

Town supports clean air initiatives

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Georgetown Gemini

It will be easier to breathe in the Greater Toronto Area — part of the “smog capital of Canada” — if initiatives of a Clean Air Committee are made mandatory in Ontario.

Town Council recently endorsed a motion calling for all Greater Toronto Area (G.T.A.) municipalities to support a mandatory enhanced vehicle emission inspection and maintenance program.

Ward 2 Councillor Kathy Gastle brought the issue to Council with a notice of motion asking councillors to reduce automobile use and emissions from their own fleet of vehicles, develop sustainable transportation planning policies and commit to public education and prevention programs to combat air pollution.

Gastle, who represented Halton Region at a clean air forum in Metro Toronto in June, said that concentrations of ground level ozone exceed the Ontario objective for acceptable outdoor air quality in the Windsor-Quebec City corridor, and carbon monoxide levels in the G.T.A., including Halton Hills, are at concentrations that can be harmful to health.

“The air in this area is really bad — there were numerous Environment Canada air quality alerts this summer,” Gastle explained in an interview on Wednesday, noting that her motion at Council was to endorse the work of the Clean Air Committee and to try to persuade the Province to implement a mandatory enhanced vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance program.

Gastle put forward the same motion at Halton Council, which asked its Planning and Public Works staff to come back with a report on the proposed section dealing with Halton Region’s own vehicles.

“Halton councillors want to know what the costs would be to implement the so-called Green Fleet and Employee Trip Reduction projects.

“They supported the motion but want details of how much it would cost the Region to get involved with the program, which calls for municipalities to reduce vehicle use and emissions in their own operations,” Gastle said.

She added that the motion endorsed by the Town also calls for all G.T.A. mayors to establish a Clean Air Committee to coordinate clean air initiatives and to advise the Ministry of Environment and Energy of local concerns.

Party's over

Two separate bush parties were broken up by police over the long weekend. The first took place at a quarry near the Fifth Line. Partygoers were evicted from the property and charged with trespassing. Several liquor licence violations were issued as well as single charge of having an improper licence plate on a vehicle.

The second party took place on the Sixth Line at Limehouse on Sunday night. Police seized liquor and what was suspected to be marijuana from the 20 to 30 people in attendance. No charges were laid as it was unclear who was the owner of the suspected substance.



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