

The Independent & Free Press

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Seeking answers

Many questions are being asked this week about the decision-making process that led to the approval of a sewage pumping station in a wooded valley, next to the hamlet of Norval.

It seems though that town, region and Credit Valley Conservation staff have been able to adequately justify their decision making— although whether their solutions were the right solutions is open to interpretation by some.

But some worthwhile questions have been asked. Such as: Why was the Town Environmental Advisory Committee never notified about the placement of the pumping station in the valley lands? Why was the town's trail proposal, often acknowledged by council as a priority, never discussed between the various agencies— until prompted? Why is a region staff member assuming there will be development in Norval— a hamlet that has had no secondary planning process for more than a decade?

In response to this "failure to communicate", Councillor Kathy Gastle, at last week's committee meeting, demanded changes to the decision-making process. Her recommendations included:

- The town's administrator will examine the development application process to ensure council is kept informed of all matters that may adversely impact the community.

- Staff will report back to council with guidelines to improve communications between regional and local staff— and council— regarding all infrastructure approvals. That includes all future development applications.

- Staff will investigate plans for the Norval lands owned by John Spina and ensure they are subject to a comprehensive planning process including an approved secondary plan for Norval.

We endorse these recommendations. While they will not change the decision-making that has already occurred, it will perhaps give staff at all agencies pause to wonder— who should know about this?

And that is the bottom line of this conflict. People believed, rightly or wrongly, that they have been denied a part of the decision-making process; denied a right to have a say about what goes on in their own backyards. That, hopefully, will not happen again.



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GBA thanks newspaper

Dear editor,

Myself and my colleagues at the Georgetown Baseball Association would like to commend the management and staff of the Independent & Free Press for your commitment to organized sports in our community. We of the GBA thank you for the regular printing of the Scoreboard feature and for the reporting of our special events and feature games during the baseball season.

It is the partnership the GBA enjoys with the Independent & Free Press newspaper, our corporate sponsors, volunteers, parents, and the Town of Halton Hills that enables us to provide minor league baseball and to achieve our goals of the effective social and skills development of our players through encouragement, competition and FUN!

Special thanks to Herb Garbutt for his creative reporting— he was always a pleasure to communicate with and his efforts to report our sport were greatly appreciated.

Brian Carlo,
Director, Georgetown Baseball Association

Idea for street names

Dear editor,

I was reading in the local paper that some builders and the town were having a discussion about what to name some new streets in a new subdivision. I would like to give them an idea.

Why not name them after some of the Georgetown boys who gave their lives so that you have a place to build houses, and that their names be remembered. They are all listed on the cenotaph at Remembrance Park.

Shell Lawr
Georgetown

Letter of the day

Tories believe money is more important than education

Dear editor,

Until now, my opinion has been this: unless I am sadly mistaken, there is no way that removing money, teachers, materials and money from the educational system will improve it. This is not the action of people who believe in public education. When Harris and Johnson say this is for the good of education, you know they are not telling the truth. They have spoken the big lie. Tory actions say loud and clear they believe money is more important than education and that power and big business are more important than children.

I now realize that Dave Johnson has always said he is in favor of quality education. What he did not say was that he was in favor of quality education for all. Pulling money out of the public education system and putting it into private education will certainly improve the quality of education for those students whose parents can afford to send them to a private school. Unfortunately, the money has to come from somewhere. So, those who cannot afford quality education will get whatever is left over after the present system has been slashed and bled dry by Johnson and Harris cuts. What did you expect? Someone has to pay.

So Johnson was telling the truth, just not the whole truth— a partial misleading truth. So I apologize for calling him a liar. I do not apologize for opposing his "reforms" and I do not apologize for striking to prevent those "reforms" from being implemented and I do not apologize for working to my utmost to get him and the Tories out of power so that he can never make those kinds of "reforms" again.

Audrey Chin,
Caledon

Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for content or length and can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com