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## REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS



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## A bridge too far

### Oakville Stakeholder Group unanimously opposed to proposed bridge over 16 Mile Creek

By STEPHEN BAKER

For five years the residents of North Oakville have waited for the proverbial shoe to drop. Now, at last, Halton Region has begun the process of public discussions on the controversial proposal to put a bridge on Burnhamthorpe Road across the 16 Mile Creek. A Stakeholder Group was selected by the Region to consider the New Burnhamthorpe Transportation Corridor and Potential Bridge Crossing of Sixteen Mile Creek Class Environmental Assessment Study, and met last Wednesday night at King's Christian Collegiate on Burnhamthorpe Road in Oakville. The 21 member group (which consisted of residents, landowners, developers, environmentalists and Regional Councillor Jeff Knoll), was given presentations by the Region's consulting engineers and by Edward Soldo, the Region's Manager of Transportation Services. The objective from the Region's point of view was to elicit feedback from the Stakeholders to the proposed bridge.

Hostility to the very notion of a bridge was evident from the start of the meeting, with opposition being expressed by Councillors Sandelowsky and Elgar who attended as observers. The meeting disintegrated when the consultants pressed for qualitative assessments of the proposal and the Stakeholders refused en masse to provide any as that might indicate tacit approval of any part of the scheme. A further meeting is planned for February of 2005.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRISTOPHER INVIDATA

**Footnote**

Pictured above is the section of 16 Mile Creek that the proposed bridge would bisect. The building of the bridge would in large part destroy some 55 acres of Carolinian forest bordering the 100 ft deep valley. Stephen Baker, the publisher of the Halton Compass owns this land, and is also a member of the Stakeholder Group.

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