

Council ignores plea to delay meeting on Norval Secondary Plan

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
Staff Writer

Former Mayor Kathy Gastle, now president of the Norval Community Association, requested Halton Hills council reject a staff report calling for a December public meeting on the draft Norval Secondary Plan.

Gastle, speaking on behalf of the Association's executive at Monday's council meeting, said the public meeting was premature until protections are in place to ensure Norval is not dramatically changed.

"(The) proposed changes are not minor in nature, but major, and could potentially change the residential aspect of the hamlet of Norval forever," she told councillors.

Gastle said the Town's Heritage Register, listing Norval buildings, including Lucy Maud Montgomery's former home, needs to be completed, as does the cell tower policy. She said the CVC's strategy of protecting Norval from floods must be outlined and decisions on major roads in and around Norval must be made. Gastle also asked that the 500 sq. metre proposed building envelope be reduced to 250 sq. m. to prevent land massing, and residents should be informed of the ramifications of a new Hamlet Residential/Office designation on King, Green and Adamson Sts.

"Please have all the reports completed and updated for the protection of our hamlet before passing this bylaw. The Norval Community Association needs to be assured that Norval will remain a historic hamlet, now and in the future."

With Norval Secondary Plan Review committee member Councillor Joan Robson calling the draft a balanced approach, council approved the staff request to move forward with a public meeting on Dec. 2, to receive feedback on the Secondary Plan, Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Hamlet Design and Heritage Protection Guidelines. A final report could come back for approval in early 2014.

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For more on the Norval Secondary Plan go to http://www.haltonhills.ca/initiatives/Norval_Secondary_Plan.php

For more on Gastle's full presentation go to www.theifp.ca/gastledefendsNorval



Mayor's Masquerade

Mayor Rick Bonnette and wife Josey enjoy the second annual Mayor's Masquerade Ball held recently at the Acton Town Hall. The Mardi Gras-style ball raised \$20,000 for the Stay at Home and Play Arena Campaign and \$10,000 for the Georgetown Hospital Foundation.

Photo by Ray Lavender

Annual Scout Food Drive nets 27,000 lbs. of goods

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

The 23rd annual Scouts/Guide Food Drive for Georgetown Bread Basket brought in nearly 27,000 lbs. of food.

The official tally on Saturday was 26,982 lbs.— which surpassed the 22,000 lbs. collected last year.

Georgetown Bread Basket Chair Terri Mosher said Saturday's total doesn't collect any

miscellaneous bags that may have been brought into the food bank, or those they get for the few weeks following the drive.

Monetary donations were up this year with \$1,375 donated compared to \$1,200 the previous year.

"Thank you to all the Scout/Guides and their families, GBB volunteers and all community volunteers for helping to make this a success," said Mosher.

Catholic board okays HPV vaccine in schools

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The Halton Catholic school board had been the only one of 29 Catholic boards in Ontario that didn't allow onsite HPV vaccinations of its students.

Despite the decision, the board has not indicated how soon the HPV vaccine might be available.

In a semi-rare recorded vote, Burlington trustees John Morrison and Arlene Iantomasi, Oakville trustees Paul Marai and Ed Viana, Halton Hills trustee John Mark Rowe and Milton trustee and board chair Diane Rabenda voted 'yes' to end the vaccine ban. Oakville trustee Anthony Danko and Burlington's Jane Michael voted 'no'.

The vote garnered the two-thirds majority required to rescind an existing board policy.

Rowe said he decided to support allowing the vaccine after hearing from Halton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal and a representative from the Diocese of Hamilton office who said Bishop Douglas Crosby did not have a problem with the vaccine being administered on school property.

"Dr. Nosal convinced me it was as safe as any vaccine," said Rowe. "It seems to do what it's supposed to do. The choice to give the vaccine or not is still up to the parent."

The result prompted a torrent of harsh words from several people in the audience prior to some of them storming out.

Many of the delegations said the board would be seen as hypocritical if it allowed the vaccine for its students while also teaching Catholic values such as chastity, as HPV is a sexually-transmitted disease.

Prior to the vote the board heard from seven delegations, six of whom wanted trustees to keep the existing ban in place.

Most of the six presentations made against removing the vaccine ban claimed information they compiled from around the world questioned the safety of the HPV vaccine and alleged it was responsible for a number of deaths.

The lone delegation speaking in favour of rescinding the ban consisted of three representatives from HPV Canada.

"The Internet is full of false claims" about the HPV vaccine, said Mark Loeb, division director of infectious disease in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine at McMaster University, which elicited groans of disapproval from the crowd.

• Visit www.theifp.ca for the full story

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