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32 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



## Proposed bike path irks area residents

*Many feel addition will devalue homes*

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**  
*The Champion*

Tempers flared at a Town open house Tuesday night when staff presented plans supporting a controversial paved bike path that would wind through Mattamy's east-end Hawthorne subdivision.

About 60 residents attended the session at Memorial Arena to look over modified plans for the proposed bike path that would mean a .half-a-metre extension of the sidewalks running down four roads on one side, across boulevards and some driveways. The path, referred to as a 'decorative paving band,' could be a different colour than the sidewalks to designate where cyclists should ride.

Trudeau Drive residents Ken and Sandra Sampson attended the open house and weren't impressed with what they saw.

"Esthetically, it's terrible and I think it will affect property value," Mr. Sampson said.

Staff's proposal also includes amending

the traffic control bylaw to allow sidewalks to be used as bike paths for children 12 years old and under in specific locations, relocating some trees to make way for the sidewalk extension and installing 'Yield to Pedestrians' signs.

An option to 'delete the bike path without any further action' was also presented Tuesday, but staff recommended the path be put in.

The bike path dilemma has been going on since last year. Many people have said they were never told by the developer about the path before buying their homes. Also, concerns about safety, property values and boulevard parking have all factored into the debate.

At a public meeting in February, a variety of options were presented, such as creating a bike lane on the road, eliminating it altogether or going with the original plan of a path across boulevards, separate from the sidewalks. Most residents supported getting rid of the bike path plans.

Larry Johnson said he recently bought a home on Trudeau Drive, and although he's the second owner of the house, he said he

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## It's a dirty job, but...

E.C. Drury High School graduate and teacher Ross Thompson returns again this summer as one of the performers in the Theatre in the Ground 'Mud Show' at the Ontario Renaissance Festival in Milton.

Photo by **GRAHAM PAINE**

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