

# Residents seek help in cell tower fight

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**  
Staff Writer

Two Norval residents opposing the proposed Bell cell tower on Sheridan Nurseries property on Winston Churchill Blvd came to Halton Hills council last week to ask for help.

Bell Mobility Inc. has plans to put a 40-metre (131-ft.) telecommunications tower on the south side of the property located at 9674 Winston Churchill Blvd. The company has entered into a lease agreement with Sheridan Nurseries for the tower, which will be finalized if the cell tower gets approval from Industry Canada.

Town Manager of Development Review Adam Farr reported that Bell representatives dropped off a report last week to staff, proposing to relocate the tower, 110 metres west of the present location.

The Town of Halton Hills is only a commenting agency in the approval process—Industry Canada has final say—and has not yet taken a position on the tower.

Farr said a recommendation report will come to council this fall, likely at the Sept. 24 meeting.

Norval resident Mike Albert, accompanied by neighbour Miranda Dieleman, said he and other Norval residents will return to speak again when it does.

"We're asking you (Halton Hills council) to say no to the proposed location and to work with Bell to place this tower at least 600 metres from the nearest home," he told councillors. "We ask you to push back

against federal policies that place citizens at risk."

Albert said the cell tower's original location would be within 200 metres of the closest home (Dieleman's).

Albert said the long-term biological effects on people living near cell towers have not been measured, and "the federal government is using our families, including small children, as guinea pigs."

Earlier this summer Omar Lababidi, of Standard Land Company, representing Bell Mobility in the land use consultation for the tower, which will serve future residential development along Winston Churchill Blvd., said Bell Mobility would adhere to Health Canada's Safety Code 6 that limits the public's exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields and ensures public safety, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and Transport Canada/NAV CANADA.

Albert, who lives about 400 metres from the tower, also told council the property values of their rural homes would be impacted.

"We are considered a rural community and our property values are based on that quiet country feeling. Towers, especially one of this size, are considered industrial to the eyes. Very dominating in a rural setting ... and people are less likely to buy a home next to a tower, thereby reducing the value of our homes," he explained.

To date, there are 420 signatures on an online petition on Albert's website dedicated to the issue: <http://emexposure.com/>

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