

# Lakeview's water woes tackled at meeting

Although Halton Region officials insisted water in Acton's Lakeview subdivision is safe and fit for drinking, residents at a two hour meeting with officials last week had plenty of questions for them.

The meeting in the Acton Legion on Tuesday, May 7, was called to outline the steps that are being taken by Halton Region to find the cause for the low chlorine residuals and to inform residents of recommendations to solve the problem from the consulting firm of Hargrave and Burdick.

Residents, especially in the northwest sector of the subdivision have been complaining of a strong chlorine presence and brown water in their water systems for several months. The Region has

periodically been notifying residents by hand delivered letters of the efforts they have been making to solve the problems. However, some residents at the meeting suggested the Region had been negligent in not letting residents know the problems soon enough.

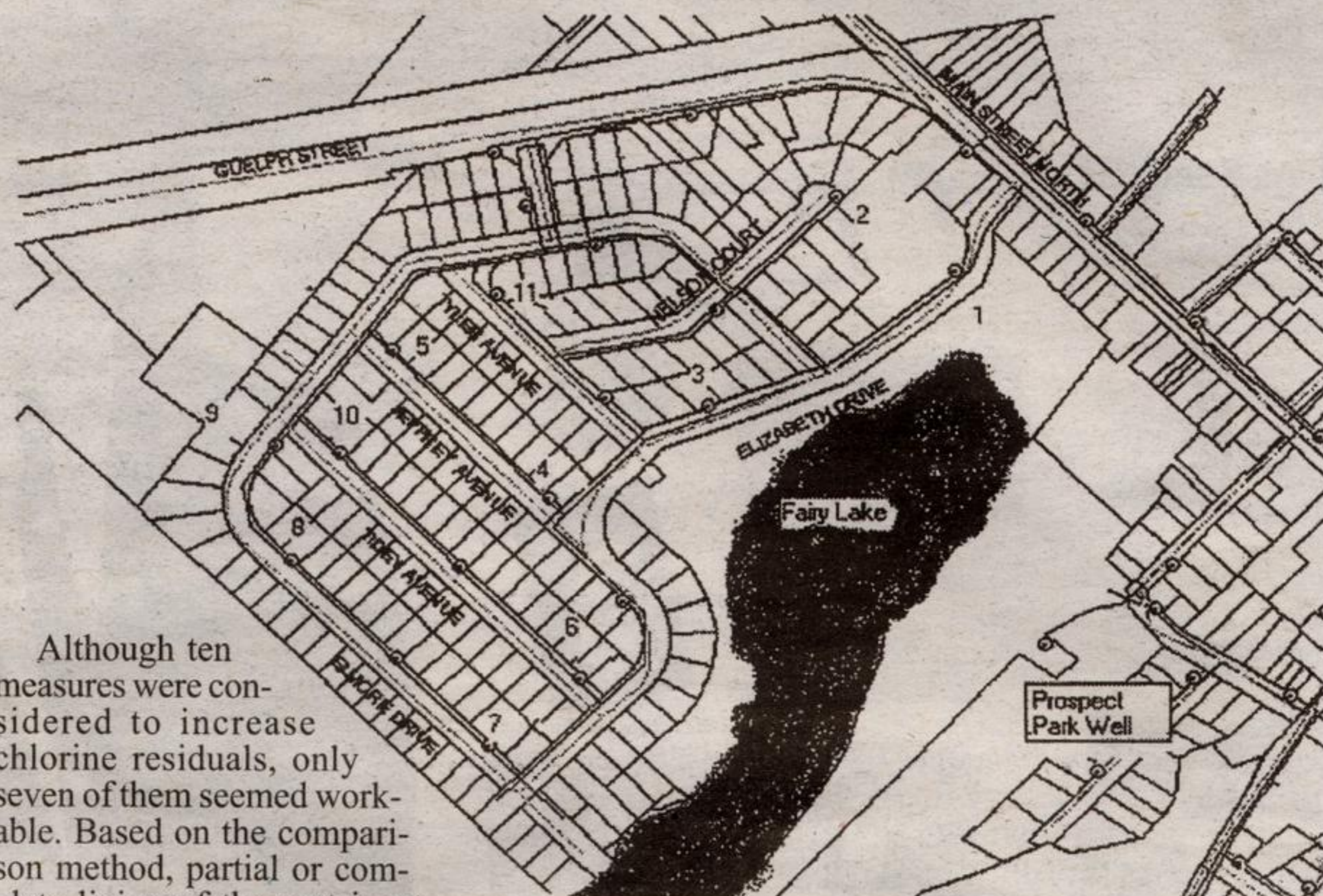
The water source for Lakeview comes from the general Acton water distribution system supplied by seven wells (of which four are currently operating) the closest being the well at the point in Prospect Park. Water enters the subdivision from connections on Main St. North entering on Elizabeth Drive and Lakeview St. in cast iron pipes installed in the late 1950s and early 1960s for the 214 homes in the subdivision.

Bill Hargrave of the con-

sulting firm told several dozen Lakeview residents who attended the meeting, they had set up a computer model to determine what was causing a loss of chlorine. They determined that it was probably due to it reacting with iron coming from the cast iron pipes although the existing unlined cast iron watermains appeared to be fairly clean.

The Region has installed two 'bleeder' connections in the north and west sides of the subdivision as a measure to correct the problem. They drain into the sanitary sewers. The bleeder pipes have the ability to increase the chlorine in the areas affected by increasing the flow of water, which brings more chlorine into the affected areas.

Layout of the Watermains



Although ten measures were considered to increase chlorine residuals, only seven of them seemed workable. Based on the comparison method, partial or complete lining of the cast iron pipes in the subdivision was the preferred alternative. Partial or complete replacement of the pipes or installation of re-chlorination facilities were other methods considered.

The consultants recommended that a phased program of pipe line lining or replacement, suggesting selective lining or replacement of watermains may be sufficient to overcome the majority of chlorine losses and that the Region carefully monitor the progress until it is determined the problem has been resolved.

Cost of epoxy lining for all the mains was estimated to cost \$1 million while selected pipe lining was estimated at \$450,000 with continual monitoring. Complete pipe replacement is estimated to cost \$1.6 million. The lining would lengthen pipe life by another 20 to 40 years.

The Region's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Brent Marshall, a native of Acton and area resident, told the meeting, lining pipe would not be intrusive. He said Acton's water system was probably the best in Halton, that they have a

number of more serious problems in other parts of the Region, especially in Oakville and Burlington where water from Lake Ontario causes havoc with cast iron pipes.

"Our first responsibility is to make sure Acton's water is safe to drink and to keep the flow moving in Lakeview so chlorine will reach to the places difficult to reach," Mr Marshall said. "There's a good system here (Acton) and the structural integrity of the pipes is very good. He said the Region spent tens of millions of dollars in Acton in the early 70s to ensure the system is in good shape.

Suggestions from the audience that minimal billing for water should apply to all residents rather than a few who had severe problems was shrugged off by officials although some residents complained they relied on bottled water and others ran taps for long periods to make it potable.

CAO Marchall said there was no correlation between brown water and the Acton pressure system. "The water leaks out, not in," he said. "There's no association with

brown water." A consultant later suggested someone might be tapped into an old well which could cause the problem.

Relining of the Lakeview system could start as early as late this summer. In the meantime the Region will continue to use 'bleeders' to solve low chlorine residuals.

For those with problems who found it next to impossible to contact Region offices by conventional means, Mr. Marshall reminded the audience both he and Region Councillor Rick Bonnette were local residents and easily accessible by phone at home. Among Region officials at the meeting were Bob McMurray, manager of systems operations, Planning and Public Works; Ric Robertshaw, director Environmental Services Division, Planning and Public Works; and Bob Marten. Bob Austin, chief engineer for Halton Hills, also was in attendance along with the consultants.

## Keep youth centre open...

*Continued from Page 1*  
Chudleigh said, adding "hopefully, out of the ashes of this something perhaps more realistic, perhaps something that is more affordable, can come to the forefront."

Fundraising committee member Lisa Glove of Acton is confident the centres will stay open at least until the end of June when HHCSI learns if it will get anticipated Trillium Foundation grant money.

She hopes selling popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy at various events in Acton and Georgetown this summer will be "lucrative," along with a charity casino.

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