



CHALLINOR REPORT

John Challinor II, Town Councillor, Ward 2, Town of Milton

405 Gowland Crescent | Milton, ON L9T 4B9 | Tel: 905-878-7638 | email: john.challinor@milton.ca

Challinor Urges Town of Milton To Develop Made-In-Milton Growth Concept

Concerned that the five current growth concepts developed by the Regional Municipality of Halton in support of its proposed new Official Plan fail to meet the Town of Milton's growth requirements over the next 30 years, Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II successfully urged Milton Council and Town staff to create and approve a made-in Milton growth concept for consideration this fall by Halton Regional Council.

Mr. Challinor's motion to direct Town staff to work on an alternative growth concept was seconded by Ward 3 Regional Councillor Mike Cluett. The motion to approve the concept was seconded by Ward 2 Regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf. A strong majority of Council approved sending the Milton-developed concept to Halton Region for its consideration.

Called the "Halton Balanced" growth concept, the proposed plan will provide Milton with the residential and commercial development capacity to provide Miltonians with a range of market-based housing and an appropriate inventory of employment lands to help provide local jobs to 2051, while meeting the requirements of the Province of Ontario's Places To Grow Act (2005).

The "Halton Balanced" approach developed by Town of Milton staff and endorsed by Council will also reduce regional and provincial pressure on Milton's established and historic neighbourhoods to accept intensification, or densification, as Mr. Challinor refers to it, through medium-and high-density redevelopment. The Milton growth alternative would also more readily enable the establishment of new parks and other recreational amenities as well as institutional uses such as houses of worship and social services.

The "Halton Balanced" growth concept would support sustainable future growth in Milton and Halton Region by directing growth strategically by reinforcing

intensification along transit corridors, supporting the efficient use of land adjacent to current and future regional infrastructure, ensuring an appropriate inventory of employment lands, increasing housing densities in greenfield area, and creating mixed-use, compact and complete neighbourhoods while protecting the Provincial Greenbelt, the Regional natural heritage system and a large proportion of agricultural lands in Milton. **CR**



Short-Term Rental Regulations Coming In September

In response to a request made in the fall of 2020 by Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor that the Town of Milton develop regulations related to short-term rentals, Town staff will return to Milton Council this September with a proposed bylaw.

Following consultations this summer with the public, AirBNB and others involved in the business of short-term rentals, Town staff will write legislation that meets the short-term rental requirements of the community, covers the costs associated with the Town's licensing oversight and, ultimately, respects the quality-of-life rights of its citizens.

Mr. Challinor, all other members of Council and Town staff have been receiving complaints over the last few years, and as late as this spring and summer, about party houses and other short-term rental disruptions in Milton's urban and rural neighbourhoods. **CR**

Milton Transit To Include Alternate Service Delivery Option

Following a 2018 municipal campaign commitment by Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II to urge Milton Council and Town of Milton staff to give consideration to providing public transit service options in addition to traditional bus service, a pilot program will operate this summer and, if successful, will become a permanent offering this fall.

The Alternative Service Delivery program, one of the key components found in the Town's recently approved Transit Master Plan, is largely based on OnDemand service, a technology-enabled, demand-responsive service that uses a mobile application to allow customers to reserve transit trips in

real time. The ASD program will be used primarily in new service areas until ridership reaches the thresholds required to support the transition to conventional fixed routes. The program may also be used to replace existing conventional transit routes based on set operating criteria.

The pilot will run until Sept. 4, 2021, largely to test the software and address any ridership challenges. It will become a permanent component of the local public transit system shortly afterwards and will be expanded based on need and cost. **CR**

Town of Milton Offers COVID-19 Help To Taxpayers

The Town of Milton is providing property tax deferral assistance to those who have been impacted financially by the global COVID-19 pandemic and require more time to pay their taxes.



Property taxpayers can apply online at Tax Rebate and Deferral Programs - Town of Milton to participate in the one-time pre-authorized monthly payment program. The plan consists of up to 10 monthly withdrawals, beginning as early as this past March through to a final withdrawal date of Dec. 15, 2021. In addition to the deferral of 2021 tax instalments, owners can also include the balance on account from a previous taxation year.

The Town has also renewed its seasonal patio program for local

restaurant owners from June 11, 2021, to late fall. Owners can apply online at Seasonal Patio Program - Town of Milton to participate in this year's program.

The Town's patio program proved beneficial in 2020, in terms of helping the local restaurant industry to navigate financially through the impacts of the global coronavirus pandemic. Many local eateries took advantage of the opportunity and it is expected many more will do so this summer and fall. **CR**

Milton To Fight CN Rail Hub Approval By Federal Government

The Town of Milton has joined with the Regional Municipality of Halton to fight the decision by the Trudeau Government to permit the establishment of the CN intermodal terminal in south Milton.

An application was filed in February 2021 at the Federal Court of Canada for a judicial review of the decisions made by Federal Environment & Climate Change Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, the Federal Cabinet and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. A decision on that filing is pending.

Any arguments made to his fellow Liberal counterparts in Ottawa by local MP Adam Van Koeverden about

the compromised health and safety of Milton residents brought about by the proposed CN project were apparently entirely unconvincing.

During the 2018 municipal election campaign, Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II funded a white paper on the CN intermodal terminal proposal prepared by Greg Gormick, one of Canada's foremost authorities on passenger and commercial rail matters. Mr. Gormick presented that

paper to the federal environmental review of CN's proposed logistics hub project in 2019. **CR**



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Post-Secondary Education In Milton Now A Reality

With the recent announcement by Milton MPP, the Honourable Parm Gill, and the Government of Ontario that it will fund two post-secondary campuses as well as a long-term home and space for a hospice, Milton Education Village is now a reality in our community.

Wilfrid Laurier University and Conestoga College will each have a campus offering career-centred and innovative education, while Schlegel Villages will operate a long-term care facility that includes 192 new publicly-subsidized care beds in a fully integrated village concept for its residents. This service will be advanced through inclusion of the long-term care home in partnership with Conestoga College's Excellence in Resident-Centred Care post-secondary training program.

Laurier's educational focus will be centered around planetary health with a problem-based, future-focused approach to learning. The university will offer programming, research and work-integrated learning in the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) fields. This will foster new developments, community-industry partnerships, market-ready research and job creation in areas such as clean and green technology and sustainable development.

Conestoga will provide a broad range of career-focused programs that align with the labour market needs to support area businesses and address current and emerging skills gaps. The college's program offerings

include health and life sciences, business, applied computer science and information technology, community services, engineering, trades and technology and creative industries programming.

The notion of a post-secondary institution in Milton was originally conceived in the mid-1990s by the Council of the day as part of the award-winning Destiny Milton long-term municipal planning exercise. The Milton Education Village concept was originally developed in 2007. **CR**



Milton Council Approves New Development Charges

Development charges, fees paid by residential and commercial/industrial developers towards underwriting the construction of important growth-related municipal infrastructure like water and sewer lines, roadways, recreational facilities, etc. over the next five years, don't get their due from local electronic, online or print media, but setting them properly is one of the most important decisions Milton Council will make during this term.



Earlier this year, Council set those fees for the next half-decade, legislation that will help to underwrite more than \$1.4 billion worth of related infrastructure in the community over that time.

Harking back to 1997 and a decision made then by the Council of the day about development charges fees and the local agricultural industry, Council reverted back to that original policy, approving a rebate for 100 percent of the Town development charge payable for any development that met the definition of agricultural tourism or museum, up to a cumulative limit of \$40,000. **CR**

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Challinor Helps Town Establish Proper Proclamation & Flag Raising Policy

The Town of Milton recently revised its proclamation and flag raising policy earlier this year, specifically no longer issuing proclamations for national independence days, republic days or raising the flags of other nations.

Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II moved approval of the report and Ward 2 Regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf seconded that approval, as both had expressed their great concern over recent related events at Town Hall and had provided valuable input to Town staff as to how to create a best practices policy. The new policy was supported by a strong majority of Milton Council.

The new policy is consistent with federal and provincial flag protocol policies as well as those currently deployed by the country's more thoughtful municipalities.

The Government of Canada has only ever flown a foreign flag on the Peace Tower on one occasion in the country's 154-year history, that being the Dutch flag, which was flown on January 19, 1943, on the occasion of the birth of Princess Margriet in a Ottawa hospital. Canada hosted the Dutch Royal Family in exile from Holland during World War II.

Mr. Challinor and Mr. Malboeuf successfully argued that,

just as is the practice on Parliament Hill and Queen's Park, the Canadian flag, the Ontario flag and the Town flag should be the only flags that fly from local municipal buildings, except on those occasions where the Town recognizes legitimate public awareness campaigns, charitable fundraising campaigns and arts and cultural celebrations of organizations that operate within the community.

Both councillors contend, based on feedback they received from many local taxpayers, that flying the flags of other countries can be controversial because of human rights issues in those countries. And, over the last 154 years, most Canadians left their countries of birth for Canada to establish a better life and don't necessarily want to be reminded about where they immigrated from by municipal proclamations and flag raisings that recognize those countries. **CR**

Key Government Contacts:

Government of Canada:

Adam van Koeverden

Member of Parliament, Milton
Government of Canada
Telephone: (905) 693-0166
Email: adam.vankoeverden@parl.gc.ca

Government of Ontario:

The Honourable Parm Gill

Member of Provincial Parliament, Milton
Government of Ontario
Telephone: (905) 878-1729
Email: parm.gillco@pc.ola.org

Region of Halton:

Gary Carr

Chairman
Regional Municipality of Halton
Telephone: (905) 825-6000
Email: gary.carr@halton.ca

Town of Milton/Region of Halton:

Gord Krantz

Mayor
Town of Milton
Telephone: (905) 878-7252, Ext. 2104
Email: gord.krantz@milton.ca

Town of Milton/Region of Halton:

Rick Malboeuf

Regional Councillor, Ward 2
Town of Milton
Telephone: (905) 875-5019
Email: rick.malboeuf@milton.ca

Town of Milton:

John Challinor II

Town Councillor, Ward 2
Town of Milton
Telephone: (416) 918-4472
Email: john.challinor@milton.ca

Halton District School Board:

Donna Danielli

Trustee, Milton Wards 1 & 2
Halton District School Board
Telephone: (905) 699-7433
Email: daniellid@hdsb.ca

Halton Catholic District School Board:

Patrick Murphy

Trustee, Milton
Halton Catholic District School Board
Telephone: (416) 791-8126
Email: murphyp@hcdsb.org

Marvin Duarte

Trustee, Milton
Halton Catholic District School Board
Telephone: (416) 559-9321
Email: duartem@hcdsb.org

Conseil scolaire Viamonde:

Pierre Girouard

Membre, Conseil scolaire Viamonde
(Hamilton-Wentworth, Halton, Brant)
Telephone: (905) 808-3377
Email: girouardp@csviamonde.ca

Conseil scolaire Catholique MonAvenir:

Dominique Janssens

Membre, Conseil scolaire Catholique
MonAvenir (Halton)
Telephone: (905) 522-0781
Email: dompauljanssens@gmail.com

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