

Town gets \$50,000 for ED strategy

By **LISATALLYN**
Staff Writer

A \$50,000 grant from the Province will go toward updating the Town of Halton Hills Economic Development Strategy.

The funding is being provided under the Communities in Transition program offered by the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said the Town's economic Development Strategy was developed in 1998 and has never been updated. He said the funding will allow the Town to hire consultants to work with the Economic Development Steering Committee on the project.

"Our economic development strategy is outdated," said Bonnette. "It's due for an overhaul. The consultants will tell us what we're doing right, what we're doing wrong."

A new economic development strategy will include a review of the current economic conditions and initiatives and alignment with the new 10-year Halton Region strategy, said Lisa Sarracini, spokesperson for the Ministry.

The overall strategy will look to ensure a supply of employment lands for future growth, retain and enhance the value of agricultural lands, increase the size and number of agri-food companies, retain the existing employment

base and assist with expansions, promote and encourage a vibrant cultural community with economic spinoffs, encourage a knowledge and creative class sector, and promote tourism opportunities through the regional partner alliances.

Sarracini said the Communities in Transition program provides assistance to communities and industry sectors across Ontario looking to address economic development. It supports innovative economic development solutions not covered under existing provincial programs.

"We support these initiatives because we know that as the global economy continues to change, so too must our communities in order to remain competitive and thrive," said Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Innovation. "Helping communities build diverse and sustainable economies that support local employment for years to come remains a priority for Ontario."

Copper stolen from Hydro transformer station

Approximately \$400 worth of copper wire was stolen from the Halton Hills Hydro transformer station at 22 Sideroad and Eighth Line sometime Friday, June 29. The wire was stored in a fenced area.



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