

Truckers hold protest over 'unfair' load weighing law

A group of truckers held protests at weigh stations along Hwy. 401 — including in Milton — Tuesday in opposition to what they feel are unfair loading weighing practices by the Ministry of Transportation.

Their protest relates to the fact that there are two laws in place concerning weight in regard to tractor trailers — total weight divided by the amount of axles per axle and total gross weight of the trailer and its load.

Currently when truckers pick up loose loads such as gravel or dirt it's loaded pyramid style in the trailer. This, claim the drivers, results in the centre axles holding more than the allowed weight per axle, and as such the weight is not evenly distributed.

This can result in a sizable ticket, three of which can result in the revoking of one's licence.

Truckers are voicing their concern over the ticketing, stressing that the issue is one that



Truck drivers Jouiuder Singh Bains (left) and Binder Singh were among those who turned out to the Hwy. 401 weigh station to protest the Ministry of Transportation load weight rules. *Will Acri / Special to the Champion*

starts at the quarry and is therefore not the driver's fault.

They're calling for the per axle weight law to be removed and weighing be done strictly on a gross trailer weight basis.



The Town of Milton has released potential concepts for the lands at Mary and Brown streets.

Town owns 'opportunity areas'

the immediate area," she said. "To generate the attention we want, we have to go out to them. We want as much public input as we can possibly get."

Among the most unique methods of public engagement the Town will be using are interactive signs, which are large display boards that will feature conceptual drawings of the downtown that residents can actually write on to provide their input. The signs will be posted in the two public parking lots on Mary Street and also at Main and Brown streets starting today (September 22) until October 3.

"It's the first time to my knowledge that we've done that kind of interactive poster campaign," noted Koopmans.

Throughout town, smaller boards will be posted in various Town facilities, Milton Mall and some of the high schools.

Town staff will be on hand on various days and times at these locations: September 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Milton Leisure Centre, September 27 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Milton Sports Centre, along with Milton Mall on September 29 from 3 to 6 p.m. and September 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A public open house on the study is scheduled for tonight (September 22) at Town Hall from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with informal presentations taking place at 6:45 and 7:45 p.m.

Staff will also be manning a booth on the topic at the Milton Farmers' Market this Saturday. Those who would rather contribute virtu-

ally can do so via a Twitter chat on September 29 from 12 to 1 p.m. using the hashtag #mydowntownmilton. During this time, Town staff will be posing several questions on the topic to garner participant responses.

The Town is also accepting commentary via email at downtownstudy@milton.ca.

The Downtown Study is examining the current state of the downtown and identifying opportunities for revitalization and redevelopment. The primary study area coincides with the boundary of the historic downtown core, with the Town owning about 65 per cent of the lands that have been deemed "opportunity areas."

Preliminary concepts for revitalization include erecting new buildings and a parkade on municipally-owned property (known as civic precinct lands), introducing more retail/office space and residential units where appropriate and creating a town square across the former post office lands, which would link the Town Hall into Main Street. The possibility of adding more storeys to the Town Hall was also identified.

In recent months, Koopmans said staff has been doing further research and development of the concepts.

Beyond public engagement, next steps in the project include proposing policy changes (i.e. Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendments) that would allow appropriate redevelopment and support the overall vitality of the downtown.

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