

Bill for special guests could hit \$10,000 Halton board operating illegally, lawyer suggests

Some special guests invited to an unscheduled Monday night meeting of the Halton District School Board—to discuss the legalities of a board requirement for two-thirds majority votes—may eventually cost taxpayers more than \$10,000.

A court reporter and an outside lawyer, who told trustees he charges \$575 per hour, were invited to the meeting by chair Paul Tate and vice-chair Peggy Russell, much to the surprise of several trustees.

Not only did the guest list raise red flags, but also the speed in which policy governance changes at the board are being proposed.

"You seem to be calling in people we haven't approved, without any discussion," said Ward 3 Burlington Trustee Janie Hames.

A verbatim record of board meetings is unusual. Typically, a staff clerk takes minutes and provides a summary report to trustees. The meetings are also video and audio taped.

Tate told board members that he brought in a court reporter because he wanted the meeting accurately reported, "to protect everyone."

Tate said he brought in outside counsel, too, because he didn't want to "jeopardize" staff lawyer Robert Keel's ongoing relationship with the board.

Tate said he didn't want Keel to be "the meat in the sandwich. We wanted to preserve his position as a fair arbitrator on behalf of the board," he added.

In the legal opinion of Peter Lauwers, from the law firm Miller Thomson, the board is currently operating in an unlaw-

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—Halton Hills Trustee Ethel Gardiner



ful manner by requiring two-thirds—or eight of 11 trustee votes—be required on decisions that are revisited, instead of just a majority or six votes.

Conversely, the board's staff lawyer Robert Keel said that he tends to lean on the other side of the debate, contrary to Lauwer's opinion. Although he added the consultant's opinion has "validity and substance."

The bottom line is the board needs to decide how to govern itself, said Keel.

Tate believes that a simple majority is the only reasonable and fair way to operate and that he shouldn't be saddled with decisions made by previous Halton trustees.

"If this (legal opinion) is accurate, then this board has been operating illegally for the past 10 years I've been on the board," said Ethel Gardiner, Halton Hills Trustee and former chair of the board.

Trustees turned down a request to formally seek public opinions on the governance issue by a 6-5 vote. Those against were: Tate, Russell, Jennifer Hlusko (Burlington), Bruce Jones (Oakville), Wes Pulling (Burlington) and Susan Shepherd, (Oakville).

"I don't agree we should go to the public and ask them whether we should be legally compliant, or ask their permission to do things wrong," said Jones.

Pointing to the 21 spectators in the gallery, Trustee Debbie Downs (Burlington) noted that this is the largest number of attendants over the past 18 months.

"Obviously this is an issue of interest to constituents," she said.

Trustees were notified Friday afternoon of Monday night's special meeting. When asked why these concerns over policy governance weren't sent to the board's Policy, Bylaw and Governance committee Tate said the matter was too urgent to wait.

"We have to tackle these issues immediately," he added.

Progress hasn't been made in the 18 months he has been on the board, said Tate, because the two-thirds vote requirement is holding back the real work of the board.

The rationale typically provided along with recommendations for change didn't accompany the agenda items submitted by Tate.

They will be included on the items slated for tonight's (Wednesday) regular board meeting, Tate assured.

—By Melanie Cummings, special

Low Back Pain?

Georgetown, Ont. - Back pain is on the rise, and according to recently released reports you don't need to keep suffering. The problem is most people don't know which way to go. Some continue to receive the same old ineffective treatment. Thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers can know what to do. For your free copy, call the Back Pain Associates toll-free, 24-hour recorded message at 1-866-335-3189.



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NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION

CONTRACT P-2005-C-04
Pavement Management

The Town of Halton Hills is proposing to resurface the following roadways under the 2005 Pavement Management Contract:

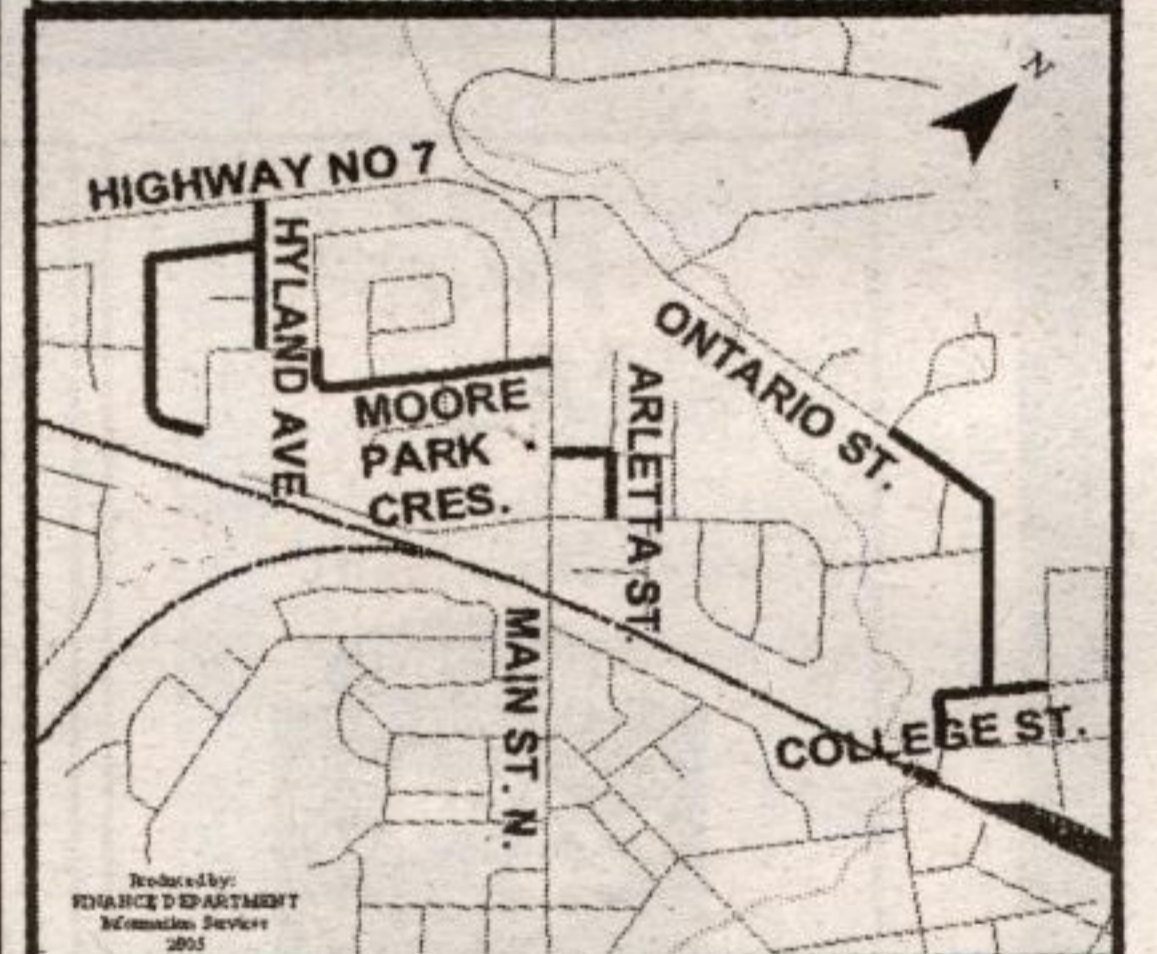
- Windsor Road (Guelph St. to Delrex Blvd.)
- Carole Street (Windsor Rd. to Delrex Blvd.)
- Ontario Street (Jason Crescent to College Street)
- College Street (Victoria St. to John St.)
- Kennedy Street (Main St. to Arletta St.)
- Arletta Street (Kennedy St. to Ewing St.)
- Hyland Avenue (Hwy. 7 to Joycelyn Cres.)
- Moore Park Crescent (Main St. to Joycelyn Cres.)
- Joycelyn Crescent (Hyland Ave. to Park Entrance)

The work on each section of roadway will vary but will generally include, asphalt removal/replacement, drainage improvements, curb and structure repairs and landscaping, as required.

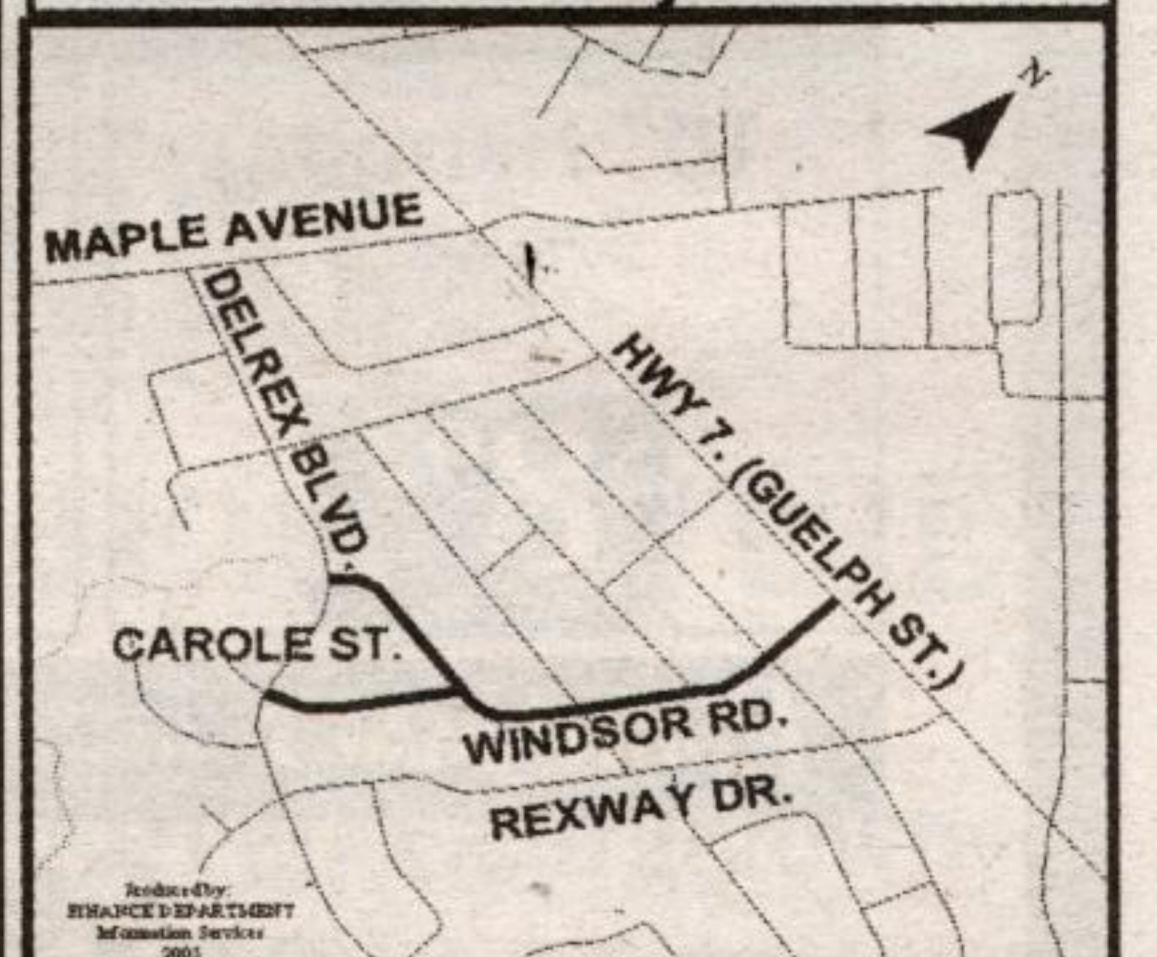
The Pavement Management project is expected to begin in mid July with completion this fall.

Plans detailing these projects are available for viewing during normal business hours at the Engineering and Public Works Department office. Inquiries should be directed to Mr. Ron Goddard, C.E.T., Manager of Capital Works, at extension 2310. 80

Location of Subject Lands



Location of Subject Lands



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



Car company cares

Vicki Klutt (left) owner of Legendary Motor Car company recently presented a cheque for \$10,000 to the William Osler Health Centre Georgetown Hospital Foundation for the purchase of a cardiac monitor for the neonatal/paediatric ward. Accepting the cheque were Paul Armstrong, chair of the hospital's fund-raising council and Joan Burdette of the foundation.

Photo by Yves Desjardins

In celebration of the marriage of Gillian Berry & Ed Alcorn, we invite you to their

\$\$\$CASINO STAG & DOES\$
Saturday, May 28th
(doors open @ 8:00 pm)
Georgetown Lions Club Hall
43 Mill Street (behind the old arena)
\$10.00

For tickets or information please call:
Shannon 905-877-8102 or Cynthia 416-550-7538

Mr. & Mrs. Robert McBride are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Krystin Elizabeth to Derek Mark Martin DeCooman, son of Mark DeCooman and Dianne Engelhardt. Wedding to take place November 24, 2005 in Cozumel, Mexico

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