

Decision on valley development now in OMB's hands

The parties in the Ontario Municipal Board hearing on development of Main St. S. have had their say, as well as the public, but hearing board member J.R. Mills plans to visit the site tomorrow (Thursday) morning before he makes his decision.

At the hearing, which got under way Monday, Mills heard from four planners—two representing developers Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. (HHVHI) and Silver Creek Estates, and one each from the town and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC)—about the two proposed developments that would see approximately 500 new homes built on Main St. S. lands in Georgetown.

At a public session of the hearing Monday night, Mills told the approximately 100 people who attended that all the planners in their evidence said they support everything that's before the board.

That was not the case however, with the eight members of the public who spoke—all opposed the applications.

Bert Zonneveld, president of Save Our Ravines (SOR), said there are still 150 homes proposed to go in the valley next to Silver Creek. He said since there isn't enough known about the watershed, and a study is under way to look at the sub-watershed of Georgetown, he

urged Mills to deny approval of those homes.

"Once that development is there it is in that valley forever," said Zonneveld, who referred to Silver Creek in that area as already "weak and vulnerable."

Georgetown resident Cathy Oomen spoke passionately about nature and the environment.

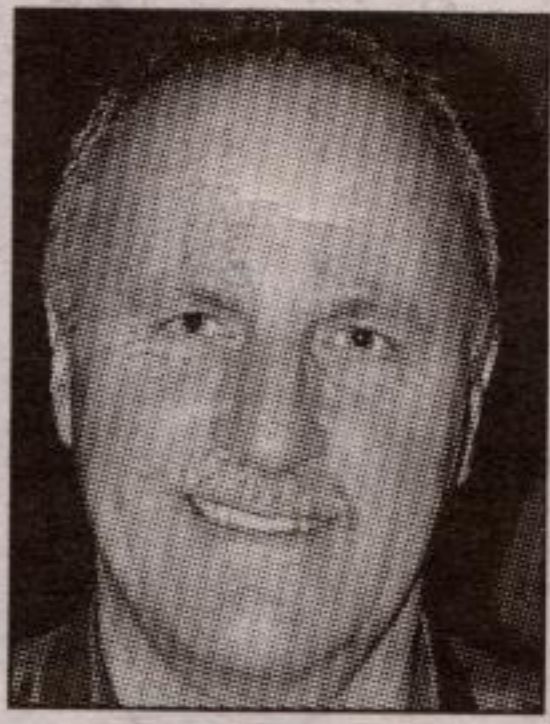
"We must treat our wildlife resources as an asset that must be conserved," said Oomen, who said the Hungry Hollow ravine is a very important wildlife refuge.

"Building houses in the valley is not good planning," said Leslie Adams, who spoke on behalf of Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER).

Adams said homeowners on Metcalfe Ct., Eden Cr. and Irwin Cr. have suffered an unfair financial burden "as their backyards slid into the ravine and foundations shifted."

Adams also provided her interpretations of aspects of both the town's and region's Official Plans and provincial policy statements that apply to the proposed developments.

"We have an opportunity to leave a



BERT ZONNEVELD

legacy of beauty," said Wayne MacDonald of Georgetown. "This is our canvas, it deserves our utmost respect."

At the continuation of the hearing yesterday (Tuesday), Mills said the ratepayers had made valid comments and wanted several of their concerns addressed.

When asked by Mills if a wildlife corridor went through the area where the 150 homes opposed by SOR are to be built, CVC planner Mary Bracken said, "we wouldn't consider it to be a core wildlife corridor."



BRUCE MACLEAN

She said the area in question is in the big valley of Silver Creek, but not part of the wildlife/vegetation corridor. She said that land does have potential for development.

Town Director of Planning Bruce MacLean said the major valley the town wants to protect has been separated from the property to be developed and is now under public ownership.

MacLean said the proposed developments conform to the town's Official Plan.

He explained the sub-watershed study raised by the public the night before is

part of the town's Official Plan review and is not yet complete.

He said the study is looking at the entire sub-watershed in Georgetown and that another study, which has more detail on the area near the proposed developments, was used to evaluate the potential impacts of the two developments.

He said the sub-watershed study would be a helpful tool but he would rely on the information on the study that's already done.

MacLean said he didn't believe consideration of the subdivisions were premature.

The town, region and CVC do not oppose the applications and region lawyer Stan Floras said the region has an expectation they will be able to secure a water-taking permit within three years allowing for 1,250 new single-family detached equivalent units and HHVHI and Silver Creek Estates would be the first developments to receive water allocation from those units.

It is not known when Mills will make a decision on the applications. Both developers are seeking approval for their plans of subdivision and a zoning bylaw that will change the zoning on the property from agricultural and open space to residential and open space.

No cabinet post for Chudleigh

When Ontario's new premier Ernie Eves shuffled the cabinet Monday, it came out with a better representation of the party, said Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh.

"We certainly got a little more balance," Chudleigh said, "especially with some higher profile women. Our party has had a gender gap for quite some time."

He said the shuffle also reflected a move away from the right.

"The people more on the right were the ones who were moved out and those who are more centralist moved in," Chudleigh said. "I think that will manifest itself in

the government being a better manager. We had the revolution, now it's time to manage the changes."

Chudleigh, now in his second term as the local MPP, was among those rumoured to be in the running for a cabinet post.

"Everyone eventually wants a cabinet post," he said. "When you pick a cabinet you have to strike a balance and make sure regions are represented. You need a gender balance, a political balance and not everyone gets what they want."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Heading to Holland

Holland-bound residents, (clockwise from back left) Shell Lawr, Mac Traas, Anne Culley and Nan Kemper check out some of the places they'll be visiting in May during a get-together at the Civic Centre Saturday. Fifty-two people, many of them relatives of veterans, will be visiting the sites of many Canadian battles in Holland as well as Vimy Ridge in France and Juno Beach, where Allied forces landed on D-Day. The tour will include stops at locations where local veterans such as Trevor Williams and Red Asseltine fought.

Photo by Shawn McAlpine

Police blotter

Train demolishes auto on tracks

No one was injured but a 1988 Volvo was demolished when it was hit by a train at a crossing on Third Line near Glen Lawson Rd. Monday evening.

Police report the Volvo, which had no occupants in it at the time of the crash, had become stuck on the track when the driver, a Georgetown woman, attempted to make a U-turn near the tracks.

The driver got out of the vehicle

when the crossing lights came on.

There was minimal damage to the VIA train, which had 23 passengers on board.

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A Ballinafad man has been charged with impaired driving and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood after a minor accident at Hwy. 7 and Trafalgar Rd. Friday night. Charged is Keith Murray, 44, of Hiltz Court.

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