

Bloomington developers' long wait may be over

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff writer

Supplying municipal water to the community of Bloomington is another step closer.

Council agreed Tuesday night with a recommendation water for the hamlet should come from the Ballantrae-Musselman's Lake water system rather than Stouffville or Uxbridge.

Developers have been waiting as long as 15 years to build approximately 110 single family homes in the Bloomington Road-Ninth Line community. That's when the first draft plans were approved by the council of the day. They didn't proceed, however, because a municipal water supply must be in place before construction can begin.

There are now three developers in the area. Only the south-west quadrant isn't slated for development.

Once Bloomington has municipal water, the population will likely rise to about 600.

Construction of a well in the Ballantrae area has been included in York Region's five year capital forecast. Work is scheduled to start this year and the well is anticipated to be commissioned in 2007.

A 1998 class environmental assessment funded by developers recommended connecting the hamlet to the Ballantrae-Musselman's Lake water system. A 1,300 metre watermain along Ninth Line would be required between the two points.

Before water could be allocated to Bloomington, however, enough reliable capacity from the Ballantrae-Musselman's Lake system would have to be established. The existing elevated tank could supply storage for both systems.

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Since the assessment was completed, the region has been working to obtain the necessary permit to take water from the Environment Ministry. The region has also completed the detailed design of the watermain.

Consultant Bob Hodgson asked why the 90 units of water allocation that recently became available shouldn't go to his client first. He represents a developer who has been unable to proceed with a subdivision in Bloomington for which he received draft plan approval in 1989.

"We say the allocation is here now," Mr. Hodgson said.

That capacity isn't even enough for the existing homes in the hamlet. Andrew McNeely, the town's director of planning, explained later.

Mr. Hodgson noted answers he's received from the Region of York are different from information in the 2004 addendum report to the class environmental assessment received by the town.

"I believe this report is premature. We need more information on phasing and timing of the way development is

going to occur," Mr. Hodgson said.

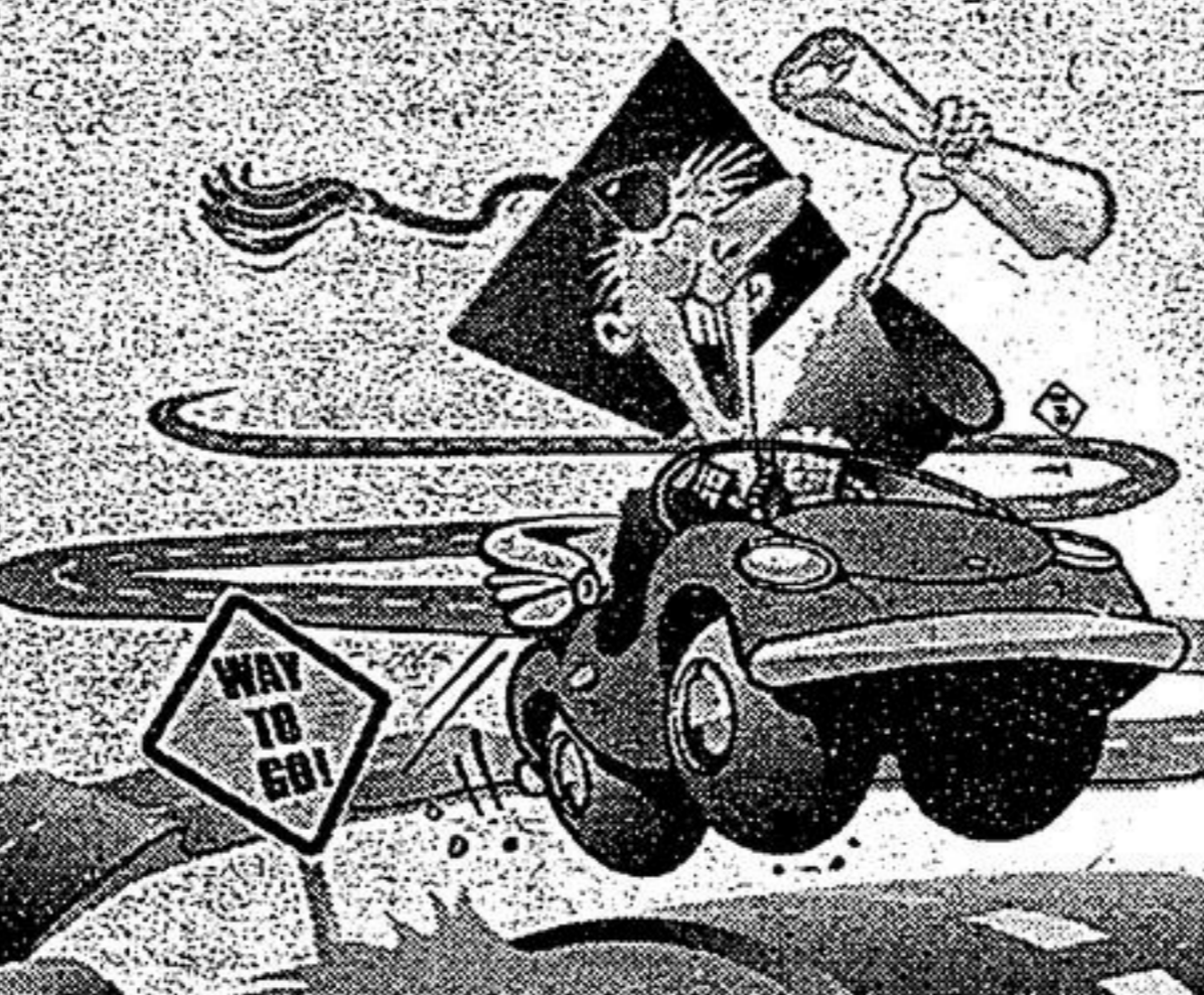
He was looking for authorization to begin the required environmental studies for the subdivision.

Council voted to approve the recommendations of the report, but also asked town staff to address Mr. Hodgson's concerns and bring a report back to council at a later date.




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