

# Mayor sends Wynne reminder

Incoming Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne has been on the job barely a week, and already Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette has sent a letter reminding her of the government's decision not to proceed with the Alternative 4-3 highway through the town.

"The purpose of this letter is to seek your support in ensuring that Alternative 4-3 is eliminated as an option by the study team," wrote Bonnette. "I look forward to working with you and giving our municipality a chance to voice our concerns. I look forward to that continued positive working relationship."

In the letter, Bonnette applauded Wynne for putting GTA traffic gridlock high on her agenda but told her Halton Hills had already been part of the solution by supporting Alternative 4-2 (a north-south highway from Brampton to Hwys. 401/407 interchange). He added, "(and we) spent good money to prove the 401 can indeed be widened at Milton."

In 2010, Bonnette had met with Wynne, who was Minister of Transportation at the time, to outline the Town's and Region's opposition to Alternate 4-3, which was a MTO proposal to put a four-lane east-west provin-

cial highway through south Halton Hills farm fields.

He reminded Wynne in the letter that he met with Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli in May 2012 and Chiarelli advised Bonnette a month later that 4-3 was no longer a recommendation by the study team.

In a *Toronto Star* interview, Wynne signalled that reducing gridlock in the GTA, and finding new revenue streams (i.e. possible toll roads, user pay policies) to fund the solutions were imperative.

Bonnette said in an interview that the Town has not been asked for a position on toll roads and they do not have one yet.

"Now that the Big Move (Metrolinx) is doing consultation, they have a wide range of possible ways of funding transit in the GTA from toll roads, DCs (development charges), property tax, income tax etc.," he said.

Council, however, has not yet discussed these options. In recent days, Bonnette has been tweeting his objection to loading the cost onto local property taxes, preferring a federal government role.

Wynne and her new cabinet will be sworn in at a Queen's Park ceremony Feb. 11 and will recall the Legislature Feb. 19.



By Cory Soal  
R.H.A.D.

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