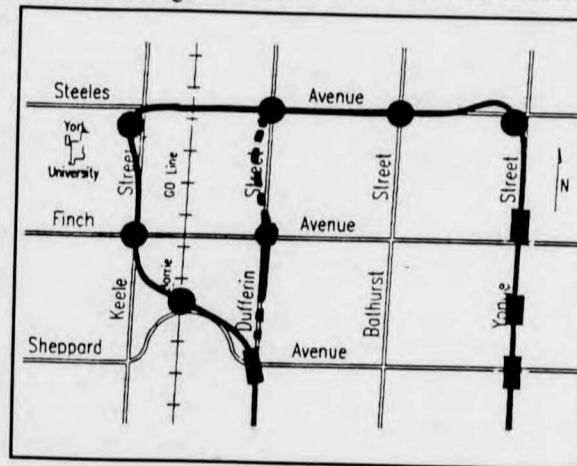
Jane-Finch residents by connecting it to a dedicated bus route running along the hydro corridor to the south of campus.

Public transit lobbyists argue in favour of a longer loop.

"The (Dufferin-Finch) loop was designed in order to turn trains around," said Tony Turrittin, former president of Transport 2000 Ontario, a lobby group which supports public transit. "This is short-sighted. We want a grid reaching into the north-west."

"If it's only a means of turning trains, that's a false economy. We're trying to get more people stop driving cars and start taking transit, and for that we need (subway) lines to the east and west. The Dufferin loop is no solution."

The Loop Group — a loosely knit group of local community member including the City of Vaughan, York Region, York Federation of Students,



York's administration, numerous property developers and many urban planners — has long supported the Steeles loop.

In 1990, the Let's Move Program was considering at least seven different plans. The Loop Group has been working for about 18 months to lobby for the Steeles loop.

Last year, the group commissioned an \$85,000 report on the subway loop. York contributed almost \$12,000.

Over 600 supporters of the Keele-Steeles loop attended three recent local community meetings organized by Metro Council and the TTC commission at local high schools.

"It's a lot right now but in 20 years what is it gonna cost," said Baker, also an area resident.

Atkinson College council vice-president Kevin Baker attended one of the public hearings and said even with the extra cost the crowd favoured the Keele-Steeles loop.

Moscoe, playing down the meetings, said they were orchestrated by York University.



Outgoing York president Harry Arthurs looks good next to a cardboard cut-out at his good-bye party yesterday in Vari Hall. He's the one on the left... no, the right...we think. Arthurs steps down at the end of June. Susan Mann plans to take office "sometime in the beginning of September", according to York communications director Jessie May Rowntree. •photo by Tom Kim

Students find nothing to celebrate

by Elaine Bellio

Student groups boycotted festivities by York's administration to open the new university common outside Vari Hall May 29.

Students were upset festivities were held in the summer and on grounds not accessible to students.

To protest what administrators called "Celebration York", a huge banner was set up outside the Student Centre facing the commons area.

The banner read, "No money, no profs, no books, no equality, no security, no education - No Celebration."

Celebration York was organized for members of the university who provide valued contributions to York's central objective of educa-

tion, said co-organizer Nancy Accinelli.

Holding a party for the community in May, when most students at York are away for the summer, upset boycott organizers and students at the event.

"It wasn't for us. They held it on a Friday in the summer. Not even summer school courses are held on a Friday," said Andrea Shettleworth, a student attending the event.

"The students still have no reason to feel good about the school," she added.

A draft policy outlining the use of the commons and Vari Hall helped spark the boycott by students groups worried academic and administrative activities will take precedence over

their events.

The York Federation of Students is especially upset because they were not allowed to set up election polling booths last March in Vari Hall.

"It seems to me that students are the largest stakeholders at this University, and should have at least equal access to all spaces," said Jeff Zoeller, a YFS vice-president.

Other groups cited a needless expenditure of time and resources for a cash-strapped university and a community reeling from recent cuts to financial student aid programs in supporting the boycott.

"We don't think it's time for a celebration right now. We don't want to present a false impression to the York community and pretend that everything is great," said Sharmela Khare, Glendon college president.

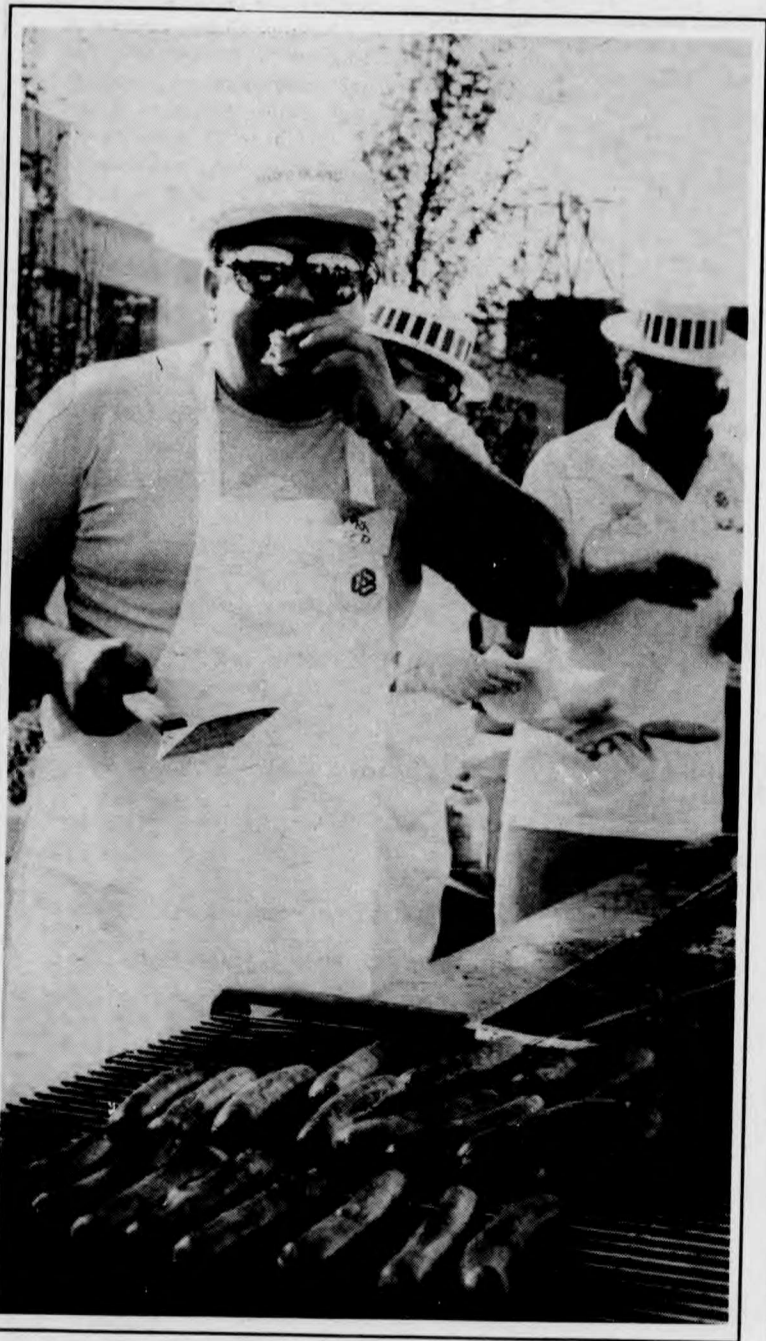
"I do not deny that problems do exist but it's time people put aside concerns briefly and came together as a community," said Accinelli.

Some students supported the event. Justin Linden, Student Senator Caucus Chair, in a letter to Accinelli said, "While it is true that York is suffering considerably from its budgetary situation, I do not believe that we should ignore our many successes as a means of addressing our problems," said Linden.

Supplies for events were donated or subsidized by other campus organizations including the Alumni association and the Student Centre Corporation.

The commons cost \$2.4 million.

The boycott was supported by most student college councils, York's Women's Centre Collective and some campus unions.



York's French chef tastes his delicately seasoned hors d'ouvres during Celebration York festivities. •photo by Andrew Brouse

Quotes of Celebration York

Shouting out on Celebration York

"There should be more signs. This shouldn't be held today. It should be held in September. I mean who is celebrating York?"

Anna, third Year student.

"The boycott doesn't surprise me. It's a shame. It is a celebration. They're actually giving away free food."

Tim Garel, fourth year graduate.

"The sign was done very tastefully. We didn't piss on anybody's cheerios. We can't just close our eyes to problems that exist."

Wayne Carrigan, Bethune College Council President.

"Why don't they (the protestors) sit in a big group and look depressed. Instead they're home probably watching Geraldo. Groups don't get involved,

don't concern themselves. Instead they send out ambiguous signs that are a waste of everybody's time. Stop complaining about everything."

Dave Crawley, York alumni.

"The only ones this celebration is helping is staff. The students still have no reason to feel good about the school."

Andrea Shettleworth, 4th year graduate.

Access to commons area and Vari Hall

"It seems to me that students are the largest stakeholders at this University and should have at least equal access."

Jeff Zoeller, YFS vp

"The students have absolute complete control and untrammelled access to all the space at the university."

Harry Arthurs, York president