Hwy. 407's path of construction
Several homes in the Winchester Road area are being turned to rubble as construction on the Hwy. 407 east extension ramps up.

It’s all part of the plan, but it does create somewhat of an eyesore for drivers and residents in the north end of the city.

“That road is not being kept up,” says Councillor John Neal sadly. “I knew those people that lived in those homes.”

The 407 East Development Group, building the extension, says a total of 16 houses, barns and structures in Oshawa will be demolished this month to make way for the toll road addition.

A team of subcontractors has been hired to do the work, says Jayde Naklicki, a spokesperson for the development group. Tearing down the structures was part of the agreement with the province to build the extension, she notes. Approximately $35 million has been spent so far to acquire properties in Oshawa.

“Since being awarded the contract, we have been working on many preconstruction activities; one activity is the clearing of the right-of-way of structures and obstructions so that we may start construction this spring,” says Naklicki. “The structures being demolished are in the path of the future highway.”

The province expropriated, or took over without sale, some properties. In those cases compensation is still being negotiated, says Naklicki, “and potentially could proceed to the Ontario Municipal Board to determine the amount of compensation owing.”

The development group’s subcontractors are responsible for the rubble and waste created by the demolition.
“They may reuse, recycle or discard as determined appropriate,” says Naklicki.

Oshawa’s Development Services Commissioner Tom Hodgins says the City is not involved in the demolition process. Usually demolition permits have to be obtained from the City before things can proceed, but the province doesn’t have to do so for the Hwy. 407 extension.

The City has managed to get most of the items it wanted salvaged from the demolished houses though, states Commissioner Hodgins. A report to the Development Services Committee noted 58 items were targeted and approximately 50 have been saved and will be stored at the Mary Street Parkade.

There are plans to salvage two “heritage gate features” from a barn at 200 Winchester Road West as well.

Other efforts are being taken by the development group to preserve historical features.

“We are working to develop a plan that will create commemorative sites that will incorporate elements of those buildings that have heritage value,” says Naklicki.

The development group has hired a “qualified heritage professional” responsible for identifying and saving heritage items for the future sites.

“This includes responding to the discovery of historic information, rare construction technology and any elements of significance that was not revealed before dismantling,” explains Naklicki.

The Hwy. 407 east extension is supposed to reach Harmony Road by 2015 and Hwy. 35/115 by 2020. Staff reports have estimated the addition could cost the City of Oshawa $29 million, $18 million paid for by development charges and the remainder from taxpayers.

The 407 East Development Group is made up of Cintra Infraestructuras S.A. and SNC-Lavalin Inc. The partnership was awarded the $1 billion Hwy. 407 contract last May.