

Get involved

By JOHN ALEXANDER Caledon Councilior, Member of Niagara Escarpment Commission

Protect the environment by becoming involved.

Since entering the municipal political arena some 7 years ago, as an elected representative, I grow more impressed with the ability of residents to express concerns, particularly those of environmental and ecological importance.

In my own community in Caledon and along the Niagara Escarpment, residents are asking questions, doing research and presenting valued opinions when development is proposed for a given area.

No longer can outsiders ride into town, pick up a million or so and leave in the night.

One of the major leading examples of "people power" is found in the implementation of the Niagara Escarpment Plan. The following paragraphs are taken from an article which appeared in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, and which clearly focuses the intensity of people who know when they are on to a good thing.

"Competing land use demands in densely populated southern Ontario, coupled with a growing awareness of the province's diminishing natural environment, helped spark widespread concern about the future of the Niagara Escarpment."

"The Ontario government responded to the public concern about land use in the escarpment area in 1967 when it commissioned a study by Len Gertler, a well known planner and professor at the University of Waterloo."

"In the late 1960s and early 1970s, land use conflicts emerged along the Niagara Escarpment between the extraction of aggregate resources and rural residential and recreational uses. Some provincial action was necessary to license aggregate extraction.

"Much private and public land



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was connected by the Bruce Trail. This hiking trail, developed by a private non-profit agency (The Bruce Trail Association) is similar to the Appalachian Trail. Trail users became strong advocates of further escarpment protections through provincial action.

Efforts during this same period by the International Biological Program and various naturalist groups also attracted attention to the Niagara Escarpment as a unique botanical and biological resource."

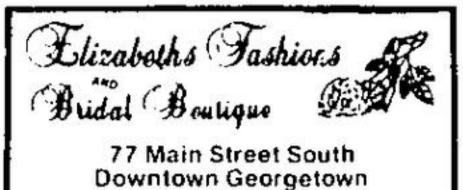
"Many groups associated with these and related objectives began to see preparation and implementation of an escarpment plan as an extension of their environmental agenda."

There is no question that people do have a say in the process and any government or developer that does not recognize this is in deep trouble.

It is hoped there will be less confrontation between government, developers and local residents when it comes to compatible environmental/ecological land use planning and that all will respect, the delicate balance which is trying to be maintained in managing growth within our special communities.

Lastly, it's very rewarding to me to continually see examples of "people power." In my own community of Caledon, Belfountain residents raised about \$60,000 locally, to fight a proposed 73-lot plan of subdivision. In the Cataract, residents are continuing a 16-year battle on a proposed 40lot plan of subdivision and recently, in three or four days, the residents of Alton delivered over 150 individual letters opposing a proposed nearby new gravel pit, while residents from across Caledon staged very effective presentations indicating their concern as to rising property taxes.

In essence, there are proper places to do things and in this socalled enlightened age we should finally abandon the idea that square pegs will fit into round holes.



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ASTRO-GRAPH



June 24, 1990

in the year anead you should begin to experience an improvement in your financial trends. In fact, you might even be able to get some of the things you've been wanting, but felt you couldn't afford.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today you might meet someone new of the opposite gender but you may not be initially impressed. However, this is a person you could grow to like, so don't jump to conclusions. Know where to look for romance and you'll find It.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Desire is a very powerful motivating force within you today. If there is something special you want strongly enough, you'll figure out a way to get it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) When you make an entrance today your charisma will have a favorable affect on everyone present. You won't attempt to do so consciously, but it will still happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Set your sights a notch or two higher today where your personal ambitious are concerned. You're a good achievement cycle and you might be able to accomplish things at which you couldn't succeed previously.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) It will be of importance to you today to see that everyone with whom you're involved is treated fairly. People about whom you're concerned will be equally as protective of you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) There's a possibility you might work out an arrangement with another today that could prove to be rather rewarding, even though you might play only a minor role.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Special alliances in which you enter at this time have good chances for success, especially if you get involved with someone energetic who is slightly younger than

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Endeavors that require Imagination and an artistic touch should be your cup of tea today. Instead of just watching TV use your gifts productive.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Things should work out to your ultimate advantage today, provided you don't waffle if you encounter a little opposition. Keep a stiff upper lip and move forward with victory in mind.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) When shopping today don't be too hasty about paying the sticker price, especially for large household appliances. Checking prices from several sources could save you money.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Even though you'll have all the right words teday, others will not consider you glib. Friends who listen closely to what you say will know it comes from the bottom of your heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Someone close to you might poke a nose into your financial affairs today, but don't be unduly alarmed. This person will be looking only for profitable possibilities you've ignored.



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TO

Home Post Scripts By Glenda Hughes

Be prepared!

.I feel like we are about to put our house on the market! The "bees" have been really busy, tending the garden, getting the landscaping in order, attending to little details inside, and in general, just getting the house in ship shape as best as we can for the moment. However, I hasten to assure you that, we are not selling, but only preparing for the arrival of hubby's parents from England! Naturally, when company's coming, one sets the wheels in motion to have everything looking it's best, but when the parents decide to visit from abroad, "batten down the hatches" is a familiar cry from most people. As we have a relatively new home (just one year old), we have much to do to get things in shape for the discerning eye of Mom and Pop. I have a panic about things inside, and my hubby has a heart attack about the outside. So you can see, between us, we are going crazy! I must tell you however, that if you are anything like us, it sometimes takes the occurance of a family visit to get you moving on the projects, that are sometimes put on the back burner. Like many of you, we are house-proud, and we do want things to look at nice as possible for our visitors. This is not unlike I have been reporting to you over the past years, that first impressions are lasting ones, and when your house is going on the market, you pull out the stops, and get things in order - fast.

I am sure, that we hardly ever sign up a listing, where we don't hear from the vendor, that there are "a few things they'd like to do, before the house hits the market." Naturally, life constantly deals us more jobs than we have time for on a daily basis, so, frequently, we must put the little detailed jobs of eye appeal low on the list.

What a wonderful feeling of accomplishment it is to see the results of a little bit of rushing about to get things done. Suddenly, the house takes on a whole new look, and the results are dramatic. Most things are not all that costly, lik a few more plantings in the garden, some paint and wallpaper, some indoor plants, and extra some organizing that one puts off.

It is the first impressions that are so lasting in this profession, and don't ever think that it can be turned around, for if a prospective buyer is searching out homes in your price range, you can be assured that they will only enter through your front door once, and if the feeling is not positive, you will never see them on the doorstep again. So, this column is only to tell you that, if you have company coming, it could be a blessing in disguise, for it will surely make you hit those overdue projects, and it will also get things done that will give your home eye appeal, for now and for many months into the future. One never knows what is around the corner.

May your summer guests be as welcome as mine are this year and may your sweat be matched many times over, with laughter and joy.

"Homes Sold Creatively"

Glenda Hughes is a Sales Representative with NRS Brand Realty in Georgetown,

