

Acton hearing continues

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 "Regional staff won't support this because we are not getting anything out of it," added Leung.

Leung said the proposed agreement as outlined by DeBruyn will allow the region to take additional water from the Prospect Park well for only two years, but two studies have to be undertaken. No new developments will be allocated town water or sewage services. Over those two years the region has to perform an audit to determine what damage, if any, the extra water pumping is having on wetlands and fish habitat and marine life in Fairy Lake and Black Creek. If there is damage, the region has to figure out how to minimize it.

Over three seasons the region also has to conduct a wastewater treatment plant audit to see what effect dumping more effluent into the creek will have on fish and their habitat. Leung said the study would be a simulation, and is concerned the results wouldn't provide a true picture. If the study reveals an increase in pollutants harms the fish, then measures have to be taken to ensure that doesn't occur. An agreement would have to be

struck with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) regarding the audit.

If after the studies have been conducted, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the MOE are satisfied with the results, DeBruyn said approval for 1,000 more persons in Acton would be granted.

Leung said if 1,000 persons is all that could be expected after the region has spent two years, and likely about \$400,000 to conduct the studies, there is little chance an agreement can be reached at the region.

"All the money we budgeted for this was set aside on the condition there would be growth. But there is no guarantee of growth, there is no benefit," said Leung.

While Leung said he has a problem with the practicality of what the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is proposing region lawyer Stan Floras is concerned regional council members and region staff could be prosecuted if the fish or fish habitat in Fairy Lake and Black Creek are harmed.

"There is nothing in writing I can take back to my council

(regional) to say if you do these things the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is not going to charge you."

Under the Fisheries Act anyone who participates in destroying fish habitat could face a \$300,000 fine for the first offence and another fine and up to six months in jail for subsequent offences.

Floras said council members are not interested in entering into an agreement where the Department of Fisheries and Oceans could turn around and charge them.

DeBruyn said this agreement is unique, and he is not aware of another one like it. Floras added Halton Region is not interested in being a forerunner in this area.

There was some discussion after DeBruyn's testimony last week, that to continue on with the hearing didn't make sense in light of the fact water and sewers for new development may not be available. But the lawyers representing the various developers wanted the hearing to continue.

On Monday members of the public are welcome to air their concerns and views on Acton development at the hearing.



Scholarship winner

Georgetown resident Diane Graville, currently attending McMaster University, is one of this year's distinguished recipients of the 1992-93 Canada Scholarships in Science and Engineering. She is congratulated by Canadian astronaut Dr. Roberta Bondar. Canada Scholarships, valued at \$2,000 per year for a maximum of four years, and are awarded on the basis of academic excellence in science, engineering and technology-related studies.

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