

Subject: Sewage Plan Expansion

Sewage Plan Expansion

It would be an understatement to say this project has now created a "firestorm" of comments. I have reviewed many of the comments made on OakvilleNewsOnline.com and there is no doubt in my mind that the residents are looking for some answers and clarification on this Project.

In addition, I have watched Cogeco 23 and it also appears from this that the Town of Oakville and the Region of Halton are not prepared to provide informed answers to the people.

I would venture to say that several of our Regional and Oakville councillors are not skilled enough to provide expert opinions on the decision to expand the plant. They are simply dependent on others to guide them. If this is true, then our elected representatives must also take direction from the electorate.

They must not apply the NIMBY ( Not in My Backyard ) principle !!!

As a resident of Oakville for 33 years, I have seen many decisions debated which were of far less consequence. For example, the addition of a Home Depot to the North Service Road, a tennis bubble at Bronte Tennis club, opening of Beer Stores, building a bridge to connect Upper Middle Road.

The expansion of this sewage plant is something we will have to live with for the next 30 - 40 years both financially and environmentally.

What is the rush to approve the expansion without satisfying the needs of the residents. I can only suggest that a decision is being made based on "supplied" information from those more interested in growth to the North than the overall effect to the community.

A question was asked on one of the Cogeco 23 broadcasts about the Odour Study. The answer was that data was provided from a monitoring station at Pearson Airport as this was the only acceptable location by the Ministry.

This is like doing a traffic study on Hwy. 401 and relating it to Rebecca Street.

A consultant can be defined as a "Person who borrows your watch and tells you what time it is!"

Is the Town and the Region defining the parameters for the studies and if not why not ? Are the parameters being defined to justify the expansion ?

In summary, I believe that this project must be put on hold until: The appropriate information and justification can be provided to the public.

Preliminary reports can be received, reviewed and questioned for content.

Environmental issues are fully clarified  
Financial impact is provided relative effect on Property Taxes

If this project is a "Done Deal", then do not waste the time of people debating the expansion and let's get to the next step of auditing the decision towards dealing with the future impact to our residents, effect of the cost on taxes, and effect to our environment.

Congratulation to those two Councilors who have stepped - up to the plate on behalf of those residents they represent.

Yours truly,

Paul D. Graham