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The North Halton Compass

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Clash of the water rights

Plans for a proposed reservoir to draw water from 16 Mile Creek cause local concern

By DONNA DANIELLI

The expansion of a proposed 18-hole golf course may bring about arid times for some Halton Hills residents.

On May 21, the Town of Halton Hills Council hosted a public meeting to allow public input into a revised submission to an earlier approved, but not yet developed, 18-hole golf course known as Eagle Ridge.

While there has been prior approval for an 18-hole golf course, approximately 550 metres south of No. 10 Side Road, on the east side of Regional Road (Highway) 25, a new proposal would see the addition of an extra nine holes to that course.

The new golf course, proposed by Club Link, call for a 40 million gallon reservoir filled annually with water from the 16 Mile Creek.

"We're proposing to take water from the 16 Mile Creek in spring and in winter," explained Scott Kirby, Executive Director of Golf Development for Club Link. "Winter is typically a season when there is a lesser demand for surface water. We are proposing to take water when there is surplus water.

Forty million gallons will more than adequately cover the golf course in the worst year."

Water is currently drawn from the 16 Mile Creek by Grey Stone Golf Club, also owned by Club Link and located on the other side of Regional Road 25. Eagle Ridge Golf Course proposes to upgrade the pumping station at Grey Stone and run water underneath Regional Road 25 to the new course.

"We are not taxing the groundwater at all," says Mr. Kirby.

Club Link technicians and Azimuth Consulting have studied the historical data for the area to determine ground and surface water needs. However, Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R.) member Barbara Halsall questioned the data's accuracy.

"Considering that we are experiencing around the world climate disruptions, and that in this country we have recently had very dry summers, I would question whether the modeling that has been done, based on historical data, has taken this into account,"

she said.

Mike Jones of Azimuth Consulting explained the Ministry of the Environment has studied the 16 Mile Creek and set an upper limit of 200 litres per second as the most that can be removed at any given time without causing harm.

Eagle Ridge is proposing to remove .009 per cent of the amount from the creek in the spring to fulfill their needs.

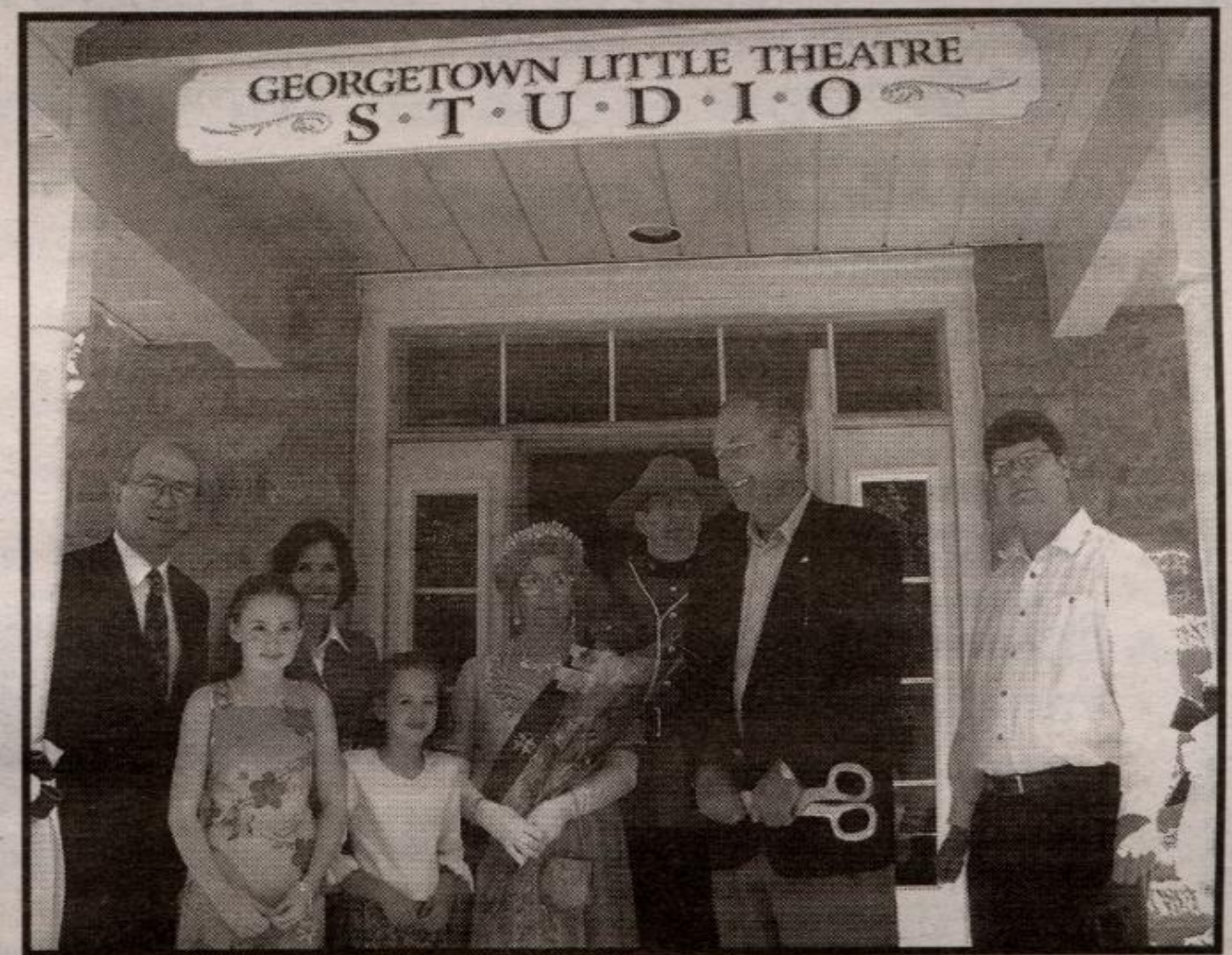
"I'm quite comfortable saying that the proposal will have a yield necessary for this use," Mr. Jones stated.

For neighbour John Tranowsky, the concern is a little more immediate. Mr. Tranowsky commented on his observations of the lowering of the creek level in his backyard over the years and the need for him to have his own well refilled many times in the last five years as the water isn't there anymore.

He also wondered what the impact of the 40 million gallon reservoir would have on his well.

Mr. Kirby was quick to point out the reservoirs non-permeable clay base will prevent seepage and

(Continued on page 3)



Draw the curtains

Photo By DONNA DANIELLI

Georgetown Little Theatre had its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, May 25, to celebrate the new Rehearsal Studio. On hand for the celebrations were (L.to R.): Colin Moare, Georgetown Little Theatre president, Danica Barfoot, Mayor Kathy Gastle, Stefanie Barfoot, Margaret Eggleton-Kaye as Queen Elizabeth, Mervin Kaye as an RCMP officer, Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh and Mike Wilson, chairman of the rebuilding committee.

Inside this Month's Compass

Business Feature

A little piece of Southern Italy has landed in Campbellville. San Antonio Bakery & Bistro is now open for business and judging by the constant flow of traffic, the spot is the newest hit in the village.

page 6



Idle Pursuits

The 2001 Grade 5 students of Park Public School in Georgetown, with help from their teachers, historian and teacher Mark Rowe, and numerous other community members, have published a book of historical tales in *Walking Backwards*.

page 20



Community Cornerstone

A Campbellville resident for the last nine years, Kelly MacIntyre has made herself known for not only her numerous hours spent at Brookville School but also her musical talents.

page 26



Clippity Clips

If you're looking for an adventure of a lifetime you'll find it at the recently opened Whinny Acres in Moffatt. From hour rides to seven day adventures, it's a horse and nature lover's dream.

page 18



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