

# Loblaws gets formal go-ahead to begin new store construction

Construction of the Loblaws Superstore at the corner of the Mountainview Rd. and Guelph St. will begin soon—legally this time.

Halton Hills council formally removed the 'H', which is a holding provision preventing the issuance of building permits until all site and application conditions had been met.

"Loblaws has now provided the Town with all the required items for the clearance of the Holding provision," Richard Zelinka of Zelinka Priamo Ltd., the lead planner for the Loblaws store told council at Monday's meeting.

These items include the site plan agreement, \$2.5 million in letter of credit, \$140,000 in cash for the traffic signals, parkland cash-in-lieu and \$40,000 contribution to improve the road and sidewalk at Windsor Dr.

"This is quite an exciting project both for Loblaws and I believe the entire community," said Zelinka.

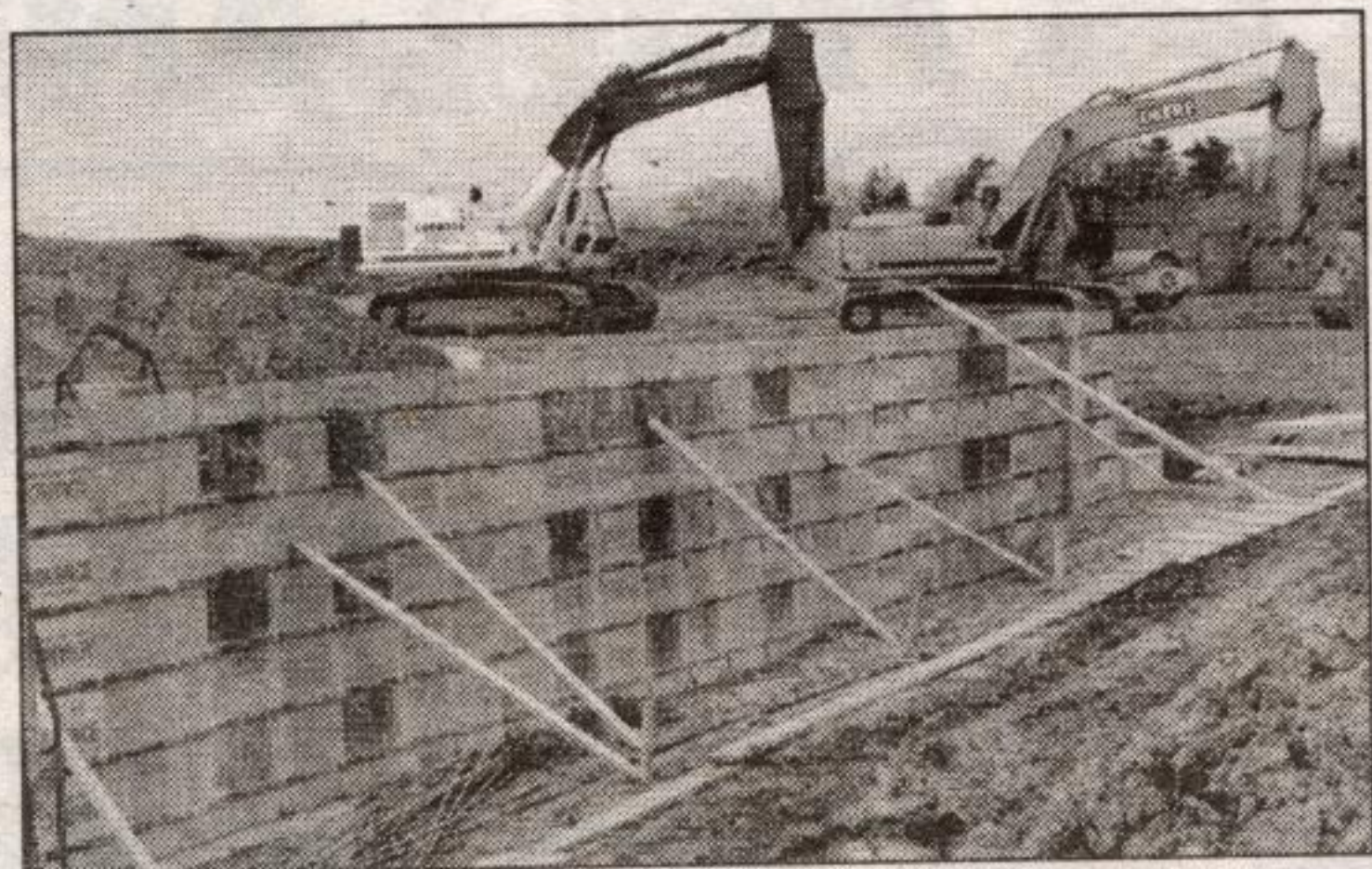
The 138,000 sq. ft. store will feature a 73,000 sq. ft. grocery store plus a pharmacy, electronics store, housewares and baby wear sections, photo lab and fitness centre. In comparison the existing Loblaws grocery store is 45,000 sq. ft.

Councillor Clark Somerville questioned why work had already started on the site.

"Normally a good corporate citizen, Loblaws was jumping the gun," he said. "You can see along Mountainview Rd. the footings were poured."

Somerville said this is a highly visible construction project, watched by everyone in the community. "People are noticing are things like that."

Zelinka replied Loblaws' contractor had begun the site improvements such as grading,



Construction of the new Loblaws store in Georgetown will resume soon after the town lifted a holding provision against the project. Photo by Herb Garbutt

which do not require the permits, and then assumed Loblaws had the permits and began the actual construction.

That action was stopped as soon as Loblaws was notified and will not start again until the permits are issued, Zelinka said.

"When it was brought to my attention that the contractor was a little over-zealous I made a phone call to Loblaws' senior management and within 30 minutes they had called off their crew," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "So I give them full marks for working with us."

Halton Catholic District School Board, which operates Christ the King Secondary School beside the new Loblaws, was consulted on the landscape material and final grade elevations along the common property line. As well, Loblaws provided the school board with a letter of credit should any damage be done to the school property during construction.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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