WHO'S PROTECTING HALTON HILL'S ENVIRONMENT WHEN APPROXIMATELY 150 HOMES ARE PROPOSED TO BE BUILT IN THE VALLEY?

TOWN SETTLES HUNGRY HOLLOW RAVINE CASE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS - NO PUBLIC CONSULTATION



An update for the citizens of Halton Hills:

In late 1998, citizens of Halton Hills mobilized to oppose subdivision developments by Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. and Silver Creek Estates, that were proposed in the Hungry Hollow Ravine. Concerned citizens coalesced into a group that incorporated under the name Save Our Ravines - Halton Hills ("SOR").

Environmental and planning experts were retained by SOR and they identified a number of serious concerns. Town Council determined that there was merit in SOR's position and so also decided to oppose the subdivisions at the Ontario Municipal Board.

On behalf of the citizens of Halton Hills, SOR has worked diligently along side the Town to strengthen and complement the Town's case, without duplicating it. This has required a sustained and serious commitment by many citizen volunteers for the past three years.

To the surprise of SOR and the residents of Halton Hills, on October 22, 2001, Council met behind closed doors and agreed to a settlement with one of the developers. Following the closed door meeting, the settlement was ratified in open Council.

Even though SOR, and the community at large, had demonstrated an intense and persistent interest in this issue, Council provided absolutely no notice of their intention to settle the Ontario Municipal Board matter and sought no input from the community.

THIS WAS WRONG. THE COMMUNITY DESERVED BETTER THAN THAT.

Regardless of the merits of the settlement, Council should not have cut the public out of the process. We think it is important that you know what happened.

The settlement with Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. ("HHVI"), resolved the Town of Halton Hill's lawsuit with that developer over an old Option Agreement on part of the valley lands (which were largely outside of the proposed subdivision), and also settled the Hungry Hollow Ravine subdivision case presently before the Ontario Municipal Board. If the Town's resolution with the developers with respect to the subdivision, is ultimately approved by the OMB, there would be approximately 150 homes constructed in the valley.

AND WE WANT TO BE CLEAR - THESE ARE NOT HOMES TO BE CONSTRUCTED BESIDE THE VALLEY. THESE ARE HOMES THAT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE VALLEY.

In addition to our concerns about the closed-door process described above, SOR remains opposed to the proposed construction of homes in the valley. The Hungry Hollow Ravine represents some of the last green space in urban Georgetown and development of any part of the valley would represent a terrible loss for the community and for the wildlife that call it home.

ONCE THESE HOMES ARE BUILT, THIS PART OF THE VALLEY WILL BE LOST FOREVER.

SOR wants you to have the opportunity to learn of the details and judge for yourself. We want your input as we wrestle with the decision as to whether or not to move from part-time party status at the hearing, to take on the Ontario Municipal Board case on a full-time basis without the Town's support.

We want to discuss all of the options open to the community and we need your ideas.

PUBLIC MEETING - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2001

In order to inform the community and seek your input, SOR is holding a public meeting open to all those members of the community interested in protection of the valley.

Location of Meeting:

Salvation Army Church

Mountainview Road, just south of

Hungry Hollow Bridge

7:30 p.m.

Date: Time: Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Please come, get informed, and make your views known. This may be your last opportunity.

SAVE OUR RAVINES!