

## Compensation demanded for loss of business

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claimed to have experienced since construction began in June.

Terry Samcoe of Dairy Queen listed the amount of money he paid for business and property taxes and added this should guarantee him protection from the constant problems he has encountered as a result of construction. He suggested a portion of these taxes be returned.

Linn argued property values will increase when construction is completed, but merchants were more concerned with the present. Carol Walraven of The Butcher Shop pointed out an increase in property values would not benefit many of the merchants anyway. "Most of us only rent the property," Walraven said.

"We don't own it, so any increase will not affect us."

Linn's suggestion that merchants who felt their business had suffered because of the construction maintain records of specific dates and times when access was obstructed, was met with an uproar from the business owners. "Maybe if we were notified in advance, we could have kept records," an unidentified woman pointed out. "You can't expect me to remember specific times four months later."

Another merchant's memory was more precise. "Every Friday," he snapped. "They're there every Friday."

Linn suggested every affected merchant contact town staff, but McHale did not agree. "It's the wrong way to look at this," McHale

said. "In this age of business where you provide a service, the town should come to us."

Asked if merchants will be compensated for loss of business, Linn responded that to date, no one has submitted a formal loss of business claim with the town.

Unhindered, merchants asked how long they would have to wait after completing a compensation form and were told processing would begin two weeks after Memme temporarily halted construction during the winter season (in two weeks).

Pressed further, Linn finally admitted provincial legislation was recently passed, stating no loss of business claims can be filed in Ontario.

Pat Bagin, franchise owner of IGA, asked who would pay for repairs to cars which are scraping their mufflers going over the curbs. "People are coming to me with complaints," he said. "What am I supposed to do? Pay \$200 out of my own pocket?!"

Linn said customers who have suffered damage to their cars because of the construction contact the town and

their claims will be forwarded to Memme's insurance company.

Issues of safety were also brought up during the hour-and-a-half long meeting.

Merchants complained about large unfenced holes, unsafe work habits and the inattentive driving of the workers. "These people are taking all sorts of unsafe short cuts which are most probably illegal," said McHale. He added the only reason he did not complain to Workers Compensation and other agencies was because he did not want construction to be held up longer than necessary.

By the end of the meeting, Linn promised to have an inspector on site every day until the project is halted in two weeks, to ensure safety and consideration for business owners are observed. (By this time, everything should be completed except the final paving, laying of sod and other aesthetics, such as planting of shrubs.) He also promised to visit merchants to determine the extent of damages.

## Region health department offers oral contraceptives

The Halton Regional Health Department will sell oral contraceptives to clients of its counseling clinics.

The region operates three clinics which offer birth control and pregnancy counseling and diagnosis, treatment and referrals for sexually transmitted diseases.

The region's health and social services committee recently approved a five-year deal with two major suppliers to purchase the contraceptives at a cost of up to \$30,000 per year.

A recent review of clinic services showed a need for more affordable oral contraceptives as a high priority for clients, according to Bob Nosal, Halton's commissioner and medical officer of health.

Currently, clients are issued prescriptions for the contraceptives, which cost between \$20 and \$27 per month.

"There is concern that the cost of oral contraceptives may be dissuading clients from using pills as a birth



control measure," Nosal wrote in a report to the committee.

He noted that the Ministry of Health supports the practice of selling oral contraceptives to health clinic clients, "especially those in financial need," and that 70 per cent of the province's health departments already do so.

The pills will be obtained from the manufacturers at cost, with a \$3 administration user fee added to pay health departments costs for the added service. The total cost to the client would be about \$7, he said, and the program would have no impact on the tax supported budget.

The motion passed unanimously and without debate when presented to the health and social services committee. It must now be approved by council.

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