



COMMENT

CN terminal not good news for area residents

Area residents have every right to be upset over CN's recent announcement regarding its plans to build an intermodal terminal in Milton.

What heightens hostility toward the announcement is that it came without warning — that's it, a done deal.

Even the Town of Milton wasn't informed of the plans until the Friday before the Monday, Feb. 19 announcement, Mayor Gord Krantz says.

What's even worse is that the Town, according to Mayor Krantz, has no authority to interfere in the development since laws under the railway act supercede municipal powers. However, CN says it plans to work with the municipality to address concerns.

Well, we hope that happens because there are plenty of concerns.

Perhaps the most important question is, what will all this extra truck traffic mean for area residents? How will it affect life as they know it?

And we have to wonder how roads such as Tremaine and First Line will handle the load. They're not designed for that use.

This massive development will probably be good for the GTA, but it won't be any fun for those who live around it.



OUR READERS WRITE

If it stains clothing, how safe is it to drink?

Dear Editor:

On June 13 we were getting dark brown water from our water taps, a photograph of which was sent to Anthony Amalfa of the Halton Region Health Department. We were told it was safe drinking water.

In a Champion story dated February 20, Mr. Amalfa tells us that Health Canada and the Provinces haven't established health-based limits for drinking water because the compound isn't considered to represent a health threat at levels normally found in drink water. He goes on to say, "In this regard the levels

found in the Milton system do not pose a health threat."

I defy Mr. Amalfa to say that the highly-polluted water shown in the photograph is at a level normally found in drinking water. If it's higher than a normal level then Health Canada doesn't say it's safe, and Mr. Amalfa certainly cannot.

Mr. Amalfa seems to be walking a very dangerous line. I believe anything that permanently stains clothing isn't a good drink to go into an 85-year-old stomach.

Rodney T. Ramsden
Ontario Street South

Walking here can be hazardous to health

Dear Editor:

There's a definite need to monitor traffic in the community more closely in the downtown area especially between Ontario and Martin streets. At present it seems for some pedestrians it can be hazardous to their health. As a senior, I do a fair bit of walking around town weather permitting, this undertaking being both healthy and economical as befits the occasion. Also, not driving unnecessarily makes a small contribution in helping preserve the environment, which is a definite plus.

From my observation some motorists seem reluctant or perhaps indifferent to defer to pedestrians attempting to use crosswalks. After all, these motorists have the green light indicating an opportunity, one presumes legally, to complete their turns be they left or right without undue hindrance. However if a pedestrian "gets in the way" by using the crosswalk at this juncture, they do so at their peril. In a manner

of speaking they're somehow "interfering" with motorists from completing the turns with a minimum of delay, clearly unacceptable. It would seem that for pedestrians to exercise their "right of way" under these circumstances is a privilege not a right, rules of the road and crosswalks notwithstanding.

From my own personal experience more recently I was on Main Street eastbound, crossing Ontario Street with the lights and the pedestrian indicator in my favour. I was obliged to halt my progress better than half way across in the interest of (my) safety to enable right turn traffic off Main Street to access Ontario Street. There were at least three or four vehicles and the drivers in their haste decided it was more important for them to complete their turns unmindful of pedestrian traffic using the crosswalk, the latter would simply have to wait.

For these motorists to stop in the

name of common courtesy would have been reason enough. Some motorists perhaps in their frustration in appearing to exclude themselves from adhering to prescribed standards under the Highway Traffic Act to a pedestrian's right of way all things considered, is both illegal and potentially dangerous. In addition some motorists prior to emerging from side streets often straddle crosswalks impeding pedestrians right of way in completing their task of crossing in relative safety.

Perhaps police should attempt to maintain more vigilance in monitoring traffic at these strategic locations, when they can find the time. More attention to these matters (of safety) needs to be deliberated on and adequate methods employed as are deemed necessary for the benefit of those who are most vulnerable on our streets, children and senior citizens in particular.

F. Kenyon
Milton



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