

# What's up with P.O.W.E.R.

by Barbara Halsall

**P**rotect our Water and Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R.) is in the middle of a very busy year.

Our annual general meeting was held on Wednesday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church, Georgetown. A

recount of this meeting will be published in the January issue of *The Compass*.

**WATER:** P.O.W.E.R. has been sitting on the Region's Public Liaison Committee (PLC) for Georgetown's Water Supply. This is not a simple issue of where to

drill the next well, although that plays into it. The Region's hydrogeologist, Steve Holysh, has done extensive groundwater mapping. At one of the PLC meetings he explained there is considerably more water coming into Halton Hills than there is going out. So, there should be enough ground water if we can find one or two good wells.

Some members of the PLC are pushing for Lake Ontario water. Lake Ontario water requires expensive infrastructure. It also could mean that Halton Hills would begin to develop much like Brampton did when they moved from ground water to Lake Ontario water.

To pay for the "big pipe" some say we could subdivide farmland and charge development charges on each lot.

**IS SPRAWL INEVITABLE?** Right across North America there is uneasiness about the dream of a

house in the suburbs. Loss of farmland and natural areas, urban sprawl, long commutes, grid lock, and the pollution that comes with three car households.

The July issue of *National Geographic* has an article on sprawl in the US. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists have prepared a brochure on the problems of sprawl in southern Ontario. We have the Oak Ridges Moraine and closer to home we have King City, where residents are fighting the "big pipe."

**PANEL DISCUSSION:** P.O.W.E.R. felt we needed more citizens involved in a decision of this magnitude. We cooperated with Hickory Falls Ratepayers, Glen Williams Community Association, Georgetown South Residents Association and Save Our Ravines to bring speakers that would get people informed and involved. This was not intended to give people all the answers. Over 150 attended the event.

Some people are against Lake Ontario water for health reasons. Elaine McDonald, staff scientist at the Sierra Legal Defense Fund described some of the pollution going into Lake Ontario.

John Holtrop a farmer currently taking crops off 4500 acres in Georgina spoke of the importance of preserving farmland. This happened after September 11 and so the issue of food security becomes even more important. Farmers are certainly taken for granted and government policies make it difficult to make a living.

Nicola Ross from the Countryside Alliance in Caledon spoke about urban sprawl and the

rush to develop.

Finally Kathryn Dean from the Greendoor Alliance spoke about the opportunity we have to preserve farmland. Easements on property that pay a farmer a certain number of dollars per acre, in exchange for the development rights, allow the farmer to keep on farming or to sell his land to another farmer but not to sub-divide the property.

The public meeting that had originally been planned for the end of September to report on the preferred option has been postponed. The Region has taken the Sixth Line well off the table because it caused well interference with so many households. The PLC had recommended that because of cost to bring water from Lake Ontario that the Region should continue to search for groundwater. One developer, not too happy with delays, is busy drilling his own test wells.

**TREE PLANTING:** Our tremendously successful, two-year, TREES 2000 project involving over 4000 student trips out to do habitat restoration and environmental education is slated to receive another award. In March, P.O.W.E.R. was honoured by Ministry of Natural Resources CFWIP Program. In June, Barbara Halsall received an award in the individual category from Conservation Halton. Now P.O.W.E.R. has been contacted to say they will receive an award from Credit Valley Conservation the first week of November.



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## Christmas at Crawford's

We're busy as elves! Mrs. Crawford is making batch upon batch of Light and Dark Fruit Cake, with lots of raisins, almonds, cherries, butter and rum, of course. Kelly is wrapping gorgeous Gift Baskets, full to overflowing with good things to eat from Crawford's. Betty is baking snappy Gingerbread, glorious buttery Shortbread, dainty Christmas Fancy Cookies and hearty, chocolate-packed Specials, all of which we'll arrange on Cookie Trays or in Cookie Boxes.

Karen is simmering tangy cranberries, juicy oranges, crunchy pecans and lots of ruby port to make our famous Cranberry Orange Pecan Relish with Ruby Port. It's the best for turkey! We're making our own famous Chocolate Truffles, and creating magical toy trains, sleighs, Christmas trees and snowmen with Callebaut chocolate as well.

Mr. Crawford will lend a hand mixing our wonderful Plum Pudding, and we've buttery Brandy Sauce to go with it too. There are beautiful Christmas Napkins and dripless Candles for your holiday table, and tasty Stocking Stuffer Ideas for Christmas morning. We're set to make your Christmas entertaining and gift giving a joy!

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