

NEWS

Council wants MTO to study need for a Acton truck bypass

By Melanie Hennessey
Special to The IFP

A motion passed by council Monday night asks the Minister of Transportation to partner with the Town and commence a study for long-term transportation alternatives for aggregate haul routes impacting Halton Hills, including a review of the need for an Acton truck bypass.

Town staff intends to commence the study next year at a cost of \$200,000 and is proposing a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement with the Province. The Town's portion will be included in the 2016 budget and is subject to council approval.

Ward 1 Councillor Jon Hurst said Halton Hills' main concern with the James Dick Construction Ltd. (JDCL) proposal for the Hidden Quarry located in Wellington County, just west of Halton Hills, is its proposed haul route through the community, including the narrow stretch of Hwy. 7 through downtown Acton.

"This could well be the beginning of the end for many of those established businesses in downtown Acton, and I know it's a negative for anyone

wanting to open a new business downtown," he said. "Every store owner, every resident on Main Street and Mill Street, everyone who uses, appreciates or travels downtown Acton, or Guelph Street in Georgetown, or Norval should wake up to the traffic woes this quarry would bring."

A traffic impact study completed for JDCL by Cole Engineering Group indicated that the quarry would produce 26 two-way truck trips per hour, with 95 per cent of the trucks expected to travel east along Hwy. 7 through Halton Hills.

A peer review of the study by Town consultant Hatch Mott McDonald raised concerns about the significant physical constraints at the intersection of Main and Mill streets in Acton, with trucks currently encroaching on sidewalks as they make the tight turn.

Hurst challenged anyone who doubts there's a truck traffic problem in downtown Acton to stand near the edge of the sidewalk at the north or south-east corners of Main and Mill streets.

"Just let me know when; I'll have an ambulance ready," he said.

Just let me know when; I'll have an ambulance ready

—Jon Hurst/Councillor—



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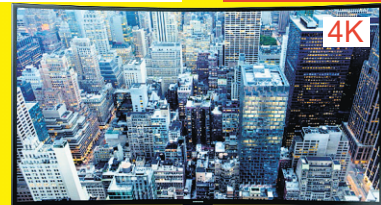
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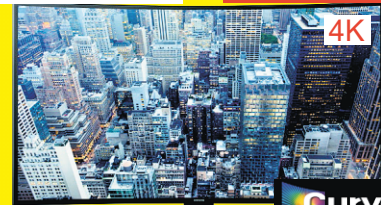
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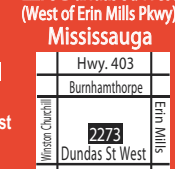
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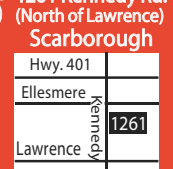
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