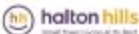


University of Laurier backers visit Halton Hills council

By Mike Rogerson
Special to The FP



Small town living at its best

Students from Halton Hills may have the option of attending university in nearby Milton, courtesy of a plan to build a campus of the U of L. Laurier gates near back-woods roads.

Those behind the idea have been working on it for nearly a decade and they say they aren't giving up anytime soon.

Willard Laurier University president Mia Moore and vice president Deborah DeBruin visited Halton Hills council to explain why having a university campus just close to home would benefit the community.

Halton Region is projected to have the most immigrants (ages 15-30) across all municipalities of the Golden Triangle by 2011, according to Moore's presentation.

There is an outstanding university in Halton, but secondary education in Halton is limited to Waterloo College in Waterloo and St. Nicholas' MMA program in Burlington. Therefore, Moore says, students will likely require a commute of a good to stay close to home have limited choices.

Further, she talked about the severity, recently, when research indicates that 70 per cent of university graduates remain within 70 miles (111 km) of the university they attended and go on to build a life locally, occasionally.

Also, another to Halton Hills, Laurier has established relationships in China, including an office in Chengdeing.

There are just some of the reasons why building a Laurier campus near the new Villanova makes sense, he says. It is proposed to be built on one acre, mostly owned land, called as Milton Education Village.

The site is near the Niagara Storage

center, south of route of Hwy 101, west of Truroville Rd, and north of St. Francis Rd. It is 400 acres. The Town of Milton has a memorandum of understanding with Laurier and has been in talks with the institution since 2007. Milton has set aside a 40-acre land parcel worth \$50 million for the same campus but it is contingent on funding from the Ontario government.

It would apparently council support to say the Halton Region is totally behind it, DeBruin said. The area really and he hope that we are going to do a thing we just and receive money (from the provincial government) as soon as we can, DeBruin said.

She explained that they are waiting eagerly for the province to make a decision for funding of new campuses in the Greater Toronto Area. In May 2013, the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, named James Willard Laurier's request to fund its proposed new-campus in Milton.

It is a tremendous opportunity, Halton Hills Mayor Erik Rousselle said. We would be pleased to welcome the opportunity to have a fine campus at our doorstep.

Councillor Janet Pugh said that when Laurier was first elected council council post-secondary institutions to set up shop in Halton Hills with local residents. Then they found out Milton was to start, not only with Laurier and, but some are positive, she said, half jokingly pointing to the study between the neighbouring municipalities.

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