

Librarian slams school board

TIM WHITNELL
Special to The IFF

A teacher-librarian with the Halton District School Board believes students are being shortchanged on funding for library resources recently allocated by the province.

While Ross Thomson of E.C. Drury High School in Milton is incensed that the Halton board gave school libraries only half of the \$312,693 given to it by the Ministry of Education, board officials insist what they are doing is legal and necessary.

Thomson contacted the media after receiving a memo from board Superintendent of Education Gary Sadler, which Thomson says would have been sent to all teacher-librarians and principals. There are 92 public elementary and high schools in Halton.

Sadler's memo reads in part, "As you may or may not be aware, the HDSB has been trending toward a deficit for this fiscal year. Senior administration has had to be mindful of this before committing to any new expenditures. As a result, we are distributing one half of the funds provided for additional library resource funding at this time. As our fiscal situation becomes more clear, and as we get closer to our budget year-end (August 31), we may be able to release more dollars to schools to be used for school-based resources ..."

Education ministry spokesperson Michelle Despault said the board can use the extra funding as it sees fit as there is "some flexibility in the funding."

Thomson is not impressed.

In an e-mail to local media, including *The Independent & Free Press*, he wrote, "... on Mar. 21, the ministry gave the HDSB \$312,693 specifically as 'an investment in school library resources.' Each school in Ontario was to receive \$3,096, earmarked for books, but while other boards' teacher-librarians were out spending Halton teacher-librarians were told to wait despite clear, tight timelines in the ministry directions. On April 5 it was announced ... the HDSB is apparently keeping half of the money to pay down their deficit, and the other half of the cash is being distributed to schools on a per-pupil basis. Some schools are receiving little more than 10 per cent of what the ministry intended them to have.

"People for Education have concluded a study supporting the connection between library resources and student success. If the board was truly interested in student success, they would fully fund school libraries as per Ministry of Education directives."

However, the board's top administrator says the board is doing what is currently in the best interest of students and the board.

"When the money came from the ministry the indication was it could be used to purchase additional materials or materials that had been purchased over the course of this year as well," said Education Director Wayne Joudrie.

"As a board historically, and it hasn't changed this year, we spend a half-million dollars on library and learning resource materials. So we were well over the \$312,000 mark to begin with.

"Having said that, we went to administration council to ensure that the benefit of the additional funds touches schools so 50 per cent of it has been allocated now and the other 50 per cent we're watching."

The money is being distributed on a per-student basis with new schools getting a double share.

A looming deficit of up to \$950,000 for the current 2005-06 fiscal year has convinced board officials to hold back half of the latest ministry funds, said Joudrie.

"We're tracking toward a potential deficit budget at the end of the year so we want to make sure we have sort of a safety net and this may help with that safety net."



NOTICE OF MEETING

Annual General Meeting & Awards Presentation of the Georgetown Skating Club

Date: Friday, May 5th, 2006

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Moldmasters Sportsplex Auditorium
221 Guelph Street, Georgetown

For further information please call 905-866-2330 or www.georgetownskatingclub.ca



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

WARD 2

Concerning Applications to Amend the Town of Halton Hills Zoning By-law and a related Zoning for a Plan of Subdivision.

For lands located in Part of Lots 20 and 21, Concession 10, 12302 Tenth Line, Town of Halton Hills (Esquensing)

Town of Halton Hills Files: D12 Sheridan Nurseries (24T-03001/H) & D14 Sheridan Nurseries (12302 Tenth Line)

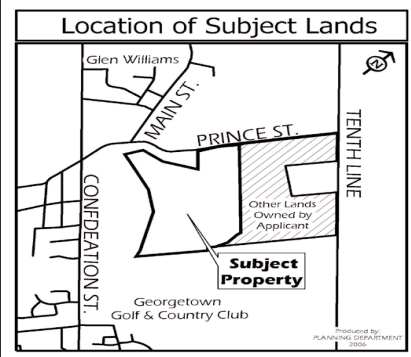
General Committee of the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss a proposed amendment application to the Town of Halton Hills Zoning By-law 57-91 as amended, in conjunction with 91-lot plan of subdivision. The proposed amendments apply to the property municipally known as 12302 Tenth Line, Town of Halton Hills (Esquensing). The 35.71ha (88 acre) subject property is west of Tenth Line and south of Prince Street. The existing use of the site is agricultural and is currently vacant.

The proposed Zoning By-law Amendment would rezone the lands from a Rural (RU) Zone to a Hamlet Residential (HR) and Open Space (OS-1) Zones. The subdivision application processed under file 24T-03001/H, proposes the creation of 91 single detached residential lots and various parkland/open space uses.

Below is a map showing the location of the subject property to which the proposed Zoning By-law amendment would apply.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Halton Hills in respect of this proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and Plan of Subdivision, you must make a written request to the Town of Halton Hills at 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, Ontario L7G 5G2.

If a person or public body that files a notice of appeal of a decision of the Town of Halton Hills in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and/or Plan of Subdivision does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Halton Hills before the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is adopted and the subdivision is Draft Approved, the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss all or part of the appeal.



NOTE: Any written comments/objections submitted to the Town of Halton Hills regarding this Application(s) which is being processed under the Planning Act 1990, may be made public as part of the application process.

Further information is available in the Planning Department, Town of Halton Hills, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, Ontario L7G 5G2 or contact the Planner assigned to the file, Mark H. Kluge at 905-873-2601, ext. 2299. A copy of the related Staff Report will be available on **Friday April 22, 2006** on the Town's website at: http://www.haltonhills.ca/hap_news.asp.

ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME.

DATE/TIME: Monday April 24, 2006, @ 7:45 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, Civic Centre
FILE NOS: D12 Sheridan Nurseries (24T-03001/H) & D14 Sheridan Nurseries (12302 Tenth Line) 62

WARD 3

Concerning Applications to Amend the Town of Halton Hills Official Plan and Zoning By-law For lands located at 90 Guelph Street Part of Lot 18, Concession 9 Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown)

Town of Halton Hills Files D09OPA06.001 & D14ZBA06.001 (Dr. M. Beier, 90 Guelph Street)

General Committee of the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss proposed amendment applications to the Town of Halton Hills Official Plan and Zoning By-law 57-91 as amended. The proposed amendments apply to the property municipally known as 90 Guelph Street, Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown). The subject land is located on the west side of Guelph Street, between Maple Avenue and Durham Street. The existing use of the site is residential and there is currently a residential dwelling on the property.

Below is a map showing the location of the subject property to which the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law amendment would apply.

The purpose and effect of the proposed amendment applications are to permit the development of a Professional Office (including a dentist) on the subject site. The property is currently designated "Major Institutional Area" by the Town of Halton Hills Official Plan. The applicant is proposing a "Site Specific" Official Plan Amendment to a new (amended) "Major Institutional Area" designation - to permit professional offices including a dentist.

The subject lands are zoned Third Density Residential (R3) Zone by Zoning By-law 57-91. The applicant is requesting to change the zoning for the subject property to a site-specific Community Institutional (IC) Zone, to permit professional offices including a dentist.

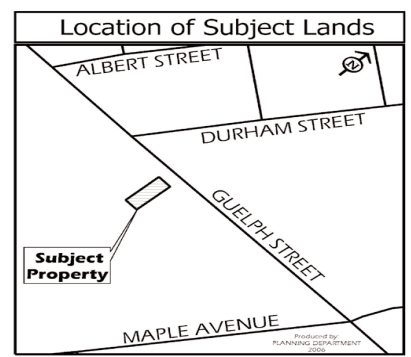
If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Halton Hills in respect of this proposed Official Plan Amendment and/or if you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Halton Hills in respect of this proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Town of Halton Hills at 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, Ontario L7G 5G2.

If a person or public body that files a notice of appeal of a decision of the Town of Halton Hills in respect of the proposed Official Plan and/or Zoning By-law Amendment does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Halton Hills before the proposed Official Plan and/or Zoning By-law Amendment is adopted, the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss all or part of the appeal.

NOTE: Any written comment/objection submitted to the Town of Halton Hills regarding this application(s) which is being processed under the Planning Act 1990, may be made public as part of the application process.

Further information is available in the Planning Department, Town of Halton Hills, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, Ontario L7G 5G2 or contact the Planner assigned to the file, Mark H. Kluge at 905-873-2601, ext 2299. A copy of the related Staff Report will be available on **Friday April 21, 2006** on the Town's website at: http://www.haltonhills.ca/hap_news.asp

ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME.



DATE/TIME: Monday, April 24, 2006 @ 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, Civic Centre
FILE NOS: D09OPA06.001 & D14ZBA06.001 (Dr. M. Beier, 90 Guelph Street) 63

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE DUE TO EVENT

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, s.O. 2001, and Town of Halton Hills By-law 2003-0032 regarding the following temporary road closures for the purpose of the following community event:

Big Bike for Stroke
Monday, May 1st, 2006
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Route leaving Canadian Tire/Boston Pizza Parking Lot proceeding west on Guelph Street (Hwy. 7) to Sinclair Avenue, north on Sinclair Avenue to Armstrong Avenue, east on Armstrong Avenue to Guelph Street, west on Guelph Street returning to Canadian Tire/ Boston Pizza.

Organized by: The Heart and Stroke Foundation

This information is presented as a courtesy notice to motorists, pedestrians and area residents. If you require any additional information regarding the temporary road closure, please contact Kelly Withers at 905-873-2061, ext. 2330. 64

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Contact: 519-944-6555
email: juliettemageau@sympatico.ca

Georgetown Market Place
In front of Walmart (Main Entrance)
UNTIL SUN. APR. 23/06