

# Peel possible Georgetown water link

By Dianne Cornish

Halton Region's "checked history of success" in finding adequate groundwater to meet Georgetown's needs has prompted the region's public works commissioner Art Leitch to recommend a water connection between neighboring Peel Region and Georgetown. "We've had less than satisfactory results in our search for groundwater" to satisfy needs for Georgetown's projected population growth to 40,000 over the next 20 years, Leitch told members of the region's planning and public works committee at Wednesday's meeting in Oakville.

In its search for alternative water supply sources, the region's public works department has investigated a possible water connection between Georgetown and Peel. The neighboring region gets its water from Lake Ontario.

The regional planning committee backed Leitch's recommendation calling for Halton to make a formal request to Peel to consider an interim supply of water from Peel's North Meadowvale Reservoir to north Halton (Georgetown). In

essence, Georgetown would be using Peel water for a 10-year period, after which the town's future water needs would be met through connection with Halton's water system (also lake-based) or through a network of groundwater wells in Georgetown, Leitch explained.

Public consultation for the proposal will be undertaken throughout the Environmental Assessment process. Special public meetings will be held and presentations will be made by regional staff to Halton Hills Town Council. The first of these presentations will be made at Monday's town council meeting.

According to Leitch's report, it would cost between \$6 million and \$9 million to install the proposed water connection. The route, discussed during preliminary talks between Halton and Peel staff, would see water mains from the Meadowvale station, west along Steeles Avenue and then north along Eighth Line (Main Street, Georgetown).

If the interim connection is made, Leitch said there won't be a need to proceed with the location and construction of a series of groundwater wells in Georgetown to meet future

water needs. The projected cost for a well system to supply sufficient water for Georgetown's proposed growth is \$8.4 million.

While the Peel connection option is being investigated, Leitch recommends deferral of the Lindsay Court Well construction in Georgetown. If an interim water supply is established, money spent on the Lindsay Court project would be "throw-away money," he told committee members.

Halton Region will fund the water connection with Peel. The money will come from development charges paid by developers in Georgetown. The cost of the water, itself, and who will pay for it will be the subject of future negotiations between Halton and Peel.

Even if Georgetown is linked with a lake-based water system, the town's growth won't be unlimited, Halton Hills councillor and regional planning committee chairperson Marilyn Serjeantson said. "There are constraints to our growth with our sewage system," she told the committee. The capacity of Georgetown's sewage system is 40,000 people.

## Fire Calls

### \$100,000 damage

Firefighters and police were called to a home at 12 466 Sixth Line in Acton Tuesday, after a neighbor noticed smoke and flames shooting out of the house. The fire was started when wooden skids were piled up against an extension cord, causing an electrical fire, according to the police report. Damage was estimated at \$100,000, much of which was sustained by the garage.

headline - Chimney fire  
Firefighters were called to a chimney fire on Lot 3 Concession 6 in Erin Township last Wednesday afternoon. No damage was caused.

headline - Leaking propane tank  
A leaking propane tank at a home on Danville Ave. in Acton caused some concern Wednesday evening. Firefighters stopped the leak and no damage resulted.

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