

New minister to review highway options

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slash through the rural area of Halton Hills and to me, ruin the agricultural, heritage, and cultural fabric of our life.”

Using “proof” from hired Town consultants, Bonnette said he showed Chiarelli that Hwy. 401 can be widened to 12 lanes without any impact on existing buildings as an alternative.

“That was huge news,” he said, “and I emphasized this to the minister. I gave a compelling argument.

“The minister now said he would reconsider the 4-3 highway, and ladies and gentlemen, that is huge,” the mayor said to applause.

In a follow-up letter to the mayor, Chiarelli wrote: “It was a pleasure having an opportunity to engage on this important subject, one that is so crucial to the future success of the Greater Toronto Area. Please know that I am committed to reviewing this file... I look forward to continuing to work in close partnership with the Town of Halton Hills as we plan for the future.”

“As the old Hollywood story goes, his people will be contacting our people,” said the mayor.

Chiarelli also confirmed to Bonnette that he and the mayor will have another meeting within six months.

In an letter to *The Independent & Free Press* (Friday), MTO's Project Team stated it's carrying out additional analysis

and consultation on its proposals in the Halton area. Additional work will be carried out over the fall and winter seasons and is expected to be completed by spring 2012.

“That work will focus on further examining the benefits and impacts of both a potential new transportation corridor through Halton Hills and potential improvements to the Hwy. 401 corridor. In particular, this work will include further assessment of the ability of Hwy. 401 to adequately meet future transportation network needs resulting from the rapidly growing population and commercial growth forecast for the area in the long term,” stated the letter from Jin Wang, MTO Project Co-ordinator and Neil Ahmed, Consultant Project Manager.

The MTO will consult with the public on the results of this additional work before final decisions are made.

The Project Team continues to accept and review all comments submitted. For more information or to send comments visit www.gta-west.com, or contact Ahmed at 1-877-522-6916 or project_team@gta-west.com

During his speech Bonnette acknowledged the rallying efforts of local resident Wendy Bruchal, who stood and accepted the applause at the lunch.

To date more than 9,500 postcards have been sent to the Ministry, and 500 lawn signs posted, protesting the proposed highway.

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