Walkway slated for completion

By Dianne Cornish

The Silver Creek Valley walkway, is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Roy Hylkema, a Georgetown south resident and consulting engineer, confirmed the work schedule during a telephone interview Monday. "We expect the project will be completed by the end of July or early August," he said.

A permit from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) was required before any work could begin. Although it was originally thought the permit would be received by early last November to allow for construction last year, it was delayed.

Hylkema said the Ministry of Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over CVCA, "revised the permit to go into the valley." As a result, construction of the walkway won't begin until June 1.

Abutments for a foot-bridge over the creek were put in about two weeks ago, Councillor Ron Chatten said last week. The walkway route is marked off by an orange chain link fence through the valley, he added.

Hylkema is the consultant responsible for lands owned by development company Halton Hills Village Homes Incorporated (HHVHI), which has a master agreement with Halton Hills to foot the \$295,000 cost of designing and building the walkway through Hungry Hollow.

Getting the necessary permits held up the project, but everything is set to go, he said. Fish habitat in the creek cannot be disturbed and, as a result, work on the project cannot begin until early June.

The walkway will be built on the west side of Mountainview Road. It will feature limestone on a gravel base through the valley floor with stairs of paving stone and timber up the sides of the valley. The stairs will be graduated with landings at various levels. An asphalt ramp down one side of the stairway will be used by people wanting to wheel their bikes through the valley.

No trees will be removed, Hylkema said, and the walkway will be fully lighted as a safety precaution. "It'll be a safer way to get down through the valley," he said.

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Continued from page 1

from all the appropriate agencies," he said in an interview following the meeting. "The integrity of this important natural area needs to be protected and efforts can now be focused to achieve this."

While Silver Creek Valley lands are privately owned and Halton Hills Village Homes (HHVH) might proceed with an application for a golf course in the valley, there's a chance the valley lands could come into the town's ownership within the next five years if the golf course proposal doesn't get the necessary approvals.

Under a master development agreement with HHVH, the town has the option to purchase the valley lands if the golf course proposal isn't approved.

The town will soon advertise for members of the committee, which will consist of 11 people. Four will be town councillors, while the remaining seven will be citizens appointed by council. Five of the seven citizens will have a professional interest in the field of environmental management and two will represent the general public's views on aspects of the environment.

The committee's terms of reference will be presented for council's consideration by July 1. A report from the committee on the possible designation of the valley as a natural heritage area is expected to come before council by September 1.

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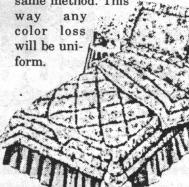


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