

Letters to the editor...letters to the editor...letters to the editor...

SOR critical of town land deal

(This letter was sent to Mayor Kathy Gastle and members of Halton Hills council. A copy was made available for publication.)

Mayor Gastle and members of council,
Re: Hungry Hollow ravine OMB case.

It was with profound disappointment that Save Our Ravines— Halton Hills (SOR) learned of the town's recent agreement with the developer to settle the Hungry Hollow ravine case before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). The Hungry Hollow ravine represents some of the last green space in urban Georgetown and if the town's settlement were accepted by the OMB, approximately 150 houses would be constructed in the valley.

Members of the SOR were shocked and dismayed that town council would take such a step without consulting, in any way, with the community. SOR and the community at large, have dedicated countless hours on a volunteer basis in support of the town's previous position against development in the valley.

This support across the community has been serious, committed and sustained over a prolonged period of time— approximately three years. We had been given assurances on more than one occasion in the past that the town would never agree to any settlement without the input of our group.

While we take no position on the town's settlement of its lawsuit related to the old option agreement with the developer, SOR objects, on the strongest terms, to council's

secretive, closed doors settlement of the OMB matter.

We are now in the process of deciding how to proceed from here. The town has put the community in a very difficult position of having to either accept housing in the valley or somehow take on a full-time role at the hearing. This is considerably different than the part-time role previously contemplated by SOR in support of the town.

We will be consulting with the community at a meeting we have scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 (at the Salvation Army Church on Mountainview Rd., south side of the Hungry Hollow bridge) and we will make a decision after we receive that input.

We wanted council to be aware of the extent of our group's utter disappointment with council's decision not to consult with the community before settling the OMB case.

However, with a view to moving forward, we now urge council to consider alternative ways by which to save this part of the valley— whether it be by land swap, density bonusing, purchase or by other means. Please show leadership on this important issue and be assured that SOR, and we believe the entire community, are still prepared to work with you towards finding that solution.

If any of you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or any SOR member.

Save Our Ravines, Halton Hills
Bert Zonneveld, president

Stranger's kindness 'lifted spirits'

Dear editor,

Re: The sad letter from Kim Marais in the Nov. 23 edition, Vandals 'thanked' for efforts.

Recently I went to the plaza to do some shopping. I parked my car and as I got out a man ran across to tell me I had a very flat tire. He asked me if I had a spare (which was in the back) and he suggested that I go and do my shopping and he would put the spare on while I was in the plaza.

I was very taken aback by this kind offer from a stranger. I quickly did my shopping and he was just

replacing the tire when I returned. He told me to take the damaged tire to Canadian Tire and advised me not to drive over 80km-h.

I followed his advice, took the tire to Canadian Tire where it was repaired, put back on and the spare returned to the trunk.

At this time of year when everyone is so busy, it was a spontaneous kind offer which lifted my spirits. The man told me his name was Steve. Merry Christmas Steve, to you and yours.

Elizabeth Jones, Georgetown

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Red Cross volunteer drivers' efforts appreciated

Dear editor,

This is the International Year of the Volunteer and what a year it has been for our volunteer drivers.

Let me take a few lines to point out some of what they do for the people in their communities. There are trips from Georgetown to Credit Valley Hospital six days a week and three days a week from Milton to Oakville-Trafalgar Hospital for patients needing dialysis treatments. There are also trips from Milton, Georgetown and Acton five days a week to Milton Place, an adult day program for seniors in Milton. This gives much-needed respite for family caregivers.

A good many of these trips are provided with our Red Cross wheelchair accessible vehicle. There are dedicated drivers who provide this service on a regular basis. Then, of course, there are the many other people who

need to get to their hospital and doctors' appointments who count on Red Cross to get them there. During the last few months there have been almost 1,100 trips per month so they have been very busy people. Thank you all.

From Georgetown: thanks to Andy, Arie, Art, Bernie, Carl, Cecil, David, Edie, Elaine, Eric, John, Leigh, Linda, MaryJane, Murt, Paul and Stan.

From Acton: thanks to Donna, Dorothy, Henry, Jim, John, Mary, Maureen, Murray, Norm and Sam.

From Milton: thanks to Archie, Bob C., Bob D. Hugh, Jane, Joan, Judy K. Judy M., Mae, Ross and Stella.

Ann Sharpe, transportation co-ordinator,
Henry Vanden Top, transportation chairman,
and staff at the North Halton Branch of
the Canadian Red Cross



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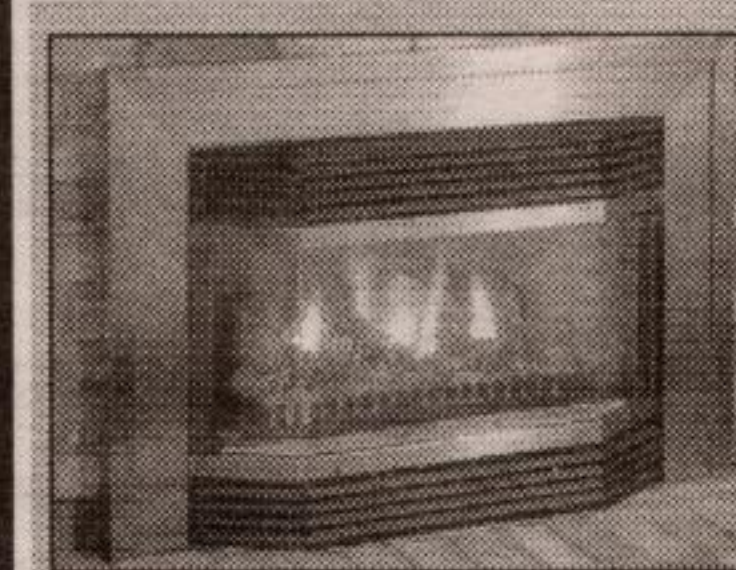
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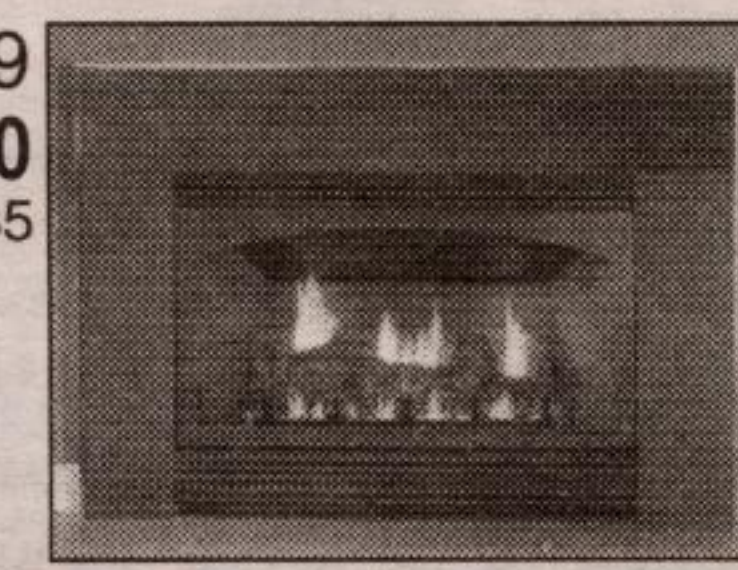
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