



Backfire causes \$50,000 barn fire

A backfiring tractor engine has been blamed for a fire razed a pole barn at a farm on the Eight Line near 10 Sideroad, Friday.

blaze from spreading to a larger barn nearby.

According to a Halton Hills Fire Department spokesperson the fire broke out at about 2:26 p.m. as a worker on the farm was removing bales from the barn.

Firefighters had to call in a tanker from Acton to assist in fighting the fire and they were called back later in the evening when the smoldering ruins flared up.

Firefighters worked almost five hours in their efforts to stop the

Damage has been estimated at \$50,000 and includes the loss of approximately 50 bales of hay and the tractor.

Halton Hills Firefighters battle a barn fire at the farm on Eighth Line, north of Tenth sideroad. Police estimate that the barn contained about 50 to 60 bales of hay.



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Another public meeting on water plant requested

by DIANNE CORNISH

A pair of Halton Hills' councillors - one a regional representative - battled over the need for further public consultation over expansion plans to a local water treatment facility.

Another public meeting on expansion plans for Halton Region's water treatment plant near Georgetown's Cedarvale Park may be required, Halton Hills Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said Thursday.

The councillor, one of Halton Hills' five representatives on Regional Council and chairman of the regional planning and public works standing committee, has asked regional staff to return to Georgetown to further discuss what she describes as "a sensitive issue".

"I have talked to regional staff and there's agreement to do it (hold

another open house)," Serjeantson said. "It's possible they might come back for the public meeting and a presentation to Halton Hills Council by July 13."

The regional councillor's informal request for a second meeting was sparked by a short but heated exchange between Serjeantson and Councillor Gail Rutherford at last Monday's meeting of Halton Hills Council. Rutherford told council last week she is "furious that we don't know more about the Region's plans for the plant."

"The water plant is in one of our environmentally sensitive areas," she said. "I want regional staff here and I want the public to know about it (the open house)."

Rutherford said she and most other members of Halton Hills Council were not aware of an open house June 17 that the Region held in Georgetown, about the plant.

While the open house had been advertised in local papers, a consultant at the Region neglected to provide a notice of the meeting to Halton Hills municipal staff for circulation to council members, Serjeantson divulged Thursday when interviewed by Halton Hills This Week.

"I would like to know why we didn't get notice of the meeting," Mayor Russ Miller said at council before directing town administrator Dan Costea to get in touch with regional staff and request another public meeting.

During last week's council meeting, Serjeantson admonished Rutherford for being overly critical of the Region.

"All the Region is trying to do is improve water in the Georgetown area," the regional council representative said.

She suggested that "a better relationship" between the Region and Halton Hills could be promoted if a less aggressive stance was taken, and Rutherford had said she "disapproved" of not being informed of the meeting.

Serjeantson said the water plant will not "double in size" as Rutherford suggested at last week's council meeting. Rather, it is expected to grow about 25 per cent with the addition of a covered garage, showers and other amenities "to bring the facility up to provincial standards." There are also plans to upgrade the plant by replacing filter beds.

The Region isn't required by law to hold a public meeting on its expansion plans for the plant, Serjeantson said Thursday. However, because of the "whole sensitivity of the issue," it did arrange for a public meeting and advertised it, she stressed.



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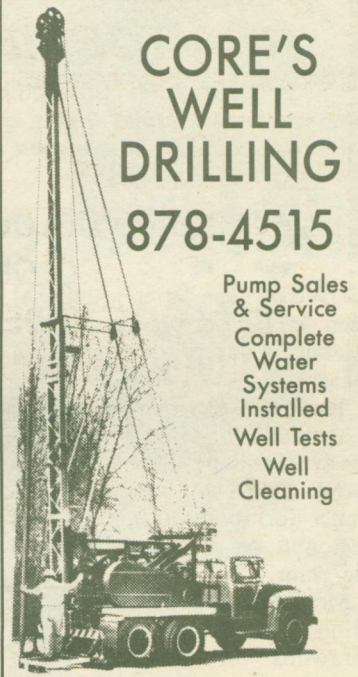
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