

Town's future growth rests largely on water availability

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In 1972, new major subdivisions were created in Acton: Kingham and Cobblehill Estates— built by the Bovis Corporation, a British-based multinational corporation.

Growth slowed again for both communi-



Arguably the area's most famous resident— Anne of Green Gables author Lucy Maud Montgomery who made her home in Norval.

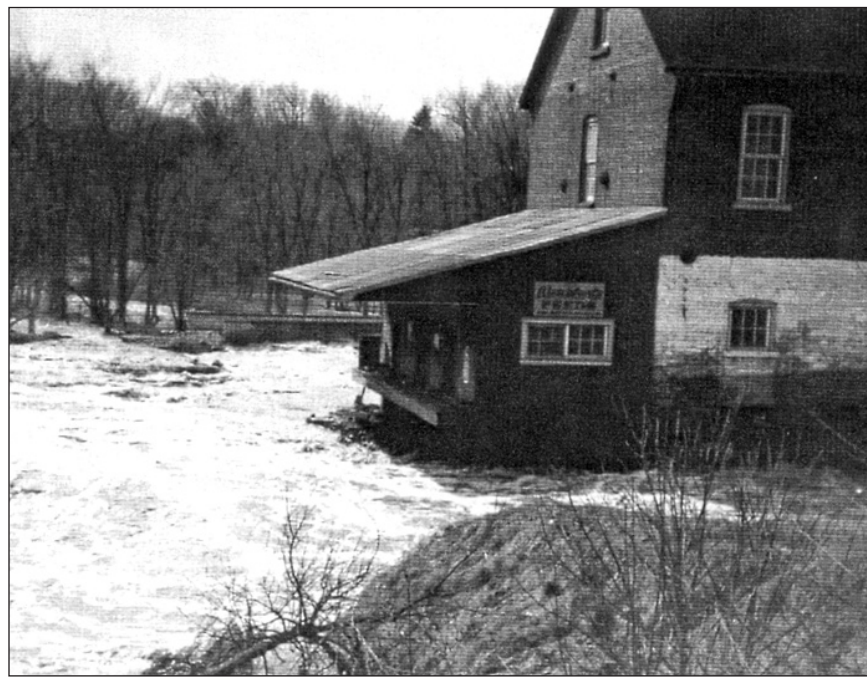
ties until the early 1990s when construction began in what is known today as Georgetown South. The lands had been owned by Heslop, sold to the McLaughlin Group (Halton Hills Village Homes Inc.) in 1965. But it took almost 20 years, threats of Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings, hearings and a court battle, for the first homes to be built.

Today, about 12,000 people call Georgetown South home with future growth planned dependent on water availability.

Meanwhile, Acton's growth was stalled by a long drawn-out OMB hearing debating water supply, sewage treatment plant capacity, fisheries impact and competing developers' interests. Eventually the OMB gave approval in the early 1990s to several companies to build new homes for about 3,000 people. Currently Acton's future development is stalled due to water restrictions and the Province's Greenbelt Plan.

Halton Hills began the new millennium with a population of about 46,000, and is currently at approximately 56,000. However, that number is expected to grow to potentially between 60,000 and 70,000 by 2016.

Halton Region, in consultation with Halton Hills, Burlington, Milton and Oakville is in the middle of a planning exercise known as the Sustainable Halton Plan. The Plan will respond to provincial legislation, which has targeted Halton to grow to 650,000 people in 2021 and to 780,000 people by 2031. Halton Hills will be expected to take its share of people— but still unanswered are how many and where.



Above: The fury of Hurricane Hazel on Oct. 15, 1954 ravaged the village of Norval, flooding much of the hamlet.

Below: The last steam train in regular use traveled through Georgetown in 1959 but this one drew a crowd in 1965 while passing through.

Photo courtesy Esquesing Historical Society



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