

Hornby water woes ongoing for years

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silt and mud.

For eight years, Lawday and other residents in the area struggled with water issues. In 2016, with the widening of Steeles Avenue, some homes were hooked up with municipal water - Lawday included - but the aquifer dried up again and left some residents in the area with dry wells.

"My purpose today is to plead with you not to accept the Regional Official Plan amendment as currently written," he said. "The amendment needs to include a clear commitment from the region to bring water servicing to the affected homes in Hornby."

The amendment refers to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) West and the Halton Peel Boundary Area Transportation Study (HPBATS) corridor protec-

tion in the Premier Gateway Employment Area. With some of the lands protected by the stalled programs, urban land was taken away from the minimum requirement as advised by the province. To make up for it, Halton added 75 hectares of urban area where municipal services could be added, including residential homes, and is in the process of being accepted into the Regional Official Plan as amendment 47.

"On Hornby Road, there are only three homes that would lie outside of the urban area," Lawday said, later noting around 20 homes on Sixth Line also lie outside the area. "These homes could be serviced by the simple addition of just 140 metres of water pipe."

Lawday went on to say on Sixth Line, the affected homes would be classified as urban down the road, but not now, when they



Graeme Frisque/Metroland

Erik Kowal, who lives on Sixth Line in Hornby, is one of 16 homeowners fighting to be connected to town water after Halton Region construction projects have dried up their wells twice in the last eight years. He is pictured here next to one of the sites responsible on Steeles Avenue.

need assistance.

"Since that's the case, I say provide the urgently needed water service now

in anticipation of future growth, and at the same time, solve a major problem for those who have

lived in the area," he said.

Lawday encouraged the committee to look into it, because without its help, nothing will change.

Coun. Allan Elgar asked if the problems with the water came from regional growth.

"We believe it's been caused by the necessary regional infrastructure to handle the growth," Lawday answered.

"As a region, we should take another look at this for the Hornby residents who have been impacted permanently," Elgar directed to the committee.

After the public meeting closed, Halton Hills Coun. Clark Somerville raised the issue during the regular planning and public works committee meeting.

Somerville suggested staff look into the issue and come up with some options on how to hook the affected residents up with municipi-

pal water, because the wells will not be returning.

"We've always had that optimism that the wells would recover, but after 10-and-a-half years, I think we need to say, 'It ain't gonna happen,'" he said.

Somerville suggested staff return with the options at the same time the report for the Regional Official Plan amendment 47 comes to council, so both topics can be covered at the same time.

Halton Hills Coun. Jane Fogal shared her thoughts on the topic, saying the reason the wells are dry and the property values are dropping is because of region construction, which should be solved by the region.

"This particular land is going to come into the urban area," she said. "It's not like putting water is going to change our planning any way. It is going to come into it."

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