

Bypass for Highway 7

"Alternate route" around Acton needs provincial scrutiny

Most would call a proposed new four-lane highway north of Acton a "bypass," but not the Town's transportation consultant, who described the proposed road as a "alternate route."

The new route, proposed for further study by the province, could head north from Highway 7 in the Fourth Line area, arcing northwest of Acton to rejoin Highway 7, just east of Crewsons Corners. The area is shown on maps with a large circle around it, underscoring that no route has been proposed as the preferred alternate for Ministry of Transportation approval.

"There needs to be, at a provincial level, an examination of what strategic indicative we could do to help with the (traffic) congestion in Acton," said John McGill with the Hatch Mott McDonald consulting company, at a public information centre on the Town's Transportation Master Plan last Wednesday at the Acton

arena/community centre.

"What we're both trying to do, with the co-operation of the Region, is push the province to embrace the concept of Acton being a special study area in both the Town and Halton Master Plans," McGill said, adding they don't want all traffic out of Acton, just the through traffic.

"Acton needs that commercial (traffic)... we don't want a ghost town, which is why we're not calling it a bypass. We want to call it an alternate route for truck traffic," he said.

That route, a road realignment in Limehouse, a Norval bypass and new multi-lane links to the south east of Halton Hills are options being considered in the Master Plan, which is a strategic assessment of short and long-term – to 2031 – transportation improvements.

Along with the Town and Region's transportation studies, the province

is studying widening the 401 to 12 lanes between Trafalgar Road and James Snow Parkway, and to 10 lanes from James Snow to Regional Road 25. Two Environmental Assessments are underway for a GTA Corridor, and the Niagara-to GTA Corridor plan is also under study, which would affect Halton Hills.

Approximately 20 residents attended the second public information centre last Wednesday to ask questions and provide input into the Master Plan. Acton resident Kati Nuttall asked if the Town was working with other jurisdictions that have boundary roads with the Town, like 32 Side Road which could be upgraded to an arterial road, and was told that Peel Region supports the proposed plan, and staff will have to meet with Wellington County staff.

Another resident asked for maps showing what adjacent municipalities are doing with their



TRAFFIC HEADACHES: It will be a long summer of traffic hassles for motorists in Acton who must deal with the reconstruction closure of Wallace Street, from Dr. Moore Crescent to McDonald Boulevard, and with watermain replacement on Queen Street from Eastern Avenue to Churchill Road. – Frances Niblock photo

transportation planning, because "part of the picture is missing." Another resident, a member of the GTA West Corridor citizen committee, cautioned about the major complications that could arise if the MTO accepts a proposed highway alignment across agricultural and rural areas of Halton Hills between Five and Ten Side Roads to hook into the 401 in Milton.

The consultant and Region will review and respond to comments made at the Acton PIC, prepare policy and design documents, and deliver a report to Council this fall.

Police/Fire Report

RV burns

Damage is pegged at \$25,000 after a motor home, parked on the Sixth Line, north of 15 Side Road, Nassagaweya caught fire at 4:44 last Friday morning. The RV was fully engulfed when Acton firefighters arrived on scene.

Illegal burn

A Wynford Place homeowner was told to put out a small backyard fire at 10 p.m. last Friday because he did not have the required burn permit.

False alarm

A faulty smoke detector

alarm set off the alarm at 40 Holmesway Place at 3:49 last Wednesday morning. No help was needed from Acton firefighters who raced to the scene.

Burn complaint

Reports of a large fire burning close to a neighbour's shed on Peel Street at 9:34 last Monday night turned out to be a homeowner roasting marshmallows. The homeowner's Burn Permit had expired, so the fire was extinguished.

Keys, then wallet stolen

While at a baseball tournament in Acton on the weekend, a man's keys were stolen, and then used to open the trunk of his car, which that was parked on Park Avenue. His wallet, containing cash, credit cards and identification, was stolen.

Car ransacked

The owner of a car that was ransacked while parked in a Mill Street West garage, saw a possible suspect heading towards Duby Road at 1:50 on Friday morning. The suspect was described as a tall, slim male wearing dark clothes. Nothing was taken from the vehicle.

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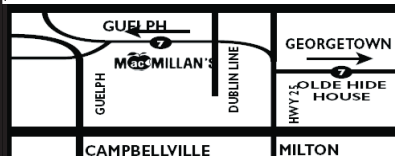
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