

Town's message to Norval Community Association: Let's talk

Two "town hall" meetings will be held Nov. 25 and 26 to deal with the development process that led to locating a sewage pumping station in Georgetown valley lands.

Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson announced, at Monday's council meeting, the town will host the Nov. 26 evening (still a tentative date) to discuss the development application process. The Georgetown Estates development on the top of Norval hill at Hall Rd. and Hwy. 7, will be used as a case study. Decision-makers from the town, region and other agencies, as well as the public, will

go step by step through that application to see if the town's process can be improved.

Heavy criticism was directed at this development's approval process in which a 1997 agreement gave the developer the right to build a pumping station in environmentally-sensitive valley lands in exchange for signing over 30 acres to the town.

"I do not support the process that got the pump house there," said Serjeantson. "For me to go to the Ministry (of Environment) to convince them to deny the location of the pump house could jeopardize our community's own-

ership of that 30 acres of land.

"It (the meeting) is a way we can bring an end to the conflict that's out there... and hopefully never have this happen again."

The meeting is a follow-up of Councillor Kathy Gastle's recommendation a month ago, that town staff create new guidelines to improve communication between council, town staff, the region, other agencies and the public.

Not impressed by the mayor's offer was Norval Community Association (NCA) president Stella Bryant. She called it house-keeping matters and didn't know how the public could contribute to

the review.

"We're not terribly interested," Bryant said. "We still do not accept the fact that the pumping station cannot be moved."

She announced her group will hold an information night Nov. 25, at the Norval Parish Hall. This meeting will focus on residents' concerns with the location of the pumping station and its impact on future development in Norval.

She said the NCA, in its bid to have the pumping station relocated to the tableland (where it was originally intended to be) is willing to have the town agreement with the developer reopened and

risk losing the 30 acres of town-owned valley lands.

A third meeting, proposed by the Town Environmental Advisory Committee (TEAC) was shot down by council on a 5-4 vote. TEAC's intention was to act as facilitator in a meeting of all the approving agencies to find out which approvals for the pumping station have been received and which have not.

Councillor Norm Elliott warned that giving TEAC authority to conduct a meeting is akin to council "abrogating" its responsibility and thus opening itself up to litigation.



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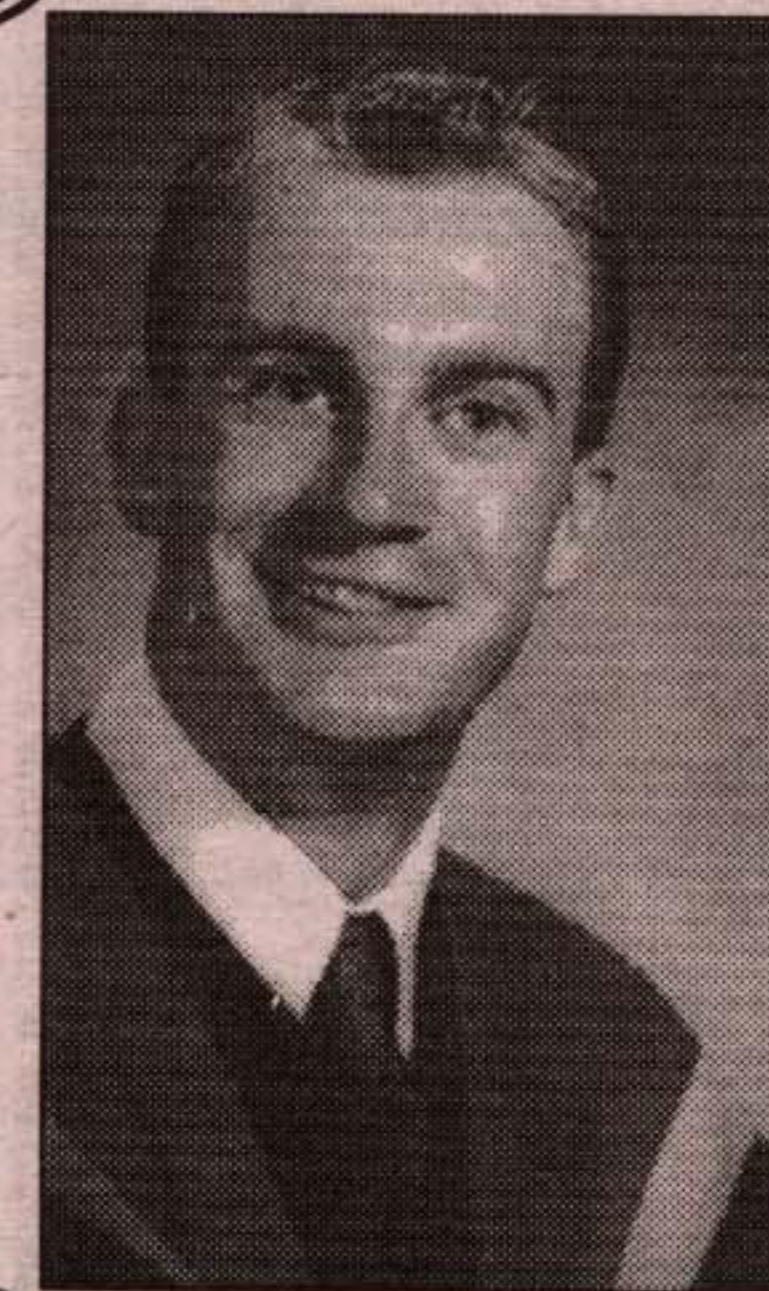
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