

FAX

Alliance for a Better Georgina

To: Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk

From: Annabel Slaight

Phone 905 476 7575, Fax 905 476 1078

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Dear Mr. Kelly:

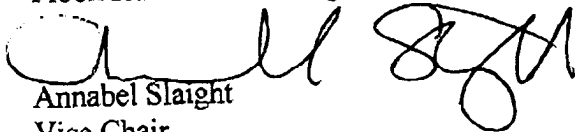
This is to request a deputation to the York Planning and Economic Development Committee on February 4th at 1 pm.

I am representing the Alliance for a Better Georgina a not for profit community group. It has been suggested by Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler that we make this request to appear.

We are seeking continuing participation by the Region of York as a partner with the ABG and The Town of Georgina in the next phase of Georgina's Community Mapping project. A successful pilot of the project was completed in 2003 in the Baldwin area (see attached press clipping.) York's participation in the project will lever \$75,000 in other contributions in the first year and approximately \$200,000 over three years.

Harold Lenters, Georgina town planner ,may be appearing with me. I will confirm that closer to the date.

I look forward to hearing from you .


Annabel Slaight
Vice Chair



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The Alliance for a Better Georgina and the town unveiled the first in a series of heritage maps, this one featuring the Baldwin area, is displayed by (from left) lifelong resident Mary Liscumb, map designer Mark Setter, town planning chief Harold Lenters, alliance member Annabel Slaight and Mary Kay, former owner of the Baldwin General Store.

Baldwin map first in series depicting community heritage

An innovative community project demonstrating what ordinary people can accomplish was celebrated last week at Sentimental Journey in Baldwin, a quiet corner of the Town of Georgina.

Residents of Baldwin and surrounding communities gathered to launch Georgina's first community map called The Best of Baldwin and Surrounding Communities.

The map was created by the community, to show what residents value about their home area. The 28 by 40-inch map is printed in full colour on glossy paper and reflects the character of the area.

It also showcases the flora, fauna, landscape features, lore, trails and favourite places as chosen by the residents. More than 80 residents participated in the map-making process, by contributing ideas, stories, photos and drawings.

"If a community is to be truly vibrant and sustainable

people need a say not just about things they don't like but what they do like," said Bob Matthews, chairperson of the Alliance for Better Georgina, the non-profit community group that spearheaded the project.

The main purpose of the map is to let residents, politicians, planners and developers understand the community from the residents' point of view.

Two members of the Baldwin area were on the project's steering committee: naturalist/artist Paul Harpley and teacher/photographer Mary Liscumb.

"Working on the Baldwin community map has brought back fond memories of growing up in Baldwin and being part of the eclectic mix of people that make up the fabric of Baldwin," Ms Liscumb said.

"The finished map shows why I chose to raise a family here and still choose to live here."

Other members of the

steering committee are Georgina Mayor Jeffrey Holec, Councillor Ken Hackenbrook, town planner Harold Lenters, York Region planner Neil Garbe and ABG directors Mark Setter and Annabel Slaight.

"This pilot project will be a very useful tool in future planning by the Town. It lets us know clearly what is important to people in the community," Mr. Holec said.

"The Town of Georgina has been pleased to support this initiative, and we congratulate the Alliance for a Better Georgina, the residents of the Baldwin area and the other volunteers who worked so hard to make this a success."

The idea for the mapping project came from landscape architect John Ficks while he was on the board of the ABG. He had suggested that all of Georgina be mapped for its social, cultural and environmental features 10 years earlier.

The Baldwin project, now

completed, moves Hick's vision one large step closer. Nine more maps are now being planned and funds are being raised to work with residents in other Georgina communities.

Also this summer the ABG, with the support of the town, commissioned 40 interviews with some of Georgina's longest term residents.

Everyone involved in the Baldwin project agreed the oral histories gave their map its soul and helped to make it such fascinating reading for anyone interested in the environment and how the past and the present come together, Annabel Slaight said.

Map designer Mark Setter said he looks forward to working on other maps in Georgina, of which a total of nine are now being planned.

Maps will be on sale for \$10 each at several retail outlets, including Sentimental Journey on Hwy. 48, where last week's launch was held.