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Acton station on GO slow track

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

It's not known yet when the GO train station will be built in Acton, as negotiations are still ongoing to acquire property rights, however Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette is confident there will be a deal.

GO announced recently that GO Train service to Guelph and Kitchener will begin Dec. 19 and that a stop in Acton will be added later.

"GO Transit is in discussions with the Town of Halton Hills to acquire the necessary property rights to permit the use of the Town's land (near the Hide House) for parking and other GO station infrastructure," said Drew Davidson, spokesperson for Metrolinx.

"We expect these discussions with the Town of Halton Hills to continue over the next couple of months," said Davidson.

"We will not be in a position to confirm a timeline for the station in Acton until an agreement is reached with the Town," she said.

She said once an agreement is reached with the Town and infrastructure work is complete, GO expects all trains serving Guelph and Kitchener to stop in Acton.

Starting Dec. 19 two morning trains will leave from Kitchener and head east to Toronto. Included in the stops will be one in Georgetown. Two evening trains will bring

commuters home at night along the same route.

"GO Transit is pleased to expand train service to the area, and we look forward to providing commuters there with an enjoyable and comfortable travel experience," she said.

Bonnette said negotiations have been dragging on a bit.

He said the Hide House is also involved in the negotiations as it leases the property from the Town for parking and spent more than \$500,000 in improvements on it. It will continue to lease it for parking, after the GO station is in service, as well nearby doctor's offices which currently use the lot for parking will continue to do so.

He said the Hide House owner has to come from Montreal so meetings have to be scheduled with that in mind.

"I've been very frustrated with the exercise, being the middle person trying to broker a deal," said Bonnette. "We have had a couple of meetings and I think we are going to cut a deal."

"I think it's all going to work out. They (GO) are committed to coming to town."

Bonnette said GO is considering purchasing some adjacent property as well for overflow parking.

He said he hopes to have something done on the matter in the next couple of weeks.

"Hopefully in the new year we will have a more formal announcement," he said.



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