

# Road concerns, worries remain

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Georgetown Gemini

A spokesperson for 15 Sideroad residents said that a public meeting last week on Halton Region's road rationalization study did little to alleviate fears that the road will be upgraded, resulting in higher volumes of faster moving traffic.

Jan Allison said that although Town and Region staff insist there is no hidden agenda in the proposed study to define a major arterial road network, she's not convinced.

"Why, if there is no hidden agenda, don't they wait until there is a need for the 15 Sideroad to be improved before designating it as a major arterial road?" Allison asked on Friday, noting that staff said there would be no changes or improvements to the road for the next 10 to 15 years.

Residents along the winding, small-shouldered road claim that designation as a major arterial road would mean a heavy volume of traffic, which would completely change the atmosphere of the area, currently a scenic route favoured by runners, walkers and bike riders.

"I'm skeptical about the reasons to change the designation of the road and it doesn't make a lot of sense to

me to change the classification now if there are no plans in the next decade to make any improvements," Allison said.

"Politicians change every three years and items like road improvements can be added into budgets, so I'm not convinced that this road won't be upgraded sooner than anyone is letting on," Allison said.

Regional Road 15, or 15 Sideroad, has been designated as an arterial road since 1980 in the Region's official plan because it is a continuous east-west road between Wellington County and Halton Region.

The rationalization study identifies Trafalgar Road, Winston Churchill Boulevard, Mountainview Road/Ninth Line and the combination of 15 Sideroad, Maple Avenue and River Drive as possible major arterial roads.

The purpose of the rationalization report is to review the planning, construction, maintenance and ownership of the road system in Halton.

Ho Wong, Manager of Planning Services for Halton Region, at the public meeting last Tuesday, said they tried to reassure people that calling a road a certain name doesn't mean it will go to the fullest extent of development,

like six lanes or a 100-foot right-of-way.

Wong said the purpose of the rationalization process is to recognize the importance of having an efficient transportation system in the Region, setting aside the jurisdictional aspect of who owns what road.

"We feel the arterial roads are important for the economic development of this region and the quality of life. They provide basic mobility and we should co-ordinate both levels of government's budgeting processes to ensure those arterial roads are maintained to a sufficient standard," Wong explained on Thursday.

Wong said that since Halton inherited the old county road system over 20 years ago, the Region had never gone through the proc-

ess of looking at each road and asking which should remain regional roads or which roads should be added to the system.

Regional roads have certain levels of standards in terms of pavement condition, maintenance, snow plowing and garbage pick-up and long term improvements like building bridges and culverts.

"Some of those roads may not need those levels of standard and other roads in the Town system may require higher standards but we never have gone through the process of identifying those roads," Wong said.

The rationalization report is only a proposal at this stage and once all of the comments are in from the public meetings, the issue will be sent to Town and Regional Councils for debate.

## Series of thefts from vehicles continues

Police are investigating a couple of reports of thefts from vehicles parked in Georgetown.

The first incident took place sometime overnight Sept. 10-11, resulting in a wallet being stolen from a 1991 Jeep parked in the drive-

way at a John Street residence.

Police report the Jeep was locked but showed no signs of forced entry.

In the second incident, overnight Sept. 12-13, a vehicle parked on Metcalfe Court, and resulted in a wallet being stolen and an undisclosed amount of cash being stolen from the vehicle.

The wallet also contained a sum of foreign currencies. The vehicle show no signs of forced entry.

## NEWS SHORTS

### \$50,000 worth stolen from new home

Investigators were kept busy the next day when they were called to the scene of another residential break-in on Argyll Road in Georgetown South.

According to police reports, the residents returned home at 8:30 pm to find their home had been ransacked. Police report that entry to the home was likely gained through the garage, resulting in an estimated \$50,000 worth of goods taken.

Missing from the home are a variety of audio-video equipment, a home computer with monitor and printer, jewelry and valuable paintings.

Police believe the vehicle used in this heist to be large in nature, possibly a van or pick-up truck, and are asking that anyone who may have seen suspicious vehicles on Argyll Road last Thursday between 2:15 and 8:30 pm call Halton Regional Police at (905) 878-5511, Ext. 2105, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

### Assault at nightclub

A 20-year-old Georgetown man faces assault charges following an altercation at Nashville North nightclub in Norval.

Police allege the man attacked another man as he attempted to leave the club and get in a taxi outside the bar. The 28-year-old victim was taken to Georgetown District Memorial Hospital and treated for a facial laceration around the eye and a broken nose.

Police charged a Sargent Road man with the assault causing bodily harm. He is scheduled to appear in court Oct. 28.

### DID YOU KNOW?

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The answer: the United States of America, Burma and East Timor

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