

## Construction traffic off Queen Street, Alton

By Bill Rea

Alton residents have got what they wanted.

The Town of Caledon has announced that construction traffic from the Thomas Farm development will not be able to go along Queen Street through the village to access the site.

Town CAO Doug Barnes issued a statement last week, saying that a legal opinion concluded that a ruling by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) established that construction vehicles have to use Mississauga Road to the west of the development.

Councillor Barb Shaughnessy was pleased with the news, "which is a real win-win for the residents of Alton."

She also praised the work of residents in bringing it about. About 100 of them signed a petition earlier this year, calling on Town council to make sure Queen Street was not used by construction vehicles. As well, two local residents appeared before council last month to press the case.

The plan calls for 111 homes to be developed on the property at the southeast corner of Queen Street and Mississauga Road, just west of the Alton Legion hall.

Barbara McDiarmid said the main concern was safety, pointing out there is a lot of pedestrian traffic, as well as tourists visiting the area, and they wouldn't expect to have to deal with a lot of trucks too.

She also had concerns about the noise the trucks make, as well as the vibrations they create.

Pamela Stratton said people had been led to believe that Mississauga Road was to be the truck route, and no one had been told that had changed.

It turned out that is what had been called for in an OMB decision from 1991, Shaughnessy reported.

"You don't always get everything you want from an OMB decision, but there are concessions," she commented.

One of those concessions in the ruling was trucks were to use Mississauga Road, which in those days was known as the 4th Line, West.

Shaughnessy also said that provision might have been easy to miss. It only took up about two lines in a 30-page decision, "but they are a valuable two lines to the people of Alton."

"The Town of Caledon is already enforcing it," Shaughnessy observed last Thursday, adding Caledon OPP has also been informed of the situation.

Signs have been posted, as well. Mayor Allan Thompson said the signs went up last week.

He also credited Shaughnessy and Councillor Doug Beffort for the work they did to bring this about.

"Both Doug and Barb have pushed extremely hard to get this changed," he remarked.

Beffort couldn't be reached for comment, but in an email to the Citizen, he acknowledged the efforts of the residents to bring this to light.

"The work of several Alton residents who delegated council and suggested that the OMB had made such a ruling prompted our Public Works department to delve into the situation, leading to this decision," he stated. "We do thank them for speaking up for the residents of Alton and, indeed, all of Caledon."