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NEWS

Arnott raises transportation issues

GRAEME FRISQUE
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Halton Hills was once again on the agenda at Queen's Park this week. After unanimously passing a resolution to partner with the town on a number of transportation issues facing residents at the end of September, the matter was once again brought to the floor of the provincial legislature.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott, who was behind September's private member's bill, once again called on the Ministry of Transportation to intervene and partner with the town to address the concerns.

"On Sept. 28, the Ontario Legislature unanimously passed our resolution, calling upon the minister to partner with the Town of Halton Hills to develop a long-term transportation strategy for the town, including a review of the need for a Highway 7 Acton bypass, taking into account the need for improved safety, efficiency, and economic development opportunities," said Arnott in session at Queen's Park.

"I rise in this house today to urge the Minister of Transportation to respond appropriately to the expressed will of this house," he added.

While presenting his private members bill at the end of September, Arnott highlighted a number of the transportation issues facing Halton Hills including:

- The need for a Highway 7 Acton bypass.
- A proposed commercial development at 340 Main St., Acton.
- The stalled GTA West Corridor Study.
- The Halton Peel Boundary Area Transportation Study affecting Georgetown and Norval.
- The promised all-day, two-way GO Train service from Kitchener-Waterloo to Union Station with stops in Wellington-Halton Hills.
- The town's role in the government's recent announcement to widen the 401 from Mississauga to Milton.
- A need for traffic signals at the intersection of Guelph Street (Highway 7) and McFarlane Drive/Hall Road in Georgetown.

"During the debate on our resolution, I was very encouraged by the remarks of the Minister of Transportation's parliamentary assistant, the Member for Kitchener Centre," said Arnott in session.

"I have recently heard from the Town of Halton Hills, telling me that they are still experiencing difficulties with the Ministry of Transportation. The minister needs to intervene," he said, adding Transport Minister Steven Del Duca has responded to some of his verbal and written requests.

"We are offering to partner with the minister, and we need him to be a funding partner."

With files from Kathryn Boyle



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