

Town should invoke tighter controls on local builders - Coun. Serjeantson

Urban Georgetown Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson wants to control land grading in the urban areas of Halton Hills.

Coun. Serjeantson appealed to other councillors at a Town of Halton Hills general committee meeting Monday to ask for tighter restrictions on local builders.

"Right now, anybody who owns land can scrape everything off it... and we have no jurisdiction," she told councillors.

"I'm concerned about someone stripping the land and then not

developing."

Coun. Serjeantson said trees and other brush are sometimes removed for building purposes and the land is left unused.

She suggested the City of Brampton model be used for Halton Hills. Brampton has a bylaw in place to restrict grading.

Acton Coun. Norm Elliott supported Coun. Serjeantson's claims, saying he had seen land ruined in Halton Hills by developers.

Megan Developments in Georgetown resulted in

"unbelievable erosion and absolute sacrifice of a beautiful property," he said.

The concern over grading arose when Coun. Serjeantson discussed petitions she had received from residents in east Georgetown. Homeowners on Wilson Court, Rosefield Drive and Fagan Drive are concerned with the tract of land that sits behind the three streets. Recently, a local developer asked the town to sell the land.

CVCA prepares for new season

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority opened up the gates to the Terra Cotta and Belfountain Conservation Areas on Saturday, April 29. Operating hours will be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until later in the season when longer hours apply.

The Orangeville Reservoir Conservation Area will open for the season on Saturday, May 20, and camping at Terra Cotta Con-

servation Area will commence on May 19. Call Terra Cotta (416) 877-9650 to make a reservation for your daily, weekly, monthly or seasonal camping experience or to make arrangements for that upcoming company picnic. The one acre, supervised pool at Terra Cotta opens June 17.

For details regarding fees and operating times please contact the Authority at (416) 670-1815.

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Halton school board will study effects of Jr. Kindergarten

By BEN DUMMETT
 Herald Staff

The Halton Region Board of Education has decided to study the effects of four-year-old Kindergarten becoming mandatory for all boards and the extension of five-year-old Kindergarten from half to full days. The study was initiated after the board expressed concern over the provincial government's proposals at last week's meeting.

The Liberal government made the announcement during its recent Throne Speech.

Halton Hills trustee Arlene Bruce is sceptical of the plan's viability.

"It would appear as though the government just dropped these statements without considering the real implications," she said recently.

Mrs. Bruce listed a number of obstacles including a lack of funds, space problems, and insufficient numbers of teachers, that would arise and have to be dealt with in order for the board to successfully implement the changes.

She acknowledges Jr. Kindergarten is popular, especially in areas where there is little "cultural support - regions without well established daycare system."

Mrs. Bruce said the announcement has raised the expectations of a lot of parents.

She explained the introduction of Jr. Kindergarten in the province will increase taxes. Parents will take their children out of daycare and enroll them into Jr. Kindergarten, thereby shifting costs from the individual parents to the general taxpayer.

However, the provincial Liberal MP for Halton Hills, Walt Elliot, said Jr. Kindergarten would be more education oriented than daycare.

He stressed Jr. Kindergarten is

the province's recognition of today's competitive world and as such parents want to send their children to school earlier, to prepare them for the economic realities of the future.

The board's director of education, Bob Williams, is not adverse to the government's proposal. He interprets the announcement as a general statement of intention, where the particulars have yet to be worked out. He is confident when this occurs, the board and government will be able to work something out, he said.

The province recently allocated \$23.7 million over the next three years to build three new elementary schools in north Oakville and Burlington regions and to renovate and replace Oakville Trafalgar High School.

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board received \$16.9 million spread out over the same period. The money will be spent on two new elementary schools in Burlington and Oakville respectively and the expansion of St. Vincent School in Oakville.

The allocated money will be distributed to the boards in the form of grants and debentures.

The boards, although happy with the allocated amounts, were not totally satisfied. Both complained they were disappointed the government did not meet all of their financial priorities submitted.

The Catholic board's director of education, Cliff Byrnes, was especially upset their first priority request, money to renovate Assumption High School in Oakville, was completely bypassed.

None of the schools in the Georgetown area will receive any money. According to both directors of education the allocation of monies is determined by need.



Nurses Week

Next week is Nursing Week and Halton Hills nurses are going to celebrate with wine and cheese and coffee and doughnuts along with daily events at both the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital and the Bennett Health Care Centre. Here Mayor Russ Miller shows that Halton Hills is behind its nurses. Left to right are Marg Caldwell, a nurse at the Bennett Centre, Mayor Russ Miller and Wendy Glazebrook, a nurse at Georgetown hospital. (Herald photo)

Bell agrees to move tower

Bell Cellular has agreed to relocate a proposed 180-foot tower in Hornby.

The communications company met with Hornby residents after the Town of Halton Hills strongly suggested a relocation of a proposed tower to be built on a quarter-acre lot on Steeles Avenue. The tower, if approved, would have been surrounded by agricultural land.

Councillors objected to Bell's

proposal, saying the tower could fall onto Steeles Avenue or could be distracting to nighttime drivers with its flashing lights.

A Bell spokesman agreed to the community meeting although he said it was "unusual" to meet with the local residents directly to gain tower approval. He said Bell wanted to keep relations friendly.

At a meeting last Saturday, Bell and Hornby residents agreed on placing the tower in a local park.

Mayor Russ Miller said the Hornby residents are "happy" with the decision. He said Bell Cellular will make adjustments to its equipment to allow for the relocation.

The communications tower will serve cellular phone users travelling along the Highway 401 corridor and is part of a network in and around the Metropolitan Toronto area.

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