

# Back to the drawing board for sewer proposal

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

Georgetown residents should realize the twinning of the Silver Creek Trunk Sewer is no longer the preferred design to provide future development in Georgetown West with sewage capacity, Halton Planning and Public Works Commissioner Art Leitch said during an interview Thursday.

Mr. Leitch stressed this point when questioned on the subject of whether or not the Region is committed to do a cumulative impact study on the effect the twinning project and several other Regional projects proposed for Silver Creek Valley will have on the area's natural environment.

Many Georgetown residents have expressed concerns over the potential negative impact the projects proposed for the valley would have on the Class 2 provincial wetlands located in the valley if the proposed projects

went ahead.

People's concerns came to a head last fall during a public meeting held in Georgetown on a proposal to twin the Silver Creek Trunk Sewer. At that time, the project was identified by Regional consultants to be the preferred design of providing sewage capacity for the Georgetown West area.

Since that time, Halton Regional staff have been bombarded with public concerns that the valley's wetlands would be jeopardized if the twinning project went ahead. Residents called for the Region to consider the environmental impacts the twinning would have in connection with the potential environmental impacts that may be associated with the other projects proposed for the valley.

In assessing the environmental impact of a project for the valley, the Region carries out studies in accordance with the province's Environmental Assessment Act.

Mr. Leitch points out there is no provision under the act explaining how to determine the cumulative environmental impact several projects would have on an area.

In this sense, the Region isn't obligated to address the issue of cumulative impact. However, he said the Region will address the issue saying, "We, (Regional staff), think the residents are correct in making the request."

Now that Regional staff will address the issue of cumulative impact, the twinning project is no longer the preferred design. "It's back to the drawing board," said Mr. Leitch.

That means the Region will once again look at various alternatives to provide sewage capacity for Georgetown West. Each of the alternatives, including the twinning of the Silver Creek Trunk Sewer, will be considered in relation to the other valley proposed projects and the environmental impacts each could

have on the valley if any of them went ahead.

The Region is expected to hire a consultant this fall to recommend the most environmentally friendly way to provide Georgetown West with sewage

capacity.

Once the consultant is hired, Mr. Leitch said, the public should feel free to comment on any of the studies the consultant does.

"We don't want people waiting to plug into the process," he said.



**No break for Dad**

Georgetown residents, (left to right), Adam Latimer, 4, and Cory Latimer, 8, took fielding practice from their father, Gary, Saturday, behind

Joseph Gibbons Public School in Georgetown, taking advantage of the holiday weekend baseball break to hone their skills. (Herald photo)

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