

# Hornby well woes far from settled, say residents

Continued from pg. 1

The total estimated cost to mitigate the impact to private wells, including installing and maintaining temporary water supply systems and providing trucked water, is \$725,000.

In the staff report, Peter Crockett, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works said 40 of the 56 wells have now shown sufficient recovery so they can be reconnected. However, many Hornby residents are still experiencing problems with their water.

"The feedback I'm getting is generally, yes, the water table is recovering. It's now becoming more of an issue of the quality," said Ken Lawday of the Halton Association of Rate Payers (HARP). "A lot of people are still getting a lot of silt through their wells."

He stressed the situation is "still nowhere settled."

Steeles Ave. resident Kuldeep Bharj is one resident still experiencing problems with his well.

He said the Region reconnected his well a few weeks ago but did so "without a proper health report."

When a report was later delivered to him in the mail he was shocked with the findings.

"It said it wasn't safe to take a shower in, let alone drink," said Bharj.

He immediately contacted the

Region and their water system was reconnected again to the temporary tank. He said he recently received a call from Region staff saying the water is now "fine."

But he refuses to be reconnected to the well until an independent analysis of the water is done.

Sixth Line resident Erik Kowal also remains connected to a temporary water supply.

He said in the past there was 18 feet of good quality water in his well, but today there is only four feet.

"How long are we going to wait?" asked Kowal.

He said one of his neighbours was considering selling his home but can't because he is also still on a temporary water supply.

At least 15 Hornby area residents are still using temporary water tanks, Kowal estimated—10 alone on the Sixth Line. In his report, Crockett said when the report was written, "it is anticipated that 10 of the properties provided with temporary supplies will have to remain on the temporary system through all or part of the winter."

Ann Sharpe is one resident on the Sixth Line who would be happy to have a temporary tank.

Sharpe lives north of Steeles Ave., about 200 ft. from a resident who does have a temporary tank on their property provided by the Region.

Sharpe said she ran out of water last September, but when



Hornby homeowner Erik Kowal inspects the level of the water in the tank, set up by Halton Region, outside his Sixth Line home. The 1,200 gallon tank has been in place since his well failed in June after a borehole plug failed during excavation work done by the Region on a new pumping station. *Photo by Ted Brown*

she complained to the Region she said she was told, "they didn't think it was their problem," and blamed it on the drought.

"We've been here 50 years and we've never had a (water) problem," said Sharpe. "We always had

a fair amount in the well, and we had good recovery."

She had, however, the Region has been delivering water to her well twice a week, but it flows out rapidly. That's why she believes it would be more cost-effective for

the Region to provide them with a temporary tank.

"I'm frustrated, but I'm grateful for the water," she said.

In his report Crockett said "it is expected that groundwater levels in all wells impacted by the dewatering will recover" and that the pumping station will be finished this March, on time.

Crockett also said Region staff was going to retain a third party consulting engineer to determine if any errors, omissions or negligence on the part of the Region's contractors or consultants caused the failure of the borehole plug.

If that's the case, any potential for compensation would be determined, he said.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said he was, and wasn't, surprised by the cost to rectify the problem, because it was such a big project.

"It's a hell of a cost to say the least," he said.

He said the cost would not be passed down to the taxpayer, as it will instead be absorbed by development charges, but he stressed, "those dollars could have been used for something else."

"I am very surprised (with the additional cost)," said Halton Hills Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis. "Did they not do their homework well enough in advance to know they would have an impact?"

Lewis added the Region's process of dealing with the affected residents was "disappointing."

## Sustainable Halton information night set for tomorrow

# Residents urged to share views on growth plan

**CYNTHIA GAMBLE**  
Staff Writer

In less than 15 years— 2021— and continuing to 2031, Halton Hills will see more people, more homes, and more buildings built around Georgetown and Councillor Jane Fogal says now is the time people should be talking about how they want that to occur.

The Wards 3&4 Regional Councillor is urging residents to attend tomorrow (Thursday) night's Sustainable Halton information centre at Mold-Masters SportsPlex.

"We (council members) get a lot of people asking us 'Why is the growth going on so fast in Georgetown South and why are you not doing anything about it?'," said Fogal. "I think all the councillors try to explain that the decisions were made about

the urban boundaries 20 years ago.

"That's what we're doing now. If you wanted to comment (about Georgetown South), you needed to be here 20 years ago. Now here's the chance when we're going to do urban boundaries again (change the line which demarcates between urban and rural zones)... I hope people are getting that this is the time (to comment) when we're deciding how we're going to expand our boundaries."

The Sustainable Halton session focuses on Evaluation Framework—the guide which will be used to rank the dozen or so growth options that will be released on March 19.



Beginning 2021 approximately 7,500 acres of land in Georgetown and Milton will be used for new homes and infrastructure.

The workshop starts at 6 p.m. with a Regional staff presentation at 7 p.m. Participants will each receive a workbook containing the framework and break-out sessions will gather input on it. Two key questions will be asked: Do you agree/disagree with the goals and objectives (within the Framework)? Do you see what's important to you reflected in the Framework?

"Please tell us what you would like changed and what you would like us to focus on and how we can all work together on this project," said Halton Region's Director of

Planning and Transportation Mary Lou Tanner, noting that the two sessions in

Oakville and Burlington were well attended. Sessions for Milton and another at the Halton Region office will be held Jan. 30 and Jan. 31 respectively.

Halton's current population sits at 440,000, and under the Province's Places to Grow mandate, the Region must plan for another 340,000 people to move here.

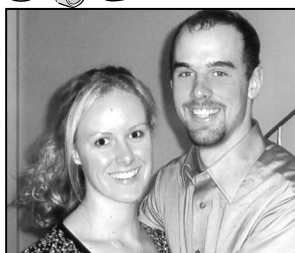
Starting in 2015, the existing urban areas of Halton will be expected to take 40 per cent of growth through intensification (translation: more apartments). That leaves 60 per cent of the growth to be accommodated, after 2021, through boundary expansion, primarily in Milton and Georgetown—a total 3010 hectares (about 7,500 acres) of land that will become homes, businesses and community infrastructure.

The Niagara Escarpment and Greenbelt surrounds Acton so growth will be limited there.

• Our view... page 6.



Craig & Chris Fleming and Michele Everett are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Kerri Fleming & Dan Everett. The wedding will take place in 2009.



Eddie and Jodi Davids of Georgetown are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Angie to Tim, son of Barend and Hennie Bonvanie of Woodstock. Wedding to take place in August 2008.



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