

Compromise between factions could benefit Georgetown

Two meetings on the issue of housing were recently held at the Halton Hills Civic Centre and members of the public who attended the meetings sent one clear message - housing intensification is not wanted.

The phrase housing intensification means the introduction of new housing in established neighborhoods. It also implies the housing types introduced to an existing neighborhood are medium and/or high density.

Georgetown resident Ernest Ball, who attended both meetings, said people oppose housing intensification because the idea strikes fear in them. Increasing the housing density of a neighborhood will likely change the neighborhood for the worse, people say.

People seem to have this prediction of the idea that

neighborhoods develop over a long period of time, and if they are forced to change overnight because of housing intensification the neighborhood's character will suffer.

Ironically, I find a lot of the same people who oppose housing intensification have no problem with the type of higher density housing that could possibly be established in Halton Hills.

At one of the recent meetings various designs of semi-detached houses and townhouses were displayed and a lot of the comments from the public related to the attractiveness of the designs.

If my observations are correct concerning people's attitudes towards intensification, then it follows that peoples' fears about higher density housing is unjustified as long as the type of housing suits the neighborhood



Ben's Banter
by Ben Dummett

for where it is being proposed. For example, take the type of housing that should be located on the Maple Avenue property in Georgetown corresponding to the addresses 333, 337 and 339 Maple Avenue.

The people living in the neighborhood have said the only type of housing acceptable for

this property is single-family homes, because the neighborhood is comprised of this type of housing.

The developer, Burlington-based Zupet and Associates, is proposed two multi-storey condominium complexes.

The potential clash is evident but it could be resolved in a way beneficial to the neighboring residents, the developer and the Town. Multi-storey condominium complexes don't jive with single family homes. However, tastefully done, townhouses reflecting the architecture of the area would probably fit.

In this sense both parties should be willing to compromise. Not only will both sides create a project that is good for the neighborhood, but also, a greater number of people living in the

neighborhood will benefit the downtown Georgetown business area.

When people talk about protecting the Town's heritage, the downtown area is referred to as an area that must be preserved. The only way downtown Georgetown will prosper is if more people have reason to visit it. Increasing the surrounding area's population base will therefore be a first step in realizing this goal.

Instead of standing off against each other the Maple Avenue area residents and the developer should work together to find a compromise that will show intensification shouldn't automatically be feared. In fact, if done properly, intensification will benefit the Town.

Political Forum Ottawa Report

Canada provides peace and opportunity to citizens

Canada Day, 1991. Where is this country at right now? Where are we going?

For starters, it isn't hard to see that we're in some trouble - and have been for most of the last year. If people were content they wouldn't have thrown out the Ontario government and installed the first socialist one. If they were content the federal government wouldn't be so low in the polls. If they were content we wouldn't have a property tax revolt going on. If the people were content we wouldn't have two new federal parties that will only run candidates in French or English Canada.

No, we have big troubles. The economy is still hurting, despite falling interest rates. The national unity crisis is, if anything, worse a whole year after the Meech Lake Accord went down in flames. A lot of people are turned off the political system. Others are blaming politicians for

thunderstorms and nasal conditions.

You will not read it here that the federal government - or any other government, for that matter - has got all the answers. It doesn't. If there were simple solutions to our problems, then the problems would have been fixed long ago.

But for Canada Day, 1991, let's take time for a look at all the good things we get from being in this country. These thoughts immediately come to mind.

- Despite today's economy, we still have the second-highest standard of living in the world. That's not bad for a country with the 31st largest population.
- We have people smart enough to invent the telephone, time zones, the snowmobile and insulin.
- We have a far superior health care system than the Americans, and it costs less to run it.
- No country in the world pro-

Garth Turner
MP
Halton-Peel
Progressive Conservative



vides more rights and freedoms to individual citizens. We can go anywhere, say anything, worship anything and succeed, or fail, according to our own abilities.

- We are completely self-sufficient in food, energy and water.
- Canadians are both respected fighters and peace-keepers. We fought, and won, in the Gulf, and then returned to maintain order.
- By and large, we have clean

water, air you can breathe and soil that grows things. We also have a plan to make Canada the most environmentally-friendly country on the planet.

- Peace.
- We have the opportunity to live in a country of different languages and cultures. The native peoples enrich us. Quebecois enrich us.
- We have cities that work. Police forces who serve, not repress. Governments that are always ultimately accountable to the people. Democracy.
- We have a caring society which produces volunteers for baseball games and hospitals. Education that is available to everyone. Cheap electricity. Good roads.
- Untapped natural resources. Unparalleled natural beauty. Unrivaled opportunity.
- A history of compromise, rather than revolution. Tolerance, and not bigotry. Com-

passion and understanding when it has been most needed.

Canada as a confederation will soon be 125 years old. Some say it has never been this troubled. But others - especially those who live elsewhere - look at this country and see some of the above. To live in Canada is to live in a country where you will find peace and opportunity. When you think about it, that alone places us in the world's elite.

This Canada Day, for me at least, will be a time to celebrate what others envy - what we sometimes lose sight of in our day-to-day cynicism. We spend too much time looking down at the scuffs on our shoes, and too little time looking at the journey ahead.

This year, your country needs you. It needs time and patience. It needs repair. It needs understanding. With that, life here can only get better. Happy Canada Day!

Queen's Park Report

New NDP housing policy open for consultation

As a former consultant for the development of non-profit and cooperative housing I was particularly interested in the release of two consultation papers about housing policy by Housing Minister Dave Cooke and Minister of Government Services Fred Wilson earlier in the month. "A Housing Framework for Ontario" deals with an overall framework for housing policy while "Government Land for Housing" examines the potential to utilize government-owned land for housing.

The components of our housing strategy include:

- increasing the supply of affordable housing especially non-profit and cooperative units
- using surplus government land for housing
- increasing the quality of life for people who live in public housing

On June 18th, in conjunction with the above strategy, the Minister announced \$3.7 million to fund "Partners in Housing," a program to support community-based non-profit housing groups, housing cooperative groups and housing advocacy organizations.

And, as I mentioned last week, Dave Cooke also appointed a commission to examine the relationship between public and private interests in land use planning. Housing and development have been, and will continue to be, important issues in Halton North and I hope that you will



Noel Duignan
Halton North
MPP
New Democratic Party

take an active interest in the consultation process.

In other Queen's Park business, Energy Minister Jenny Carter introduced amendments to the Power Corporations Act designed to help Ontario Hydro undertake more effective conservation measures and to make it easier for Hydro to follow the government's policy directions. The following week the Minister announced specific programs toward the new energy direction - one based on protection of the environment and reduction of energy costs.

- Ontario Hydro has been called upon to speed up its efforts in conservation and in controlling demand for energy.

- more products will be brought under the regulations of the Energy Efficient Act which sets performance standards for new appliances and energy-using products in Ontario

- Ontario Hydro will continue to

carry out energy audits on the nearly 8,000 government buildings and facilities to recommend energy-efficiency improvements.

- several steps will be taken to help industries improve energy productivity and to reduce their energy costs

- the Energy-Efficient Com-

munities Program will encourage communities themselves to identify what needs to be done to help people save energy in their homes and businesses

- and emphasis will be placed upon education in order to promote energy conservation and efficiency among students and teachers

These programs should also encourage a whole range of business and manufacturing opportunities in the energy field.

Please call my Milton office at 878-1729 (Tuesdays through Fridays) with your comments about these programs or if you need more information on them.

Some Recent Violent Eruptions....



UNZEN-JAPAN



PINATUBO-PHILIPPINES



TAXPAYER-CANADA