

Town planner Bruce MacLean steps into retirement

By CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

After 30 years with the Town of Halton Hills and 35 years in the planning profession, Bruce MacLean now plans on becoming a YEEPIE.

MacLean, 60, retired last month as the Town's Director of Planning, Development and Sustainability.

"I thought it was finally time, my family thought it was time, to start enjoying a different part of my life," said MacLean, "Instead of living at work, I decided I'd rather work at living."

And that means becoming part of the new YEEPIE generation (Young Energetic Elderly Person Into Everything).

"I want to learn new skills— not sure what they are yet— and I want to use my current skills where I can. I call it preparing to dabble using my skills ... I want to be engaged in community work."

As MacLean mulls over the specifics of his retirement future with his wife of 36 years, Valerie, a retired Georgetown Hospital emergency room nurse, he will do so over the winter at their favourite place in Florida. He does know the change will include a lifestyle change— downsizing, "reading all the books (investment is his favourite topic) I promised myself I would read" and traveling.

Born and raised in Peterborough, it was a high school geography teacher who urged MacLean to consider planning—

"the best decision and best advice I'd received as a young kid"— and in 1975 he graduated from Ryerson's School of Planning. His first job was with the Region of Haldimand-Norfolk, a single-tier government covering five municipalities. He began on the job as deputy planning director in Halton Hills on March 24, 1980. Fifteen years later in 1995 he took over the top job on April 1, 1995. MacLean is a member of both the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ontario Professional Planners' Institute.

During his years as the Town's lead planner, he's been involved in a number of milestones for Halton Hills, including the development of Acton East, Georgetown South, Georgetown West and the 401 Corridor, culminating with the Growth Plan process this past year.

MacLean said he always looks at these developments and wonders if something could have been done differently to im-



Longtime Town planner Bruce MacLean has retired after 30 years helping to shape Halton Hills. Photo by Ted Brown

prove it. "I'm always my biggest critic... but is there an example of something out there really bad? I can't come up with one. Because when you have to meet the needs of many ... business community, rural community or the residential community, you have to meet all the needs— not just one voice."

He points to the Dominion Gardens property with pride— consensus achieved a civic park, a high school, grocery store, and mid-density housing.

"When you sum it up I view my role...

as building a better community with others— council, my colleagues, the public who come to the table with their views. It's all designed that we want to build a better community," he said. "The days of an easy yes and easy no are, I think, long past; (planning) has become very complex and it's a matter of taking it apart and putting it back together."

MacLean said he hopes his best contribution will be his mentorship and leadership— understanding the needs of all to find that balance that works. Case in point is intensification, he said, adding it's a concept he supports. But the desire of some to transplant downtown cosmopolitan Paris into Acton and Georgetown brings complications.

"In my view I don't think that's realistic. Because when you weigh that against the character of the town and the role of the town and why people come to this town, it's impractical. In turn, what we have to do with intensification is redefine it for what we believe is a good fit for the town— that could mean density or height limitations or a different style.

"But the real challenge in terms of intensification is that it's a good notion and it's something that should be pursued, but when it actually comes to doing it many people get feet of clay because it affects their back yard."

After 35 years of being a planner, what was the continuing draw?

"I enjoy the issues. The issues are diverse. It's a unique position to be in because you get a broad spectrum of people that you are working with, and quite frankly there are an awful lot of good people who bring good ideas and good interaction to the table, and it's just the fun part of it. When you put it together with politics and the headaches of being a planner and resistance to change, I find it intriguing."

German accounting: The best thing since German engineering.

2011 Jetta Trendline+ with Air Conditioning

Lease from

\$199 /month
for 48 months*
at **4.9%** APR



Delivering an even bigger bang for the buck.

There's never been a Volkswagen built like this before. Totally redesigned from headlight to tailpipe, the all-new 2011 Jetta is packed with class-leading German engineering, premium standard features and a 4-year / 80,000 km new vehicle limited warranty†. When it comes to delivering bang for the buck, we believe that the bigger the bang, the better. Contact Georgetown Volkswagen to book your test drive.

Georgetown Volkswagen

203 Guelph St.
905.877.5285



*Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2011 Jetta Sedan 2.0L Trendline+ with 5-spd man. trans. \$1,365 freight and PDI included in monthly payment. 48-month term. \$1,219 down payment or equivalent trade-in, \$230 security deposit, \$100 air conditioning levy, \$29 EHF (taxes), \$5 OMVIC fee and \$195 dealer administrative fee and first monthly payment due at lease inception. License, insurance, registration, options and other applicable taxes are extra. Total lease obligation: \$11,700. 64,000 kilometre allowance; charge of \$0.15/km for excess kilometres. Offer ends January 31, 2011, and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. 2011 Jetta Comfortline as shown is \$22,854 with options and accessories. Model may not be exactly as shown. †Whichever occurs first. Visit Georgetown Volkswagen for full details, great selection and lots of fun. After all, we're drivers too!