

Community

Council approves water allocation

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald



Marilyn Serjeanston

Halton Hills council approved Monday to grant Toronto based Law Development Group water allocation to service an additional 175 housing units to be located east of Mountainview Road between the C.N.R. railway line and River Drive in Georgetown.

Law Development Group is behind the Kingsmill development project slated for the River Drive area. A total of 350 townhouses are to be built. Council had already granted water allocation for half the units.

Council only gave approval after receiving assurances from the developer, Larry Law, that he intended to build the proposed townhouses, as well as help finance the Georgetown reservoir. The reservoir, which is scheduled to be completed late this year or in early 1992, will be located at Sideroad 22 and Highway 7.

If the developer doesn't pay his approximate \$500,000 share towards the reservoir's construction, council can prevent construction of the Kingsmill project. The reservoir will cost a total of \$5.1 million of which Georgetown south developers Halton Hills Village Homes Incorporated, is also expected to pay \$500,000. The remaining amount will be paid by Halton Region.

Halton Budget Director, Dave Birkett, told council members Regional council has already approved its share of the reservoir financing.

Town planner Bruce Maclean told council, planning staff is convinced the development company will carry out construction and meet its financial obligations concerning the reservoir. He referred to a letter the developer had sent to the Region saying Mr. Law will pay the Region the \$500,000 once he receives the extra water allocation.

Furthermore, Mr. Maclean indicated the company has conditionally sold 175 of the townhouses and wants to start marketing the next 175 townhouses this February.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeanston raised concerns the developer could not complete construction

of the first 175 units by Nov. 1 as Mr. Law had previously indicated.

Mr. Maclean echoed the councillor's concern stating "we've (planning staff) expressed reservations that the work can't be completed on time."

He qualified his statements saying a slowdown in construction activity means Mr. Law could push his trades people to finish the job quickly, since there is little work available.

Coun. Serjeanston said she was worried the people who have conditionally bought the first 175 units will have no place to live come November if the units aren't built.

Mr. Law however, pointed to other developments he has done in Oakville and Orillia that were completed either on time or ahead of schedule as proof of his reliability. He also said several Georgetown trades people have contacted him eager to work because business is slow. "I can assure you (council) 10 months from now everybody will be happy," Mr. Law added.

Several councillors also expressed concern there may be insufficient water to service the first 175 townhouses if they are completed before the reservoir.

However, Mr. Birkett said the two test wells being drilled in the area, 21 and 22, could be used to supplement the existing water supply if the new reservoir wasn't completed by November.



Vicious storm

A tow truck was on hand to pull these vans out of the ditch on Hwy. 7 between Georgetown and Acton Friday. The mishap was one of several that took place in the area when an all-day snowstorm made driving conditions treacherous in Southern Ontario.

Neither driver of the Aerostar or Dodge van were injured, but still had a long way to travel since the man pictured above was from Kingston and the other from Guelph. (Herald photo)

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Less fortunate to suffer

Continued from Page 2

Ms. Ewart.

"It's a small amount, but the program helped 200 families last year," said Ms. Ewart.

A child care worker position was also cut from the budget, said Ms. Ewart.

Two other positions, both slated for Halton Centennial Manor in Milton, were eliminated. The positions were for an Occupational Health Nurse and an Accreditation coordinator that would have ensured improved standards at the manor.

The social service grant budget was also reduced by \$7,000, said Ms. Ewart. This budget is used to finance various community agencies operating throughout Halton, she explained.

The Regional Hostel Program was also reduced, said Ms.

Ewart. The program finances hostels in Halton to provide shelter for poor people.

Ms. Ewart is hopeful some of the proposed cuts will not be approved by Regional Council in March. The proposals will go before the region's budget review committee in February at which time the proposed cuts will be considered in context with the programs of other regional government departments. The committee's recommendation will then be considered by council.

The only way the cuts won't go ahead, explained Ms. Ewart is if the resulting savings can be made up by cuts in other departments.

The question is "do we (Region) really want to cut services aimed at the unfortunate in difficult economic times!" she said.



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