

Council Briefs

Council investigating possible bicycle path

Halton Hills Council directed staff Monday to investigate the possibility of converting the strip of Town-owned land running along the Dominion Seed House on Highway 7 between Maple Avenue and Mountainview Road into a bicycle path.

"Cyclists having to ride their bicycles on Highway 7 are in danger," said Councillor Marilyn Serjeanston, who initiated the request for the bicycle path. As part of the council direction, staff was also requested to consider how bicycle riding along Maple Avenue can be made safer.

At one point during the discussion, Coun. Serjeanston suggested the town's bicycling bylaw be amended to permit cyclists to ride their bicycles on the sidewalk running along Highway 7. However, the councillor quickly retracted her suggestion when Acton Coun. Norm Elliott said he opposed that idea. "Sidewalks are meant for pedestrians, not cyclists," he said.

Developers fees to be discussed

Town Administrative-Clerk Dan Costea told Council Monday, staff plans to present a report on



proposed changes to how much developers are charged to build in Halton Hills by mid-September.

In response to questions by Councillor Joe Hewitt, Mr. Costea said the public will be permitted to comment on the proposed changes before it goes to council.

Silver Creek rehabilitation

Monday, Council approved the Georgetown-based Isaac Walton

Fly Fisherman's Club rehabilitation project for a section of Silver Creek running through Cedarvale Park in Georgetown. However, before the project can actually go ahead, the club must obtain adequate liability insurance and the project's detailed plan must first be approved by the Recreation and Parks Department.

Respect for Law week

Halton Hills Council approved Monday the week of May 26 to June 1 be proclaimed "Respect for Law Week" in Halton Hills. The Optimist Club of Georgetown requested Town council approve the proclamation. At the same meeting, Council also proclaimed the week of June 16-22 as "Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week" in Halton Hills.

Kingsmill concerns

Georgetown resident, Catherine Kirby, appeared before Council Monday expressing concern over the heavy machinery, mud and increased traffic flow in the area surrounding parts of Kingsmill develop-

ment at Mountainview Road and River Drive.

Town Engineer Bob Austin told Ms. Kirby no construction has begun. The only work done so far on site includes clearing and stripping of land.

Council directed Mr. Austin to meet with Ms. Kirby to answer any other questions she had about the Kingsmill development.

Business expansion

Council approved Monday a

decision by the Town's site planning Committee to permit Kentucky Fried Chicken at 116A Guelph Street in Georgetown to expand its building by 540 square feet.

Town councillor and Site Plan Committee member, Pam Johnston, commented Monday the company should be commended for the expansion's design. It will significantly improve the surrounding area, she said.

Shouting match erupts over Willow Park issue

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

While Monday's Halton Hills Council meeting was relatively quiet, the shouting match that erupted between several Willow Park residents and Town Councillors following the meeting was anything but calm.

Obviously frustrated with not having a place to relocate their mobile homes after today's (Wednesday) Credit Valley Conservation Authority imposed property vacancy deadline, the residents angrily demanded councillors help them find a place to relocate.

Most of the residents' anger appeared to be focused on Town Councillor Joe Hewitt whose Ward includes the park. The park is located in Norval just off Highway 7.

Coun. Hewitt defended the Town's position saying council has tried everything possible to relocate the residents to a property in Acton. Earlier this year the Ontario Municipal Board ruled the property was unacceptable to facilitate mobile homes.

The Coun. then went on to say he and the rest of council would be willing to meet with the residents again, along with North Halton MPP Noel Duignan to determine if a suitable agreement could be worked out. A tentative meeting date was set for May 23 in Norval.

At one point during the argument Mr. Duignan's assistant, Bill Chard, said council cared more about a reservoir than the Willow Park residents.

"He's telling you lies," Mr. Hewitt was heard telling some of the residents.

Acton Coun. Norm Elliott then said, "that's a crock."

Mr. Chard made his comment in reference to the Town and Region using money provided by developers to build a reservoir to service the expected expansion of Georgetown.

Mr. Chard, along with the residents, believe the mobile home owners haven't received fair compensation in light of the expropriation.

Although the CVCA carried out the expropriation, the town paid 45 per cent towards the expropriation cost. The money was provided by Georgetown South developers, Enterac, as part of the servicing agreement between

the Town and the development company.

The residents believe the Town should require Enterac to provide the Town with further monies to provide Willow Park residents with a more appropriate compensation package.

To date, the residents have received funding for moving expenses and for any improvements they made to their respective lots at Willow Park.

Mr. Chard said the residents believe another \$300,000 should still be forthcoming to the residents to make the compensation package fair.

Mr. Chard suggested the extra money may possibly be provided by the province.

Meanwhile, the 20 families living in the park won't have to vacate the property today (Wednesday) despite being required to by the CVCA.

That means the Kavanagh family, whose six-year-old son Alex has leukemia and is recovering from chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, will have more time to look for suitable housing.

The Kavanagh family needs housing where Alex wouldn't be overly exposed to germs.

Although the May 15 CVCA imposed deadline is still in place,

Authority General Manager Vicki Barron said Monday, it will take time to evict any families who remain on the property beyond today (Wednesday).

The CVCA will first determine tomorrow (Thursday) who refuses to leave the property. The CVCA lawyer will then be informed, and the lawyer will request an eviction hearing be held.

If the judge decides to hear the case, and Ms. Barron said the judge may refuse the request, a hearing date will be scheduled. Knowing the backlog of cases, "who knows when the hearing date will be scheduled," said Ms. Barron.

Ms. Barron said she has been in contact with the Kavanagh family and she told them they don't need to worry about the May 15 deadline.

The CVCA has expropriated the land and insists the residents leave the park by May 15 because the property is located in the Credit River flood plain putting the residents' lives at risk, should a flood occur.

Ms. Barron said the Authority is currently writing all agencies and government officials who may have the resources to help the Kavanagh family find alternative housing. The letters were sent out Monday, she said.

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