

Despite request for 1 year

Over 1,400 houses get draft approval extension for 1 month

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller says the town should have "full control" of development in Halton Hills.

Halton Hills council voted Monday night to extend draft approval for two subdivisions in Georgetown South for one month.

Halton Hills Village Homes applied to the town to extend draft approvals for 524 lots at Eighth Line near Sideroad 10 and 945 lots east of Ninth Line and north of Sideroad 10 for one year.

Some of those lots are now under construction by Canada Homes and Fernbrook Homes Ltd.

The mayor reacted to a letter sent by Toby Barwick, project manager for Halton Hills Village Homes to Halton Region, saying the developing company would appeal all water allocations given by Halton Hills developers to the Ontario Municipal Board if Georgetown South didn't get water allocations for approved lots.

The town will ask HHVHI to "rescind" that letter, sent to the Region.

"I don't want to appear to be holding a gun to their head, but I

also don't want them to hold a gun to our heads," Mayor Miller said.

"They could be responsible for holding up other developments that are important to people, important to the town."

The mayor said he wanted to send a letter to HHVHI "letting them know of our displeasure" with the letter sent to Halton Region.

But the mayor's suggestion not to extend draft approval for the two subdivisions could mean HHVHI would have to begin the subdivision approval process all over again.

"The expiry date is coming up quickly - Dec. 17 and 18," town planner Bruce MacLean said. "To defer it for another week may mean council won't be able to get a reply."

Ward 2 Coun. Joe Hewitt said, "it doesn't seem right" to refuse draft approval to HHVHI.

He said the company put in "up front" money for utilities and road work and wants to go ahead with the subdivision.

"I don't think you can say they're out there getting draft approvals and just sitting on them," he said.

"We are in the driver's seat."

Funding challenges ahead

Pat Hillhouse re-elected school board chairperson

The Halton Board of Education Chairperson Pat Hillhouse gave the entire board a vote of confidence in its ability to continue to provide sound education in the upcoming years after being re-elected to the chair for another year.

"Around this table are trustees who are as capable as any in the province and this is one reason I am confident about the future," she said.

But Ms. Hillhouse warned the board will not be without serious challenges.

There has to be a "radical" change in current provincial funding. "It can't continue on the same path."

If the government continues to provide inadequate funding, Ms. Hillhouse suggested it's only a matter of time before the Halton board couldn't afford any special programs.

"The province initiates these wonderful plans, philosophies we could buy into" but unless the board receives more funding they will never be afforded, she said.

Ms. Hillhouse said the current financial shortcomings will only be solved if the provincial government and boards work together.

Ms. Hillhouse sees education as a life-long experience starting during a person's early years and continuing through adulthood. "But the big problem is who is going to pay for it and how are we going to pay for it."



PAT HILLHOUSE

Ms. Hillhouse describes her position as the leader of the board's political arm and as such her job is to work with the director, Bob Williams, to ensure that initiatives already started are carried out.

These include the joint infrastructure program in which the two school boards and municipalities work together to ensure they receive adequate provincial funding to deal with Halton's growth. Another is that all facets of Mr. Williams' Vision 2000 which stresses school based decision making and hiring the best teachers are implemented.

Milton trustee Bill Harrison was elected vice chair at the meeting.

23 cars vandalized

Continued from Page 1

Police say the \$5,000 estimate will probably be higher because the cost of all the damage still hasn't been recorded.

Damage ranged from \$20 to \$900. In one incident the vandals slashed all four tires and smashed the driver's side mirror of a 1983 Dod, parked on Bairdrow Crescent causing \$900 damage.

They caused \$800 damage to a 1983 Ford parked at Bairdrow Crescent and Prince Charles Drive after slashing the vehicle's four tires and bending the windshield wipers.

In another incident they stole a \$500 cellular telephone from a car parked on Delrex Boulevard.

And men's hockey equipment was stolen from one car, and the contents of a child's school bag were emptied on to the road and scattered.

Det. Sgt. Eacrett says that "if anyone saw any kids in the area at the time (Saturday night or early Sunday morning) we'd appreciate hearing from them."

People with information should contact Det. Sgt. Eacrett at 878-5511 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-668-5151.

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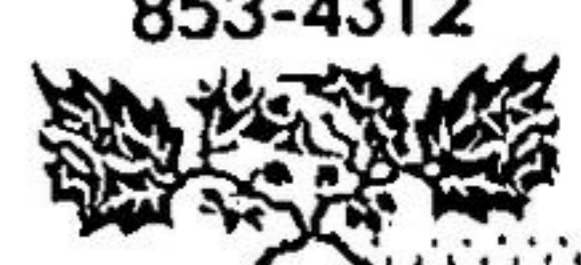
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