

Region says Wells can handle water demands

Pumping more water from existing wells is the preferred solution to providing water for Georgetown's growth, area residents learned at a public meeting Thursday.

Approximately 30 people attended the public information centre on the Georgetown Water Supply Master Plan Review hosted by Halton Region at the Civic Centre.

Benson Leung, Halton's manager engineering planning, said the project team working on the review, which is being done in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process, has determined that increasing water pumping at the Lindsay Court and Cedarvale wells, upgrading equipment at Princess Anne wells and water conservation is the recommended solution to providing enough water so the town can grow to 48,000 people by 2021.

That solution is required to replace test well 15, Huttonville well and a well on Sixth Line that were unsuccessful sources of new water for the town.

The project team, consisting of region staff and a public liaison committee, looked at various solutions, including a new water system, expansion or upgrading of the existing water system, modifying operational practices at the water treatment plant, expanding the maintenance program, reducing water demand, obtaining water from other sources, limiting community growth and doing nothing.

Two options were considered viable said Leung—expanding or upgrading the existing water system and obtaining water from other sources.

Leung said in 1997 the region completed a water budget and groundwater model for Georgetown and Acton, and identified almost 7,500 cubic metres a day of water available in the aquifer system which is substantially more than is needed to accommodate the town's growth.

He said currently 13,000 cubic metres a day is used and a 20 to 25 per cent increase, or 3,400 cubic metres, would be needed to accommodate growth to 48,000 people.

Preliminary work has shown the wells can provide the additional water, but pumping tests are to be done at the Cedarvale wellfield and Lindsay court well beginning in January to ensure more water can be pumped.

After Leung's presentation the public had a chance to ask questions.

Area resident Ernie Bodnar said it was "shortsighted" for the region not to upgrade the size of the "big pipe" in Milton to provide water for Georgetown.

Leung said the key message from the Georgetown community was "don't bring

lake (Ontario) water to Georgetown."

He added the Milton pipe will eventually be twinned and Bodnar asked if consideration for growth north of Milton could be given at that time. Leung said yes.

One man asked why Halton would not use water from Peel Region.

Leung said it was rejected because it was too expensive and Halton had been dealing with Peel in an attempt to get water for Milton and that didn't work out as well as hoped.

"We want to have control over our timing. We feel re-rating (additional pumping from existing wells) gives us better control over our timing," said Leung.

A representative of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society on Guelph St. raised a concern about wells going dry on their property.

Halton's senior hydrogeologist Heather Malcolmson said, "we have had a drought condition" generally across Ontario. She added that "our zone of influence isn't that far" for pumping from the Lindsay Court well.

Halton Region will be accepting comments from the public on the review until Dec. 13.

The region can proceed with final testing and approvals necessary for the implementation of the water supply system after there is a resolution to any comments.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Five kids hurt as buses collide

Five children were taken to hospital as a result of a collision between two Tyler Transport Ltd. school buses at the intersection of 25 Sideroad at Fifth Line Tuesday morning.

Halton Police say at 8:25 a.m. the driver of a bus southbound on Fifth Line heading to St. Joseph's School in Acton carrying 13 children (aged 8-12) failed to stop for a stop sign, and collided with a bus traveling eastbound on 25 Sideroad. There were no children on that bus.

The southbound bus ended up on its side and one child suffered a broken nose while another had a fractured arm. Five children were taken to Georgetown Hospital. Three were uninjured, and the other two were treated and released. Neither driver was injured.

James Alexander, 42, of Milton, has been charged with disobey a stop sign.

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