

Why floodplain rules are tough



Chairman's Message

BROCK HARRIS

HALTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

To the early Halton Region Settlers, the virgin territory meant back-breaking work clearing the land. Without zoning or conservation regulations or an awareness of future ecological consequences, the land was altered. The once swift-flowing creeks were reduced to a trickle during summer months and became raging torrents during spring melting. Man and nature no longer lived in harmony.

With history as a teacher, strict floodplain and headwater regulations are enforced by the Halton Region Conservation Authority. Basically, the regulations prevent any construction near ponds or on swamps or any area that is susceptible to flooding. The regulations further prevent the filling and dumping on ecologically sensitive land, and prevent any tampering with water-courses.

John Hall, the Authority's Land Use Planner explains, "Often the Halton Region Conservation Authority finds the public does not have a full understanding of the relationship between land and water. It's difficult to realize the role swamps play in maintaining high water quality, and acting to naturally regulate stream flow."

A precedent-setting case for the Authority involved a man with swamp land who wanted to fill and develop his property. After proceeding through municipal channels for permits, he was advised that because the land was

situated in a headwater swamp he must get written permission from the Authority. After due process, because filling in of this particular piece of land might affect stream flow, he was denied a permit. Exercising his right, he appealed to the Minister of Natural Resources, arguing that the filling in of this one piece of land would have no significant ecological effects. The Authority agreed the effect

would be insignificant but by turning a blind eye to this instance, a precedent would be set. The Authority then, in good faith, could not turn down other applicants. Because the cumulative affect of filling in swamps would be damaging to the region as a whole, the permit was denied.

Headwater swamps are regulated by the Conservation Authority because they provide many benefits to the

residents of our watershed. Swamps reduce flooding by soaking up excess spring water. Swamps recharge ground water areas and streams by slowly releasing water during dry periods. Swamps provide good habitat for many plant and animal species. Swamps filter excess chemicals by natural processes.

To date, with the construction of four dams and several channel works

the Authority has rectified most of the man-made damage from previous generations. Under a new direction of preventative care of environmentally sensitive areas, the Authority through regulations, has deflected development which otherwise may have caused significant damage to the environment. As with medicine, preventative care is less expensive than surgery.

Why no meetings, Pete?

Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy, chairman of the region's finance and administration committee, had still to convene his first meeting before being questioned last Wednesday by Burlington Coun. Jim Grieve about the lack of meetings since the new council was inaugurated Dec. 10. Mayor Pomeroy explained that he was merely spending some time with his own municipality and that he expects the committee to meet "as many times as necessary to solve regional problems". The first meeting was expected to be held this morning (Wednesday).

CARDS OF THANKS

We would like to express special thanks to our friends, relatives and co-workers for sympathy shown during the loss of Shirley's father, the late Lionel Amos on Jan. 3, 1981. — Bob & Shirley Lawin 24332colt

ENGAGEMENTS

CHAISSON—MOWAT Mr. & Mrs. William Mowat of Georgetown wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Cindy Ann to Joseph Edmond Chaisson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicklaus of Georgetown. 23222e

MEMORIALS

— The family of the late Martha Massey wishes to express their sincere appreciation to relatives, friends and neighbours for their messages of sympathy, beautiful floral tributes and charitable donations at the time of her passing. A special thank you to Rev. Peter Barrow and the Shoemaker Funeral Home, Acton and Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. We would also like to thank Dr. Browning and Dr. Li. — The Massey Family, 24062colnt

MEMORIALS

— The family of Ernest Crano would like to express thanks to all their neighbours, friends and relatives who were so thoughtful in the recent loss of their husband, father and grandfather. Special thanks to Rev. P. Barrow and the McClure-Jones Funeral Home. 24252colnt

MEMORIALS

KING — In loving memory of Christopher, infant son of Bill and Linda and brother of Laura who passed away January 10, 1980. Each day we think of you. A little boy we loved. Who gave so much to his Mommie and Daddy. Their pride and joy was their little boy. His sister Laura misses him in every way and so does his Aunt's and they all pray together that they will be in heaven one day. His soul with Jesus will show us the way. — George missed by his grandparents Rodrick and try and Family. 24202mnt

DEATHS

MILLS, Ronald L.—On Saturday, January 10, 1981 at St. Michael's Hospital Toronto. Ron Mills in his 24th year, husband of Tina Marie Kersal and loved father of Sandy Lynn. Dear son of Vivian and the late Oliver Mills and brother of George. Rested at the St. George's Anglican Church where funeral and committal service was held Tuesday afternoon. Cremation followed. In memory contributions to the St. George's Church Memorial Fund, Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital or the Heart Foundation would be appreciated. 23212d

DRAPER, Linda Martha—On Thursday January 8, 1981 at the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital. Linda Black of 3 Hyde Park Dr., wife of the late Earl Draper. Mother of Lorne Draper, John of Georgetown, and predeceased by her daughter Lorne Hughson. Survived by her 10 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren. Rested at the McClure-Jones Funeral Home, 34 Edith Street, Georgetown, where funeral and committal service was held Saturday morning January 10, 1981 at 10:30 o'clock. Interment Brampton Cemetery.

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And they are just hankin' to do their own thing in the country. Then don't miss inspecting this big six-bedroom home on an acre just north of town. More information from Rosalie Barker

MILLIONAIRES NEED NOT APPLY
Comfort and economy are yours in this cozy home. The major renovations are completed and only requires your finishing touches. Features a deep, deep lot fully fenced. Asking \$53,900.00. Call Rosalie Barker now!

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This proud old farm home, restored here - updated there, sits amidst ten acres of new and older trees. The trees give way to 36 more acres of rolling, rich farm land. A small barn, of course. Located off Trafalgar Road, near Pinewood. Call Bette Stokes for details.

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Computer for Manor

Regional health department staff will soon start looking for a micro computer for Halton Centennial Manor in Milton. Regional council last Wednesday agreed to hire Roy Jorgensen Associates of Canada Ltd. to assist in the search for the computer which will be used to process patient information at the senior citizens home.

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