

LETTERS

Environmental problems were not fully addressed

Dear Editor:

I felt compelled to respond to your cover story, "Two rural subdivisions in progress West of Acton", Dec. 17, 1998. The fact that the Region has prohibited new rural estate plans of subdivision has a lot to do with preserving land for farm use and heritage as you mentioned, but there are other issues.

The area residents you mentioned took more than the safety of the road to the OMB. We tried to no avail, for several years to get the Region of Halton, Town of Halton Hills and the developer to do a thorough study as to the impact this subdivision would have on this rural area. Finally, as a last resort and at our own expense, we appealed the Town's ill-informed decision to allow this development to go ahead to the OMB. We felt partially vindicated the first day of the hearing when the developer finally agreed to conduct an Environmental Impact Study after years of failing to recognize that it was necessary. The Town had also failed to require this study, thereby

making their decision without all the facts. Unfortunately this meant further delays and more expense. Our fears were confirmed when the E.I.S. indicated a re-draw of the subdivision was required to protect locally and provincially rare plant and animal habitat and wetlands. The road was re-routed and lots were re-designed to accommodate the sensitive areas. Even in the final OMB report the Chairperson said she did not see how development could take place on some of the lots, given the small building envelopes left outside the environmentally sensitive areas.

In conclusion, let me state that there were many other issues brought to the OMB by the area residents. We feel some were dealt with but many environmental problems remain. The Town's staff response to this continues to be that the buyers will need to be aware of the issues and engineer solution to the difficulties that arise: 'let the buyer beware.'

Mark Lyle

Yule emergency gets 'fantastic help'

The Editor,

Last weekend my husband and myself visited my parents in Acton. On Tuesday morning we decided to go back to Haliburton.

It was cold outside, so Jim (my husband) went outside to clean the snow off and warm up the car ready for the trip. A small disaster struck - somehow the doors of the car were locked - engine running - keys inside.

I phoned CAA - They were busy and kept me holding on for about 25 minutes. My dad said let me try our local garage - "Yourway Muffler."

Within about 15 minutes Jason was outside our house - and proceeded to solve the problem - he was soon in the car. Fantastic service - and what a relief.

When asked how much - he said 'Forget it - have a happy Christmas.'

One thing is for certain - it is not often that one gets this kind of service - and even less does this happen in this day and age.

Thank you Acton - Thank you Jason - Have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Lynda Hopkins, Haliburton

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