

ALMOST 40 YEARS SINCE DYNAMITE LAST USED AS ICE BREAKER

Continued from page 1

"I really hope they can do something because the spring thaw will bring it (the water) up even further."

A few doors down, water poured into the basement of another home, which neighbours say was temporarily vacated by the owners, who were assisted by the Red Cross with accommodations at a nearby hotel.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said that public works and the Halton Hills fire department, along with Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), have been monitoring the situation daily since March 4, with an excavator from R & M Construction brought in on March 6 to address the rising waters.

"They broke the ice and diverted the water onto the Glen park to get it away from the street and homes," he explained.

The town enlisted a

THE ISSUE:

FLOODING IN GLEN WILLIAMS

LOCAL IMPACT:

RESIDENTS LIVING ALONG RIVER FACING WORST FLOODING THREAT IN DECADES

drone from the Brampton fire department on March 7 to survey the river and determine where the pinch points are, Bonnette said.

On the following day, CLC Construction - a company from Napanee that specializes in blasting - was on site at 8 a.m. and strategically drilling through the ice to insert dynamite and gradually detonate it along up to 500 metres of the waterway that runs through the Glen.

The Halton Hills fire department's technical res-

cue team was stationed on standby along the river near the flooded park ball diamond as the explosions occurred.

"We can hardly remember the last time we had to use dynamite," remarked Bonnette, adding he was told it was the early 1980s. "Mother Nature is at its worst right here. But the water is starting to flow now, and we like what we're seeing."

Walking along Confederation Street on Tuesday with the Independent, Bonnette pointed out the water is starting to recede from the ball diamond and backyards. On the other side of the bridge, benches that were previously submerged have become visible again.

"Things are going according to plan," he said, noting the lack of expected precipitation on the weekend combined with the high winds have helped the situation.

"It has been a team ef-

fort with our experienced staff and the conservation authority."

With the previously diverted water starting to make its way back to the river channel, town chief administrative officer Brent Marshall said the detonated ice will now begin to crumble and fall into the current.

"If we hadn't broken it up into smaller pieces, then we would've had a blockage," he noted.

While Bonnette said some residents have raised concerns and had suggestions on what the municipality should be doing to address the flooding, he emphasized the town's approach was well thought-out and led by experts.

"There's a lot of methodology to what we're doing," he said. "We're not just standing on a bridge throwing sticks of dynamite and hoping it will work."

The situation was cause for concern for Glen Wil-

liams resident Robin Coulson, who could see the water rising across the street, from through her front window. With a tributary creek also running through her backyard, she said she contacted Halton Hills officials last week to discuss her worries about flooding.

"I've been very impressed with the response of the town and their sense of urgency," she said, noting she was visited by Bonnette, Marshall and public works superintendent Dick Spear shortly after calling town hall. "They've certainly helped quiet my fears."

A watershed flood watch was put in place by CVC on March 8, which also issued a safety message urging caution around waterways as the warmer weather approaches.

"Melting snow due to warmer temperatures combined with spring rainfall and frozen ground conditions could contribute to

higher water levels and increased water speeds in local watercourses," the statement says. "CVC urges people to exercise caution and keep family members and pets away from the edges of all waterways and off frozen water bodies, which are extremely unsafe."

The flood watch was cancelled by Tuesday morning and replaced with a water safety statement encouraging people to stay away from all watercourses and flow-control structures.

The town and CVC plan to continue monitoring the waterway through Glen Williams, with the excavator remaining on standby, if needed.

Real-time monitoring of water levels can be found at www.cvc.ca.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY

The Independent pursued the issue and was invited behind the scenes by the Town to capture ice being detonated in the river to relieve the rising waters.

FRED'S TOWING

- Live Dispatch
- Scrap Removal
- Priority Response



Locally Owned & Operated since 1958!

SINCE 1958 **905-877-4471** • Georgetown

Provider for  and all auto clubs.

Freight up to 32,000 lbs • Dock level or ground • Enclosed Trailer

18 YEARS IN A ROW!

 **2016** Readers' Choice

 **2017** Readers' Choice Platinum

46 Guelph St., Georgetown

Serving Georgetown, Milton & Surrounding Halton Hills



ST. PATTY'S DAY Event

SUN., MAR 17TH

Celebrate with us ALL DAY & NIGHT!

Live Music | Door & Grand Prizes

Special Irish Menu Items!

DRINK SPECIALS:

\$5.95

Keith's Pint & Guinness 500ml Can

DINE-IN SPECIALS:

10% OFF

ALL FOOD purchases with this ad*



Karaoke Every Wed hosted by Karaoke Joe

Have FUN & WIN PRIZES
Everyone who sings is entered!

JOIN US for a great night out with friends or family and enjoy fresh made in-house menu items, along with Food & Drink Specials!

*Limit one coupon per table. Valid Sun Mar 18th 2018 only.

68 Main St N., Georgetown (Moore Park Plaza)

905-877-9888 ~ Reservations Accepted



- Tree Pruning • Removals • Storm Damage • Small Shrub & Hedge Trimming
- Tree Cabling & Bracing • Stump Grinding

Free Estimates • Fully Insured

 **2018** Readers' Choice Platinum

905-877-5279

It's Lonely at the Top!

Cell: 416-996-9338
jay@hilltoptreecare.ca
www.hilltoptreecare.ca


