

Credit Valley watershed in possible danger

By LINDA ERSKINE
The Herald

The Credit River watershed may be in ecological danger, according to a report by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (C.V.C.A.).

The report released last week stated tough controls must be placed on present and future development involving the Credit River.

The watershed, which covers 1,070 square kilometres (400 square miles), runs through 10 municipalities, including Halton Hills.

Vicki Barron, general manager with C.V.C.A. said, "if development around the river continues at this rate with no change, the ecosystem in the Credit River will be in danger."

"We would have a potentially different system in the river," said

Ms. Barron. "The watershed would have no life of its own."

Fifteen per cent of the watershed has already been developed and unless changes are made to future plans, the number of developments is expected to double by 2011.

Ms. Barron said the report is in the process of being reviewed by the C.V.C.A. and municipal and provincial representatives, to see if there are any glaring errors.

Robert Peace, Director of Community Relations with the C.V.C.A., said he hopes to have the final report from both municipal and provincial governments by November.

The report and recommendations would then be sent to the 10 municipalities bordering the Credit River.

Peel Region Chairperson Frank Bean, in the Oct. 3 issue of the

Toronto Star, stated he thinks all levels of government will "make sure C.V.C.A.'s worst fears don't come true."

But Morley Kells, president of the Urban Development Institute said, it isn't opposed to a new system as long as it doesn't overburden the planning process.

"Developers will develop anywhere until they are told to stop," said Mr. Kells.

Michael Zimmer, of the Issac Walton Fly Fisherman's Club, based in Halton Hills, said he also has concerns over the future of the Credit Valley watershed.

"If developers are sensitive to areas, like Silvercreek and the Credit River, and follow the ecological plans, there will be a net win situation. We will have the development, the people and the wildlife."

Mr. Zimmer said he and the Fly Fisherman's club plan to send a grant request to Halton Hills Council to help fund rehabilitation of the Credit.

The club and its members hired students, this summer, to plant trees and narrow the river flow, of Silvercreek, which had expanded due to erosion on the river banks.

Mr. Zimmer stated there will be some ecological consequences which will impact on the wildlife and plant life in the Credit Valley watershed. These include,

dramatic increases in the discharge of treated sewage from three plants along the river, and the amount of polluted storm water runoff.

More of the spring and ground water will be used for human consumption and this will dramatically

limit the flow of cold water into the river.

An increase in the water temperature in the watershed, due to a diminished amount of trees and shelter, will drastically affect the trout and salmon beds.

Cops on choppers

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

Two Halton Regional Police officers are on dirt bike patrol to catch trespassing dirtbike riders who have been irritating several Glen Williams residents.

Halton Hills crime prevention Sergeant, Mike Power, said local teenagers have been riding their dirt bikes on an abandoned property near Confederation and Wildwood St. in Glen Williams and the noise of the bikes has been bothering nearby homeowners.

"We received a petition of six names which stated the noise of the bikes has affected their enjoyment of the property," said Sgt. Powers. "As a result of their concern, we implemented the dirt bike patrol."

With two bikes donated by Racers Edge in Milton and Suzuki Canada, Constables Don Fuller and Andrea Gaynor have been donning old clothes and biking at the 13 acre property owned by Jay Field Green Development Inc. in Rexdale and charging riders under the trespass to property act and off-road motor vehicle act. They're also targeting a popular dirt bike riding site at 8th

Line and 15 Sideroad.

The first weekend they rode, Sept. 20, they charged four dirt bike owners and one dune buggy driver.

But after the first charges were laid, the word spread quickly and officers were unable to catch other bike riders trespassing.

"Word spread like wildfire there were cops on bikes," said Sgt. Power. He said police officers will continue to regularly monitor the areas.

Charges which they'll be laying include a \$53.75 trespass fine; \$253.75 no insurance fine; a \$78.75 no plates fine and up to \$1,000 fines for repeat offences.

Although they haven't been so successful catching numerous offenders, Sgt. Power said police are to happy to report the noise and trespassing problems have decreased considerably since the bike patrol began.

Sgt. Power said the owner of the Glen Williams property has now posted no trespassing signs and provided police with a letter giving police permission to act on their behalf to enforce the trespass act.

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To register, please call Vicki Roy at 845-5044 or Lesley Henshaw at 681-6776.

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