

MTO won't help solve Main St. bridge problems

By Maggie Petrushevsky

If Guelph/Eramosa council wants to fix problems with the sidewalk on the bridge in the middle of Rockwood, it can't expect any help from the Ministry of Transportation even though the MTO owns the bridge.

Public Works manager Ken Gagnon told council MTO won't be doing any repairs to the uneven sidewalk on the bridge and will oppose erection of any barrier at the edge of the sidewalk because that would interfere with traffic.

Sidewalks are built on MTO right-of-ways under encroachment agreements with municipalities, he said. The municipalities fund them and maintain them. But in this

case, no record can be found of any agreement concerning the sidewalk over the bridge. MTO is taking the position that an agreement exists even if none can be found.

MTO's concern is with the safety of vehicles, not pedestrians, Gagnon told council, so they won't be sharing in any efforts to improve the safety of sidewalks for youngsters who will have to walk to Rockwood's Centennial school this fall.

Safety issues have increased in prominence since the Upper Grand District School Board announced cancellation of a bus that used to transport younger pupils to school from the south end of the village.

Gagnon said the combination of the curve and the narrowing of the lane width

at the south-east end of the bridge forces large vehicles dangerously close to the sidewalk. MTO has plans to upgrade the area but not until 2010 or 2011. Slope and alignment issues will be addressed at that time and if the sidewalk is affected, it will be replaced at MTO's expense. But that's no help for now.

Gagnon said his staff can repair the uneven sidewalk surface for around \$2,000 or less. But that won't do anything to protect children when traffic has to come too close to the sidewalk.

If the municipality wanted a barrier between the road and the sidewalk, MTO would oppose it and Gagnon also opposed it.

"If something was put up it would be hit

the first day," he told Coun. Chris White. "Surely that just supports our argument about the dangers of the location," White said.

Coun. Dave McCrae asked Gagnon to get a copy of MTO's policy about sidewalks and suggested it was time to raise the issue with provincial politicians since the bureaucrats worry about vehicles rather than people.

He opposed repairing the sidewalk because MTO owns the bridge and he didn't want to create a precedent.

Council supported a motion to have the sidewalk repaired anyway as well as pursuing discussions about correcting the dangerous geometry of the location in any way they can.

The Rockwood MILLER



Council seeks funds to rebuild Jones Base Line

Guelph/Eramosa council has decided to ask the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) for funds to rebuild Jones Base Line or the Fifth Line. The application deadline is Sept. 13.

Two previous applications saw the municipality receive \$1.6 million in funding towards the \$2.4 million cost of replacing four area bridges.

Once again, local bridges, local roads, solid waste management, water and wastewater get priority with selection criteria being based on health and safety, public policy priorities and value for money.

Public Works manager Ken Gagnon told council while 23 of the projects approved during the first round of applications were roads, only four roads were approved in the second round of applications, which suggests a lack of support for such projects.

Guelph/Eramosa has two set of roads that might meet the criteria but it also has one bridge that might be worth considering. He cautioned that none of the roads might be bad enough

to meet COMRIF's criteria.

The Jones Base Line and Fifth Line are listed as priorities in the municipality's five Year Roads Capital Plan and money has been included in the 2006 budget to do surveying and engineering on Jones Base Line. Geotechnical studies on both roads have already been completed this year so doing the additional inspections needed for the application will only cost about \$6,000 and could be done quickly, Gagnon said.

If council submits Jones Base Line, the application will be for \$1.15 million. The Fifth Line application

would be for \$1.01 million.

Probably the best roads to consider submitting would be either Road 3 or Speedvale from Guelph city limits to County Road 32. However, they too, might not be bad enough to meet the requirements and no preparatory work has been done so Gagnon could make no guesses as to the dollar figure in an application. The budget would need amending to get that application ready.

There are two bridges on the Fourth Line which need replacing but one of them belongs to the CNR and would not be eligible for COMRIF funding.

CAPSULE Comments



*It's good to pay attention to what you eat for breakfast. To avoid being hungry later in the morning, a good breakfast should contain some protein and fibre. It will also help you avoid overeating at other meals during the day.

*PAP smears are still a good screening tool for diagnosing cervical cancers. As with most cancers early detection saves lives. The highest rate of cervical cancer occurs in women of 55 who have stopped having PAP smears done.

*Serpents are included in the "cauceus", the symbol for the profession of medicine. It's a symbol of health because serpents shed their skin and thus appear to regain health and youthfulness. Its link with medicine goes back to the 7th Century AD.

*One of our responsibilities as pharmacists is to report adverse drug reactions to Health Canada. You can help us by letting us know if you experience any adverse reaction to the drugs you take, especially the newer medications. This program helps Health Canada spot any trends that might compromise drug safety.

*Most systemic drugs (drugs that effect the whole body) have side effects. Most people may not experience any side effects but if they do, these side effects will disappear gradually as your body becomes used to the drug. Our pharmacists Marija and Mary will do their best to alert you to any side effects that might affect your quality of life. It's part of our professional pharmacy service.

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Fencing approved for works yard

By Maggie Petrushevsky

Guelph/Eramosa council has agreed to spend an unbudgeted \$9,550 in order to fence a portion of the public works yard at Bruccedale to create a secure compound.

Public Works manager Ken Gagnon told council Monday that careful control of maintenance gravel and a change in the rules about what materials could be used for dust control has enabled him to save \$73,045 from his budget for those materials this year. As a result he has the funds to fence about an acre of the works yard and provide secure storage

for trucks and lighter materials which can't be locked in the yard's existing six-bay garage.

While unrestricted access was useful while the County's recycling depot was located a Bruccedale, the bins were removed in June. Creating a secure compound will not create problems for residents now since they have no need to be at the yard during off hours unless they are picking up wood chips from the township stockpile.

Council approved Towne and Country's tender to supply and erect a black vinyl chain link fence for the compound.

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