

Development could impact traffic: resident

By **Melanie Hennessey**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF



Driving home the message

Mayor Gord Krantz is joined by Halton Regional Police Sergeants Rob Lloyd (left) and Paul Rudall as the Town installs the first sign in Milton promoting cellphone-free driving on Thompson Road. The municipality will work in conjunction with the local police service to install 25 additional signs at high traffic volume locations throughout Milton, reminding drivers of the dangers and penalties associated with cellphone use while driving. The signs were to be in place prior to the Canada Road Safety Week, which runs this week (May 17 to 23).
Melanie Hennessey / Canadian Champion

A townhouse development proposal on Main Street has a local resident and councillor worried about potential traffic impacts. This, among other concerns, were discussed during a public meeting last Monday (May 9) on the plans for 128 stacked townhouse units on the south side of Main Street, east of Harris Boulevard. The units would be divided amongst six three-storey structures.

Underground parking, with 202 spaces, would also be provided, along with 34 surface parking spots for residents and visitors. An additional 12 on-street parking spots on Harris Boulevard have also been proposed. While the potential development from First Milton Corporation is a scaled-down version of its original plans for the lands — a 10-storey apartment with 200-plus units — neighbour Eirini Ioannidis still isn't happy with what she sees and voiced her strong opposition to the Town's Committee of the Whole.

"There are plenty of areas for development and infrastructure, but not in front of our window," said Ioannidis. "Infilling could ruin the character of our current develop-

ment, as well as overwhelm it." She cited concerns with a variety of issues, including parking, traffic and impacts on the local school system.

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Mike Cluett
Local and Regional Councillor

"I strongly believe our property values will go down and taxes will go up due to the ghettoization of our area," she alleged. Glenn Wellings, who spoke on behalf of First Milton Corporation, said the stacked townhouses "will be of high-quality design." The density of the units conforms to the Town's Official Plan, he said. He noted the proposed parking exceeds the parking standards applied to similar developments in town. A traffic study was also conducted in support of the application and is currently under review by Town staff, he said.

Ward 5 Councillor Arnold Huffman asked if the developer would be willing to accommodate a space/indentation alongside

the roadway for a bus to pull over safely and pick up or drop off passengers, with the work being done at First Milton's cost. Wellings said the answer is likely yes, noting that Town engineering staff would need to review the matter first.

Local and Regional Councillor Mike Cluett supported the idea as it would help keep traffic moving in the area.

"We've got to design these areas for the future," he said.

Ward 4 Councillor Rick Malboeuf said while he prefers the current plans to the previous ones for an apartment, he still has concerns with increasing development along Main Street and the resulting traffic congestion impacts at James Snow Parkway as commuters try to access Hwy. 401.

"In the mornings, it (traffic) is backed up," he noted.

With other Main Street developments in the works, "we're only compounding the problem," he said, asking staff to look into the issue.

No other residents spoke during the public meeting. Town staff will now evaluate the application and comments received. A report with a recommendation to approve or deny the plans will be presented at a future committee meeting.

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