

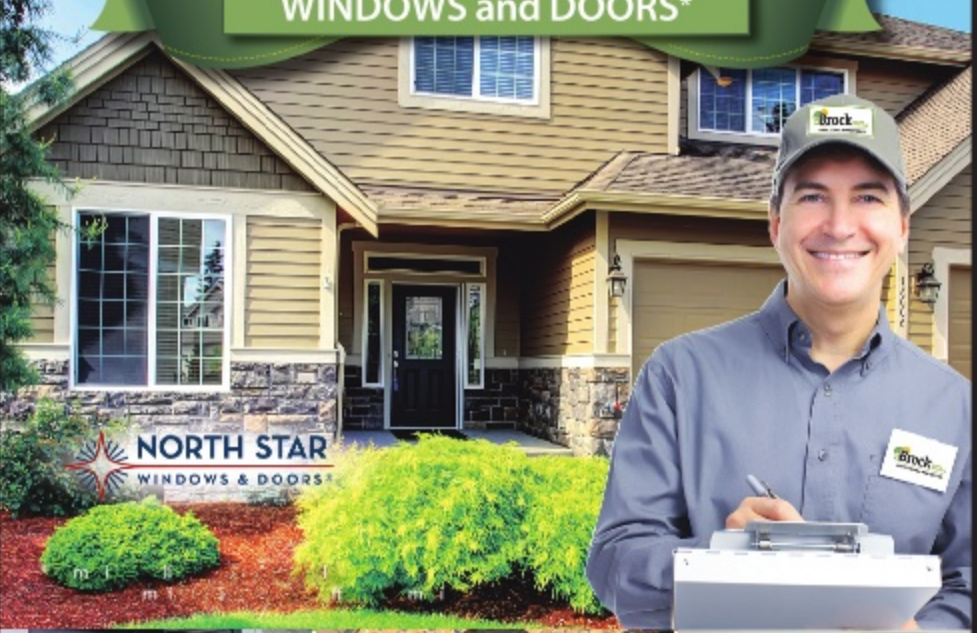
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## Wheres the water?

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To add insult to injury, aside from these remaining 16 homeowners, all the other homes affected in 2007 were re-zoned and hooked up to a public water source but not them.

Kowal and Snow said they were both assured it was an oversight and they would be re-included in the final draft.

In the meantime, Halton Region has undertaken two new bridge reconstruction projects on Steeles, which have once again struck what remains of the aquifer damaged in 2007 and de-watering efforts are once again drying up these people's wells.

Kowal's brother, who lives a few doors down from him, is already back on a tank and once again dependent on weekly water deliveries from the region. Kowal added others are already experiencing pressure issues similar to 2007.

However, once again, the residents weren't overly concerned because of assurances from both the region and town that a connection to a public water source was just over the horizon.

(We've) been watching it coming along with the understanding that in a few years this is all going to be urban and we're going to have water. So people have been calm, people have been (saying) it's coming, it's coming, said Kowal.

The latest blow came at a Halton Hills council meeting on April 10, when an amendment which would have seen the 16 homes re-included in the planning zone once and for all, did not pass a council vote.

The final draft of the Preferred Land Use Concept map presented to council at that meeting did not include the block in question. They were removed at the last minute due to a 75-hectare limit placed on development lands by the region.

Despite support from councillors Ted Brown, Michael Albano, Clark Somerville and Mayor Rick Bonnette, a majority of council did not feel comfortable with a last-

minute change to the plan which they felt would have gone against town staff recommendations and the region's imposed limit.

Given how long this issue has been going on, councillor Somerville was visibly taken back by the decision at the meeting.

Some of the landowners have been involved in the discussion for 18 months, and then at the very end it was recommended by staff that (the area) not (be included), even though the math is not exact. (The region) said it's about 75 hectares, said Somerville while speaking to The IFP. So we were saying put it in. Put in for this part (of the study), and then once we refine it down we can look and see then.

It was disappointing because I wish (the other councillors) had listened to our rationale a bit more, but that's what happens and it was a council decision, he said.

Instead, council passed a separate motion to work with the region and explore other means of securing public water in the future.

Essentially, these 16 homeowners are once again back at square one and stuck between a legislative rock and hard place.

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An irrigation ditch on Erik Kowal's property at one time designated a natural heritage feature.

Photo by Graeme Frisque

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