

Safety concerns raised during hearing over E.C. development

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"These children do not live in a protective bubble," said Ms Ryan. "In fact, the philosophy of the school is to teach children to live in the hearing world."

In the course of the trial, safety concerns over a proposed Ontario Street access had been raised.

But those could be alleviated if the Town agreed to give up a small strip of municipally-owned land, allowing a Childs Drive access, said Ms Ryan.

"If the Town has any safety concerns, they have the power to eliminate those concerns," she said.

In his summation, Mr. Watson noted the proposal simply isn't in the public interest.

"In my submission, this proposal just doesn't make sense," he said. "It's not in the public interest to cut up this campus."

The nature of the site, which houses deaf and special needs students, should be taken into consideration, added Mr. Watson.

"This is a particularly vulnerable and sensitive group of students," he said. "My submission is the open space is part of the backyard of those students."

He said the proposed development would compromise the academic programs and safety of the campus, an issue not touched on during the lengthy hearing.

"The public interest demands that the impacts of the application be stressed," said Mr. Watson. "It's fundamental, in my submission, and it hasn't been done. We heard very little evidence addressing the

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HAL WATSON

issue of impacts at all."

Even without those factors, the proposed development would be cut off from the rest of the town, he said.

"This is an effort to jam in a residential development at the back of a campus," said Mr. Watson.

He asked that in the event the application is approved, certain conditions be placed on it, including the preservation of the entire woodlot, complete with a 5 metre buffer.

Mr. Pickfield opted to submit jointly with Mr. Watson.

But he spoke at length anyway, noting the site is valuable for academic purposes as well as for residents and the deaf community.

"Open space is tied into community use," he said. "You can't overlook it and say communities are not relevant. There's no question that this park is actively used by the residents."

And it can continue being used if the

development passes, countered Ms Ryan.

"This school will still have 60 acres of land for about 1,200 students. The school will still have access to nine acres of woodlot," she said. "That's more than five times the size of your normal, average school. That's an enormous amount of land."

A condition of sale placed on the property between the developers and the Ontario Realty Corporation, the real estate arm of the provincial government, expires November 30.

That leaves Mr. Watty little time to render his decision on the complicated and controversial case. But he promised to try.

"If a party has a deadline to meet, we'll try to assist," said Mr. Watty. "I'll have a decision issued hopefully in a very short while."

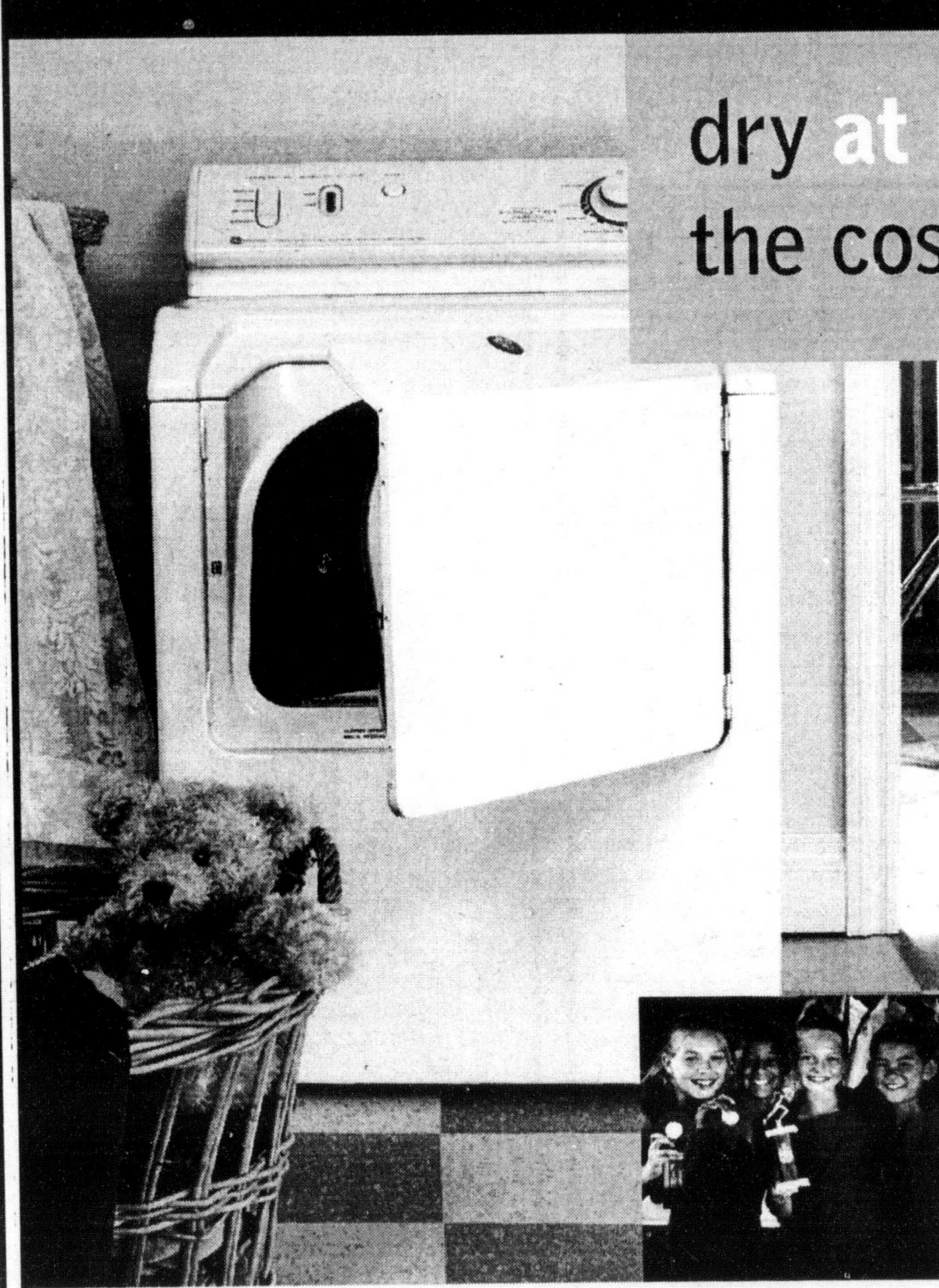


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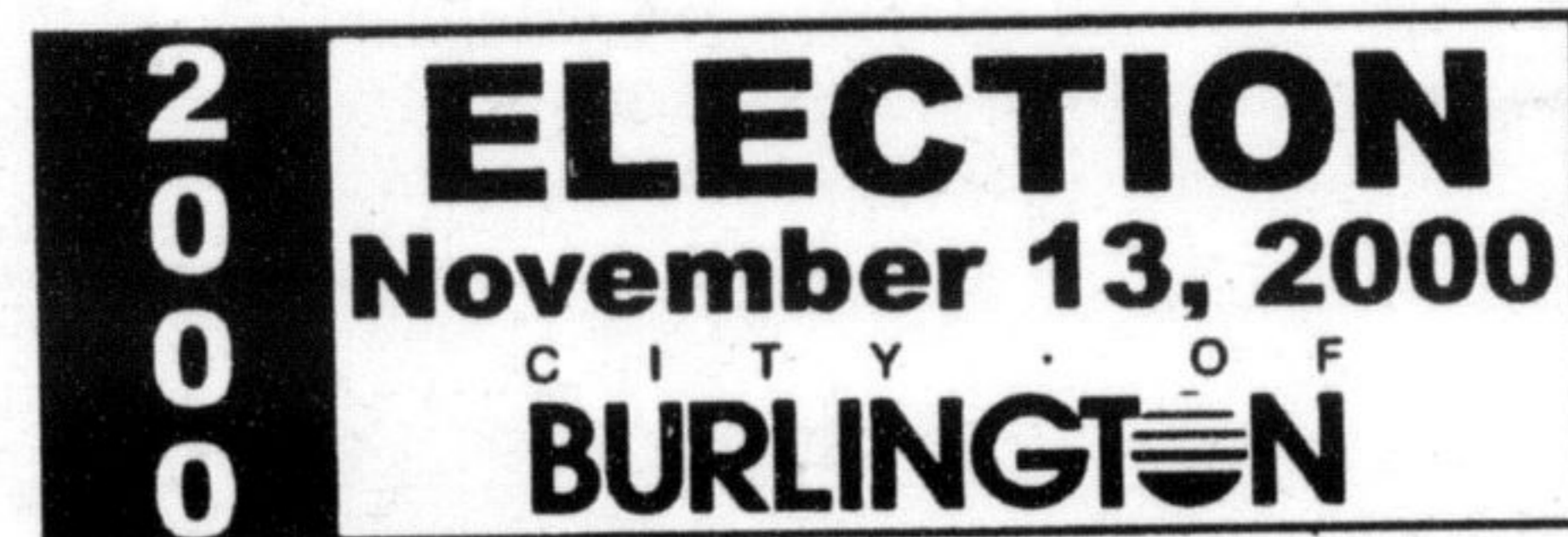


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In the event you do not receive a Voter Identification Notice and you are eligible to be an elector in the November 2000 Election, please call the Clerk's Election Information Line at 335-7721 for instructions on getting added to the Voters' List.

PLEASE NOTE: The Voter Identification Notice lists all eligible electors at the municipal address. Please share the information with voters in your household.

John Skorobohacz
CITY CLERK AND RETURNING OFFICER

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ADVANCE VOTING DAYS

Wednesday, November 1, 2000 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Saturday, November 4, 2000 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

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