

TOWN DIGEST

THE SLATE GROWS

Acton's David George Hyde has joined the Halton Hills municipal election campaign, registering as a candidate for one of two Acton seats on Town Council. Incumbent Ward One Councillor Mike O'Leary is seeking re-election, but at press time, incumbent Ward One Councillor Jon Hurst had not signalled his intentions.

Hyde is a soon-to-be-retired service manager who has lived in Acton since 2004 and in Georgetown for 15 years. He said "more restraint on spending" is required, and it is time for "new blood" on council.

At press time, Mayor Rick Bonnette had not filed his nomination papers. In Ward Two, where veteran incumbent Councillor Joan Robson is not seeking re-election, incumbent Bryan Lewis is being challenged by former photographer Ted Brown and Bob Boley-chuk.

MORE GO SERVICE?

Town Council wants action, not just words, from the province, which announced last month that it plans to bring full-day, two-way GO Train service between Waterloo and the GTA. "This is potentially good news for our community," said Mayor Rick Bonnette at last week's council meeting.

Noting that initially, two-way, all-day service was slated for 2015, Bonnette said they'll have to "keep the province's feet to the fire" so they end up with more than promises. Council directed Mayor Bonnette to write a letter to GO Transit/Metrolinx to make its case.

Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson suggested they ask for a phased-in approach to more service, maybe with a daytime train heading west from Toronto. Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary asked for assurances that any additional GO Train service includes stops in Acton.

TOWER PROTOCOLS

Town councillors hope that any new telecommunication towers sited

in Halton Hills can be made to hide in plain sight – attached to church steeples or designed to look like trees.

Although licensing of telecommunication towers is up to Industry Canada, municipalities can comment, and ask applicants to follow its siting protocol, which recently was updated.

Ward Two Councillor Bryan Lewis noted there is at least one business in Halton Hills that manufactures towers that can be disguised, and suggested the Town speak with them before the new protocol is endorsed by Council. Lewis also asked for a map showing all of the current cell phone tower/antenna locations in Halton Hills – staff said they would provide one.

Following a public meeting in October, attended by 10 people, a number of changes were made to the Town's telecommunications protocol, including requiring towers of less than 15-metres to consult with the Town about an exemption to the Town's protocol, and not just receive an immediate exemption. All towers 45-metres or less from a residential area or school must follow the Minor Proposal Review.

Industry Canada and the

Halton Health Department said there is no evidence that electromagnetic fields from cell phone base stations is associated with cancers of other health problems. As well, comments and concerns from the public about the potential effects of proposed towers on property values or municipal taxes "are not relevant."

MILL STREET WEST RECONSTRUCTION

The Town has hired EcoTech Environmental and Crozier & Associates



SWAN STRUT: No one seems to know where these two clearly tagged swans, seen on Fairy Lake near the damn last Monday, came from. In the past, the Town cared for several Polish Mute swans that were gifted to the Town by an Acton doctor, but staff said that ended in 2009. A decade ago, Blue Springs golf course had permits for as many as seven swans, but when they didn't keep the geese off the greens as intended, new homes were found for them. - Submitted photo

Consulting Engineers to do a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to reconstruct a flood-prone area of Mill Street West from Dublin Line to Duby Road, and to replace an existing culvert

connecting Fairy Lake to the upstream wetland.

The EA study will look at potential impacts of the work on the study area environment. A public meeting will be held this spring to present a detailed

design for the project, to solicit comments and discuss any concerns.

For details call Todd Cronkright, the Town's Manager of Design and Construction, at 905-873-2601 ext. 2306.

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