

MP's plan for cemetery shows promise

By **HERB GARBUTT**
Staff Writer

Modifications to a development plan could preserve the McNab cemetery in Norval.

Members of Heritage Halton Hills met with Norval residents last Saturday to discuss changes Halton-Peel MP Julian Reed has proposed for a development on Old Pine Crest Rd. Reed's original plans to develop five lots he owns met with opposition because of a century-old cemetery on the property.

The cemetery is located on a wooded lot and there are no grave markers, although local residents recall seeing headstones as recent as 20 years ago. Steve Foster of Heritage Halton Hills said records indicate it was the primary cemetery for the community for 40 or 50 years. The last documented burial was in 1871.

Reed has since altered plans, offering not to develop an acre where the cemetery is thought to have been and providing a six-metre strip to allow access to it.

Reed had tests conducted on a portion of the property which identified a grave shaft. Foster said he would like to see further testing done, however, he does see some promise in Reed's latest move.

"This is the first serious proposal addressing our needs," he said. "Ideally we'd like to know where the cemetery (boundary) is but Mr. Reed is saying (testing) is cost-prohibitive."

Reed said further testing would require the removal of the trees on the lot, a method he doubted even local residents would approve. He said the testing he has completed is sufficient.

"We have fulfilled all the terms of

the law using the methods prescribed by the government," he said.

Ted Thompson of the Norval Community Association also sees some optimism in the latest plan, though he also has some concerns.

"Going over the ground there are a lot of depressions that don't fit in with drainage depressions," he said. "I feel if, as we know, Norval existed from 1820 and beyond, there's more than two or three people buried there. I do feel that it is a much better proposal than the one we had before."

Both Heritage Halton Hills and the Norval Community Association will meet to discuss the latest changes and to decide whether to support Reed's proposal.

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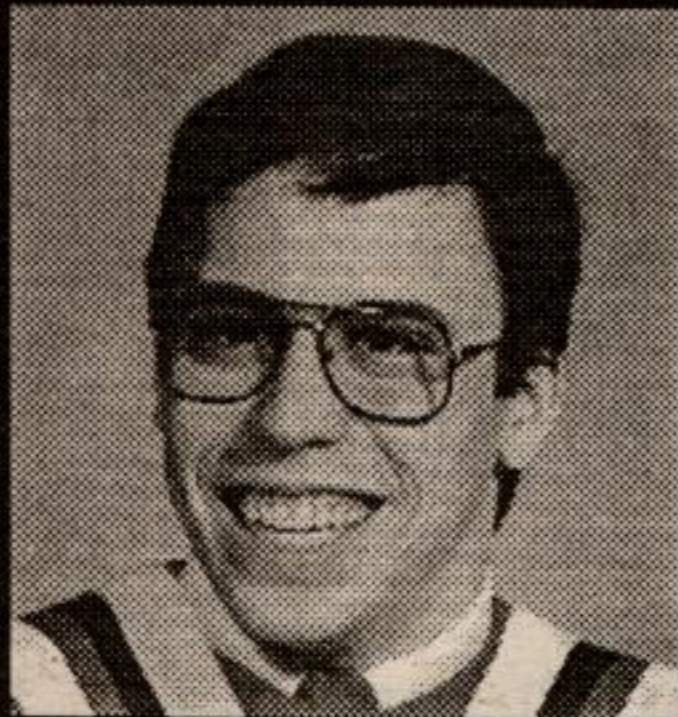
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An invitation is extended to all VOLUNTEERS, family, friends, neighbours, classmates, teachers, principals, Holy Cross CWL and parishioners, UWC, sororities, etc., etc. to drop by if they would like to say hello. We are very proud of our son and we would like to thank everyone who had anything to do in helping Todd and his family throughout the past 23 years.

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Todd and his family are looking forward to seeing you.

Harry, Eileen, Tyler and Todd

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