

# Opinion

## Willow Park meeting an exercise in futility

The special meeting between Norval's Willow Park residents, local politicians and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, (CVCA), held last Wednesday at the Halton Hills Civic Centre was the most disillusioning experience I have ever encountered as a reporter.

Before the meeting, I was lead to believe it was being held to help the residents to relocate. Instead, the meeting ended up being nothing more than an exercise in futility.

As Willow Park resident Roger Perryman said three quarters of the way through the two-and-a-half hour session, "I have walked into another useless meeting."

For those who don't know, the CVCA has expropriated the park land because it is located in the Credit River Floodplain. Ac-

ording to the CVCA, people's lives would be at risk if a major flood happened in the area. The residents were required to leave the park by May 15 but there are still several mobile homes in the park.

The meeting was totally unproductive because the participants failed to address the central issue of compensation. The residents argue the compensation they have so far received, as a result of the expropriation, has been inadequate.

The compensation package included money to move their mobile homes to a proposed site in Acton and to cover any improvements they had done to their lots. None of the residents were permitted to relocate to the Acton site because the Ontario Municipal Board, (OMB), ruled



**Ben's Banter**  
by Ben Dummett

earlier this year the proposed site was unsuitable for a permanent mobile home park.

The residents want compensation that reflects the value of their respective homes.

Although the issue of compensation was briefly touched upon

at the beginning of the meeting, the subject was quickly abandoned only to be reconsidered in response to Mr. Perryman's comments about the meeting.

Presumably a meeting is called with an agenda in mind. However, there appeared to be no agenda for this particular meeting. It began with a retelling of the four-year saga involving the expropriation. I question the purpose of this discussion since the park's history was well known by those attending the meeting.

It then centred on a long and useless discussion about alternative housing for the residents.

The point is the residents say they can't afford alternative housing until they receive an improved compensation package.

It was obvious that none of the

participants had any earlier discussions leading up to the meeting concerning what needed to be addressed.

It was only Mr. Perryman's comments that focused the meeting on the real issue, that being compensation. And when all was said and done it was evident there was no room for negotiation.

Neither the Town, North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan, nor the CVCA was willing to discuss the idea of further compensation. The only advice offered the residents was to pursue the issue through the courts, a process they had started before the meeting.

Since this was the situation why have the meeting? In the end, it did nothing but further frustrate all involved.

# Community in Focus



### Only the strong survive

The Highland Magic Georgetown tug-of-war team comprising (front to back) Kirk Serjeanston, Kevin Barrow, Wade Serjeanston, Mark Murnaghan and Adrian Miller, tried valiantly but were bested by a team from Streetsville Legion in the tug-of-war competition Saturday at the 16th Annual Scottish Festival and Highland Games staged at Georgetown's Fairgrounds Park. (Herald photo)



### Massed Bands Presentations

A treat for those in attendance at Saturday's 16th Annual Georgetown Scottish Festival and Highland Games was the Massed Bands presentation of piping and drumming which filled a huge area at Georgetown's Fairgrounds Park. There were two

Massed Bands presentations under the direction of Drum Major Larry Fullerton of the 48th Highlanders, Canada. (Herald photo by Colin Gibson)



### Solitary piper

Jim McGillivray, from Don Mills, shows total concentration during the Professional March piping competition Saturday at the 16th Annual Scottish Festival and Highland Games at Georgetown's Fairgrounds.



### Avoiding the swords

Sword dancing was just one of the many entertaining competitions staged Saturday at the 16th Annual Georgetown Festival and Highland Games held at Georgetown's Fairgrounds Park. Pictured

above, left to right, Tamara Henry from Owen Sound and Fiona Kerr from Burlington compete in the Girls Open-12 Sword Dance competition. (Herald photo)

**Hall of Names**

SCOTLAND	ENGLAND
IRELAND	BRITTANY
FRANCE	CHANNEL IS.
NORMANDY	ISLE OF MAN
WALES	CORNWALL

**Each History Records**

- THE NAME'S ORIGIN
- VARIATIONS IN SPELLINGS
- BRANCHES, CASTLES, KNIGHTS
- MIDDLE AGE NOTABLES
- FIRST SETTLERS IN AMERICA
- PRESENT DAY NOTABLES
- FAMILY COAT OF ARMS
- FAMILY CREST
- FAMILY MOTTO

### Hall of Names

The Hall of Names was just one of the many booths available to visitors who attended last Saturday's 16th Annual Scottish Festival and Highland Games staged at the Georgetown Fairgrounds.