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February 19, 2006.

Halton - Halton Hills: Approximately 150 resident protestors showed up at the February 9th, Public Information Meeting hosted at The Town of Halton Hills Civic Centre, by Jesus Cordoba and Callie Scheichl who hope to open a multi-million dollar capitol investment operation on their farm located on the Eighth Line just north of 27 Sideroad, south of 32 Sideroad in the Town of Halton Hills rural ward 2.

The couple filed an application with Halton Region to amend the Region's Official Plan, which they hope will allow them to develop a multi-million dollar private company, called Keswick Sutherland School. The private facility is being proposed for development on a privately owned 95.5 acre farm adjacent the Scotsdale Farm.

Attendees to the public meeting learned from other protesting attendees who addressed visitors to the public meeting, that the facility was going to be in fact - not a 5000 square foot facility as previously reported in the Georgetown Independent, but a 10,000 square foot facility which intended to operating year round. Residents expressed to audience, don't be duped by what was reported or by the pictures displayed on the walls council chamber or the foyer of the Civic Centre of kids, cows and butterflies, they are not real.

The private school had been promoted in a February 1st Front Page article published in the Georgetown Independent. It boasted pictures of an artist conception drawing of the facility as well as a posed portrait of the couple on a subsequent page. In a following February 8th issue, resident protestors took out an ad; "Look behind the Wizard. All is not what it appears to be.", aimed at rallying residents of the area to attend the public meeting while raising public awareness. There, the protestors made significant inroads to raising public concerning the adverse impact, they felt the company would make in their rural community.



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As pointed out, "some good points were raised last night."

1 – As a private school – it is a business. Someone will be making a profit but since it's a school their taxes are going to be much lower – if they even have to pay at all

2 – The condition of the roads. There sounds like there are safety issues already. Increasing traffic on that road by as many as 150 cars per day, 7 days a week (there will be a riding school operating on the weekend) is not a smart move unless the town is willing to spend a great deal of money fixing the known problems. That means we (tax payers) will

be footing the cost for an elite few.

3 – Water. The last know water study was done prior to a housing development going in and was done in June when water tables are high. Will there be enough water to supporting 200 people a day plus livestock and a farming operation?

Comments in our Town Hall Forum have pointed out; "it's already a done deal", citing; the Region put the cart before the horse by having the applicants do all the required studies and is only now letting the citizens have their say as a matter of formality in the process, and nformation posted in our forums could serve to indicate so.

Aside from the [Region's Official Plan stating](#). Quote:

"The Town's existing Rural Area policies do not conform to the Regional Official Plan and should be revised accordingly. In this regard, the 1985 Official Plan permits small institutional uses such as elementary schools, churches and places of worship that serve the residents of the Rural Area while the Regional Official provides no such permission.

Given the foregoing, we do not see merit in deferring new Official Plan policies in context of the Keswick Sutherland proposal."

"the proposal (*private business*) conforms to the current approved Town Official Plan. With respect to the draft Official Plan, we are requesting that the municipality retain the existing policies for the subject property. This would confirm the permitted use and assist in streamlining the development application review process."

, The Keswick Sutherland Private School is already operating, [accepting online applications and registration agreements for enrollment](#) prior to the Region's approval. The Keswick Sutherland School also has an active ad listed in the Yellow Pages.

Community members in opposition of this private business opening in their rural community, will have their final chance to voice their opposition to those who really count, when the [Region hold it's final Public Forum](#) which has been scheduled to meet when most in opposition will be at work, this coming Wednesday, at 9:30 a.m. at the [Region's Civic Centre](#) located on Trafalgar Road in Oakville,, just north of the Q.E.W..

[Opposition group](#)