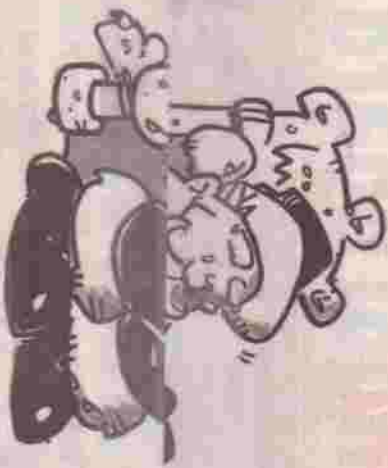


The News EMC Dec 2010 7, p.7

Charm built edition



"...ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS PEACE ON EARTH SWIVING BARNY IN HERE...!"

THE NEWS EMC
1000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Findlay Creek far from sustainable

To the editor:
Re: Findlay Creek builder fires back at critics, Dec. 6.

Mr. Dufresne fails to mention that part of this subdivision is in fact to be constructed on land evaluated as significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in 1989. Furthermore, various government agencies, including Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada, have acknowledged that a significant portion of the 313 hectare Letrim Wetland will be destroyed by the proposed development.

Mr. Dufresne's statements about protecting and not building on the wetland are wishful thinking at best. Draining 20% of Letrim Wetland is like trying to drain half a bath tub. It can't

be done without serious negative impacts for Letrim Wetland as a whole. Yet, Barran Developments has recently applied to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for a permit to drain up to 17 million liters of water per day for the next 10 years for their Findlay Creek Village subdivision.

Mr. Dufresne fails to mention that the various approvals given for this project were predicated on commitments from the developers to maintain the water levels and plant communities in the so-called "core" of the wetland in the pre-construction state.

To date, the developers have failed to abide by their commitments as acres of trees and shrubs in the so-called "protected" portion of the Letrim Wetland have been killed.

Mr. Dufresne indicates that through consultation, "technical study and review of those technical studies, we would be able to determine that there would be a wetland to be set aside."

What Mr. Dufresne fails to mention was that at least five independent experts, including Dr. Frederick Michel, Director of the Institute of Environmental Science at Carleton University and Dr. Clarke Topp, one of Canada's foremost soil physicists, severely criticized these studies.

Mr. Dufresne's statement that Findlay Creek Village development is based "on an environmentally sustainable model" is ludicrous.

*Sol Shuster
Friends of the Letrim Wetland*

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