

Town spreads around available water

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The developer's representative R.E. Clipsham told council Monday night, that the developer is willing to do site remediation cleanup but only after receiving Halton Region draft approval and is now waiting for Ministry of Environment (MOE) confirmation that the Region can issue draft approval before this occurs. He said the MOE had confirmed this via an e-mail.

But Halton Region, Planning Director Bruce MacLean told councillors, still contends the reverse, and as late as last Friday, had not decided whether to issue draft approval. MacLean said he has repeatedly warned the developer to move toward draft approval and registration, otherwise the Town could take back the water, noting that yet another 30 days notice is being given.

"I do want to reassign the water because I do think we have other priorities other than residential," said Wards 3&4 Regional Councillor Jane Fogal.

"We have nothing for any industrial, any employment expansion, nothing for a school, there's nothing for any use at all."

These 24 SDEs in Acton will be deposited into the non-residential water supply pool and first priority be given to non-residential projects and to other projects that are building permit-ready.

In Georgetown, the situation is not quite so dire as there are 99 SDEs remaining, including council-approved redistribution of water allocation from:

- 16 SDEs from Halton Hills Village Homes Phase 5
- 11 SDEs from Silvercreek

- 3 SDEs from partial lots related to the above subdivisions

Amended approvals have resulted in fewer lots for the above projects, thus requiring less water.

The 99 SDEs will distributed on the following priority basis:

- 40 SDEs to the new Georgetown South school
- 13 SDEs to the proposed fire hall
- 15 SDEs to the proposed Sinclair Ave fitness centre
- The remaining 68 SDEs goes into a pool with priority to non-residential projects and any other projects that are building permit ready.

According to the Halton Region report, depending on MOE approvals and completion of sewage treatment plant and reservoir expansion, Acton will likely not have any additional water until least 2010.

In Georgetown, more water is possible by 2008 or 2009 if MOE grants approvals for more water taking from the Cedarvale well field, Lindsay court water and re-rating of the water treatment plant. The first phase could be about 500 SDEs and the second phase could be about 1,500 SDEs (but would require a expansion to the water treatment plant) and the third phase of 700 SDEs would require approval of a new well in Cedarvale. The improvements are also dependent on Halton regional council approval of construction and study budgets.

(Cynthia Gamble can be reached at cgamble@independentfreepress.com)

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