

Province's ORM policies are unworkable in Caledon

Several years ago when I was Regional Councillor, we had a series of public meetings concerning the implementation of the Oak Ridges Moraine legislation and the effect that it would have on the thousands of rural property owners in the Town of Caledon.

Those of us who live here know how precious the moraine is and are prepared to be good environmental stewards of the land.

Many of the people attending those meetings had serious concerns about the direction that the process was taking in imposing unreasonable and unrealistic controls on the occupation and use of the lands. Many

of the proposals were counterproductive both to the protection of the Moraine and the ordinary rights of property ownership.

Recently, Town of Caledon planners tabled a document before council that laid out in clear, concise, detail how the negotiation between Caledon and the province had failed to resolve several of the outstanding issues. In fact, Town staff made it clear that they reached the end of the negotiation and now the issues could only be resolved at the political level.

These issues are serious and will have a substantial

Municipal Vote 2006 Letters on the issues

negative effect on land use, property values, and opportunities to find unique and better solutions for environmental protection and community living.

The ministry wants to eliminate all existing legal non-conforming uses and spot zoning in the high protection areas. This potentially puts many properties in a state of permanent "limbo." It also removes any chance that the municipality can control and encourage the orderly redevelopment of these properties even to benefit the environment.

The ministry also wants the Town to prevent farmers from replacing temporary houses (trailer homes) with permanent homes for farm help (can you believe this!). The ministry seems to think that the community, and the environment, benefits from house trailers littering the landscape.

The ministry also wants the Town to prevent second dwellings for property managers on large estates but doesn't seem to care how big the principle residence can be. The Town is also prevented from allowing severances, or, second dwellings on properties to save the limited number of important heritage buildings that are threatened with redevelopment of rural properties. Redevelopment is ok, apparently, but heritage preservation is

unimportant to the provincial planners!

The Town is supposed to stop the building of Garden Suites (second residences for multi-generational families) in the big acreage rural areas and squeeze them into the settlements and the Palgrave Estate area where they were not intended. So, you can't have an estate manager's house on a big estate but it's ok to have a

second dwelling in smaller estate subdivision. Make sense?

The Town planners' only suggestion is to have council ask the minister to make a "non decision" on these issues. In other words, to ask the minister to turn a blind eye and look away rather than impose these requirements. Boy, I wouldn't want to take this position to the bank at mortgage time!

I think that it is fair to say that the protection and enhancement of the

environmentally sensitive Oak Ridges Moraine has a very wide level of public support. However, these new directives from the ministry are quite unacceptable for those of us who already live here.

I think it's time for us to get John Tory and Dalton McGuinty involved in this issue. Council has told the Minister, bluntly, that it does not support the current ministry position.

Now it's our turn.

Richard Whitehead

Confused by the mayor's priorities

After reading D. Couture's comments in the Citizen, I couldn't help but agree. I am also confused by the mayor's priorities.

The Clean Air Partnership held their annual Smog Summit in Toronto last June. At this event, politicians came together to talk air. Each delegate signed a declaration vowing to improve air quality. After Mayor Morrison's five-minute speech on how green Caledon is, she and Annette Groves signed while smiling for the photographer. Has anything happened? Bolton has more cars than ever, the region is putting more money into roads and there is no sign of bikes lanes, carpool lanes or transit vehicles.

Switching to Bullfrog Power was a way to throw money at a growing energy problem. It doesn't really help any energy conservation or even promote retrofitting in Caledon. Anti-idling at schools shouldn't be a new concept. How about carpool spots in the parking lot or discounted child seats for your bike?

Then I saw in the paper that Mayor Morrison was breaking ground for a new youth centre whose construction will release tons and tons of CO2 emissions. The centre will ignore the kids who cannot afford \$3 to play basketball on a "real" court, but we will have another concrete building eating up our title to "The Greenest Town in Ontario."

I have to say I am disappointed by the mayor's performance. Maybe she is just like other politicians - walks the middle ground to get elected again. Like D. Couture says, I am looking for a real leader. Is everybody else?

Vanessa Butterworth
Bolton

Highway 10 needs attention

The following letter, to The Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Transportation, was submitted to the Citizen.

I am writing to further my concerns with respect to the plans and actions of your ministry related to the major traffic artery of Highway 10, from Brampton to Orangeville.

I have attached a letter that I addressed to Mr. John Tory the MPP for Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Gray. I appreciate, in advance, your attention to this very serious matter.

The Dear John letter to Mr. Tory appears to clearly outline the issue related to this highway as it pertains to Caledon and the traffic flowing through and to this beautiful area. The letter has appeared in three local newspapers and has generated a tremendous response to myself. I have been told that the article captures the essence of what many, many people in this area think is the problem. The response has been predictable - What can I do to help? What can we do before an accident claims the life of an innocent victim of government inaction!

I am now turning to you and your department for a response. We need some action to diffuse a very dangerous situation in the village of Caledon. Since my letter and the subsequent publication in the local newspapers it has been published that the Region of Peel is going to go ahead and make some modifications to the intersection of Highway 10 and County Road 124 (formerly highway 24). These modifications are directly related to the ability of large transport trucks to adequately make the turn onto Highway 10 in each direction. As much as I am pleased to see some action related to my notation of danger and disruption I am at a loss to understand why one arm of government would take it upon themselves to make a temporary correction to a problem that requires the co-operation and immediate joint response to the entire problem not just a small portion of it. If the Region does complete the modifications it will

undoubtedly require a dismantling of all or part of that work when the ministry decides to re-activate the widening of the road through the village. I see this as a waste of taxpayer money as well as a time waster in terms of the inevitable need to complete the job as quickly as possible.

At this point in time, we need you to intervene and kick-start the original plans to widen the road through the village of Caledon and modify the intersection to accommodate the high volume of commuter vehicles and transport trucks using this section of Ontario road. I am personally inviting you to come to Caledon for a cup of coffee at the coffee shop at the corner of #10 and regional road 24. I will buy you the coffee and sit with you while you have a bird's eye view of what the impact of the inaction on the widening of #10 is doing to this part of Caledon. I am confident that what you see will highlight the need of the Ministry to act quickly and decisively.

Please call me at 519-927-5365 or contact me via the Internet at dbeffort@sympatico.ca to accept this offer. I remain as open as possible to the dates and times.

Thank you, again, for your attention to this matter and I await your reply. The coffee is on!

Doug Beffort

Send us your letters

The Citizen welcomes letters regarding issues and/or candidates in the coming November municipal election. We reserve the right to edit the content to promote fairness, and we will allow time for responses. E-mail them to Mark Pavilons, editor@caledoncitizen.com.

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The Bolton Optometry Clinic
cordially invites you to join our welcome celebration in honour of our new associate
Dr. Virginia Donati
on
**Wednesday October 11th, 2006 from
One o'clock pm to Eight o'clock pm.**
Beverages and Hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the afternoon and evening.
**Bolton Medical Centre
12295 Hwy 50 Unit # 8, Bolton, Ontario**
A confirmation of your presence is requested by Friday September 29th, 2006
905.857.2020
A silent auction will be held in support of Caledon's Road Watch Program