

Area residents take traffic concerns to Region

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

Several Maple Ave. area residents took the opportunity to voice their opinions on the traffic and safety problems on Maple Ave. to a region consultant last week.

About 40 people, mostly residents, along with representatives of the quarry industry, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, school boards and emergency services attended the region-run meeting focusing on the road, at the Civic Centre June 7.

The meeting was the first phase in the region's \$170,000 traffic operations study which will look at the day to day

operations of all regional roads and determine low cost techniques to maximize the safety and efficiency of the roads.

Regional council has made Maple Ave. the top priority in the study and directed regional staff to have any recommended interim traffic calming measures in place on the road by September. Signs by the school zone and flashing lights have already been installed.

At the meeting, consultant Doug Allingham, of Totten Sims Hubicki Associates of Whitby, divided the group into workshops of 10 to 15 people.

Bob McMurray, manager of budgets and development for Halton Region's

Public Works Department, who was also at the meeting, said the residents told the consultant what they believed the problems are on Maple Ave.

"The comments ran the whole gamut from traffic, speeding and noise," said McMurray.

He added the residents were still adamant trucks should be banned from Maple Ave.

A second meeting is to be held Wednesday, June 28 at the Civic Centre beginning at 6:30 p.m. when the consultant is expected to present his recommendations for the roadway. McMurray said he will likely present options for short and long term solutions, and the public will have an

opportunity for input at that meeting.

Traffic calming options that could be considered include increased signage and the separation of traffic from the pedestrians by narrowing the roadway (through elimination of a lane or narrowing the existing lanes.)

"The issue of safety is still number one," said McMurray. He added the safety of both the area residents and those who travel the road have to be taken into consideration.

The consultant's report is to be done by July 14 and that report along with region staff recommendations should be presented to the region's planning and public works committee on August 9 and then to regional council on August 16.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1995 VOL 9 - ISSUE 9 36 PAGES - 50¢ + G.S.T.

News

Digest

Classic Day

Don't forget the annual Classics Against Cancer Car Show at Cedarvale Park today (Sunday). Gates open at 7:30 a.m.

Arson suspected

Firefighters extinguished a fire at an abandoned house on Winston Churchill Blvd. Wednesday at 5:34 p.m. The department says they believe the fire was deliberately set.

Giffin retiring

Of the 25 teachers retiring from the Halton Roman Catholic School Board, only one is currently working at a Halton Hills school. Louise Giffin will retire from Holy Cross School in Georgetown. Another staff member at the school, Birute Marcolini, is among 22 who have served the board for 25 years. A special Eucharistic celebration was held in their honor June 9.

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Fun at the festival

The three-day Village Festival got underway in Downtown Georgetown on Thursday with children from various schools entertaining visitors with their own style of music. Among those filling the air with sounds were Stephanie Doorn and Daniel O'Rourke, of Glen Williams Public School, as they played their xylophones in the ukulele band.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Officer pleads guilty

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Halton Police Detective Doug Ford entered a plea of guilty to an assault charge in Provincial Court on Friday, June 9.

The charge related to the April 7 arrest of a man by the Halton Regional Police Major Crime Bureau for first degree murder of Frederick Sheppard of Milton.

An internal investigation of the circumstances of the arrest led to Ford, a 25-year police veteran, being charged with assault level one.

Ford received a conditional discharge, probation for 12 months and 100 hours of community service. He faced a further charge of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act and was sentenced to a loss of five days pay.

Ford was transferred from the Major Crime Bureau immediately after the internal investigation.



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