

# Water harvesting concept studied for Acton water supply

Increasing the amount of water taken from the Prospect Park wells is a key component of four of the six concepts being studied to ensure there is enough water to handle the provincially mandated growth that will occur in Acton by 2031.

The Sustainable Halton Water and Wastewater Master Plan as it relates to Acton also includes concepts to increase the amount of water at the Fourth Line well field, construction of a new well field, connecting to Lake Ontario through a pipe from Georgetown, connecting to the Wellington County system that gets its water from Lake Erie and implementing an aquifer recharge program.

By 2031, Halton Hills is expected to grow to 90,200 people and have 42,500 jobs, and this Region-wide Water and Wastewater Master Plan study is examining ways to ensure there is enough water and wastewater capacity to handle the growth. All of the options were outlined at the first round of public information cen-

tres, including one at the Acton arena/community centre last Wednesday.

Halton Hills is the only municipality in Halton that gets its water from wells. In Acton, there are two wells at Prospect Park, a single well on the Fourth Line, and two wells at the Davidson well field. Combined, they are licenced by the province to produce 6,082 cubic metres of water daily for use in Acton from June to September, and approximately half that amount from October to May.

David Simpson, Halton's acting manager of water planning said he was "thrilled" with the turnout at the Acton meeting as it showed that people are involved and aware of the proposals to increase the amount of water available for development and the improve the wastewater treatment system.

Currently, a lack of water in Acton forced council to place a moratorium on all residential development and institute a "use it or lose it" system, forcing developers with water and waste

water capacity to proceed with their plans and not sit on their water and wastewater allocations.

"Between the Prospect Park well field and the Fourth Line well field, we believe that there is sufficient capacity there that we're able to confirm the long term sustainable yields and confirm there's no long term ecological impact or impact to local residents' wells," Simpson said.

He said other scenarios include taking the Prospect Park or Fourth Line well fields and adding yield from a new well field which they are looking at in the general area north of Acton to determine if there are sustainable yields.

Simpson said the concept of connecting to a pipe from Georgetown using Lake Ontario water would not be allowed because it is contrary to the Greenbelt legislation that affects Acton.

"The other possibility would be to pump ground water from Georgetown once it gets Lake Ontario water. Another considera-



**PRAY TOGETHER:** The annual Praise in the Park ceremony welcomed all Acton congregations to pray together on Sunday afternoon. The service was relocated from the Rotary Band Shell in Prospect Park due to inclement weather. All were united at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church. – Denise Paulsen photo

tion would be to draw on some of the supply from Wellington County, but if you take water from Lake Erie you have to give the same amount of sewage effluent back to Lake Erie," Simpson said, adding they need to do more work on those concepts.

He said the final concept to ensure security and long-term sustainability is a "quite new" artificial aquifer recharge program where water from the spring thaw is collected and allowed to infiltrate into the aquifer.

"It is sort of like water

harvesting, then you infiltrate it into your aquifer and so you sort of recharge it for the pumping season and extract it through your regular production," Simpson said, adding the concept is probably a little ahead of where the Ministry of Environment is at this point, but still warrants study.

Concepts for Acton wastewater servicing include expanding the treatment capacity in Acton, reducing inflow and infiltration, sending flows to the Georgetown wastewater treatment system or

to the South Halton wastewater treatment system.

Following the public input from the information centres, staff will review the comments and begin short-listing some of the strategies and doing more in-depth reviews of the concepts. That will be done this summer and into the early fall with the intent of coming back to the public for a second round of public information centres in November.

"From the short list we'd propose a preliminary preferred water system strategy," Simpson said.



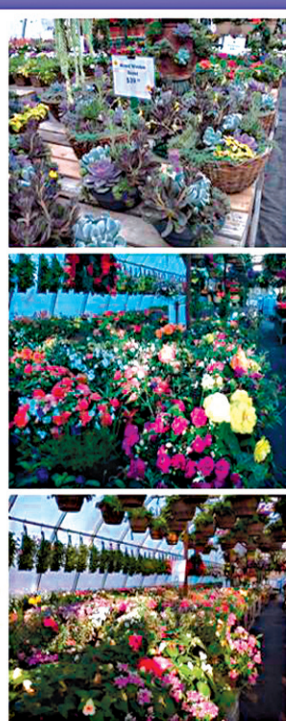
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