

Challenges and opportunities for Oakville ahead: Burton

by David Lea
Oakville Beaver Staff

Oakville Mayor Rob Burton says the financial health of the town is strong, which is good, because the town is going to need that strength to deal with the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Burton discussed some of the big issues facing Oakville, including the potential development of the Glen Abbey Golf Club, during his annual town status report at Monday night's council meeting.

He began by focusing on the positives of Oakville's current situation.

"We've worked hard for the last nine years together to make our financial health the best that it can be and, we believe, financial strength is critical to our town's livability," said Burton.



Rob Burton

"The performance-based budgeting approach we introduced in 2007 to get budgets under control has worked very well for us. How well? So well that total tax increases for eight years, including next year's budget as projected will have been in line with inflation. At the same time we've added 80 per cent to our facilities and we've improved services for fire protection, transit and infrastructure renewal."

In his discussion of the issues facing the Town, Burton's statement that Glen Abbey Golf Club owner ClubLink wants to develop

the golf course into housing was the biggest surprise.

The mayor declined to weigh in on the development proposal stating that doing so before even receiving ClubLink's development application could cause problems if the Town rules against the application and the matter is appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

Another change included Ward 2 Town Councillor Pam Damoff's impending departure from council.

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