The North Halton OMPASS

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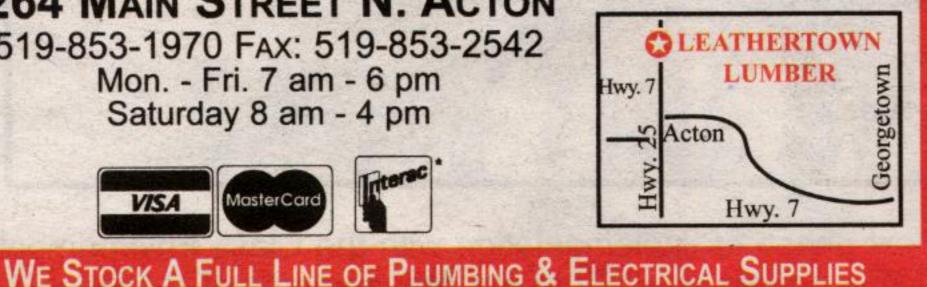
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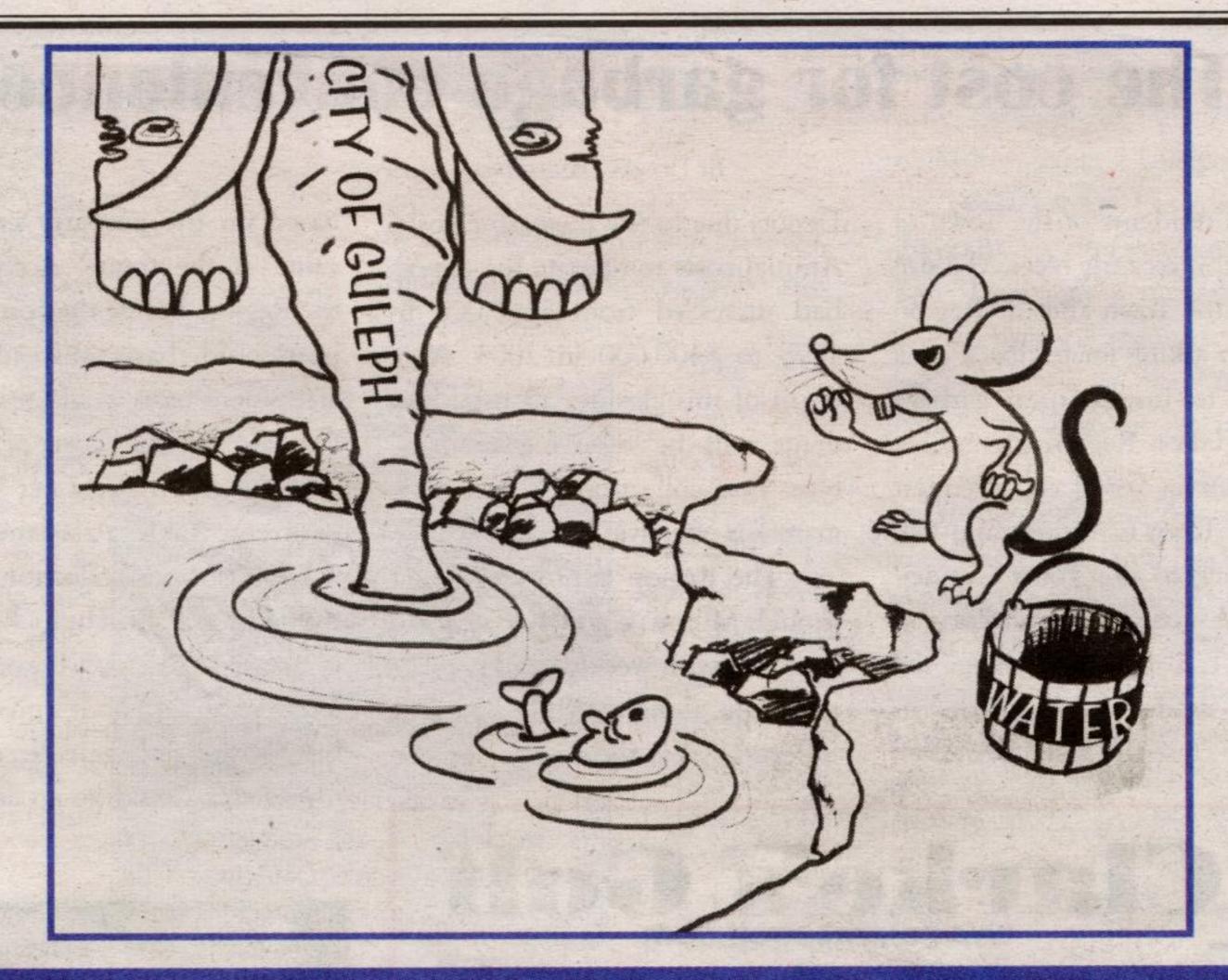
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BRASS TACKS - Editorial

Guelph water grab steps on Halton's and Wellington's toes

ny way you look at it, Guelph's plan to expand water taking for the city at its Arkell Springs Grounds puts an important resource in jeopardy for the Region of Halton and the County of Wellington.

Guelph is a city built on groundwater. Since the early 1900s, Arkell Springs has supplied the bulk of water for the Royal City. Fair enough.

The city claims there is lots of water in this aquifer to facilitate growth in Guelph and allow the closing of other suspect water sources the city now owns and operates. However, where does it say Guelph has the right to more water from this source?

Underground water doesn't follow municipal boundaries. It was here long before the surveyors.

A significant portion of this important aquifer that feeds Arkell Springs lies under the Town of Milton in Halton and the Township of Guelph/Eramosa in Wellington. Two important water systems run through this area: the Eramosa River and the Blue Springs Creek. Many rural homes, the village of Rockwood and the hamlet of Eden Mills depend on potable water from this aquifer.

Sure, the city promises it will honour well interference complaints if the project goes ahead and

existing wells dry up. Why wouldn't Guelph? There are big development bucks at stake here. And, as the city's studies show, there's likely enough water to quench Guelph's thirst for expansion.

However, what about Milton's plans for the future? Or Guelph/Eramosa's? It would be irresponsible for the politicians and planning departments of either the Region of Halton or County of Wellington to just sign off on a resource as important as this aquifer. Halton and Wellington must protect its own interests.

The City of Guelph may hold the largest straw at present, but does it really own the drink?

BLUE SPRINGS SOAPBOX - Letters to the Editor

ust a quick note to tell you that many people have enjoyed/benefited from the overlap of your coverage with other local media.

I wouldn't call it duplication however because many of us find your coverage better. We're getting more from your small paper than we are from other sources.

For example, although both your paper and The Canadian Champion covered Krantz/Malbouef email "scandal," I believe your paper reported that it

was a local councillor and not Mayor Krantz who brought the communication to the attention of The Champion.

That is just one example of something your paper covered differently. I look forward to seeing

> your take on similar issues. Don't give it up entirely.

Tracy Morgan, Milton

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Editors note: Thanks for sharing your viewpoint. As we expand in the will Compass undoubtedly cover local issues.

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