

# Mayor, MPP positive after meeting with MTO minister on Hwy. 7 traffic woes

By **Melanie Hennessey**  
Special to The IFP

A group of local politicians converged on Queen's Park yesterday to push for help from the Province in addressing Halton Hills' truck traffic woes.

Mayor Rick Bonnette, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott and several other local representatives met with Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca to discuss solutions to truck traffic along Hwy. 7 throughout the municipality.

And according to the Arnott, the session was a "positive first step in the right direction."

"Now we need the Minister to follow up on his commitment to ensure continued consultation with the Town, and to take up our partnership proposal with his staff and colleagues," he said.

Bonnette, who has long been vocal on the issue, shared similar sentiments.

"I thank Minister Del Duca for listening to our concerns and I look forward to partnering with the Province in a solution," he said. "The impact of the truck traffic on our downtown areas has serious implications for the social fabric of the community. It's degrading the ability of residents to enjoy their downtown and the success of the business community."

In November, Halton Hills Council passed a motion that asks Del Duca to prioritize a long-term solution for truck traffic impacting Halton Hills by placing it on the Southern Highways Program— the ministry's five-year investment plan for highway construction. Arnott also tabled a Private Members' Resolution with the same request.

"While the resolution will not be called for debate or a vote any time soon, I intend to use it to focus the government's attention on our

transportation priorities," said Arnott.

The council motion went on to urge the Province once again to partner with the Town by contributing financially to a study that investigates alternative ways to address truck traffic, including a review of the need for an Acton bypass. Council approved \$100,000 for such a study in the 2016 budget and is continuing to seek a matching amount from the Province. (The Town applied to the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund for the money last year, but it didn't make the cut.)

Del Duca indicated he's going to consider the Town's requests, said Bonnette.

"We continue to emphasize to provincial leaders that there needs to be a solution to the truck traffic along Hwy. 7 in Halton Hills," said the mayor.

During yesterday's meeting, Bonnette and Arnott also stressed the importance of following through on plans to address the long-standing issues with Hwy. 7 traffic through Norval— an issue the Town has been working on with the Province over many years.

Arnott pointed out that the Ontario government plans to spend \$2.466 billion on provincial highway infrastructure this year and has committed to dish out \$134 billion over the next decade. The new federal government is also promising to spend billions on new infrastructure projects, he noted.

"We in Wellington-Halton Hills insist on receiving our fair share of those infrastructure investments," he said.

In addition to Bonnette and Arnott, yesterday's meeting was attended by Regional Chair Gary Carr, Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris, Burlington MPP Eleanor McMahon, a representative for Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn and Town of Halton Hills staff.



Members of the Georgetown Hospital Foundation (GHF) dropped by the Lambert residence on Johnson Cres. to receive their annual donation resulting from the family's Christmas lights display. From left are: Heather Kaufman, a director on the GHF's board, Darryl, Ryan and Kathy Lambert, GHF volunteer Kim Zangrilli and chairman of the board Allan Kogon.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

## Lamberts' light show continues to keep Hospital Foundation's coffers bright

By **Eamonn Maher**  
emaher@theifp.ca

The Lambert family home on Johnson Cres. in Georgetown is a popular destination during the Christmas season for viewing its elaborate light display, with visitors in turn making donations to benefit the Georgetown Hospital Foundation.

This year, the Lamberts raised \$11,304 for the foundation to bring their seven-year total to \$64,735.

Darryl Lambert said he adds some new fangles each year, such as leaping arches and fire sticks, with pixels gradually replacing LEDs in the display, which runs off a 200-amp service in the home and is synchronized to music that can be tuned into on a vehicle's radio.

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