

# Raised manhole cover creates problems for Acton couple

An Acton couple has given the Town and Narin Construction until tomorrow (January 6) to agree to settle their claim for damages done to their car after they ran over a raised manhole cover on Tanners Drive in the Honeyfield subdivision in November.

In a letter from their lawyer to the Town and Narin Construction, a division of the developer Rinarin Limited, Ian Gould and Pretti Varu of Tanners Drive said attempts over the past month to reach a settlement have failed, so unless they hear from the Town or Narin by tomorrow, they will "commence action" to recover damages.

Gould/Varu filed a police report following the incident and there are witnesses who heard and saw their car hit the manhole, and saw oil spew over the road and the couple's driveway when they pulled off the road.

Gould said he drove over several manhole covers without any problem on the morning of November 12, but when he came home that night, the third manhole cover he drove over ripped out his oil pan and cracked the manifold resulting in a \$1,500 repair bill to his 1997 Jetta GLX.

Although the car is driveable, Gould has been told the engine is cracked because of hitting the manhole cover and the repair bill is \$10,000.

In numerous telephone calls to the developer and the Town, both disavowed responsibility and advised



**MANHOLE MANOEUVRES:** Tanners Drive residents Ian Gould and Pretti Varu will sue the Town and Narin Construction if someone doesn't agree to replace the engine in their car, which witnesses told police spewed oil and parts after hitting this raised manhole cover in mid-November. — Submitted photo

Gould/Varu to make a claim on their insurance, leaving the couple frustrated and angry.

"I feel that no one cares and no one is taking responsibility for this," Varu said on Monday, adding the developer should have informed area residents in advance that the

work was going to be done, and once the manholes were raised in readiness for final paving, pylons should have been placed on top of them.

"The Town should have been far more diligent stopping people from parking on the street, knowing there were raised manhole cov-

ers on the street that would make driving dangerous," Varu said.

Gould/Varu's lawyer alleges the manhole in question was raised more than twice the permitted 40-millimetres, and was not sprayed with orange paint as required.

Gould, who claims the developer only put up signs warning of raised manhole covers after his accident, contends there were not enough signs, and the sign at Churchill Road and Tanners Drive was not explicit enough.

Regional Ward 1/2 Councillor Clark Somerville raised the manhole problem at the December 12 council meeting, reporting he'd had complaint calls and a petition from residents concerned the developer had raised the manhole covers and catch basins in preparation of final paving, but then not done the work.

Town engineer Rick Henry said crews for the developer had lowered the manhole covers that day after the paving was delayed the previous Friday by snow.

Henry also said the Town would bill the developers for snow clearing because the Town was forced to use pickup trucks to plough the street when the manhole covers were sticking up because the plough driver would have been jolted if the plough blade had hit them.

At press time, attempts to reach Narin Construction were not successful.

Now that the holidays are over, it's time to welcome in 2006. New Year's usually signifies a new beginning. Locally, our hospital will also have a new beginning. Our Georgetown Hospital is now being transferred from William Osler to Halton Healthcare Services. Gillian Tuck Kutarna, Graeme Goebelle, and myself sat on the Transition Team. We were welcomed with open arms from members of Halton Healthcare Services. We felt we were listened to and all three of us were impressed with their sense of fair play.

I have full confidence in the leadership of John Oliver, CAO for Halton Healthcare Services. Many of you may remember John from his days in Georgetown years ago. I have appointed Ward One Councillor Jon Hurst as our Councillor rep on the Board. Jon will be an excellent representative for the Town.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Rick Johnson, Arnold Pundzack and Donna Northeast who sat on the Osler Board representing our Town during some tumultuous times. I don't begrudge any fight that myself or Council had with William Osler. Now it's time to wish them luck,

## Mayor's Corner

By Rick Bonnette

and for us to not look back. Look forward and be confident with our hospital.

While the new Super Store is about to open, it is also super news that the Shoppes at Four Corners will be underway this Spring. There will be a 55,000 square foot grocery store included in the

plaza. This will be a huge benefit to citizens living in the South of Georgetown who have been waiting patiently for a grocery store located in their neck of the woods. More good news is that everybody came to their senses and an expensive Ontario Municipal Board Hearing was avoided.

## University Womens' Club sponsoring all candidates' meeting January 11

The University Women's Club (CFWU) is sponsoring a federal all candidates' debate on Wednesday, January 11, 7:30p.m. at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown.

The event will feature speeches from 5 candidates, Brent Boutiller (Green Party), Michael Chong, (Conservative), Noel Duignan, (NDP), Rod Finnie, (Liberal), Mike Wisniewski (Independent). Questions submitted from the audience will follow.

All federal issues, from immigration, health, finance, to defence and international affairs will be debated.

Party literature will be available, and members of the public are invited to meet and discuss issues with the candidates and their workers for a short time following the formal proceedings.

\* \* \* \*

On behalf of Council, we would like to welcome Bill Anderson as our new Economic Development Officer. Bill has a tremendous wealth of knowledge working with many levels of government in Economic Development. Bill will replace Allan O'Neill who is retiring. Allan did a great job for the Town, particularly stick handling some issues in the 401 Corridor.

\* \* \* \*

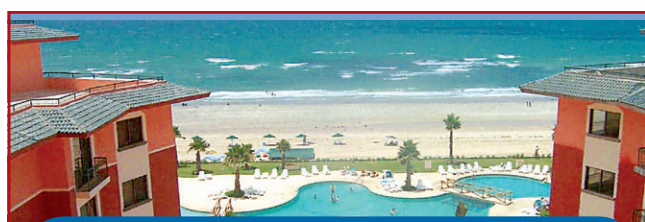
Speaking of retirement, the Town is losing two long-time dedicated employees. Earl Burt in Engineering and Public Works, and Doug Vivian in Recreation and Parks. Together, they have been employed for over 80 years serving our Town. Happy retirement! Both of you did a great job for the Town.

\* \* \* \*

Another newcomer to the Mayor's Showcase! Lar DeSouza, a local illustrator, cartoonist, and caricaturist, has his artwork now on display.

\* \* \* \*

Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342, or by e-mail at mayor@haltonhills.ca.



**SAVE UP TO \$1740\* PER COUPLE**

**CANCUN, Mexico**  
**Imperial Las Perlas** **\$499**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. Plus taxes of \$247  
 Studio, Sat. Jan. 21\*\*+

**CAMAGUEY, Cuba**  
**Brisas Santa Lucia** **\$619**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. Plus taxes of \$199  
 Hotel Room, Thurs. Jan. 19\*\*\*\*

**MANZANILLO, Cuba**  
**Club Amigo Marea del Portillo** **\$619**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. \*Only from Sunquest Plus taxes of \$199  
 Superior Room, Thurs. Jan. 26\*\*\*

**VARADERO, Cuba**  
**Hotel Varadero Internacional** **\$619**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. \*Only from Sunquest Plus taxes of \$199  
 Hotel Room, Sun. Jan. 15\*\*\*\*+

**HOLGUIN, Cuba**  
**Club Amigo Atlantico** **\$669**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. \*Only from Sunquest Plus taxes of \$199  
 Tropical Room, Fri. Jan. 20\*\*\*+

**SANTA CLARA, Cuba**  
**Sol Cayo Santa Maria** **\$699**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. \*Only from Sunquest Plus taxes of \$199  
 Hotel Room, Thurs. Jan. 19\*\*\*\*

**Playa Alameda\*\*\*\*+** **\$949**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. \*Only from Sunquest Plus taxes of \$199  
 Hotel Room, Thurs/Sun. Jan. 12&15

**TAMPICO, Mexico**  
**Club Maeva Miramar** **\$749**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. Plus taxes of \$247  
 Hotel Room, Wed. Jan. 18\*\*\*\*  
 Includes 4 rounds of golf

**LOS CABOS, Mexico**  
**Fiesta Inn** **\$799**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. \*Only from Sunquest Plus taxes of \$247  
 Superior Room, Mon. Jan. 16\*\*\*\*+

**MERIDA, Mexico**  
**Reef Yucatan Beach Resort** **\$849**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. \*Only from Sunquest Plus taxes of \$247  
 Hotel Room, Wed. Jan. 25\*\*\*\*+

**PUERTO PLATA, DR**  
**Sosua Bay** **\$949**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. \*Only from Sunquest Plus taxes of \$275  
 Gdn. Vw. Rm., Mon. Jan. 23\*\*\*\*+

**ACAPULCO, Mexico**  
**Park Royal Acapulco** **\$969**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. \*Only from Sunquest Plus taxes of \$247  
 Hotel Room, Thurs. Jan. 26\*\*\*\*+

**MAYAN RIVIERA, Mexico**  
**Viva Wyndham** **\$1099**  
 All-inclusive, 7nts. Plus taxes of \$247  
 Superior Room, Mon. Jan. 23\*\*\*\*

**CARIBBEAN CRUISING**  
 Includes airfare from Toronto, transfers, all on-board meals & entertainment  
**Save up to \$840 per couple**

<p><b>Costa Mediterranea</b>                  Only from Sunquest, 7nts.                  New Eastern Caribbean                  Category 5, Sun. Jan. 15</p>	<p><b>Costa Magica</b>                  Only from Sunquest, 7nts.                  Western Caribbean                  Category 4, Sun. Jan. 15</p>
--	--

<b>\$949</b>	<b>\$999</b>
Plus taxes of \$417	Plus taxes of \$437

Toronto departures. Prices shown are per person, based on double occupancy, subject to change and apply to new bookings only. Savings are reflected in prices shown. Flights via Skyservice. \*\$1740 savings based on Club Maeva Miramar, Tampico, Jan. 18 departures for 7 nights. Both Costa Magica & Costa Mediterranea Cruiseships are registered in Italy. Costa Magica gross tonnage, 105,000. Costa Mediterranea gross tonnage, 85,000. For full details, see our Sunquest Winter Sun 2005/2006 brochure.

**519-853-1553**  
**1-888-833-8953**  
**FAX: 519-853-1559**  
**379 Queen St.,**  
**Acton ON L7J 2N2**  
"Best Price, Best Service Since 1972"