

Citizens concerned they won't be heard

Restructuring town council meeting schedule no easy feat

A 118-name petition calling on Halton Hills council not to scrap general committee in a proposed meeting restructuring has Councillor Ron Chatten boiling mad.

Chatten, a Ward 4 councillor, commented on the petition that had been sent to the town clerk's office and was included in council's agenda package at Monday's meeting. The petition asked council not to approve any report that calls for the elimination of the general committee meeting or any other plan "that would limit the access of citizens to speak to our elected members of council, as a group. This may appear to be efficient but it limits democracy."

The petition was forwarded to Chief Administrative Officer Steve Andrews who is attempting to restructure the town's Monday night meetings into a more streamlined process.

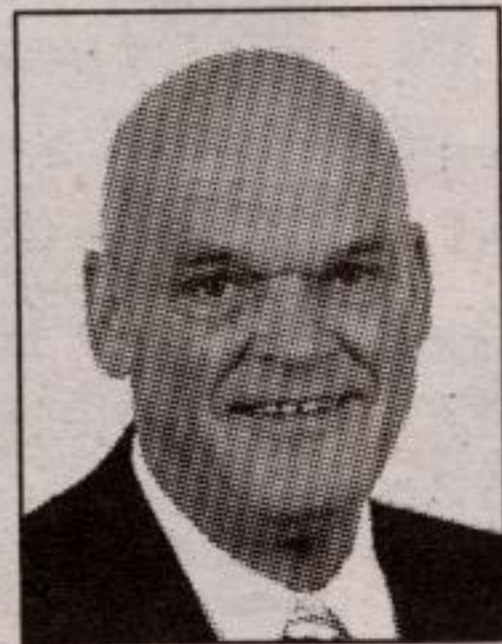
However, his previous two attempts, in December and March, met with resistance from local citizens, and split council opinion.

"We haven't made the final decision. We're going to streamline; we're going to come with new ideas. When people start putting petitions around, trying to insinuate that members around this council are trying to take away people's rights, it just really makes me boil over," said Chatten.

At previous meetings, resident Barbara Halsall vigorously opposed the proposed restructuring which would eliminate the longstanding general committee meeting in favour of more council meetings with a committee-of-the-whole component.

"I really feel that under what is being recommended, democracy is at risk," she told council members at previous meetings.

"When people start putting petitions around, trying to insinuate that members around this council are trying to take away people's rights, it just really makes me boil over"
—Ward 4 Councillor
Ron Chatten



"I remind you that a dictatorship is the most efficient form of government."

Chatten scoffed at that claim Monday saying, "it's not the kind of people they (those who signed the petition) elected; we wouldn't do it. I think (the petition) says something about our integrity and I don't like it being

questioned like that."

Chatten said he's called some people on the petition, and "they don't have a clue about what they've signed."

Halsall has argued the proposed system does not give councillors or the public a second chance to comment, it's not yet fully thought-out with still lingering questions on its operation, and public input was not considered in its planning.

Andrews said Monday he would be meeting with Halsall before bringing another report to council on the restructuring.

He is now looking at a format proposed by Ward 3 Councillor Jane Fogal that calls for a first and second reading of an agenda item—and consequently allows for more public debate—before its formal approval.

Andrews said it was never his intention to limit public debate in his two previous proposals, and it won't be the case in his

next proposal either.

"If anything we'll be improving and opening up the process to the public. This is not the elimination of general committee. In fact, it's ensuring the public's interest, promoting it and solidifying it," Andrews said.

Currently the town operates on a three-week schedule. A general committee (GC) one week, followed by a council meeting the next, with an off week on the third; then the cycle repeats. GC meetings are generally council meetings with subtle differences. Any report approved at a GC must be ratified at a council meeting. Delegations are allowed 10 minutes to speak at a GC and five minutes at a council meeting.

The original staff plan had called for the elimination of the GC meeting to be replaced solely with council meetings on a four-month trial basis, April to July.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer



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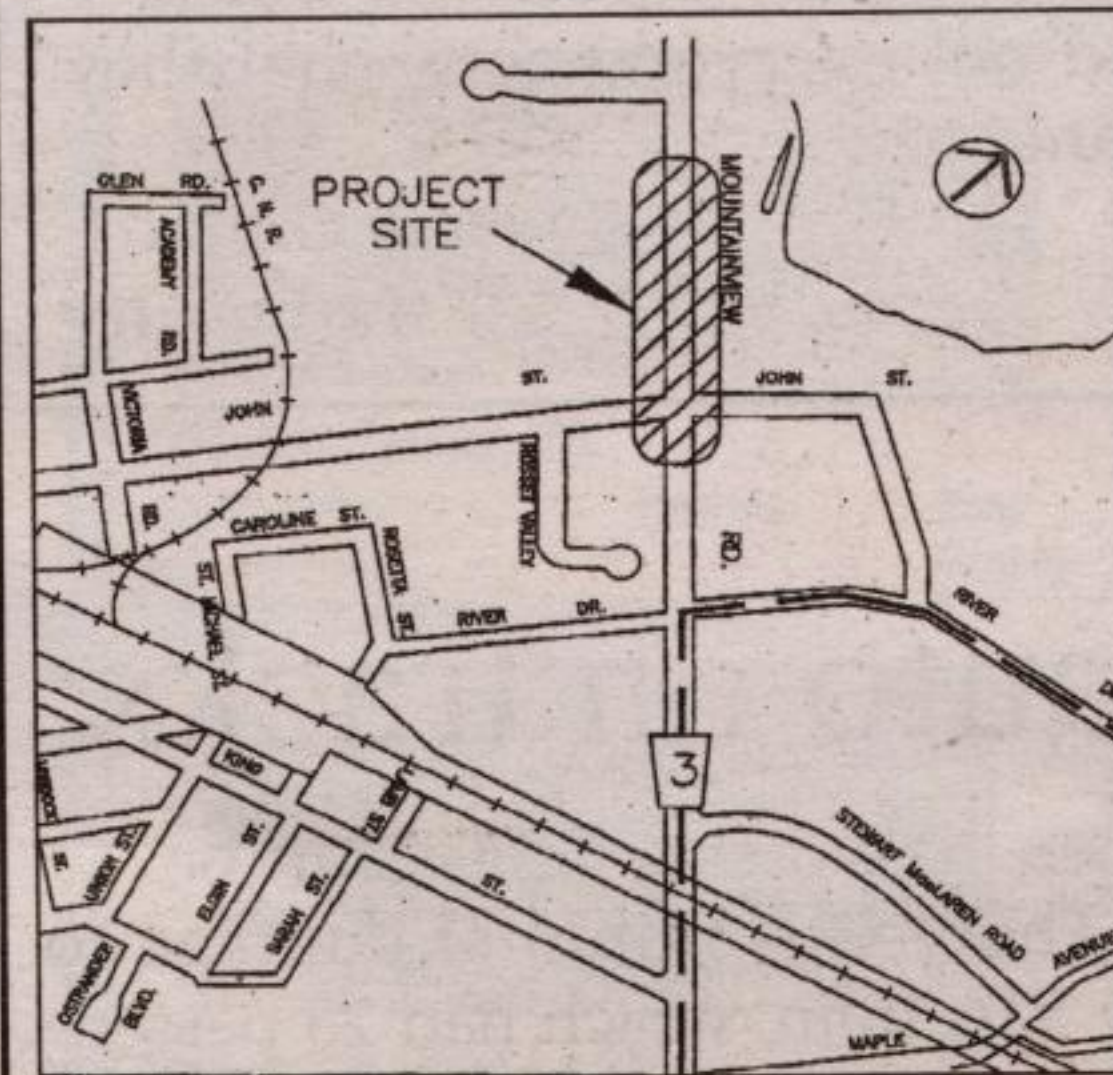
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CONSTRUCTION NOTICES

NOTICE Is hereby given pursuant to Section 300 (1) of the Municipal Act, being Chapter M.45 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1990, that the Council of the Town of Halton Hills, at its meeting to be held in the Civic Centre at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 21, 2002, will consider passing a by-law for the reconstruction of Mountainview Road 100m south of John Street to 200m north of John Street.

Plans detailing this project and the proposed by-law are available for viewing during normal business hours at the Engineering Department office. Any inquiries should be directed to Mr. R.A. Goddard, C.E.T., Manager of Capital Works at 905-873-2601, extension 2310.

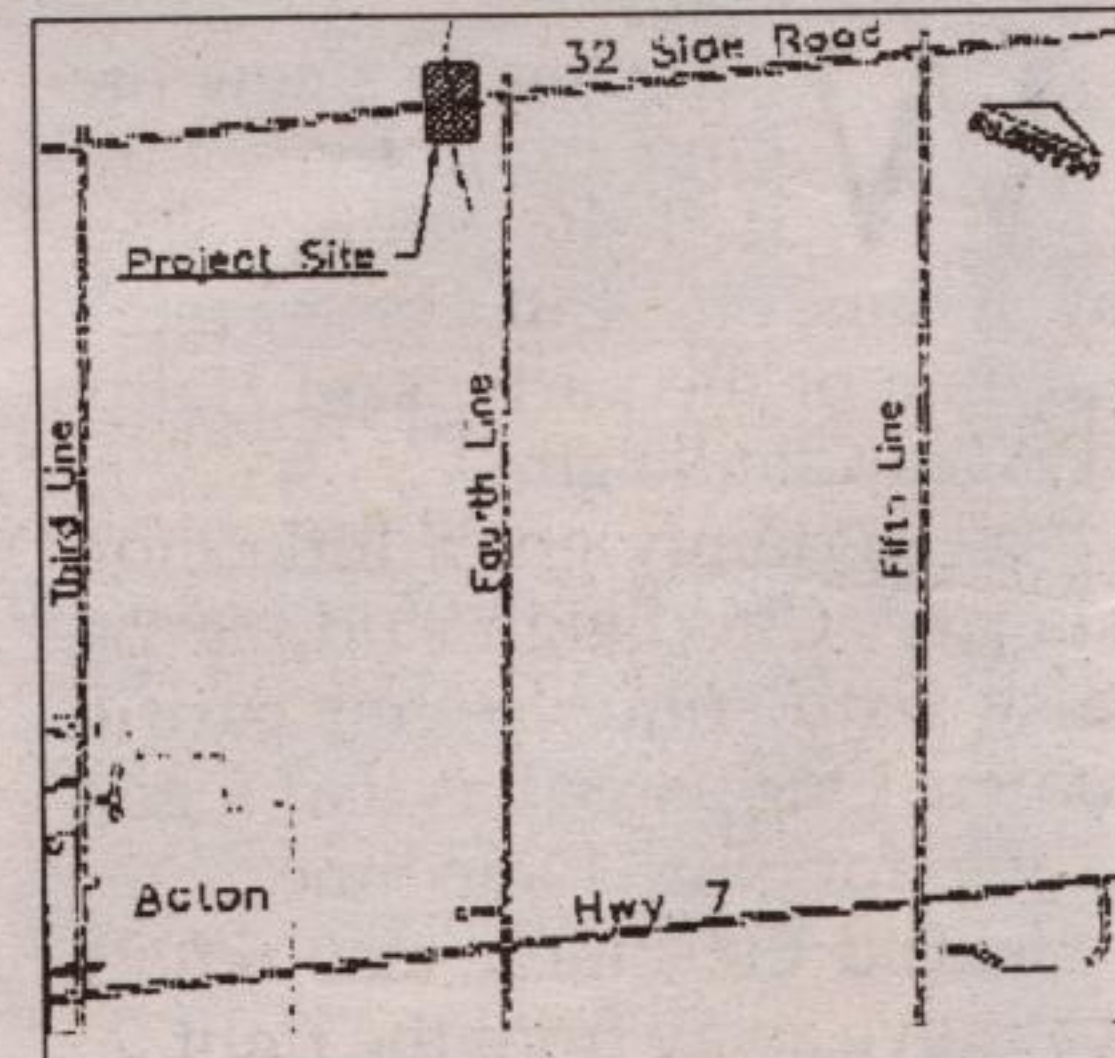


The Council will hear, in person, or by their counsel, any person who claims that their lands will be prejudicially affected by the said by-law and who applies to be heard. Persons wishing to be heard should notify the Clerks Department prior to the meeting date.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 300 (1) of the Municipal Act, being Chapter M.45 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1990, that the Council of the Town of Halton Hills, at its meeting to be held in the Civic Centre at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, 2002, will consider passing a by-law for the extension of a culvert and the widening of 32 Side Road between Fourth Line and 100 metres west of Fourth Line.

During the extension of the existing box culvert, 32 Side Road will be closed on an emergency basis only. One lane of through traffic will be open at all times.

Plans detailing this project and the proposed by-law are available for viewing during normal business hours at the Engineering Department office. Any inquiries can be directed to Mr. T.A. Drewlo, P. Eng., Manager of Public Works at 905-873-2601, extension 2602.



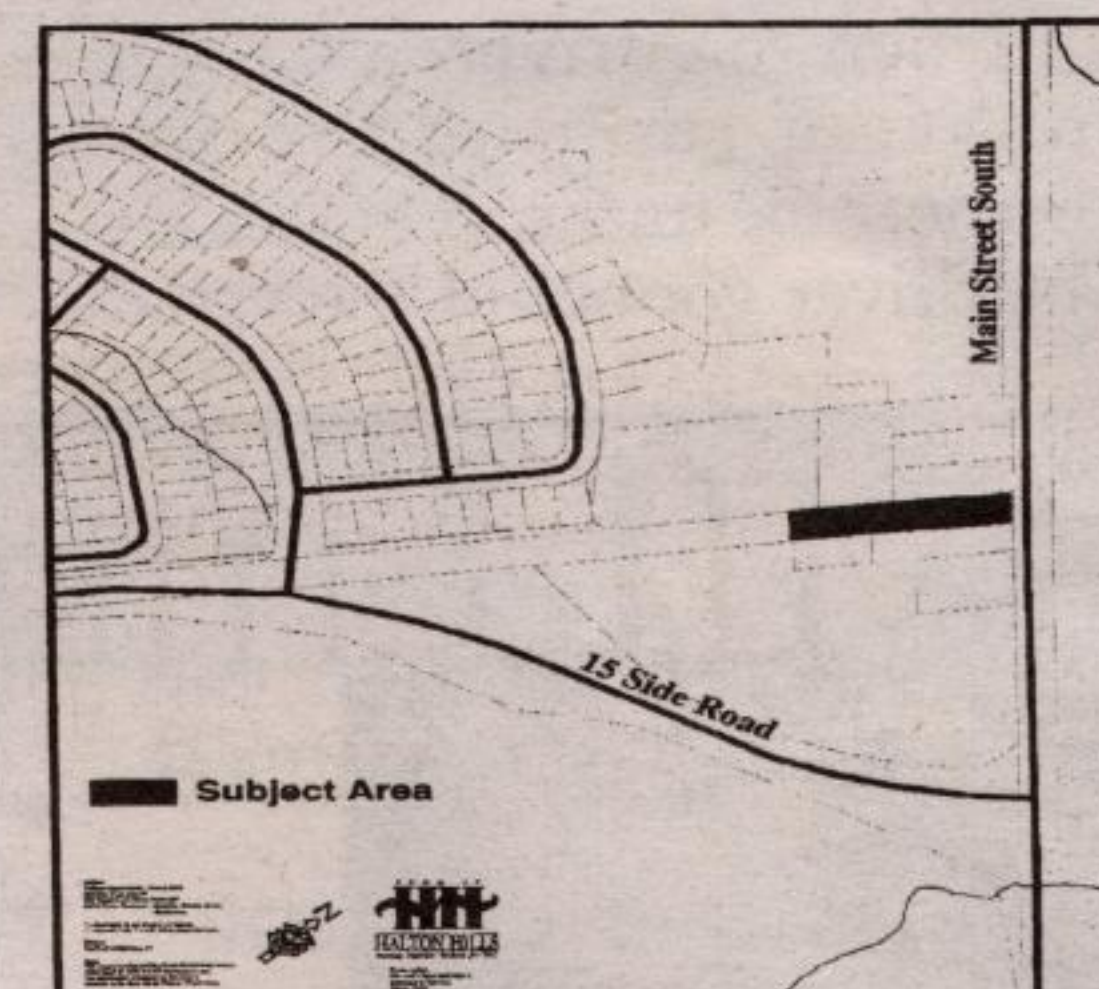
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NOTICE

NOTICE OF STREET NAME CHANGE

NOTICE Is hereby given that Council for the Town of Halton Hills will be considering the passage of a By-law to authorize changing the name of the following street from 15 Side Road to Cromar Court at its meeting to be held on Monday, May 6, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber in the Civic Centre, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown.

The 113.23 metres of the original road allowance for 15 Side Road lying immediately west of Main Street, in the Town of Halton Hills and shown in the sketch below.



Council shall hear any person who claims to be prejudicially affected by the By-law and who applies to be heard. Persons wishing to be heard should notify the Clerk's Department prior to the meeting date.

1 Halton Hills Dr., Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2
Tel.: 905-873-2600 • Fax: 905-873-2347