

Second developers' group outlines future plans for growth

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Staff Writer

A second developers' group appeared before Halton Hills council Monday to outline their development plans for the southwest side of Georgetown.

Earlier this month Halton Region planners, under the Sustainable Halton plan, released five growth options that would determine future development of Halton Hills until 2031. Of the five, four propose population increases for Halton Hills between 20,000 and 40,000. At least three of the five encompass all or part of the lands belonging to the South West Georgetown Landowners Group (SWGLOG).

The SWGLOG is an umbrella group representing Mattamy Homes, Remington Homes, Country Homes, Lormel Homes and Conservatory Group.

The land they wish to develop extends from Eighth Line to Trafalgar Rd. between 10 and 15 Sideroads—about 1,000 acres.

Making the presentation on behalf of SWGLOG was solicitor Lynda Townsend of Townsend Rogers LLP, who said the concept—still in the tentative stage—for the land is a mix of commercial, and low, medium and high density. The development, which she said would fill out Main St. South, would include green spaces and road links. She called it a logical sequence, and containment, of growth proceeding in a westerly direction from Main St. and ending at Trafalgar Rd.

A community hub is planned across from the Gellert Community Centre, she said.

The hub would serve as focal point for new and existing residents, said Mara Samardzic, of Delta Urban Inc., land managers of the property. As designs proceed, the development would be integrated with the east side of Main St. with complementary styles and uses such as schools, medical centres, etc.

Townsend said SWGLOG is eager to participate in the public consultation slated to begin in September. Halton Region is scheduled to decide on a single option at its Oct.

22 meeting.

"This particular municipality has been very forward-thinking in the sense you have been proactive in being involved in this process," said Townsend. "You made it quite clear that any growth option had to be reflective of what you are as a community as well as sustainable and the ability to service it as well."

Mayor Rick Bonnette said there is hesitancy in the community to use a lake-based water solution to future growth and asked whether SWGLOG could do it without The Big Pipe (from Lake Ontario).

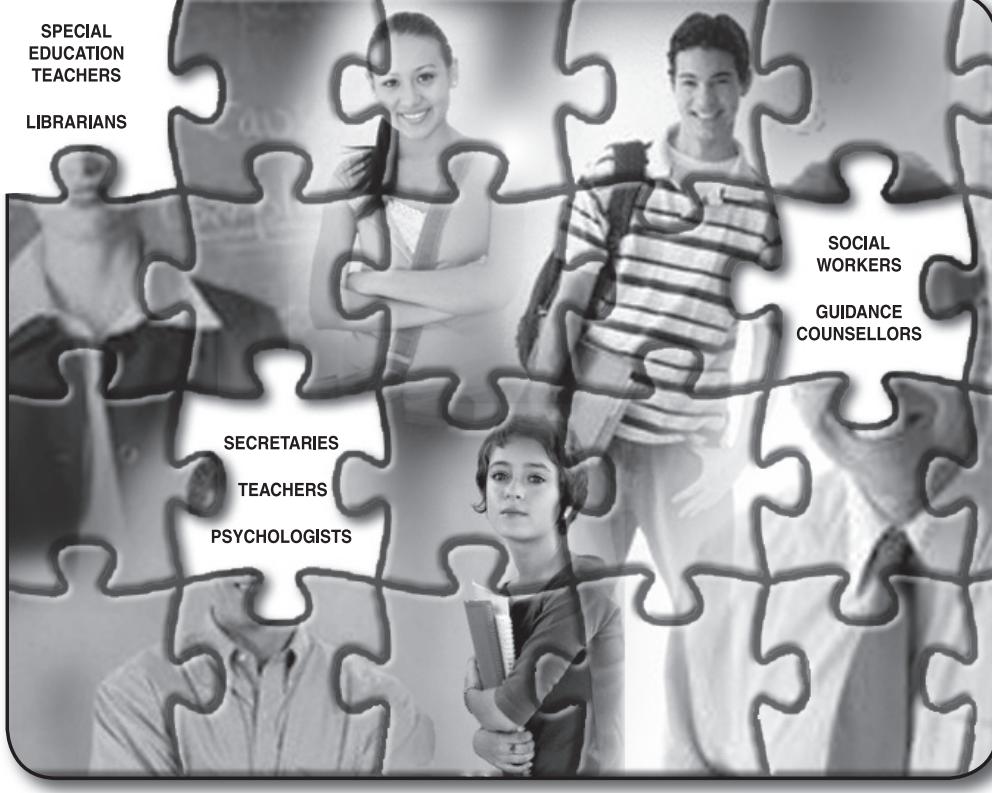
Townsend said a well-based system is the preferred choice, but "also let's maintain the flexibility for a lake-based one that's done in a way that moderates and controls growth."

Bonnette asked if the Town confirms a groundwater well system could only sustain a population of up to 15,000 people, would SWGLOG be satisfied with that or push for a lake-based system?

Townsend said she couldn't answer that until she consults with her clients but pointed out to the mayor that Halton Region's Sustainable Halton five concepts are looking to Halton Hills to take a minimum of 20,000—"and so that's what we're working with."

Townsend said her group would like to work with the Town, Chamber of Commerce, and residents to ensure that there is a locally driven solution to growth to present to the Halton Region planners.

In a previous council meeting, Georgetown Commons, a group of six developers presented its concept for 2,000 acres of lands, between 10 and Five Sideroads from Ninth Line to Trafalgar Rd.



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