

THE INDEPENDENT

& FREE PRESS



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Visit our website at www.independentfreepress.com and have your say on a current issue through our new interactive web poll. A new question will be posted every Tuesday and Friday after 5 p.m. and results will be available online.



Snow bunny

Lauren McLean, 4, is so excited about the Easter bunny visiting her house this year, that she decided to make her own out of snow, with a little help from her dad, Rob. That way, that bunny can't help but spot her house as he's making the rounds. Kids all over the world will be looking forward to searching for the eggs left by the bunny first thing Easter morning.

Photo by Ted Brown

Plans for private school shot down

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

In a unanimous decision Monday night, Halton Hills council ignored a staff recommendation and voted against a proposal for a private school on the Eighth Line.

Council backed a motion by Wards 1&2 Regional Councillor Clark Somerville that said the Town doesn't support the application for the Keswick Sutherland School as "it does not serve the majority of Halton Hills rural residents nor does it meet the Town and Region's official plans."

Town planning staff was recommending no objection from the Town, calling the application "good planning" and a "compatible rural land use."

As a commenting agency, the Town's objection will be sent to Halton Region.

The application by Jesus Cordoba and Callie Schiechl for the approximately 150-student private elementary school and equestrian centre proposed for a 95.6 acre property between 27 and 32 Sideroads requires both a Regional Official Plan amendment and Niagara Escarpment Development Control Permit.

At the meeting, which drew about 40 area residents, Somerville said, along with the fact the application didn't meet the Official Plans, he also had concerns that 40,000 litres of water a day could be removed from the aquifer by the school once it was open. His other concerns included wastewater and the impact of an "enormous amount of traffic" going to and from the school on the "narrow" Eighth Line in the area.

Ward 2 Councillor Joan Robson stressed the school would not be servicing the existing community.

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