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PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

GEORGETOWN WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN REVIEW

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS, GEORGETOWN, PR-1550B

Halton Region has undertaken a review of the Georgetown Water Supply Master Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process.

It has been identified that additional water supply is required to supply municipal water to the Georgetown urban area for the approved, planned growth. Several alternative servicing strategies have been identified and evaluated taking into consideration environmental and social impacts as well as financial considerations. A preferred solution was groundwater based and consisted of a combination of upgrading the existing water system and reducing the current and future water demand.

Public consultation is a key component of this Master Plan review and your comments are important. Halton Region will be holding a Public Information Centre on:

DATE: Thursday, November 21, 2002
PLACE: Halton Hills Civic Centre
 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown
TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (displays in foyer)
 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (presentation in Council Chambers)

Interested persons are invited to drop in any time during the above-noted hours to review and comment on the proposed works. If you are unable to attend this Public Information Centre and wish to obtain additional information or provide written comments, please address your concerns to:

Benson Leung, P.Eng. Manager, Engineering Planning Ext. 7636 leungb@region.halton.on.ca	Paul Maslovskis Special Studies & Research Co-ordinator Ext. 7637 maslovsp@region.halton.on.ca
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Comments will be accepted until Dec 13, 2002

1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
 905-825-6000 Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866)
 TTY 905-827-9833
 or visit us at: www.region.halton.on.ca

Resident wants dirty water refund

On-going problems with "dirty" water have at least one area resident calling for a reduction in water rates and a partial refund—something Regional Chair Joyce Savoline says she wouldn't support due to the region's work to resolve the issue.

Halton Hills resident Gerald Parker blasted members of the Halton planning and public works committee Monday, demanding the region reimburse him for water he has received at both his home and business.

The water has, on occasion, contained floating brown chunks of manganese from the region's wells.

Health officials have repeatedly stated the levels of manganese don't present a health concern.

"Dirty water is contaminated, whether by perception or by reality," Parker told the committee when challenged on his definition of contaminated.

"Clearly, the perception is—and the reality is by virtue of that—this it is contaminated. You try to get a child to drink it."

During times when the manganese levels are high, Parker said, he was advised by regional staff to run his water for about an hour, until the visible manganese is no more.

Residents are billed for the amount of water they use, leaving Parker and other residents to pay for the manganese-heavy water. That money should be reimbursed to the tune of \$105 per household, Parker

argued. "Oakville and Burlington may have clean water, but us ugly cousins up here (north Halton) know differently," he told the committee, adding he's contacted the Ministry of the Environment for assistance in resolving the issue.

"It is the responsibility of the region to provide clean water at the point of consumption."

Over the past several years, the region has spent millions of dollars to address the manganese, including providing residents with bottled water, cleaning agents for stained clothes, installed in-home filters and swabbed water pipes, Savoline said in response to Parker's demands.

"We were fighting Mother Nature. It was nothing that the region did, it wasn't the equipment, it was simply a strain of manganese," said Savoline.

"The region was very receptive, very communicative and very helpful throughout the community. We had absolutely no way of just stopping the problem until we found the right solution—which is where we're at now."

Earlier this year, a water filtration system was installed on wells feeding Georgetown to remove the manganese. A final resolution to the issue is expected this spring, when a filtration system is completed for the Milton wells, she added.

The committee didn't take any action on Parker's demands.

—By Richard Vivian, special

Environmental Commissioner guests at POWER's AGM

Ontario's Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller will speak at the Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) annual general meeting Thursday, along with area resident Leslie Adams and Harrison Public School students.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m. November 21 at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex.

Both Miller and Adams had been accredited to participate in the United Nation's conference on sustainable development in Johannesburg, South Africa in August, and the three students will

speaking about their experiences at the International Children's Conference on the Environment held earlier this year.

"We are really pleased that the Commissioner has agreed to take the time to come to Halton Hills to talk to our community," said Adams. "He is a very powerful and engaging speaker who has a real interest and passion for the environment and sustainability."

She said the focus for the meeting will be what the sustainable development plan of implementation means to provincial and local levels of government.

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