

Population growth number one concern of Innisfil and Barrie residents

Residents Want Urban Sprawl Contained

INNISFIL - An Environics survey commissioned by the Town of Innisfil shows 7 in 10 residents in Innisfil (68%) and Barrie (69%) are very concerned about the effect of future population growth in their municipalities.

As well, of those surveyed, a strong majority of Innisfil homeowners (80%) are opposed to giving up a portion of the north part of the Town of Innisfil to Barrie.

“What we’re hearing loud and clear from residents in Innisfil is that they’re not about to let Barrie bully us into annexing any part of our town,” says Innisfil Mayor Brian Jackson. “Clearly growth must be managed responsibly and more importantly even Barrie residents are saying they don’t

want the scale of growth that Barrie Council is actively promoting.”

When asked to think about population growth over the next 25 years, most homeowners in Barrie (54%) prefer that the population of the City of Barrie increases a little to 150,000. Another 25 percent want it to remain as it is at about 125,000, while only 17 percent think it should increase to the 250,000 supported by the City.

The most common concerns expressed by Barrie citizens associated with population growth are sprawl and traffic congestion.

The Environics survey also found that a strong majority of homeowners in both Innisfil (77%) and Barrie (84%) think

it’s important that they have the opportunity to work in, or close to their municipality. Innisfil’s approach in the stalled negotiations would effectively address that issue.

“Accommodating population and employment growth is a significant quality of life issue”, added Mayor Brian Jackson. “Our Innisfil proposal would create thousands of jobs, and give people the opportunity to work where they live. Unfortunately we can’t reach a local solution, when Barrie refuses to meet with us.”

The findings of the survey are based on a telephone survey of 400 homeowners in the City of Barrie and 200 in the Town of Innisfil. The margin of error for a sample of 600 is plus or minus 4.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Man in Motion
Scotiabank Alcona
Manager Graham
Barber participated in
the Rick Hansen Wheels
in Motion event over the
Father’s Day weekend.
submitted photo



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Celebrate Canada Day

On Saturday, June 30th, the Royal Canadian Legion will be hosting their annual Canada Day parade, commencing at 2pm.

Once again, there will be a bike decorating contest for the kiddies - decorate your bike and ride with the rest of the entrants in the Canada Day Celebration.

On Sunday, July 1st, the Innisfil Lions will celebrate Canada at the Lions Hall in Alcona from 10am until 1pm. There will be a flag raising at noon.

There will be a parade at Sandy Cove Acres starting at The Wheel at 10am on Sunday. There will be a variety of activities going on all day at Sandy Cove Acres.

Also on Sunday, MP Peter Van Loan will be hosting his annual Olde-Fashioned Dominion Day Pancake Breakfast - free - from 8:30 until 11:00 am at the Churchill Community Centre.

Tree cutting denied, water course re-location approved

by Michelle Minnoch
Solicitor Marvin Geist made a delegation to council Wednesday night regarding a Tree Cutting Request for the Alcona Downs development Phases II and III.

The development is located where the former golf course was on Innisfil Beach Road.

Geist said they need a

place to re-locate the top soil; the earth from Phase II and III would be moved to Phase I, and that is why he said he needs the tree cutting permit “immediately”.

“The Alcona Downs draft plan was approved for 178 lots for Phase I,” Geist said. “Phase I is really the back nine of the (former) golf course.”

He said the tree cutting plan was approved in March, and the County of Simcoe approved a tree cutting permit in April.

He stated Phase II includes 103 homes, and the Town has been required by the county to hold a public meeting regarding Phases II and III.

“I was told the public meeting would not be held until September.”

Geist said the Alcona Downs plan does not affect the owners in the Wallace Mills sub division at all.

He asked why there would have to be a public meeting with regards to the draft plan if the tree’s were being cut.

“The Planning Act does not require a draft plan prior to cutting trees,” he said.

Councilor Pring said he would like to see a friendly amendment to let Phase II go ahead, as it would help to get Webster Boulevard completed at an earlier date.

“I’m afraid of going down this path,” said Councilor Dollin, “having trees cut down before a public meeting.”

She said it made good political sense for them to wait and see what the people in the community say.

Councilor Van Berkel also said it was “a slippery slope”.

“Everyone else has a public meeting,” he said.

Mayor Brian Jackson said there would be no question, it would be precedent setting.

He said he emailed other municipalities in the county regarding the issue, and that other municipalities do not approve a tree clearing before draft plan approvals.

CAO Larry Allison said

the County requested the town have a public meeting regarding the issue.

In Committee of the Whole and the committee did not support the issuance of a Tree Cutting Permit due to the fact a Public Meeting was not held under the Planning Act, and the Town has not yet approved a Tree Preservation Plan for Phases II and III.

On Friday, Geist made a deputation to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority regarding the re-location of a watercourse on the Alcona Downs property.

Director of Watershed Management Mike Walters said the proposal met the Conservation Authority’s standards.

“I’m happy to say it does meet out criteria,” he said. “We had five conditions that the proponent agreed to.”

Geist outlined how the relocation will improve the watercourse;

-a new naturally vegetated channel with associated

fish habitat structure is proposed to be constructed through and Open Space block, and will continue to convey seasonal flow to downstream reaches

- a planting plan will substantially improve riparian conditions and serve to contribute more organic matter to downstream reaches

-the new channel will continue the conveyance function and is likely to be more productive in terms of organic matter contributions downstream fish habitat areas than the present system

He said given the historic conditions and management techniques associated with the existing system under the previous golf course system, future conditions of the system will be improved.

While there is a pond on the property, it was a dug pond used as part of the golf course and Geist said it was not part of the watercourse.

Walters said he did a site visit and the pond in question was so full of weeds, you could almost walk on it.

PETER VAN LOAN MP
YORK-SIMCOE

Happy Canada Day!!!

Come and enjoy a free pancake breakfast!

July 1, 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
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Annual Huronia Rose Show July 4

“Growing for a Greener Planet” is the theme of the Huronia Rose Society’s annual Rose Show on Wed. July 4, 7 p.m. at the Southshore Community Centre, 205 Lakeshore Dr., Barrie.

A wide array of rose blooms will be on display from luscious hybrid tea roses, masses of cluster-flowered floribundas to the petite miniature roses, the size of a fingernail.

Artistic floral designs including roses will interpret the theme in such classes as “Mother Earth”, “Recycling”, “From Sea to Sea to Sea”, Going Green”.

“Canadian-bred roses” will be a featured

section of the show.

Invited environmental groups will have informative displays.

Every 30 minutes a brief audio-visual presentation of Canadian-bred roses will be offered with a Question & Answer period in between each session. The public is invited to bring any rose growing questions to be answered.

Also available; rose gift items to purchase, miniature roses for sale, and earth-friendly rose care products.

Visitors can relax at the refreshment table, and enjoy fresh strawberries and lemonade.

Admission is \$1 per adult.