

Double traffic fines on Mill Street West

Be prepared to pay twice the fine if you get caught speeding - or violating any other Highway Traffic Act statute - on Mill Street West from Victoria Street to Duby Road which will be designated as a Community Safety Zone (CSZ) by the Town.

An unexpectedly high rate of traffic accidents, an alarmingly low speed limit compliance rate and curving road-

way made the one-kilometre stretch of road a perfect candidate for a one-year CSZ pilot project. The other CSZ test zone will be on Delrex Boulevard in Georgetown and the Region will be asked to consider testing a third CSZ on Mountainview Road.

The program is a Provincial initiative that gives municipalities the power to double the set and minimum

fines for traffic violations in designated areas where there are road safety concerns. The province agreed to pay half of the cost of new police officers hired to help implement community safety programs.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, who initially attempted to have two additional roads designated as CSZ pilot projects, said she

hoped the CSZ would be a "wake-up call" for drivers to obey the rules.

"I really think we have to motivate our community to be aware and this is possible one way to do it," Serjeantson said.

In a report to councillors Town Traffic Coordinator Bob Butrym noted that The Halton Hills Injury Prevention Committee has given the

project a cautious endorsement to the CAZ proposal. It suggested that there should be public consultation and traffic studies conducted in an area before a CSZ is designated.

Butrym said Mill Street West was chosen when a traffic analysis showed the collision rate in the area is more than double what's expected and that only 9 per cent of

drivers surveyed in two three-hour periods complied with the 40-km/h speed limit on Mill Street West in a narrow section near Wright Avenue by St. Joseph's Roman School.

Halton police will provide an increased enforcement level in the pilot project areas and will work with Town staff to develop and evaluate Community Safety Zones.

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What's Inside



The Rotary Club had some big cheques for Guides and Scouts at their Tuesday meeting. See page 11.



Acton Agricultural Society held their annual meeting Saturday. See the report on Page 3.



Bingo! Joan Taylor of Acton wins \$25,000 at Bingo Country in Milton. See photo on Page 7.



Christians of Acton's nine churches joined in a service of unity Sunday morning. See story on Page 9.

Renewed interest in east end plaza

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

While any commercial development in the east end of Acton will be triggered by new house construction, there's some renewed interest in land approved for a plaza in the area.

Brookfield Homes - formerly Coscan - has Ontario Municipal Board approval to build a 70,000-square foot plaza south of Highway 7 and east of Churchill Road. It also has approval for a 200-home subdivision adjacent to the plaza property.

In a recent interview Brookfield's vice president of land development, Kathleen Schofield, said that although a deal with a potential plaza developer fell through last fall, the company is still interested, once there is some residential growth.

"He (the plaza developer) went to see all the major (potential) tenants and they all said the same thing, that they need to see some housing," Schofield said.

Schofield said Brookfield and other Acton east landowners should have a better handle on the timing of housing construction in a few months.

Following a recent meeting between the landowners, Town and Regional staff and local politicians, the Region agreed to approach the Province about altering a ratio used to calculate the amount of water and sewer services needed for a house.

Schofield said the current ratio of 3.8 people per unit is "grossly overestimated" and suggested that the Region's number of 3.4 people per unit was more of a reality.



HEAD ON: Highway 7 was closed for more than eight hours Wednesday following a collision between an eastbound tractor-trailer and a westbound car at 4:40 a.m. two km. east of Acton. The car driver, a 31-year-old woman from Mississauga, was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Becker's rig, a 36-year-old male from Oshawa, was not injured. A clean up crew was required because of the spilled diesel fuel. Charges are pending but the incident is still under investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to call Const. Brian Hackett of the Port Credit OPP at (905) 278-6131. - Angela Tyler and Maggie Petrushevsky photos

Supervised vote for teachers

Halton's Catholic high school teachers vote Monday, Feb. 8 on the last offer from the Halton Catholic District School Board - a proposed deal that both the local and provincial union officials recommend be rejected.

The Board has requested the Ontario Labour Relations Board conduct a supervised vote by the teachers of the offer that they voted down last Thursday.

Joe Pece, Halton secondary president of the Ontario

English Catholic Teachers' Association, said the proposal would be seen as an insult to all Catholic teachers and includes reduced benefits, classes with 33 students and a requirement that the union drop all grievances

Board chair Jim Sherlock said the three-year deal, which he didn't call a final offer, was competitive, affordable and met the requirements of the Education Act. He also said that a lockout of teachers remains a last resort.

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