

Community

Glen residents query reservoir

By ELIZABETH GALVIN
the Herald

A Georgetown reservoir capable of holding 1.8 million gallons of water is required before Glen Williams gets its own water system in place, Councillor Joe Hewitt said at the annual Glen Williams Town Hall meeting last Thursday night.

It was the first time the reservoir had been mentioned since a petition went around the Glen in January supporting a municipal water system in the area. Bill Van Ryn, who collected signatures in January, called the news of the reservoir "a new stall tactic" and added, "It sounds like nobody wants to spend the money."

There is a present deficiency in the municipal water system, explained Councillor Hewitt in his presentation. The proposed reservoir will be constructed at Highway 7 and the 22nd Sideroad and hopefully things will be on track by the end of March, 1991.

The Region is waiting for developers in the area to make firm commitments on an expected \$1.1 million in lot levies. This means that water in Glen Williams is further dependant on development in the surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, the Glen water line proposal has been put on a Ministry of Environment waiting list to obtain 60 per cent funding of the \$1.6 million it will cost to put in a water system. But if the reservoir is not built, funding cannot be obtained and the Glen will be put back on the list until further developments take place.

"If development didn't take place, it would come out of taxpayers' pockets," said Mr. Hewitt. "They will have to come on stream to make the reservoir a reality."

Another fact in the matter, continued the Councillor, is that the Region had a "shortfall" of about \$700,000 in revenue in its 1990 budget and has had to cut back on programs and some employees so "things are rather tentative," he said.

Mr. Van Ryn, a newly-elected member of the Glen Williams Board, started the question period. He had been led to believe that if 75 per cent of people in the area would be affected by a new water system, the province would provide 60 per cent of the cost. "We had . . . 75 to 80 per cent of

people in the Glen affected by it," Mr. Van Ryn said later, about the survey taken by the Region a year ago.

"We are in a position to get funding," Mr. Hewitt assured the residents, as soon as "\$1.1 million goes into the system from developers." He also said that he and Town of Halton Mills Mayor Russ Miller had met with developers and the Region to try and get things on track by the end of March.

Mark Rowe, also a member of the Glen Williams Board, asked whether plans for the water line could go ahead without provincial support. Councillor Hewitt answered, "No."

Another Glen Williams resident asked, "Did we need a reservoir before Georgetown South happened?" to which the councillor answered, "No." The cost of that water system, he explained, "was borne by developers of Georgetown South."

"You can't ask a developer to upgrade your present system, he said, to which the woman replied, "It seems as if the more development there is, the more behind the Glen gets."

She also told Mr. Hewitt it was her understanding that while the proposed reservoir will hold 1.8 million gallons of water, the Georgetown Golf Course uses 1.4 million gallons of water a day. "I thought it was kind of neat," she said.

Mr. Hewitt said that four million gallons a day come from one well in Georgetown.

"Why the emphasis on development?" asked another member of the audience. "Last year, everyone said water was not dependant on development."

Mr. Hewitt admitted he has been disappointed by the Region over the past year because the reservoir was never talked about as crucial.

"The reality of it is, Georgetown is on wells and who knows what the future will bring."

The town will fight the proposed R.S.I. landfill site, however, planned for the Fourth Line and Rural Road 43 in Acton. They have set aside \$400,000 for the battle, \$170,000 of which has already been spent on legal fees.



Volunteer Literacy Awards

Halton MP Garth Turner (pictured above, centre) was on hand at the Halton Library Thursday night to present the first ever Canadian Volunteer Literacy Awards to a number of people involved with the North Halton Literacy Guild. Receiving awards were: Geraldine Barnes, Mary Rae Maln, Anne Simpson, Mark Holmes, Patricia Waters, Ron Hay, Gwen Ramsay, Betsy Cornwell, Ted Drelow, Gordon Hogarth, Rillo Hewer, Margaret Ward, Eileen Evans, John Gent, John van Egmond, and Jane

Ovenden. Award recipients not in attendance include: Florence English, Margaret Detlor, Paddy Fogg, Irene Saunders, Pat Woode, Betty Hagen, Jim McGeragle, Betty West, June Purvis, Bev van Alphen, Ruth Ainsworth, Marjorie Thornton, Betty Dunn, Coral Greaves, Margaret Helliwell, Karen Kee, Gina Marcini, Harry Haylock, Sandra Leuenberger, Roland Lobb, Barbara Edmunson and Lynda Nabert. (Herald photo)

Controversy at committee meeting

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lawyer was a form of "intimidation." Committee chairman Alf Spence said if the debate was to involve personal attacks, the meeting would have to go in camera - where the public and press are banned from the meeting.

Mr. Vandevalk said he wanted to "bury the hatchet" between himself and the planning director and asked if that was possible.

The town's administrator Clerk Dan Costea said that until Mr. Vandevalk meets with Mr. Keith and the town solicitor the problem still exists. There still exists the possibility that Mr. Vandevalk in his letter to the Herald personally slandered Mr. Keith, said Mr. Costea. He didn't rule out the possibility of either the town or Mr. Keith taking legal action against Mr. Vandevalk.

However, Mr. Keith, the town lawyer and Mr. Vandevalk met privately following the meeting and Mr. Keith suggested after the meeting the problem could be solved without legal action. He

wouldn't elaborate.

During the less than normal course of events the local press didn't escape criticism. In response to a part of Mr. Vandevalk's presentation in which he used press reports to show the public's dissatisfaction with all levels of government, Councillor Joe Hewitt said "the newspapers don't write the rules, interpret the rules and a lot of times don't know what they are talking about."

He defended the action of the town explaining the town is not responsible for water quantity. "That's a Regional responsibility," he told Mr. Vandevalk.

The town is responsible for deciding the appropriateness of a development application in accordance with its land use policies.

Mr. Vandevalk claimed during his presentation the planning staff failed him because it didn't consider the effects the golf course would have on the neighboring residents water supply. Mr. Keith did this when he acknowledged that water should

be one of the first considerations in assessing a development application, said Mr. Vandevalk. Mr. Vandevalk referred to a report by Mr. Keith highlighting this fact.

Mr. Keith said following the meeting that these reports were written for the Region's consideration and not as town staff policy.

Mr. Keith said that town staff, in accordance with council's deferral of the golf course issue, is waiting for the developers to submit a water quantity study.

When the study is completed the planning department will evaluate the information and write a new report with a recommendation. The report isn't expected to go before council until the new year, said Mr. Keith.

In defense of Mr. Vandevalk, Acton Coun. Norm Elliott said the presentation shouldn't be taken as an attack on councillors. Instead, Mr. Vandevalk is concerned about his water supply and wants the town to address the concerns.

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