

Lifestyles

Let's not hurry things too much

There is a tug-of-war in Halton Hills. It seems there's a contest between those who want "progress" and development and those who want things to stay the same.

One side thinks massive chunks of land are being swallowed up in the north by hungry developers in the south. This bottomless pit won't stop until it's swallowed up every available inch of land eligible for rezoning, they say.

The other side of the coin, as clichés go, wants to see Georgetown and Acton linked to the world at large, becoming more like its southern counterparts in commerce, and industry.

This is where I have a problem. You can see the good side, you can see why people would want to be put metaphorically and physically on the map. You can see why people want the convenience of all-night groceries and indoor shopping malls, and you can see why a major population growth would benefit the business people, and therefore the general community.

But what are you losing? You're losing over a century of history. You're losing old buildings, farms and wide open space. And you could be losing an identity.

In Mississauga, where I was born and bred, there never was an identity to speak of. Think of Mississauga as one large row of shopping malls, dotted here and there with significant public service buildings and you've got the picture. Not that Mississauga doesn't have a history. It did have one. Founded over a century ago on the shores of Lake Ontario, towns like Clarkson and Port Credit became the masthead of existence down in the smoggy south.

But progress took over, and "space" disappeared. Rows of trees were hacked down to make room for stacked townhouses, quaint streams were tunnelled up to allow for above-ground construction. Then came the slap in the face that is polluted water. Imagine standing beside the banks of the Credit River and watching the famous Big Mac carton float by...



Kell's Korner

Donna Kell
Herald Staff

Not that there aren't fish. The Ministry of the Environment stocks the lake annually to placate tourists and local fishermen. It helps convince people that the environment is not chronically ruined.

And a walk by Lake Ontario near Port Credit harbor is not complete without the stench of St. Lawrence starch filling your nostrils in the springtime.

Okay, so it's not all bad. The population in this city in the south has hiked up to an estimated 500,000. There's lots of cash floating around, lots of good restaurants to choose from, many trendy bars and a collection of clothing and food stores. And, if recent newscasts are very accurate, there's the possibility of getting Ballard's blue-uniformed losers in a Mississauga arena if the Gardens get the axe.

Okay, so you want progress, you want convenience, and you want that big town or big city identity.

And maybe you want more major corporations to beat down municipal doors to get permission to open in town. Perhaps you want more streetlights, more houses and lower speed limits.

Well, it will happen. But don't rush it, don't let it happen too quickly. Enjoy the process as it slowly unfurls. And look around at the farms and fields. And take a deep breath.

Prospect Park to undergo changes

Prospect Park in Acton will undergo major changes in the next two years - including relocation of all three baseball diamonds - if the approved redevelopment plan is put into effect by the town.

The cost of the changes to the park include a \$2 million pumphouse to be built by Halton Region and more than \$76,000 in site alterations which would be incurred by the Town of Halton Hills.

Council approved the redevelopment plan at a Jan. 9 meeting but funding will have to undergo the scrutiny of the budget committee before the changes become official.

The project calls for demolition of the current blockhouse at the tip of Prospect Park which will be replaced by a pumphouse located in the middle of the park between two major ball diamonds. It also calls for relocation of the small centre diamond to the westerly tip of the park, and relocation of the intermediate westerly diamond next to the small diamond. That diamond would also be expanded to the same size as the main diamond and possibly lit. The current main diamond would be pivoted so its left field line would run along Fairy Lake. The two main diamonds would be back-to-back with the blockhouse, which will

contain public washrooms, in the middle.

Local sports groups and organizations have approved the plan, said town recreation director Tom Shepard.

Halton wants to build the new pumphouse to supply more water to Acton and that gives the town the last chance to make any major improvements to Prospect Park, said Bryan Shynal, Halton Hills' superintendent of parks.

The work, if entirely approved, will be done in two separate phases over two years with "minimal interruption of service to sports field user groups and with minimal inconvenience to the Acton Fall Fair," said Mr. Shynal.

The pumphouse changes have already been approved by Halton Region. Construction will begin early in the spring. The proposal by the town calls for the small centre diamond to be moved then. In the fall, the intermediate diamond would be moved westerly, expanded, and possibly lit. In the spring of 1990, the main diamond would be moved and the wooden lighting poles replaced.

While the conceptual design has been approved by the town, the money hasn't. Moving the first diamond will cost \$21,500. Moving and expanding the second diamond and

lighting it would cost \$29,400. Moving the major diamond and putting up new poles would cost a total of \$25,500.

All of the costs, except \$21,500, are in the town's capital forecast.

Mr. Shynal said the plan gives baseball players two major diamonds to encourage tournament play and creates better use of the park's space, including location of two public washrooms between the major parks. It also reduces conflict between sports fields, the children's playground and neighboring houses.

"The benefits are very significant and worthwhile," said Mr. Shynal.

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OBITUARY

Val Stein, former teacher

Valentine (Val) Stein, a former teacher and principal at the Chapel Street School prior to its closing, died Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1988 at Chedoke-McMaster Hospital in Hamilton. He was 76.

Mr. Stein and his wife, the former Hilda Westbrook, came to Georgetown about 40 years ago.

He was very active in the community as a member of St. John's United Church choir, and a member of the local fall fair board. He also enjoyed hockey and was an avid supporter of the local teams.

Following his retirement, Mr. Stein spent much of his time on his hobby, a beautiful vegetable garden, which he shared with others.

When his health began to fail three years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Stein moved to St. Elizabeth

Village, a retirement complex in Hamilton.

Mr. Stein is survived by his wife and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by four brothers and three sisters.

In Hamilton, Mr. Stein attended West Highland Baptist Church, near his home, and a funeral service was conducted there Saturday morning, Dec. 31.

Interment was in Oakland Cemetery, Oakland.

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