

# Community

## Market Place Plaza expansion is welcomed

Representatives of the Georgetown's downtown core say the expected doubling in size of Georgetown Market Place Plaza on Guelph Street will not infringe on the business of the stores that comprise the downtown core.

There may have been an infringement if the two shopping areas were in competition, but businesses in the downtown area provide customers with a different kind of shopping experience than one found in a suburban type shopping plaza, said Halton Hills Councillor Pat McCarthy, who represents the downtown core.

"Downtown Georgetown is more folksy, reminiscent of days gone by," said Coun. McCarthy.

The proposed expansion of the Georgetown Plaza calls for the entire plaza, including Zellers and Loblaws, to be enclosed and the plaza complex to be enlarged from its current size of approximately 140,000 square feet to approximately 282,000 square feet. Included in this plan is a Woolco Department Store that will measure 80,000

square feet, and be located at the rear of the present plaza.

Construction on the expansion is expected to get underway this spring or summer said Cliff Levy, a vice-president with the shopping plaza's owners ICI Shopping Centres.

Although Woolco and ICI have yet to sign the lease, "both sides are looking forward to the deal being finalized," said Woolco spokesperson Eleanor Junkett.

Woolco has decided to move into Georgetown because the company feels the community can support a wider "retail mix" than already exists, said Ms. Junkett.

Coun. McCarthy predicts the expanded plaza will complement the stores located in the downtown core. If more people decide to stay in Georgetown to shop because of the expanded plaza, said councillor McCarthy, then there is a greater chance of more business for all Georgetown retail stores.

Georgetown Central Business Improvements Area Manager, Margaret Vint, agreed with Coun.

McCarthy the two shopping areas will provide people with a different shopping experience.

"When you're in a mall you don't expect people to know who you are," said Ms. Vint. "But when

shopping downtown it's common for people to say hello to each other," she explained.

"It's a much friendlier atmosphere shopping downtown than shopping in an indoor plaza," she

added. As well, Mrs. Vint stressed there are no "hit and miss" businesses in the downtown core. They are established and have been here for a long time, she explained.

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