

Four CN trains to chug through town daily

By Nelia Raposo
Special to The IFP

The Town of Halton Hills can expect two more CN trains a day rumbling down the tracks once operations start at the Milton Logistics Hub in 2020, that's what representatives of CN rail told town council during a recent presentation.

There are already two CN trains using the tracks that pass through Halton Hills so in total, there will be four cargo trains per day chugging through town.

The terminal will handle a total of four trains, Marie Therese Houde, Director Corporate Development at CN, confirmed.

The terminal or hub as CN likes to call it, is a \$250 million investment in region that will provide 130 people with direct employment. It will be located near the Halton Waste Management site in Milton. The truck entrance into the CN property will be off of Britannia Rd.

Plans for the terminal to be developed on 400 of CN's 1,000 acres include an administration building garage and reach stacker cranes and shunt trucks. The terminal will have six tracks. CN has owned this land for 15 years, since 2001.

It will be designed with substantial acreage devoted to trees, berms and landscaping. This bit

in the report was referred to in response to a council question about noise control.

The main way of controlling noise is with berms, vegetation, landscaping Houde responded.

Ward 3 Councillor Moya Johnson asked if there will be dangerous items in containers.

Paul Deegan, CN's Vice-President Public and Government Affairs, said No. Essentially it's household goods; anything from televisions to golf clubs that would be stocked in big box stores.

Houde explained that container stacking is limited to four high, the equivalent of three-story building.

There will be a minimal in-

crease of traffic in and around Halton Hills said Houde, with less than three percent incremental traffic on arterial roads in the Town of Milton.

We expect that most of the traffic is headed to 401, Deegan said in response to Regional Councillor Clark Somerville's asking that they send the message to CN-contracted truck drivers not use side roads during periods of heavy traffic on the highways.

The majority of truck traffic will be destined to and from the east (Greater Toronto Area) on Hwy. 401.

We are committed to working with the community, Deegan said, noting this project has the

support of the local chamber of commerce.

A letter of support from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce states that one intermodal train removes 280 trucks from highways, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We firmly believe the CN's proposed Milton Logistics Hub will provide world-class infrastructure to improve the fluidity of rail traffic, and will better connect us to a global supply chain, the letter of support says.

Ward 4 Councillor Ann Lawlor asked if there are any plans to electrify trains.

We have number of challenges on that. Maybe down the road but right now it's diesel, Deegan said.

Somerville made the point that even if it had wanted to, CN could not build its hub in Halton Hills: there was nowhere in Halton Hills that would work. It was either not enough land, not in right place or what may have worked is protected lands.

Councillor David Kentner asked: Would you consider noise barriers along the main line? In my ward, Ward 3, there are homes that are built by the main line that have been there a long time. By today's standards they wouldn't be built there and would you consider slowing the trains through Halton Hills?

Deegan replied: Where there are specific concerns we encourage you to bring it to our attention.

Anyone interested in more information may visit 61 James Snow Pkwy. Unit 202 to speak with CN staff or visit CNMilton.ca

Minor injuries for Georgetown woman after Armstrong Ave. rollover



Crews from Halton EMS and the Halton Hills Fire Department worked to free an elderly woman trapped in her SUV after a single-vehicle crash on Armstrong Ave. Monday. The victim was taken by air ambulance to hospital.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

A 74-year-old Georgetown woman suffered only minor injuries as a result of a single-vehicle rollover late Monday morning on Armstrong Ave.

The woman was taken to Georgetown Hospital and then airlifted by an Ornge air ambulance to St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

The lone occupant of the grey SUV had to be extricated by the Halton Hills Fire Department and transported to Georgetown Hospital via Halton EMS, where the air ambulance was waiting.

Armstrong Ave. between Sinclair Ave. and Mountain-

view Rd. N. was closed by Halton Regional Police for about an hour.

It appears as though the vehicle struck two poles on the north side of Armstrong Ave. in front of Olon Industries at around 11 a.m. and teetered precariously on the top of a steep bank of a ravine, before being stabilized by firefighters.

The HRPS's Collision Reconstruction Unit initially responded to the incident but passed the investigation on to uniformed officers. No cause of the accident had been determined at press time.

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