



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Local resident Ab Martens and condominium superintendents Carol and Derek Snow want something done about the snow and ice-covered bridge used by many seniors.

## Icy bridge subject of concern, complaints

By JASON MISNER  
*The Champion*

A small bridge that stretches across a section of the Sixteen Mile Creek east of Martin Street — a popular crossing for residents living in nearby condominiums — has sparked safety concerns because it's full of snow.

Carol Snow, a superintendent of the condominium at 100 Millside Dr., said the bridge is regularly used by tenants, many of them seniors, as a way to get to Carriage Square and to the downtown. She's upset because a lot of snow has accumulated on it and said it's become dangerous to cross.

Also, she said, it's impossible for those with electric scooters to use, and she wants to know why the Town hasn't cleared the snow.

"This bridge has been like this all month long in January," a frustrated Ms Snow said. "What are they going to do, wait until the thaw?"

Paul Cripps, Milton's director of engineering, said the bridge is Town property, but it's not part of the Town's public walkway system and isn't designated for maintenance.

Town council approves sidewalk routes for plowing. This year, 27 km of walkways and sidewalks have been designated for plowing, and the bridge isn't included, said Doug Thompson, Milton's manager of operations in engineering services.

Ultimately it's up to council to decide what sidewalks/walkways are to be plowed, he said.

Another obstacle the Town faces is the bridge abuts two private properties. The Town can't get access to it without permission from at least one of the landowners, Mr. Cripps said.

But he said Town Hall has fielded a couple of calls from residents concerned about the condition of the bridge and will ask the owner of Carriage Square this week for permission to gain access to the bridge to have the snow removed.

What could happen, Mr. Cripps said, is after the snow has been removed signs could be put up immediately to alert residents to the fact the bridge isn't maintained in the winter and residents should use it at their own risk.

Janice Rowe, a resident of 101 Millside Dr., said clearly the bridge must be cleared of the mounting pile of snow.

"Everyone would like to see something done, I'm not the only one," she said.

Ward 4 Councillor Mike Boughton,

whose ward includes the downtown core, has received calls from concerned residents about the bridge, and has also visited it.

"It is bad," he said.

Mr. Boughton said he will approach Town staff about the bridge being plowed.

"With the number of residents that use it, I would like to see it kept clear regularly... or shut it down in the winter" so people don't risk getting hurt.

There's not much history available about the bridge, except that it was originally built by a private landowner in the '50s or '60s and was kept in place when Sixteen Mile Creek was re-channeled for flood control reasons in the '70s, said Gary Hutton, Conservation Halton's communications director.

Jason Misner can be reached at [jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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