

CN, Metrolinx to work with residents on track upgrades

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
Staff Writer

Construction will begin next month on the next two-year phase to upgrade the Kitchener line near the Georgetown GO station, and nearby residents have been promised a “robust” communications plan.

Metrolinx and CN Rail staff outlined their strategy for the construction, from the Georgetown GO station to Temple Rd., which is scheduled to be completed in July 2016. The improvements are intended to increase service reliability and lead to two-way all-day GO train service by 2022.

CN Rail owns the portion of this rail corridor and will be doing the work that includes: expanding the McNabb St. bridge, extending the Silver Creek culvert, constructing a retaining wall along the track, and building a third mainline track. Regular maintenance work will also be done at the same time.

After some consultation with local residents and the Town, CN Rail/Metrolinx have come up with mitigation measures to ease construction headaches in the neighborhood.

But Dave Reynolds, CN Rail, Manager of Engineering and Environmental Services, warned that although CN Rail is committed to working with the residents as “we are trying to make it as painless as possible, but there will be pain... we are trying to build something.”

The pain includes: dust and noise from construction vehicles, train whistles when workers are present, occasional night and weekend work (typical day will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays), pile driving (100 holes) causing noise and vibration, and road closures.

Mitigation measures include:

- While partial access will be required from Temple Rd., restrictions will be put into the contract to limit truck access to the site

and there will be no parking on the street.

- CN Rail changed the design to reduce the number of trucks required as well as the height of the retaining wall.

- CN will use a textured concrete to mimic the existing stone on the bridge and culvert.

- Water trucks will be employed to control dust and dirty roads.

- Traffic detours on McNabb St. (the bridge underpass will be closed to vehicles for at least five months) and there will be fencing and hoarding to protect pedestrians and cyclists, who will be allowed through the bridge underpass during the evening hours.

- Best effort will be made to notify residents in advance of weekend and night work.

- Pre-construction surveys will be done of properties, along with ongoing vibration monitoring.

Town Engineer John Kwast told council he is confident that residents’ concerns are being addressed and staff would be available to help facilitate any issues between residents and the contractor.

Georgina Collymore of Metrolinx, who will serve as point person on the project, said a “robust communications plan” will be implemented to keep residents and the Town informed, including email alerts, community bulletins, dedicated web page and 24-7 call centre.

“We listened to the community and to the Town,” said Collymore about the communication strategy. “We are really committed to working with the community and the council ... so that everyone is satisfied with the end result.”

A community meeting is scheduled for some time in September. No details were available before press time.

Residents with questions should contact Collymore, who will be the liaison. Her number is 416-869-3600 ext. 5719.

ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Award-Winning Tribute to “The Eagles” Coming to Georgetown Theatre

“Welcome to the Hotel California”...

Calling all fans of legendary 1970’s Country-Rock group “The Eagles”!! On Saturday September 20 at 8:00pm, the music of The Eagles will be celebrated at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown with a new Canadian touring show called “New Kid In Town: The Ultimate Eagles Tribute”. Comprised of some of Canada’s leading session musicians, “New Kid in Town” will perform all of the classic hits from the Eagles extensive career with amazing “note for note” accuracy.

The evening will be comprised of two sets, with the first half featuring all the songs from the multi-million selling album “Eagles Greatest Hits 1971-1975” including “Take It Easy” “One of These Nights” “Tequila Sunrise” “Peaceful Easy Feeling” and “Desperado” amongst the audience favourites.

After an intermission, the band will return with more classic hits from the latter portion of The Eagles career including “Life in the Fast Lane” “The Long Run” “Heartache Tonight” and their signature song “Hotel California”.

As a bonus, the multi-talented cast will also perform solo hits made famous by Eagles band members Don Henley, Glenn Frey and Joe Walsh.



Lead guitarist Anesti K. performs incredible “Note-for-Note” guitar solos during the Eagles show.

Tickets to see this incredible show at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown on Saturday September 20th at 8:00pm are on sale now, value-priced at only \$32 Adults / \$29 Seniors & Students, available at the theatre box office, 9 Church Street Georgetown, by phone # (905) 877-3700, or on-line at www.haltonhills.ca/theatre. Get your tickets early to ensure the best seats!

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