

Town, developers haggle over creek costs

A three-week hearing will begin July 15 on whether two developers can use a Silver Creek tributary for stormwater outflow from their proposed developments.

The date was set during an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) prehearing Wednesday on PNA Holdings Ltd., a 56-unit condominium proposal on Hall Rd. beside the Royal Ascot.

OMB member Narasim Katary suggested that a neighbouring development proposal, Georgetown Estates Phase 3, be included since it also plans to use the tributary as a stormwater outflow.

The joint July hearing will deal only with commonality of the stormwater management issue and any closely allied matters such as slope stability, between the two developments. Any other issues will be dealt with in separate hearings not yet scheduled. Both OMB members assigned to each appeal will sit together during the July hearing.

At issue is whether the developers can use a town-owned tributary for stormwater outflow. Credit Valley Conservation has told the Town of Halton Hills the creek requires remediation including erosion control, culvert

replacement, and sediment removal. A town consultant has said that will cost about \$860,000.

According to town solicitor Jeff Wilker, the town doesn't have the money to do the work, and since the developers want to use the tributary, they should kick in some money for the rehabilitation. PNA, he said, is balking at the cost, but until cash is made available for remediation, the town will not give approval for the use of the stream.

"It's a money problem, and we need the developers to come up with money if they want to use the town's creek," Wilker said. He used the analogy of a leaky pipe, "it needs to be fixed before it can be used."

Wilker said the town has attempted to negotiate the issue and has put numbers on the table, but PNA lawyer Michael Hackl says his client has not heard any number other than the total cost.

Katary suggested Hackl write a letter to the town requesting what PNA specifically needs to do to contribute to the creek remediation.

While the town wanted a hearing scheduled as soon as possible, PNA preferred a fall hearing; the summer hear-

ing was a compromise. The town was pressing for an early hearing to get the developer moving on the project, said Wilker. At issue, he said, is the water allocation that is currently tied to the condo project.

"There's a real water scarcity in town," Wilker told Katary. "The town wants to make sure that the developer is going to use the water because there's other developers knocking on the door."

While Halton Region (which is in charge of water allocation) has recently released water for about 1,250 single family homes, there are about 15 developers wanting to build approximately 3,320 homes.

Wilker pointed out that while PNA has received allocation for this water, the region is not legally committed to guaranteeing the developer the water.

"We're not saying we're going to take away this allocation," said Wilker, "but if they're not prepared to go forward that's a risk he (the developer) is facing. There is no guarantee that water is going to stay there."

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer



Reason to celebrate

Students from the Brampton Georgetown Montessori School recently held A Celebration of Multiculturalism at the Brampton Golf Club. Students performing in the Country Garden number above included Amber LeBlanc, Charlotte Ferworn, Scarlett Delgado, Alex Desimone, Alexandria Ktami and Laura Sharpe. Photo by George Beshiri

Jewelry taken during break-in

Jewelry was stolen from a Trafalgar Road home during a break and enter Wednesday. The house was ransacked after a window in a door was smashed.

At press time police didn't know the value of the stolen items.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

In the April 19th, 2002 issue, the Beautiful Pets advertisement should have appeared as below. The Independent & Free Press sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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