

Mandate change could cause "unnecessary" delays

Continued from page 1

Marilyn Serjeantson, chairman of the public works committee and a Halton Hills councillor, told Ranson that although she could see the merit of an umbrella group to provide input into all Silver Creek area projects, she was concerned that the overall process for approving reconstruction of Mountainview Rd. through Hungry Hollow might be unnecessarily delayed. The project, which would include reconstruction of Mountainview from Eden Pl. to Regional Rd. 10, is expected to go ahead in 1994.

"There's a human life danger down there (Hungry Hollow)," Serjeantson said, referring to people who walk and bicycle in the area.

Proposals, such as the road's reconstruction and the walkway, are "immediate needs for existing residents and are not related to future growth," she said.

While neither Ranson nor Rowan discounted the need for the road's reconstruction, both said it should be viewed in a larger context—specifically, how it would affect the Silver Creek Valley in combination with other projects proposed for the area.

"The ecosystem and fisheries habitat of Silver and Black Creeks need protection," said Rowan during an interview Thursday.

The Georgetown man represents a non-profit angling association with 350 members, most of whom live in Southern Ontario. The group raises and spends \$20,000 annually on water conservation projects, he said.

A strong advocate of a sub-watershed plan for Halton Hills as well as a hydrogeological study that would determine the quantity and source of water available for Georgetown and area, Rowan said it's difficult to assess how projects will impact on the area "when you don't know how the water supply system works or how much water exists."

Ranson, also contacted Thursday, said "the protection of Silver Creek Valley is the overall issue." All projects proposed for the area should come under the scrutiny of

the yet-to-be-formed PLC, he added.

The Mountainview Rd. reconstruction project and the trunk sewer are just some of the proposals that the committee should deal with, Ranson said. Others include a walkway across Silver Creek Valley, reconstruction of Main St. through the valley and a watermain installation along Main St.

"We must protect the valley's integrity as an existing natural area with a significant wildlife component," he said.

Asked to comment on the suggestion that the PLC's mandate be expanded, the

Region's director of engineering services Ric Robertshaw predicted that a wider scope for the group will result in delays for projects in the Silver Creek area. Environmental Assessment studies are traditionally a long, and often complicated, process, he said. An umbrella group looking at overall impacts of all projects would lengthen the process, he concluded.

Robertshaw said the "cumulative

impact" of projects will be considered in the evaluation of alternatives. However, Ranson told Halton Hills This Week that he would like "clarification" from the Region about how it will look at "cumulative effects."

The PLC "should be up and running by September," Robertshaw said. In the meantime, Region staff will meet with consultants to draw up the group's terms of reference.

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