

Region construction impacts more wells

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

The number of Hornby area residents either out of water or with low levels in their wells resulting from Halton Region's construction of a new pumping station on Steeles Ave. has grown to approximately 45.

That's up from 23 reported in mid-June. About 70 concerned area residents were at Hornby Glen Golf Club last Thursday to hear from region officials on what caused the water problems and when they would be solved.

At the meeting hosted by Hornby Association of Rate Payers (HARP) Tim Dennis, Halton Region's Director of Engineering Services, said the Region should be done pumping water at the construction site in six weeks. Dennis said they believe the water supply in Hornby area wells will be restored after that.

The region has been pumping water (dewatering) from the sanitary sewer pumping station construction site (Steeles Ave. west of Sixth Line) because a bore hole that was dug to test soil conditions there tapped into the aquifer causing water to fill into the excavation.

In an effort to complete the work on the pumping station the Region has been pumping the water out from two additional bore holes it has drilled outside of the excavation which has lowered the water table level and impacted wells in the area.

Those affected are on Steeles Ave., Sixth Line N., Hornby Rd., and a couple of residents

on Sixth Line S. said David Ohashi, Manager of Special Projects for Halton Region.

Ohashi thanked everyone for their "patience and cooperation" in dealing with the well issue.

He said the Region has taken several steps to deal with the situation including providing an alternate water supply by having water trucked in for affected residents (at a cost of about \$100 per household per week), speeding up construction on the site, hiring a specialized hydrogeologist, and starting an enhanced well monitoring program in the area.

The hydrogeologist— Leon Bryck of Hydroterra Ltd.— said the Region wants to install transducers which measure water levels continuously into about 20 area wells to show how quickly the water system is recovering after the Region stops pumping out water at the construction site.

Bryck couldn't say exactly how long it would take the water table to return to its normal level but he told one resident his water might come back at about the same rate it went down.

Karen Collins of Hornby Rd. resident asked Region staff if there were any long-term plans for piped lake-based water in the area.

Dennis said other than for those who live on Steeles Ave. (where lake water is being installed to service the 401/407 industrial corridor on the south side of Steeles) there are no plans to extend lake water elsewhere.

Area resident Earl McDowell stressed there was a lot of chlorine in the water being trucked in by the region to affected properties.

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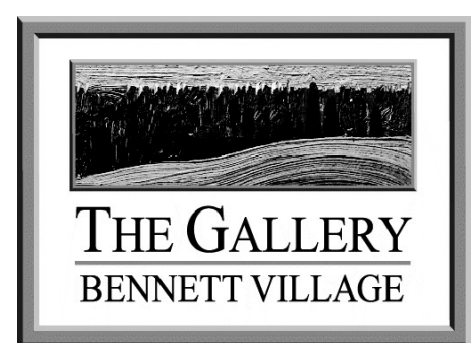


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