

Region 'wins one against big guys'

CN told to pay for Limehouse bridge repairs

CN Railway has been ordered by a federal agency to repair the Limehouse bridge on 22 Sideroad this summer.

Last year, after waiting for two years for CN to fix the bridge, Halton Region appealed to the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA), which settles disputes between railway companies and their neighbors— municipalities, landowners, utility companies, etc.

Late last month, CTA ordered: CN must continue its practice of maintaining the bridge; CN is responsible for all maintenance costs; CN must proceed immediately to reconstruct the bridge to its original 10 tonne limit in 1999; CN must pay the cost of the reconstruction while Halton Region will continue to pay for minor roadway maintenance.

"We're quite pleased about this at the region," said Halton Hills Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette. "It's not too often you take on the big guys and win."

Bonnette stressed the newly reconstructed bridge will not be used by gravel trucks. "It's not a truck route," he said.

The conflict between Halton Region and CN over the bridge began in 1996 when the railway company found many deficiencies in the bridge including deteriorating steel plates. CN, at that time, requested Halton Region close the road, but Halton Region refused because the road is an important link for school buses and agricultural vehicles. At that time, the two sides agreed to lower the limit to six tonnes, eliminating school bus



RICK BONNETTE

and agricultural vehicle traffic temporarily.

During the following two years, CN refused to repair the bridge to its original limit stating since no redesign was needed, the work should be considered maintenance, and Halton Region's responsibility.

But the CTA, stating since CN has traditionally done maintenance on the bridge, ordered that should continue.

CN has informed Halton Region staff they will work on the bridge during July and August and public notification of a road closure will be confirmed later this month.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

TEAC to beautify garden tomorrow

TEAC will be having a planting day for its Butterfly Garden at Williw Park Ecology Centre, tomorrow (Saturday).

TEAC— Town of Halton Hills Environment Advisory Committee— was created in 1993 to advise council, enhance public awareness and community action on environmental issues.

One of the projects of TEAC has been the initiation of Willow Park Ecology Centre. The goal of the park is to provide a focus for ecological-based education and recreation in the town.

For more information on the Butterfly Garden planting contact Don Noble at (416) 483-5376.

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