

Councillors ignored warnings say residents

Local councillors have continually refused to act over a 17-year period despite repeated warnings by experts and homeowners that the backyards of 34 houses in Georgetown would crumble away if nothing was done, a Dawson Crescent resident says.

"There's an unquestionable link between the town's refusal to act... in the last 17 years and the failure of our slope," said Ann Geh, who lives at 39 Dawson Cres.

The town was told by a soil mechanic consultant as early as 1972, when the Dawson Crescent subdivision was still under construction, that the ground was unstable, said Mrs. Geh.

She sent a letter to then Georgetown Mayor William Smith informing him of the soil consultant's findings. Mr. Smith then turned the letter over to the town engineer with a promise of a response, but the Gehs were never contacted, she said.

Mrs. Geh said she also talked to the building inspector in 1972, but got no response.

There are 16 homes on Metcalfe Court and a total of 18 homes on Eden Place, and Irwin and Dawson Crescents in need of stabilization work.

The backyard stabilization projects recommended by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority

have become a contentious issue at the town because homeowners want the town to pay its 45-per-cent share of a \$1 million repair bill.

The town can agree to pay its share, but it has the option of charging the cost back to the homeowners through tax bills over a number of years.

The project is proposed to be done over three years. The province has approved its 55-per-cent share of the funding for the 16 homes on Metcalfe Court this year. The repair bill on Metcalfe Court alone is expected to cost about \$300,000.

The cost of repairs to backyards on Metcalfe Court averages bet-

ween \$17,000 and \$19,000 with a high of \$35,000, according to Vicki Barron, general manager of the CVCA.

The cost of repairs to the backyards on the other streets is expected to average \$35,000 with a high of \$68,000, she said.

Although the province has approved funding for Metcalfe Court this year, there is no guarantee it would approve the funding again next year if the town doesn't provide its share of the money.

During the budget deliberations on Monday, councillors removed the Metcalfe Court repairs from the budget.

The problem was created by

developers who revamped the subdivision in order to put in more homes, area residents say. Builders then placed uncompacted fill at the edge of the ravine to extend the backyards of the homes.

Homeowner Glen Abray, of 27 Metcalfe Court and John Stinson, of 20 Eden Place, said it's crucial that the Metcalfe Court project go ahead this year.

In 17 years there have been five reports conducted on the properties which say the stabilization was needed, said Mr. Abray.

Homeowners have a perception that some councillors see the backyard stabilization as a

Continued on Page 4

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Easter Delights

With Easter just around the corner, and Peter Cottontail watching, Debora Ellis of Debora's Confections in Crawford's Pine Valley Farms in Norval designs chocolate for the Easter Bunny to deliver.

Local stores are filled with colorful eggs, giant chocolate bunnies and soft plush rabbits for the holiday this weekend. (Herald photo by Donna Kell)

AIDS cases doubled during last year report discloses

The number of people with AIDS in Halton has doubled in the last year.

Twenty-one cases of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) have been reported since the Region began keeping records in 1982. Ten of those were reported in the last year, said Susan Harrigan, the AIDS project coordinator at Halton Region.

Of the 21 cases diagnosed, seven people are still alive and only one case has been reported in Halton Hills but that person has since moved out of the region.

On top of the 21 cases diagnosed with AIDS, 20 more people are confirmed carriers of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus which causes AIDS, said Ms. Harrigan.

Eight of those people live in Halton Hills.

Halton's figures appear low, but the AIDS situation in the Region is quite serious when the numbers are plugged into the accepted extrapolation formula. According to Ms. Harrigan, for every one person diagnosed with AIDS, there are between five and 50 people who have the HIV, and are showing symptoms and another 50 to 200 people who have contracted the HIV but are not yet showing any symptoms.

About 2,300 Canadians are known to have AIDS, but there could be between 30,000 and 40,000 more carriers of the fatal disease, said Ms. Harrigan.

There were 279 cases of AIDS reported in Ontario in 1988 and only 170 of those are still alive, according to a report by Halton's medical officer of health, Dr.

Graham Pollett.

Although Halton reports only two per cent of the 911 cases reported in Ontario since records were first kept in 1982, 71 per cent of all cases in Ontario were reported in the greater Toronto area (which includes East York, the City of York, the City of North York, Scarborough, Etobicoke, York Region, Peel Region and the City of Toronto).

Nineteen of 20 cases reported in Halton are male. (Details of the most recent case have yet to be released).

By far the most common risk group which tests positive for AIDS are homosexual or bisexual people. Of the 20 people whose cases have been studied, 14 are homosexuals or bisexuals, one was a recipient of a blood transfusion, one is a regular user of intravenous needles and is a homosexual or

Related story Page 2

bisexual and another person is an intravenous needle user who has had multiple sexual partners.

Halton staff were unable to trace the causes of AIDS in three of the cases.

Eight of the people who have contracted the HIV are located in Halton Hills. Another eight reside in Burlington, two reside in Milton and two more live in Oakville.

Of those 20 people, 13 are homosexual or bisexual, one is the recipient of a blood product, one is heterosexual and one person had multiple sexual partners.

Four HIV carriers have yet to determine the causes of the disease in their systems.

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See Page 15