

# Patrick Brown is committed to completing the EA

Continued from page 1

travel through part of north Peel - he left municipalities, landowners, environmentalists and other interested parties in limbo.

Documents now obtained by the Ontario Progressive Conservative (PC) Party through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests show the government has so far spent more than \$14 million on the environmental assessment process that was halted to reassess a project many now suspect the Liberals may never put back on the road.

"To suggest that you would get essentially three quarters of the way through an environmental assessment and be willing to walk away from \$14 million is just an example of such waste," said Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones.

Jones is the PC infrastructure critic and filed the FOI request earlier this year to find out how much

the government has spent on EA work conducted for this proposal.

Jones, who represents communities the roadway is proposed to pass through, said she has heard all too clearly municipal frustration with the government's prolonged assessment suspension.

Municipal development planning and landowners along the proposed route have been frozen in uncertainty for two years, she explained.

"In Caledon, I can point to specific farms that are saying 'we need to know where this is going to be and if it's going to be, so we can plan,'" she remarked.

At the time, Del Duca put a stop to the EA, he said the project was undergoing an internal review and later formed an advisory panel to assess potential alternatives to the proposal.

At the end of November, the ministry quietly posted online that the panel's re-



Ontario legislature photo

**Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones speaks with Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown in legislature. Jones is the PC infrastructure critic and filed a FOI request to find out how much the government has spent on the suspended Environmental Assessment for the proposed GTA-West highway project.**

port had been submitted and the government would respond in 60 days.

While there were those

frustrated by the EA suspension, conservationists applauded.

It is widely thought the

government's commitment to the long-proposed highway is no longer compatible with the Liberal gov-

ernment's focus on protecting the environment, fighting climate change and transportation technology innovation.

"Be straight with people," remarked Jones. "If you're going to actually stop it, then stop it."

Suspension of an EA three-quarters finished is unprecedented, according to Jones, who also noted the completion of an environmental assessment doesn't obligate the government to move forward with the project.

According to the minister's office, the government has also spent \$217,480 on the advisory panel report - \$161,091 was provided in remuneration for panel members and \$56,389 paid for professional services to support panel's analysis and report.

The PC election platform recently released by Leader Patrick Brown included a commitment to complete the EA.

## HOLIDAY CLOSURE

haltonhills.ca



### 2017 MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

#### TOWN HALL - 905-873-2600

Town Hall will close for the holidays Friday, December 22, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

#### ACTIVAN

ActiVan Service will be available on an after-hours basis. The booking office will be closed on Monday December 25, Tuesday December 26, 2017 and Monday January 1, 2018.

#### CANINE CONTROL - 905-877-6235

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS - 905-877-1133

Administration will close for the holidays Friday, December 22, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - PUBLIC WORKS

##### Public Works After-Hours Contact

905-873-2600 - press 2 to connect to the Public Works After-Hours Line and follow the prompts.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY 905-873-2681

Closed: December 24, 25, 26, 31, January 1

#### RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

##### Gellert Community Centre

December 24 - Regular Schedule Cancelled. Lane swim 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Leisure swim 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

December 25 & 26 - Closed

December 27 - Open Regular Schedule plus

2:00-3:00 p.m. Leisure swim

December 28 - Open Regular Schedule plus additional

2:00-3:00 p.m. Leisure swim

December 29 - Open Regular Schedule plus additional

2:00-3:00 p.m. Leisure swim

December 30 - Open Regular Schedule plus additional

2:00-3:00 p.m. Leisure swim

December 31 - Regular Schedule Cancelled. Lane swim

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Leisure swim 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

January 1 - Closed

January 2 - 5 - Open Regular Schedule plus additional

2:00-3:00 p.m. Leisure swim

Regular admission fee applies

#### Acton Indoor Pool

December 24, 25 & 26 - CLOSED

December 27, 28, 29, 30 - Open Regular Schedule

PLUS 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Leisure swim

December 31 & January 1 - CLOSED

January 2 - 5 - Open Regular Schedule plus additional

2:00-3:00 p.m. Leisure swim

Regular admission fee applies

#### Acton Arena & Community Centre & Mold-Masters SportsPlex

December 24 - Open until noon

December 25 - Closed

December 26 - Closed

December 27 - 30 - Open

December 31 - Open until noon

January 1 - Closed

\*December 27-29 public skating 2:00-3:20 p.m.

FREE-Sponsored by Acton Rotary Club (ACC) & Optimist Club of Halton Hills (MMSP)

\*January 2 - 5 public skating 2:00 - 3:20 p.m.

Regular admission fee applies

#### Hillsview Active Living Centre - Georgetown

December 23 - Open until noon

December 24 - January 1 - Closed

January 2 - Open

#### Hillsview Active Living Centre - Acton

December 25, 26, - Closed

December 27, 28 & 29 - Open

January 1 - Closed

#### Halton Hills Cultural Centre - Helson Gallery & JET Box office

December 24 - Open until noon

December 25 & 26 - Closed

December 27 - 30 - Open

December 31 - Open until noon

January 1 - Closed

#### FOR EMERGENCIES

- FIRE/POLICE/AMBULANCE: DIAL 911