

Water quantity question postpones OMB hearing on Main St. lands

The Ontario Municipal Board hearing dealing with two residential developments in south Georgetown set for December and January was canceled Monday pending Halton Region's success in finding water.

Halton Region is searching for another well for future development in Georgetown because Test Well 15, which was to provide water to both the developments—Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. (HHVHI) and Silvercreek Estates, was abandoned because it was impacting a neighboring wetland.

At an OMB hearing Monday Halton Region lawyer Stan Floras reiterated the recent regional council recommendation that draft approval of all pending residential subdivision applications requiring water

from Test Well 15 be deferred until the region's Commissioner of Planning and Public Works has a reasonable expectation an alternative source of water can be secured within three years.

Floras suggested the parties in the hearing come back in May to see how successful the region's efforts have been in finding water. He also said if the OMB decided to go ahead with the hearing the region would oppose issuing draft approval on the basis of inadequate water supply.

The town and Credit Valley Conservation supported the region's position.

Save Our Ravines lawyer Hal Watson said obviously there is no water capacity and no reasonable expectation there will be water available in three years. He said the

applications are premature.

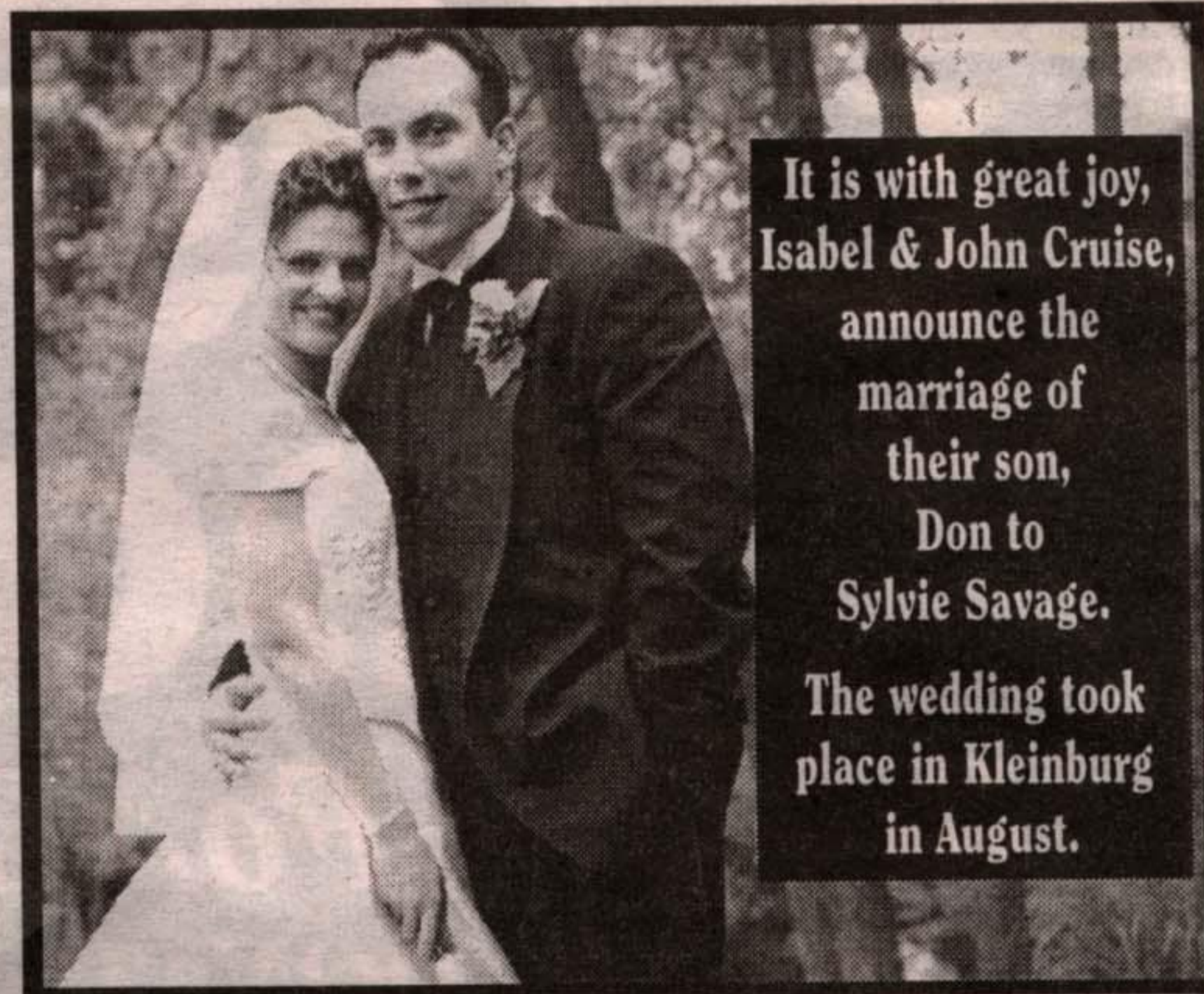
Bert Arnold, representing HHVHI said the board should deal with the issues that are in dispute but withhold the order of draft approval until there's an expectation of water.

He said there was "a little glitch with just in time delivery" of water.

OMB hearing officer J.R. Mills said he agreed in principle with the town and region and set a pre-hearing date of May 19 to discuss the water situation.

Mills said he didn't want to see the pending development applications lose their priority. As soon as the water issue is resolved the OMB will make every effort to schedule the hearings as soon as possible Mills said.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



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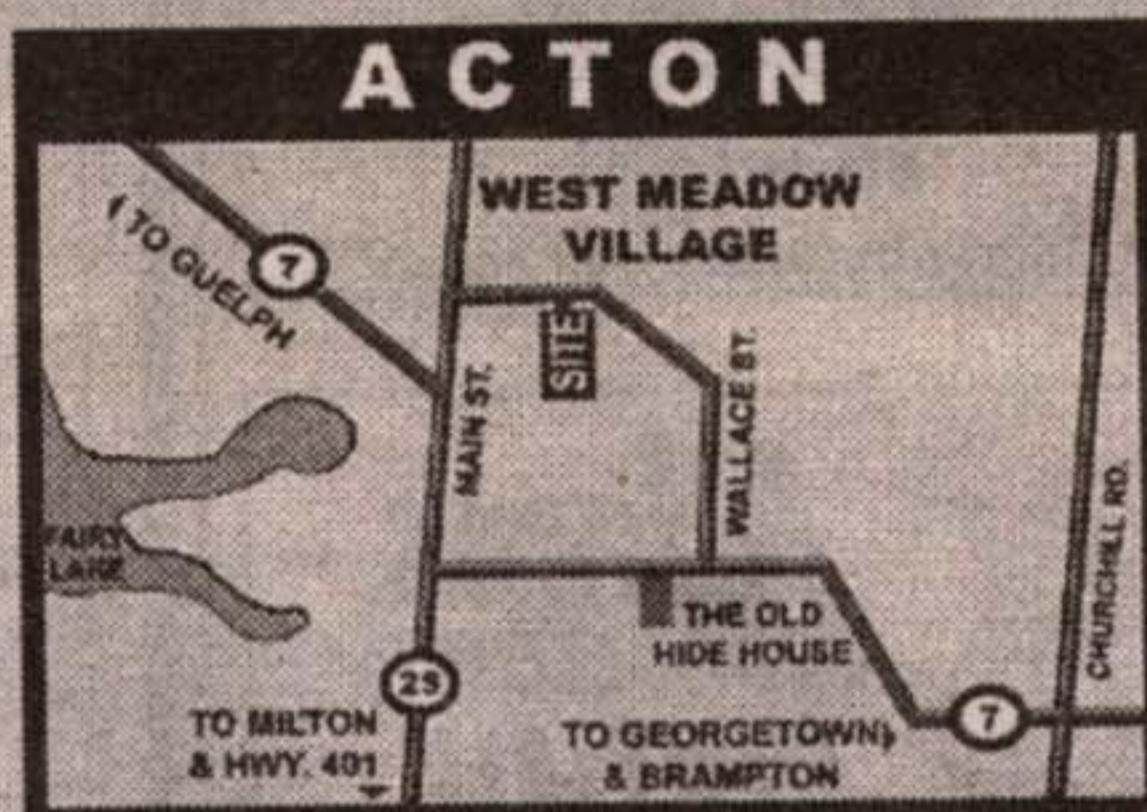
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