

# Halton Region Council approves Official Plan amendment on Stull property

By **Melanie Hennessey**

Special to The IFP

The Region has approved an Official Plan (OP) amendment on the Stull family's rural Halton Hills property that will prohibit the land from being used for an aggregate transfer station.

But Town of Halton Hills staff expects the decision will be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board, once again leaving the lands and its neighbours in a state of limbo.

At issue is Rick and Sally Stull's property at 12519 Eighth Line—a former sand and gravel pit that the couple claims is best suited for an aggregate transfer station to handle materials generated through their earth moving business. The Stulls also want to truck in thousands of cubic metres of fill to ultimately return part of the property to its original agriculture use; a proposal that has previously drawn plenty of contention from the community.

Regional Council recently approved the OP amendment to redesignate two-thirds of the 25-hectare property as agricultural and natural heritage lands, removing the previous mineral resource extraction area designation that allowed for the transfer station. The fill importation is a separate issue the Town is addressing through a site alteration bylaw process.

The Region's Planning and Public Works (PPW)

Committee from the Stull's neighbour, Elizabeth Doell, who urged its members to endorse the OP amendment.

"I ask that you accept the rationale of planning staff, understanding that the redesignation of the subject property is the proper and expected course of action regarding these lands," she said. "To date, area residents have been adversely affected by this entire process. Since 2012 we have lived under a cloud of uncertainty regarding the final resolution of this matter. We have acted to engage the Town of Halton Hills and now with the Region of Halton to finally lift this cloud."

Mayor Rick Bonnette also spoke in favour of the Official Plan change.

"To me, this is a no-brainer. I totally support the staff report," he said, adding, "It's too bad this is another costly exercise for the Town of Halton Hills, as well the Region, having to work on these reports."

The PPW Committee held a public meeting on the topic over the summer, where Sally Stull contended the OP amendment is "premature" and that an aggregate transfer station is an appropriate use for the property.

*The Independent & Free Press* spoke with Rick Stull and asked how the couple feels about the Region's recent decision, to which he replied, "No comment."

The change came at the request of the Town

of Halton Hills, which previously adopted its own site-specific and town-wide OP amendments that would prevent the use of the Eighth Line property for an aggregate transfer station. The Stulls have already appealed the latter to the OMB. Now that the Region has adopted its OP amendment, it's in a position to take the next step and approve the Town's site-specific OP amendment, which would finally bring it into effect.

"But the wrinkle is we expect the Stulls to appeal the Region and Town Official Plan amendments to the OMB," said Town Manager of Planning Policy Steve Burke.

Once this happens, the municipalities would ask the OMB to consolidate all of the appeals into one hearing, said Burke.

While the Region's agricultural land designation would support the Stull's goal of ultimately farming the property, the sticking point lies within the large amount of fill needed to turn the depleted quarry into a farm.

The Stulls have applied for a second time to the Town's site alteration committee (SAC) for an exemption/variance to the site alteration bylaw to bring in the fill. The original application to import

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## Town sr. employee Terry Alyman retires

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**TERRY ALYMAN**

man was hired, credited him for helping build the Town's trail system as well.

"All of these new things that we've got, whether it's a trail with a boardwalk or an art gallery, we've got quality," she said. "I think we have to thank Terry for raising that quality."

Councillors Ann Lawlor and Ted Brown also thanked the commissioner for his leadership and wished him well.

Alyman said he's "proud to have played a small part of a much bigger team" in the aforementioned projects.

He expressed his gratitude to the past and current councils he's worked with during his career in Halton Hills and praised his fellow staff members, deeming them as the "strength" of the municipality.

"These people offer the best value for your municipal tax dollar, bar none," he said. "This is an emotional time for me. I'm going to miss the people I've spent more time with in the past 14 years than my own family."

As a result of Alyman's retirement, Warren Harris will serve as interim Commissioner of Community and Corporate Services. Samantha Kleinschmidt, Manager of Recreation Services; Stephen Hamilton, Manager of Facilities; and Cindy Bodrug, Administrative Coordinator will all report to Harris.

Terry Alyman, Commissioner of Community and Corporate Services, is retiring after a distinguished 33-year public service career, including the last 14 with the Town of Halton Hills.

"Terry has been a terrific public servant and his contributions have made our community a better place to live, work and play," said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

Brent Marshall, the Town's Chief Administrative Officer, added, "I'd like to thank Terry for his years of service to the Town and wish him health and happiness in his retirement years. The Town benefitted greatly from his energy and creativity."

During his time with the Town, Alyman served as Director of Recreation and Parks, before being promoted to Commissioner of Community and Corporate Services earlier this year. Under his leadership, the Town enjoyed a number of notable achievements including the expansions of Mold-Masters SportsPlex and Acton Arena, Gellert Community Centre, Cultural Centre revitalization, renovation of Hillsideview Active Living—both Acton and Georgetown (under way), High 5 Accreditation, Play Works Youth Friendly Community designation and much more.

At Monday night's council meeting, Wards 3&4 Regional Councillor Jane Fogal, who was part of the interview committee 14 years ago when Aly-



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**Christine**

Registered Physiotherapist

Christine is a Registered Physiotherapist with the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario, and has experience treating a wide range of orthopedic, neurological, and vestibular conditions. Christine has received training in the assessment and treatment of post-concussion syndrome, vertigo, and general "dizziness" problems, and has also completed various post-graduate courses with a focus on treatment of the shoulder and upper limb. With over ten years of experience teaching recreational and competitive dance, Christine also has a special interest in treating young dancers and gymnasts. Christine is thrilled to bring her skills and experience to the Halton Hills community.

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