

Wednesday, August 21, 1991

Legislation needed to protect groundwater

By BARBARA HALSALL
Involve Me and I'll Understand
".... in Ontario, there is no cohesive, integrated approach towards protecting, improving or even maintaining the quality of our groundwater."

In a forceful article in a publication called Hazardous Materials Management, Jim Bishop argues that legislation is needed now to protect groundwater before it is degraded further.

Canadians are surprisingly ignorant about this vital resource and because we can't see it there is no thought to protecting it from contamination. To paraphrase my neighbor, people have been peeing in the well and are surprised that the water tastes bad. Some residents don't even know that Halton Hills drinks well water.

Town wells have been contaminated in Elmira, Newcastle, New Brunswick and Ville Mercier near Montreal. In the later case, after millions of dollars and several years of attempted clean

up, the water is not drinkable. And in fact, no contaminated aquifer can be returned to its original state so protection is the key.

Bishop points out in his article that groundwater is the greatest source of clean fresh water on earth. Relying on groundwater are: 26 per cent of Canadians for domestic purposes, 82 per cent of Canada's rural population, and 40 per cent of Canada's municipalities.

"Since water is essential to all life, and groundwater accounts for most of the world's freshwater resources, it is fair to say that protection of groundwater quality is tantamount to preservation of life."

Surface water has more protection. Section 36(3) of the federal Fisheries Act prohibits the deposit of deleterious substances in water frequented by fish. In the government review of Reclamation Systems proposal to bring garbage from all of Ontario to the Acton Quarry, there are more concerns raised about the



health of fish than the people in Halton Hills.

Groundwater contamination is a problem world wide. In an article from Whole Earth magazine, they tell of groundwater being contaminated by salt. Farmers in South Australia cleared native forests which raised the water table bringing salts to the surface. One of their slogans to raise

public consciousness is, INVOLVE ME AND I'LL UNDERSTAND.

I hope you will become involved to protect our valuable resource that we take for granted. Take action to request the Ontario government legislate groundwater protection. Fax, phone (see last Wednesday's paper for numbers) or write to

the Minister of Environment, Ruth Grier to say you don't want to risk garbage on the source of your drinking water. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

NO P.O.W.E.R. GENERAL MEETING IN AUGUST. Instead, some P.O.W.E.R. members will take action to raise awareness with the Ministry of Environment on the critical dump issue.

Say: "I saw it in The Herald"

Community Service Bulletins

CSBs

If you are a non-profit organization, service club or charity or church group and would like us to publish your community service announcement of community interest, call us at 877-2201 during regular office hours. There is no charge for this service to Halton Hills community groups. The deadline for submissions is Friday at Noon for publication for the following Wednesday. Deadlines will not be extended. Although we will do our best to print all announcements, space is limited and there are no guarantees of insertion.

Happenings

Halton Hills Ambulance Service is willing to provide your school, club, business or group with short or long presentations on the nature and history of the Service. For more information call Phil at 877-1615 and leave a message.

Are you expecting a baby this Fall? Halton Regional Health Department offers a series for expectant parents! You will gain the most benefits by attending as early as possible. If your due date is in Oct./Nov./Dec./Jan. 92, register now for the early series by calling Milton, 878-7261.

Want to go back to school? But you can't find child care? If you are a pregnant teen or young mother, then TEAM may be the program for you. Child care is provided while you work on your high school credits. Work at your own pace, with supportive staff to help you. Program to be offered in Georgetown this Fall. Phone Anne Day at 333-3499 or 878-1240.

Maple Co-operative Nursery School, located in Cedarvale Park, has openings left for September Half day programs, 3 or 5 days for either mornings or afternoons are available. For further information please phone Paula Baker at 877-4693.

Love In Christ Food Bank will be closed on Thursday nights only to September 5th. Anyone needing a ride phone 877-5482.

The Victorian Order of Nurses, Halton Branch, will hold a Foot Care Clinic at the following location. The cost is \$15.00. Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital - Emergency Dept.

Georgetown, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Sept. 17. For further information and appointment please call 1-800-7127 and 7128.

"Education is Ageless", our Fall '91 Program Brochure, is now available. If you haven't received your copy, please pick one up at any Library, Information Centre, local school or call us for additional pick up locations. 333-3499/878-1240 Adult and Continuing Education, Halton Board of Education.

Girl Guides of Canada registration, Georgetown East - Centennial School (Delrex Blvd.), Georgetown West - Knox Church Hall (Main St. S.), on September 10th. For more information call Linda Hunter at 877-1305.

Gentlemen Songsters Off On A Spree - Do you want to sing in our fall variety show? Come to Mississauga Valley Community Centre, 1275 Mississauga Valley Blvd., (W. of Central Parkway) at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 27 or September 3. For further information phone Bernie at 457-2842.

Acton Tai Chi Group - September 3rd - first session, for registration on first come basis. Please call George Lee at 853-1066 for more information.

Meetings

Acton Lions Club meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. at Legion Branch 197, Acton. For more information contact Dave Pyke at 853-3410.

Lioness Club of Georgetown meet at the members homes on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. For more information contact Louise Giffin at 877-8888.

Meetings of the Region of Peel VBAC Support Group held the 1st Tuesday of each month and offer post-caesarean support and discuss birth options. Call 826-9467 or 873-2779.

Kiwanis Club of Georgetown meets Wednesdays at the Halton Golf and Country Club for a noon luncheon. For information contact John Schalljo at 877-5206.

Halton Hills Toastmasters meet Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at Glen Williams Town Hall. For more information call Don at 873-3954 or Paul at 853-3712.

Kinsmen Club of Georgetown meet every other Wednesday at the McGibbon Hotel at 7 p.m. For more information call Ron Lefebvre at 877-2370.

Lion's Club of Georgetown meets every Tuesday at the Lion's Hall on Mill Street behind the Arena at 7 p.m. For more information call Bill Mason at 877-7901.

The Rotary Club of Acton meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Wooden Hearth Restaurant. For more information call Brian Robertson at 853-1653.

Georgetown Branch 120 Royal Canadian Legion monthly meeting at 8 p.m. 4th Thursday of each month at the Georgetown Legion Branch, 127 Mill Street, Georgetown. For more information call 877-4413.

Optimist Club of Georgetown meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the club, Hwy 7. For more information contact Sandy Booth at 877-4569.

Living With Cancer Group meets every second Thursday at the Canadian Cancer Society, Milton Branch, 751 Main Street East at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 877-5228 or 878-1876.

La Leche League of Georgetown and Acton meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. to talk about breast feeding and parenting. Pregnant moms and nursing babies welcome. For more information call Sandra at 878-4732.

Pregnant Teens: Prenatal classes designed specifically for teens! Free of charge! Transportation provided! Pregnancy counselling available. Call Susan Stuart at 844-5502 or Public Health Department for more information.

Halton Hills British Canadian Club meetings are held informally on the 1st Thursday

of each month in the lounge of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, Georgetown, at 8 p.m. For more information call Dave at 873-2934.

Beta Sigma Phi Chapters in Georgetown and Acton. For meeting times please contact City Council President Beth Jamieson at 873-2096.

New Acton Al-Anon Group is meeting every Wednesday at Acton Baptist Church (side entrance), at 8 p.m. Everyone welcome. For further information contact Eleanor Patterson at 853-0331.

The Halton Hills Community Chess Club meets every Wednesday from 7:10-30 p.m. in the Library of Georgetown District High School. Casual and tournament play available. For further information contact the school.

A local cycling group meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Georgetown District High School's front parking lot. For more information call Heinz Rusche at 877-3298.

Amnesty International Halton Hills group will be meeting Wednesday, August 21st at St. Francis School (Duncan Rd and Sinclair Ave.) at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Volunteers

The Salvation Army will pick up appliances in working order. For more information call 833-3321.

Volunteer drivers for the Canadian Cancer Society, Georgetown Unit, needed to transport patients to and from the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. Reimbursement for mileage will be paid. Please contact the Georgetown Unit's office at 164 Guelph St., Georgetown, between 1-4 p.m. daily, or call the cancer office at 877-1124.

Halton Support Services is looking for mature individuals who are interested in contract positions working 4-15 hours per week teaching life skills to children with developmental handicaps. Instruction takes place in the child's home. If you are 18 or older call (416) 849-8000 for more information.

North Halton Distress Information Center - Fall training for volunteers will begin on Wednesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. For more information call 877-1211.

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