

**Letter to the Editor**

**We have to remember that water is a finite resource**

Welcome to the brave new world!

Hearken friends, and shed a tear: The supply of superb well water in King Township's part of the moraine is no longer regarded as inexhaustible!

Perhaps readers will be confused, having heard so short a time ago that there was no problem with water from the aquifers, and that a well was found somewhere east of King City with water over-flowing.

Expect no sympathy if you're confused or upset. One must keep up with the fast-changing times, and we do mean fast.

A short time ago, residents fell asleep peacefully, lulled in the assurance they would always have their matchless water on tap, water from the moraine aquifers, the legacy of a dozen or more millennia.

Would anyone ever have imagined that this water (now recognized as being in limited supply) could be bargained away for the (ugh!) substitute water to be brought up from Lake Ontario through 25 miles or so of pipes, pipes equal in length to the "big pipe" taking the aquifer water down to the lake?

We live on the cusp (past the tipping point, some climatologists tell us) of the collapse of the planet's environment. We've heard about it all — relentless consumerism, the dangerous levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, rape of the earth's non-renewable resources, unsustainable development, destruction of the great forests, critical loss of fresh water, et al. We learn that some far-seeing venture capitalists are investing in sources of potable water, comprehending the looming scarcity, and what profits may accrue.

Pause a moment and think of what is happening in King: a village, a settlement area of no inconsiderable size with a precious heritage of pure water (it has some "cosmetic defects" we are told) is having enormous quantities of this water sent down in pipes in to Lake Ontario (without the consent of the residents, mind you), so that in due course, after it has been exposed to every kind of pollutant, and then "treated" and then it is returned, at great expense, back to the community in which it originated.

A year or two ago, a

guest speaker at a meeting of Concerned Citizens of King Township, speaking for water conservation, advocated that residents adopt (as he has done) the two-litre shower. In good faith, some residents signed on.

It is to laugh! And all that glossy literature coming to us from the Region: "Water for Tomorrow" — what a joke!

A houseful of water (as one engineer described it) going as we speak, going, going down the pipe. How long before it's all gone?

From the Massey series of lectures on CBC Radio

about a year ago, A Short History of Progress, in which the audience learned how, throughout history, advanced civilizations were destroyed by despoiling and destruction of their forests, arable land (of which we in Canada have a finite amount that is top grade, despite appearances) and their fresh water resources.

Oh that we in King could learn from history, from what is happening now, and reverse our course so that we might leave a legacy of pure water for the children of future generations.

John Whalley, King City

**Bid for minor variance requires another review, CCKT believes**

From page 4

- To exceed the limit by 4.5 meters (41 per cent) is not a minor variance.
  - To violate the bylaw, which states that an accessory use building or structure shall not be located closer to the street than the main building seems very inappropriate when CDS has significant available property behind their main building.
  - The structure itself is completely inconsistent with the rural character of King Township. Even if its height were within current bylaws, the erection of such a structure would be offensive.
  - Information as provided both in the application itself and at the Nov. 16 meeting was not adequate.
  - Concerns of the neighbours, as expressed at the meeting, were not appropriately addressed.
- There needs to be another review of this request for

relief from Township bylaws. This review needs to be very rigorous, as the extraordinary visibility of this structure ensures that both it and the process for approving it will become symbols: a symbol of what King Township is going to look like in the 21st century and a symbol of how business is done in King Township.

**Background**

The plan, as presented at the meeting, is to install a 15.5 meter white air supported structure to serve as a soccer stadium for Country Day School. The initial location is to be in front of their main building, with a minimum setback of 21.5 meters. CDS has a plan to move it further back and at a lower grade three years later.

To execute this, CDS requested relief from zoning regulations which state the maximum height of any building or structure is 11 meters and that an accessory

use building or structure shall not be located closer to the street than the main building is to the street.

If there ever was a time that neighbours and community should be protected from the collateral damage of a decision of one property owner, it is this particular proposal. The proposed structure is completely inconsistent with the architecture and aesthetic of King Township. Hence it is very ironic that CDS is seeking approval to violate a bylaw so that they can position their huge tall air inflated soccer dome in the most conspicuous location possible. CDS's apparent lack of consideration for the impact of their structure on neighbours and community is surprising as they have been so respectful of community with their main school buildings.

An obvious alternative to the CDS proposal is to position the stadium further

back onto the property from the outset, so that it is not visible from Dufferin Street. CDS has reviewed their rationale to not do so: it is essentially to expedite creation of an indoor facility without negatively impacting other CDS projects such as building a fitness centre.

It is our belief that the architecture and aesthetic of King Township should not be jeopardized in order to allow CDS to maintain their preferred pace and priority of expansion projects. If indeed the ultimate location of the air inflated structure is not available for three years, CDS has several options, including the choice to operate with sub optimal infrastructure and to compensate, at least partially, by sharing facilities with other schools in the area.

Prior to approving installation of this structure, as proposed, there are critical questions to be

addressed.

- What additional night lighting and traffic will there be? How will an increase be mitigated so that quality of life of neighbours does not deteriorate?
- What is the noise level generated by the equipment used to keep the dome inflated?
- How can the visual be improved (e.g. a dark colour rather than white)?
- How is the "temporary" nature of the location assured?
- Are CDS's long-term plans, as reviewed in their application, compliant with Township's bylaw regarding

maximum coverage?

The highly visible nature of the proposed structure demands that variance approval be given only after a comprehensive strategic review of the request. A significant precedent is being set. As proposed, this allegedly "temporary and minor" variance is a clear statement that our rural aesthetics are no longer valuable.

CCKT is prepared to support the appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board which has been initiated by a CDS neighbour.

Debbie Schaefer, CCKT vice-chair

**Valentine's dinner and silent auction**

The Springdale Chapter of TDCH will be hosting their 10th annual Valentine's Dinner and Silent Auction this Saturday (Feb. 10).

It will start at 6:30 p.m., and will feature a delicious roast beef dinner. The cost is \$25 per person and seating is limited.

Call (905) 778-9737 for information or to reserve tickets.

**Remember where the food came from**

That there are councillors representing the Township of King who have the time and opportunity to attempt a hike of farmland taxes, and to complain of lost revenue is shameful.

Is it not the responsibility of the rural countryside to cater and develop its foodstuffs for the millions to the south of us? Is it not our duty as citizens to encourage the farmer and give him a break on his already cash-strapped operation?

In fact, the growth coming into our township, the multi-million dollar "big pipe," the cost of real estate, and general residential taxation much shadows the

apparent loss of a few thousand dollars from the struggling farmer.

We would do well as a community to consider the importance of growing our own food and should make brave efforts to secure productive lands in the service of our township, if only to make an example for the desolate ruins to the south of us (Woodbridge, Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Oak Ridges, etc.) If we choose to imitate the trend of sprawl and build up a resort for the wealthy commuter without remembering that "It's the land that provided food for you and I," then we may

simply falter under the weight of development pushing its bounds to the city limits.

Robert T. Lipscombe, Kettleby

John and Beverley Berger of Nobleton happily share the engagement of their son, Daniel John, to Elaine Sheryl Hughes. Her parents, Paul and Mary Louise, are thrilled with preparations for the wedding, to be held at Harcourt Memorial United Church, Guelph, on June 2, 2007. Following their honeymoon at Disney World, the newlyweds will reside in St. Catharines.



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