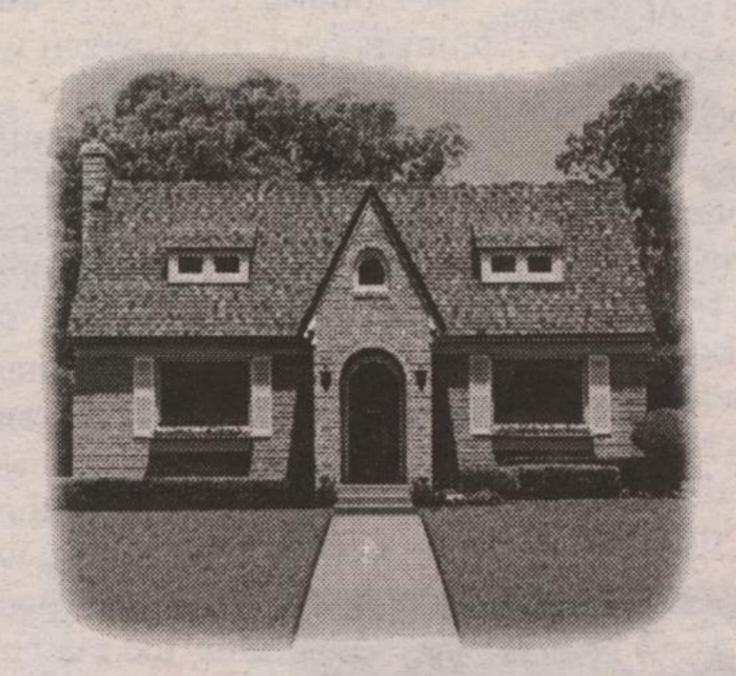
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Well location must be considered carefully

The Region of Halton continues to search for potable water for the Georgetown urban area. As you may know, an Official Plan was completed for the Town of Halton Hills in 1985 and since then, the Regional Official Plan has been updated. Both plans are presently under review.

Georgetown's population was expected to grow to 37,000 by the year 2000 but the projection will not be reached. The projected target of 37,000 is expected to be reached around 2016 but, as a result of the Ontario Municipal Board's (OMB) decision on the industrial land in the Georgetown South area, an additional 8,000 to 10,000 people will bring that projection to 45,000-47,000.

Many people have suggested that Georgetown should shut down and not grow. If council was to make that decision, I believe developers would go to the OMB and get the growth they want on their terms.

Presently, Georgetown's population is about 27,000 and we grow by an average of 1,100 people a year.

As of April, 2000, there was enough water in wells servicing Georgetown to support approximately 8,200 additional people. New residential development has been capped until the region locates a new well. Test well 15 was tested last fall but the testing had to stop because of the negative impact on the surrounding wetlands in the Hungry Hollow ravine. The region has looked at the Huttonville well but, it too poses some problems and is not being actively considered as a production well at this time.

The region is also looking at the Sixth Line well. These potential production wells were identified in 1995 after a very thorough environmental assessment using a public liaison committee. The testing of the Sixth Line well between 15 and 10 Sideroads will commence when the Ministry of the Environment has issued a temporary water-taking permit. The area residents are very concerned over the testing of this well, and the negative impact any testing could have on their wells. The region is aware of their concerns.

Neither I, nor the region, would support a well that would have a negative impact on

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Marilyn Serjeantson

any neighbouring well or on the environment that could not be mitigated. The region does not want to take any water risks and is presently conducting a region-wide ground-water management study. At a recent public meeting concerning the Sixth Line well issue, a few members of the audience expressed a desire to encourage the extension of water from Lake Ontario via Milton to service the Georgetown urban area.

In 1995, the public liaison committee recommended to both Halton Hills council and regional council that Georgetown and abutting hamlets be serviced only with well water. This recommendation was a result of the EA process and was unanimously supported by both councils with the support of the community.

To bring lake-based water to the Georgetown area would be very expensive. To justify the cost a lot more development would have to take place. Council has a planned vision for growth of our area and it does not include a massive expansion of residential opportunities.

The region has not announced the well testing dates for the Sixth Line well. However, it has sent out notices to area residents and businesses that, beginning September 25, a hotline will be in service ((905) 878-8113, ext. 7392) to provide a daily status report on well test pumping activities and the ability to reach a regional employee or the region's drilling contractor during the test pumping period.

If the region cannot find an additional production well to service the urban area and the hamlets, the region would have to re-open the public process and councils' discussions to ensure all options to service Georgetown with water were appropriately examined.

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