

Business owners raise construction concerns

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

About 45 Guelph St. business owners packed the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce office Thursday morning to voice their complaints and concerns to the town about the Guelph St. reconstruction project in Georgetown.

At the meeting organized by the Chamber, Peter Linn, manager of Engineering Services for the town, responded to the brunt of the complaints but Mayor Russ Miller was also put on the hot seat.

The key concern of the business owners is the loss of business they say they have suffered due to the road work. The majority of

them say their business has dropped by about 30 or 40 per cent since the work began in June.

The \$3.5 million project, being done by Memme Construction Ltd. of Brampton, is slated for completion within two weeks.

Sodding and the final topcoat won't be done until next spring.

Other concerns mentioned at the meeting included lack of access to Guelph St. businesses, construction crew vehicles being parked on business property, water being shut off at various times without notification, safety, and the fact that business owners weren't properly notified of the process



PETER LINN

they would have to follow to file a loss of business claim with the town.

"Worker's cars being parked on business property has been an ongoing concern of the town," said Linn. He added town staff or the representative from the town at the site has talked to the contractor several times about that issue.

Linn added notification of water shutoff was not always given and pointed to an example when the water was shut off by mistake at Barrager's Cleaners instead of a neighboring location.

Mike McHale of HaltAlarm Systems Inc. was concerned about safety. "There have

been no lights for caution at night. The town should take the responsibility to be out there on an ongoing basis," commented McHale.

Linn said an inspector working for the town has been on the site all the time since the project began.

Linn added the construction project has been progressing quickly and six months is not a long time for the completion of the Guelph St. work.

McHale said local firms should be hired to do future work, even if it is going to cost the town more money.

"No local contractors bid for this job. I don't think there were any qualified in town to bid on this job," said Linn.

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HALTON HILLS

WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Community vigil

There will be a Community Advent Vigil in solidarity with victims and survivors of violence at St. George's Anglican Church, Georgetown at 7:30 p.m. on Monday evening (December 6).

This date marks the fourth anniversary of the murder of fourteen women at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal and we invite all women and men to attend this service of remembrance and commitment to change.

For information call Dianne at 873-9368.

CN Awards Scholarship

Katherine Johnson, of Georgetown, has been awarded a scholarship offered by CN to encourage women to seek careers in trades, technology, operations and blue collar work.

Every year the company makes available across Canada a total of 58 scholarships for women.

The \$500 awards are intended to boost the number of women in non-traditional jobs.

Johnson is enrolled in the telecommunications management program at Sheridan College.

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Silent treatment



Theresa Rodobolski of Pictures and Presents on Main St. S. in Georgetown has been busy keeping tabs on all the bids on the numerous pieces of art offered in the annual Pictures and Presents silent auction, which has been ongoing all week. Anyone can drop by and place a bid on a print, but you

had better not wait; bidding closes today (Sunday) at 4 p.m. All proceeds raised above the reserve bids will be donated to the Georgetown branch of the Canadian Cancer Society.

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