

URGENT ! - MUST READ MEMO !

6 Minute Read

“THE VALLEYWOOD FIRE HALL WILL BE CLOSED....”

TO: ALL VALLEYWOOD RESIDENTS & USERS OF THE 410 ACCESS VIA VALLEYWOOD OVERPASS BRIDGE

Hello Friends & Neighbours of Valleywood,

I, Rob Harrison, along with President Nancy Dinardo, have been executive members of the Valleywood Resident Association (VRA) since 2004. The VRA has been in existence since 1998. **We want you to be aware of something quite serious to the health & safety of all of us here in Valleywood.**

The extremely concerning headline above was stated to me during a meeting between Caledon Fire Chief Dave Forfar, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Pelayo & myself on October 13, 2023 between 9:00AM & 10:20AM in the Office of the Fire Chief, 6211 Old Church Road, Caledon. **During the meeting, the profoundly amicable Chief Dave Forfar stated the “Valleywood Fire Hall will be closed and a new one will be built further north near Old School Road”.**

He also mentioned that he had asked, (party unidentified), **“that sprinklers be installed during construction”**, (speaking of the ongoing development west of Hwy 10), **“but the request was denied”**. Knowing that the Valleywood Station 307 has one of the best (if not *THE* best) volunteer response times in Caledon, I asked why the Chief thought the sprinklers would be neededhis reply was chilling!.... **“We just can’t get there fast enough”**.

It is important that you, the reader, know **the only reason Valleywood’s Fire & Emergency Services wouldn’t be able to get “there”** (meaning the west side of Hwy 10) **is because the authority of the 410 roadway supersedes all other types of roadways under the Ontario Traffic Act. When our single bridge in & out is blocked, our Fire & Emergency Services are neutralized.** To clarify, if the 410 had not been put here, the pre-existing Valleywood would have still had Hurontario Street as one option, and the proposed Spine Road (aka Tim Manley Pkwy) as a second access/egress option.

On Wednesday November 29, 2023, there will be a Public Information Centre (PIC) being held at the Margaret Dunn Library (5:00 pm-7:00 PM).

If approved, this plan will add the road traffic of 40,000 residents on the west side of Hwy 10 to our single bridge You will be told by professional planners that all of our traffic problems will be solved.....**They will not.**

- The planners are engineers, not trained emergency services personnel.
- **They will want you to accept this 222% traffic increase on our bridge.**

The VRA believes this increase in traffic is why they want our precious fire hall relocated... **so the overall Caledon response times aren't affected by the additional traffic on our bridge.**

- Our bridge will become so busy it will compromise the response times of our Valleywood Fire & Emergency Services as defined by the provincial guidelines of the Ontario Fire Code in areas inside & outside of Valleywood.
- This now raises the question: **WHAT WILL WE DO WHEN WE NEED FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES WITHIN VALLEYWOOD???..... THE SAME BRIDGE ACCESS THAT CONFINES US WITHIN VALLEYWOOD WOULD NOW BLOCK FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES COMING FROM A NEW LOCATION TO HELP US!!!!**
- **There IS a solution.** The land route needing used for this solution was identified and reserved in 2012 at the behest of the VRA. According to the MTO, the land is already being acquired.

The solution would:

- provide the second access/egress Valleywood needs for the existing Fire & Emergency Services to respond properly both inside & outside of Valleywood;
- enable Southfields to have a full four-way intersection at Hurontario & Dougall to improve its Fire & Emergency efficiencies as well as taking the load off of the Kennedy Road @ Mayfield access/egress for Southfields;
- dovetail perfectly with the Developers requirement to have a direct connection with the 410 via the Spine Road (aka;Tim Manley Pkwy).

De-rating the existing east-west portion of the 410 (between Valleywood & Hurontario) to an arterial road named i.e.: "Tim Manley Parkway" to intersect with Hurontario St North (thus replacing the current Valleywood Interchange) will provide a redundancy to the newly built 410 northerly extension if/when needed.

Because this solution resolves these issues, **there would be no need for the Town of Caledon to build a replacement \$30 million Fire Hall further north while eliminating the one in Valleywood.**

The solution already exists as a portion of the 413 Option S5-10 that could be branded entirely as 410 should the 413 not be built. We will do our best to provide images of the extremely complicated PIC interchange proposal as well as a map of the 413 Option S5-10.

In closing, the Province has the highest authority over all planning aspects within Ontario. They dropped the ball by superseding their own Ontario Fire Code when installing the 410 phase III where they did in 2009.

Since the Province made the initial mistake, they need to correct the mistake instead of putting the thousands of people in Valleywood at risk of receiving zero Fire & Emergency Services.

In closing, if you attend the PIC on Wednesday November 29, at the Margaret Dunn Library, (5:00PM - 7:00PM) you will now be prepared to effectively and politely challenge the strange logic being proposed.

One last item in our favour, Criminal law outranks Provincial Law.

The Canadian Criminal Code Section 219(1)b states:

219(1) Every one is criminally negligent who

(a) in doing anything, or

(b) in omitting to do anything that it is his duty to do,

shows wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons.

Unfortunately, the law would likely not be applicable unless someone dies.

Written by Rob Harrison, Director, VRA

Vetted & Approved by Nancy Dinardo, President, VRA

¹Government of Canada *Justice Laws Website*
Criminal Code (R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46)

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/section-219.html>