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The Olympic flame makes its way through downtown Orono on December 16th, Day 48 of the Olympic Torch Relay.

Council reviews progress

A number of Clarington Councillors took shots at the Progress Report at Monday's General Purpose & Administration Committee meeting.

The report, according to Mayor Jim Abernethy, was a measurement of whether or not councillors achieved what they set out to achieve at the beginning of their term. In early 2007, council and senior staff members created a Corporate Strategic Business Plan, which set out a number of directives for this current term of office. "If there are things we haven't achieved, we still have a year in our mandate to achieve these things," Abernethy stated.

The report states that prior to carrying out many of the action items listed in the Plan, a significant amount of time was devoted to prioritizing the items and phasing them in over the four year political term of office. "Most of the action items identified in the Plan have now been completed," stated Clarington's Chief Administrative Officer Frank Wu in his report.

Courtice Councillor Adrian Foster took exception to the fact that the Progress Reports states that the banner program in Courtice has been completed, even though the Courtice business community undertook that program, not the municipality. Another item pertaining to a plan for the development of a Courtice Corridor stated that the Municipality's work was "continuing" in assisting local businesses to create a business improvement area. "I don't recall anything being

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Trim says focus on boys school, not Camp 30

Clarington council should focus on preserving the history of the boy's training school at 2020 Lambs Road rather than prisoner of war camp history, according to Councillor Charlie Trim.

The focus should be on Mr. John Jury, who as a resident and local businessman donated 300 acres of land to the provincial government in the 1920s to provide direction and a safe environment to young boys at risk, Trim told members of Clarington's General Purpose and Administration Committee on Monday morning.

His comments came following a presentation by two Ryerson University students who presented a redevelopment

plan for the former boy's training school property on Lambs Road in Bowmanville at the Committee meeting. The redevelopment plan was a school project. The students were to present themselves as consultants hired by the municipality to redevelop the site, which is currently owned by Kaitlin Developments.

Trim said his feeling could be summed up in four words, "Stop now, wrong direction." Council has only been focused on preserving the history for the five years the site served as a prisoner of war camp for German officers during World War II, according to Trim. "We have missed the boat," Trim said. "By the looks of it, a prisoner of war camp is

more exciting and a much better draw," he said. These high ranking German officers, held at Camp 30 in Bowmanville made some decisions that created some real problems for our troops and for the people at home, according to Trim.

"I suggest the Legion and people who fought, will be disappointed in council for honouring and remembering high ranking German officers, and not looking at the decades this site improved the health and wellbeing of young men," Trim told committee members. He urged council to take a look at what they were doing and look at taking a different route before they get too far down the road and big money is involved.

During World War II, more than 800 German officers were housed at Camp 30, which was established in 1941 by the Canadian Forces. It is the last German prisoner of war camp left in Canada.

The concept presented by the students involved converting many of the existing buildings into public spaces for recreation, performance art and exhibitions, a banquet hall, a restaurant, a farmers market, a daycare, as well as an outdoor skating rink and walking and cross-country skiing trails along Soper Creek.

Following the presentation by the Ryerson students, the Mayor reminded everyone

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