

NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW - MAR 30, 1982

# SIDENT CLAIMS

## Blasting report shows unstable sidewalk in front of city hotel

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Controversy surrounding River Road blasting report expected to be discussed at city council Monday. According to what he called "an independent study of River Road," identified Jim Hennessey at the eastern sidewalk of Michael's Inn "is being immediately because of the instability of the rockbed along the gorge" in the Golder report. The two-volume report, which details the effects of blasting in sensitive rockbed along the road, was done for the city. Blasting was planned to lower the line along River

road. After several requests, council last week to release a copy of the report to Mr. Hen-

nessy. At city council the report on the areas referred to by opponents to developing River Road as areas of development. Hennessey said the report

identified five extremely sensitive areas along the road, but he said his main concern was the section between Eastwood and Hiram Streets.

Calling this section "extremely bad," Mr. Hennessey said the part in front of Michael's Inn has a "zero life expectancy," adding that the sidewalk there is already undercut.

Mr. Hennessey said other sources show this section does not have the two layers of hard cap rock, and the Golder report shows at least one layer of cap rock is missing.

Due to fractures, the rock is in a brickwork pattern that extends underneath River Road.

He told council the sidewalk there should be closed off and the situation warrants immediate attention.

After hearing Mr. Hennessey's comments, Mayor Thomson said city staff should investigate the situation as soon as possible.

A motion passed by council called for city staff to contact

the Niagara Parks Commission and the author of the report to prepare a report for council.

In an interview following the meeting, Mr. Hennessey said if the rock did break away, there would be no place to re-align River Road.

He said he didn't think city council was aware of what the report said, although someone at city hall must have been because the city, on the advice of city solicitor Harold Young, objected to releasing it to him.

Mr. Hennessey said development along the road should be kept beyond the 45-degree sheer line (about 200 feet from the edge of the gorge).

A condition set by council for the release of the report to Mr. Hennessey was that if he decided to use it at an upcoming Ontario Municipal Board hearing into the Niagara River Inn, he would call the author of the report to testify.

When asked if he plans to take part in the hearing, Mr. Hennessey said he doesn't think the matter should go to the OMB. In-

stead there should be a moratorium on development along River Road unless extensive engineering studies are carried out down to the core rock.

Meanwhile the city has been informed the May 17 and 18 date for the OMB hearing has been cancelled. No date has been set although a July date is possible.

After the meeting, Ald. Brian Merrett said the reports have been looked at by city staff before, and the issue will be looked at again on the one chance Mr. Hennessey is correct.

Council also decided to release the Golder report to any members of the public who want it and are willing to pay the estimated \$20 cost of duplicating it.

Following last week's council meeting, the city received requests for the report from The Review and the NPC. But because the motion passed by council referred only to Mr. Hennessey, the report was not available.



*April 1/82*

## IMMEDIATE ACTION URGED

City resident Jim Hennessey leans over the section of sidewalk on River Road he says should be roped off immediately because of the instability of the rockbed along the gorge. At city council Monday, Mr. Hennessey said his concerns are based on

evidence in the recently-released blasting study of River Road and other studies he has obtained. The report identifies five areas along the street which are extremely sensitive.

(Review photo by Gord Coun...

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