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New Third Line interchange

Northern residents want Town to move up construction date for Upper Middle Rd.

While Monday's announcement to reconstruct Third Line comes as a god-send to some, other residents are pushing the Town to go further and improve Upper Middle Road.

On Monday night, Stationmaster Lane homeowner Aleida Jakubowski presented Council with a 318-signature petition calling for the Town to finish widening Upper Middle Road from Postmaster Drive to Bronte Road.

With further growth in the area imminent - three developments north of Upper Middle and west of Postmaster were approved Monday night - Jakubowski and the others want the improvements in an effort to side-step total gridlock.

The reconstruction of Upper Middle - basically a two-lane country road from Postmaster to Bronte - is not slated to get under way until 2009.

"We're not trying to limit development but the Town should complete the roads it's started," said Jakubowski. "We're going to see a lot of new homes but roads are far behind in Oakville."

(See 'Residents' page A5)



Photo by Riziero Vertolli

Mayor Ann Mulvale and Transportation Minister David Turnbull shake hands on an agreement that will see \$20 million spent on a new QEW-Third Line interchange that will help ease massive traffic snarls in the area. The project is also part of larger scheme that will see the QEW expanded from Burlington through Oakville.

Town will pay \$7.6 m of \$20 m project to ease tie-ups north & south of QEW

By Howard Mozel
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

Monday's cost-sharing agreement between the Town of Oakville and Queen's Park to reconstruct the Third Line interchange will set the stage for more major QEW improvements.

On a hill overlooking Third Line just south of the QEW, Transportation Minister David Turnbull announced that funding for the \$20-million project will be split \$7.6 million for the Town and \$12.4 million by the province.

"The QEW is a key transportation corridor and a major contributor to Ontario's economic prosperity," said Turnbull. "When completed, this interchange improvement will support the future widening of the QEW in this area and significantly improve traffic flow and user safety."

Mulvale agreed that this investment is not simply a matter of easing the tempers of commuters, but of improving the flow of goods so vital to the economic success of the GTA and, therefore, the rest of Canada. If not, she said, businesses can't take advantage of the best economy since World War II.

"This is cause to celebrate," said Mayor Ann Mulvale.

Improvements are also seen in conjunction with higher fuel costs and the viability of mass transit, Mulvale continued. An opened-up Third Line, for example, will allow commuters from as far as Milton faster access to the Bronte GO station where capacity still exists.

According to Town of Oakville Public Works Director Ray Green, the money is dedicated, secured funding and is not open to review.

"All the funds are confirmed," said Deputy Town Manager Peter Wagland. "It's money in the bank."

Green also outlined how Monday's announcement supports the Town's \$1.6 million plan to widen Third Line south of the highway to Wyecroft Road and north to Abbeywood Drive.

Turnbull explained how Third Line is a key component of the province's plans to widen the QEW to eight lanes between Hwy. 403 in Oakville and Guelph Line in Burlington. The cost of all this, plus improvements to a variety of interchanges, has been tagged at more than \$100 million.

Oakville MPP Gary Carr explained how all these improvements were actually planned for a few years further in

(See 'Construction' page A5)

Battle lines drawn over QEP school's future

Closure of west-end school would see new facility built in Glen Abbey, leaving southern students to be bused elsewhere

By Kim Arnott
SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

The Halton District School Board's plan to replace Queen Elizabeth Park school with a new high school in Glen Abbey is once again pitting north Oakville against south Oakville.

One angry parent who attended an information session held at QEP last Friday outlined the dilemma clearly.

"I think they (north Oakville) deserve a school, but not at the expense of the kids in the area," she angrily told board staff and trustee Peter Petrusich.

"We moved into this area because the schools existed," she added. "They moved into the area

knowing schools didn't exist."

Considering closing the west Oakville (junior and senior) high school is the school board's latest attempt to deal with what is rapidly becoming an accommodation crisis.

For the Halton school board, the problem revolves around provincial funding rules, which make it ineligible for money to build new schools in growth areas while existing schools have empty space remaining.

Across the system, Halton has more pupil places than pupils, despite the fact that many of the underutilized schools are in the wrong locations.

Kids living north of the highway are currently being bused south to fill those spaces, but that situation is growing more problematic each year, said board superintendent Gary Sadler.

Within the next few years, there will be more north Oakville students than south Oakville students, and the cost of transporting them to existing schools will drain board resources.

In order to keep both QEP and T.A. Blakelock high schools open, the board would need to "bus students from north of the QEW forever and ever and ever," said Petrusich.

Petrusich, who admits he's in favor of closing underutilized schools in the south in order to build new schools in the north, says the board must balance the needs of the entire system against those of one particular neighbourhood.

But members of the nearby Gladys Speers school council say they believe they aren't getting adequate information and are unhappy at the speed at which decisions are being made.

"I cannot help but feel the decisions have already been made and they're just going through the motions," said council member Sandy Nachman.

A committee is currently studying the possibility of closing QEP and redirecting area students. The committee will make its recommendations to the school board on Nov. 13th.

(See 'School' page A5)

Federal Liberals nominate candidate Monday

Oakville MP Bonnie Brown is expected to be named the Liberal candidate in the upcoming federal election at Monday's meeting of the Oakville Federal Liberal Riding Association.

The event takes place at the Ramada Inn in Oakville, starting with the registration of members at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at 8 p.m.

Brown - an Oakville resident for 30

years - was first elected to Parliament in 1993 and reclaimed her seat in 1997. In 1998, Brown was named Parliamentary Secretary to Human Resources Development Minister Pierre Pettigrew. She also served as chair of the Caucus Committee on Social Policy.

Most recently, Brown was elected this month as chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health.

Man facing charges in fake billings

A 24-year old Oakville man is facing fraud and other charges in connection with a number of incidents involving area companies.

Missing: one Pokémon collection

Somewhere in Oakville, there's a garage sale junky who picked up quite a deal. The Moffatts, at 1012 Glenashton were holding a sale on Saturday when Sandi Moffat's husband sold his son's Pokémon collection contained in a binder. Cost? One loonie.

Suffice to say, son Jason is a little miffed because dad also sold his Crazy Bones collection for...another loonie.

Anyway, if the purchaser out there has a heart of gold and wants to make one 11-year-old happy, give the Moffat's a call at 338-2287.

According to Halton Regional Police, Oakville detectives received a number of complaints from different firms in relation to goods or services that were obtained but never paid for.

A suspect was identified and during the course of the investigation, a search warrant was executed on an Oakville residence.

As a result, 13 charges were laid, a number of which relate to the operation of SW Legal Services on North Service Road West.

Christopher John Egilo, 24, of Westview Terrace is charged with four counts of personation, two counts of uttering forged documents, two counts of fraud, unlawful use of a public seal, possession of property obtained by crime, possession of a prohibited weapon, failing to comply with an undertaking and breach of probation.

Egilo had a bail hearing in Milton Court today.

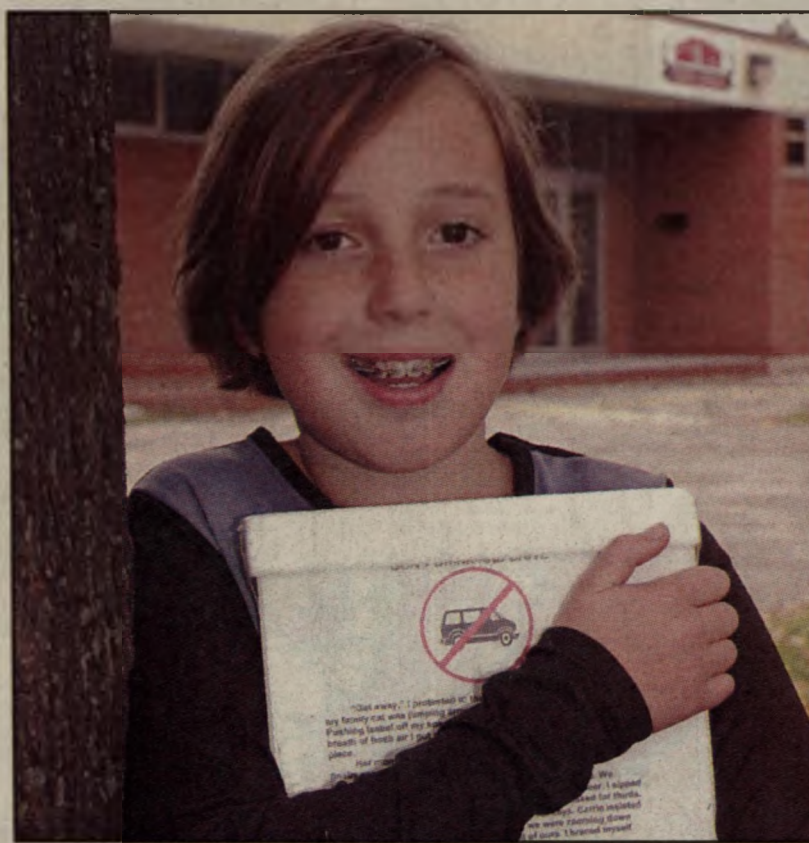


Photo by Riziero Vertolli

MADD ABOUT DRINKING & DRIVING: Helen Goreski, a student at Eastview Public School, holds a plaque in recognition of her winning an essay contest sponsored by the Halton Chapter of MADD-Mothers Against Drinking & Driving. In addition to the plaque, which has her essay laminated on it, Helen was presented with a backpack and \$100 in cash.

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