

EDITORIAL

With Frances Niblock



Water solutions?

Finally, there's some progress in negotiations to end the environmental impasse that is stunting Acton's growth.

The amount of progress depends on who you talk to, but it looks like there's a deal that will allow Halton to take more water from the Prospect Park well, and compensate or mitigate any harm done to aquatic life in Fairy Lake and Black Creek, without having to freeze growth for two years while any impacts on fish and their habitat is monitored.

One background source reported the Ministry of Environment and Department of Oceans and Fisheries had "completely reversed its position on the Water Taking Permit for Acton," but that assessment is not shared by all.

At the very least the agencies involved appear to have listened to the passionate and sometimes angry lobby by local politicians and staff.

Everyone in the know stresses that the deal is tentative, and must be approved by each agency's lawyers, and at least one federal fish biologist said the environmental concerns have not gone away.

Still, it's the best news Acton has had in quite some time.

"Innocent until proven guilty."

I wrote *innocent until proven guilty* on a post-it note and stuck it on my bulletin board when I heard that Halton Chairman Peter Pomeroy had been charged with breach of trust and accepting a bribe.

I kept glancing at the note as I devoured the multi-media reports of the alleged crimes, the co-accused, their names, relationships and alleged wrong-doings.

I said "innocent until proven guilty" to more than a few people when they told me that all politicians were crooks, but only some got caught.

I can't comment on Chairman Pomeroy's innocence or guilt, but I think the people who voted him into office should have a say in his immediate future.

As a taxpayer, I don't think Pomeroy should continue to sit as Regional Chairman and it's not a matter of innocence or guilt. It's a matter of effectiveness.

How effective could anyone be with the spectre of a trial hanging over his head with every move and motive questioned by any and all?

So far, only one Regional Councillor from Halton Hills has suggested that Pomeroy step aside until his case is settled, so it looks like the Chairman will decide his own short-term fate.

Police say that the investigation is continuing and further criminal charges may be laid.

Until the verdict is in, someone else should be running Halton.

Wit & Wisdom

When we deal with children we should never underestimate our influence. We can help set them on the road toward becoming a wholesome human being or we can, almost literally, destroy them. What we do need to do as parents, is to acknowledge our critical role.

The what you say I am determines
How I see my Me.
If you see me as precious
Then precious I will be.

If you see me as honest,
learning, taking on my "goods"
Then I'll grow up self-loving
All my "rights" and "shoulds."

If you see me as able
To tackle all life's fun
then I'll see me as Me in charge
A self-confident One.

I sense my Me through words you give
To me, I take them in
And reflect back, yes, its your words
That make me lose or win.

— Anne Johnstone



LETTERS

Water Source?

To the Editor,

Since the question of water for Acton is in the news, POWER thought that readers might be interested in the following letter that we sent to the Region a couple of months ago.

United Aggregates, by their own records, are pumping 1.5, 1.4, or 1.7 million gallons of water per day from the Acton Quarry. If the

Region were to expropriate the quarry for a reservoir and water source it could be a win — win as this would also end the dump proposal. What an intriguing thought that is!

At POWER's next meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 8 pm at Georgetown District High School, representatives from the Planning Department will present the Draft Official Plan for the Region. We will especially be discussing the future water supplies for the Town of Halton Hills.

Everyone is welcome to attend and bring your questions.

Barbara Halsall, President
POWER

The following letter was sent to R. Mohammed, planning and development, Halton Region on March 17.

Dear Mr. Mohammed,

POWER is aware that the Region has been looking for water supplies for Acton and Georgetown. We feel that groundwater is really the only alternative when we compare to Lake Ontario water quality.

POWER has long felt that the Acton Quarry would make an excellent water reservoir and water source. We would like to request that the feasibility of this project be investigated.

Halton Region should have a study on file, the Georgetown Water Supply Study carried out by Hydrology Consulting Engineers and Geologists in 1985. This is Project #840 and according to Map #2, there certainly appears to be a very large supply of water in the area immediately south of the quarry.

At the end of quarrying United Aggregates Ltd. would be required to rehabilitate the site at some cost to them. If the Region were to expropriate the site, UAL would be spared this cost. As you are well aware, the Acton Quarry is presently the proposed site for a landfill. The Region and the Town of Halton Hills are currently expected to spend some fairly large sums on an Environmental Assessment Hearing. This money could be channeled instead to the cost of expropriation. Then if we consider the cost of new well investigation or the cost of bringing water from Lake Ontario with the added cost the extensive treatment of that water only to have a product that residents do not want to drink, the Acton Quarry as reservoir and water supply becomes very attractive.

I hope you will give our proposal serious consideration.

Barbara Halsall, President
POWER

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