

Mayor says Metrolinx's Big Move is now 'Big Stall'

Frustration and concern about Metrolinx's The Big Move plan continues to grow among regional councillors.

The plan—referred to by Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette as “The Big Stall”—was heavily debated at Halton Region's planning and public works meeting last Wednesday after regional staff presented a report detailing how recent changes would affect Halton.

Amendments to the plan include delaying the development and implementation of a two-way, all-day rail service along the Milton Line between Meadowvale and Milton and the Kitchener Line between Mount Pleasant and Georgetown from a 15-year timeframe to a 16-to-25 year timeframe.

“It's disappointing because we were always told when we got the other rail line that we would be getting all day (train) service in Georgetown by 2015,” said Bonnette. “I'm disappointed because I think a lot of people in Halton Hills were anticipating getting full-day train service.”

The electrification of the Airport Rail Link is also being prioritized before electrifying the GO Lakeshore Line between Hamilton and Oshawa to provide faster, more frequent service.

Committee unanimously supported a number of staff recommendations that expressed the impact that will be felt in Halton should these transportation improvements be delayed.

The recommendations, which include advising the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing it will be unable to meet the forecasts and targets of the Provincial Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe because of the delay implementing the above projects, was to be before regional council yesterday (Wednesday) for final approval.

Tim Dennis, the regional transportation services director, told committee members the delay of these Halton projects means they won't be funded within Metrolinx's investment strategy that will be funding the next wave of projects.

In fact, he said, only 24 out of the 62 projects slated under the plan would be delivered within the original \$50-billion plan to tackle gridlock and improve transportation access, integration and efficiency in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) over the next 25 years.



“It's disappointing because we were always told when we got the other rail line that we would be getting all day (train) service in Georgetown by 2015.”

— Mayor Rick Bonnette

“If the Big Move projects benefiting Halton are delayed, Halton will not be able to meet provincial growth plan targets. The transportation system mode split and level of service objectives will not be met,” he said.

Dennis said staff are also concerned about the lack of details surrounding Metrolinx's announcement that 25 per cent of the Next Wave funding be allocated to support local transit projects, roads and highway improvements, as well as active transportation.

He said it's unclear how this money will be distributed.

Metrolinx has stated, “large projects generate benefits for all levels of government and therefore specific large projects and programs require support from all levels of government in addition to dedicated and predictable revenues.”

The statement, Dennis said, implies that municipalities may be asked to pay for inter-regional projects that will cost about \$2 billion.

During discussion, committee members expressed their disappointment with the plan and the impact it will have on Halton communities.

See REGION, pg. 8

#1

FURNACE • FIREPLACE

A/C
BBQ
FURNACE

APPLEBY

Join us this **Friday & Saturday**
Booth #36
Home and Leisure Show

905 **877-8990**

Show
Room

**118 Guelph St.
Georgetown**

ASK US ABOUT...

- FIRE TABLES
- BBQ'S & COOK STATIONS
- PATIO HEATERS
- AIR CONDITIONING
- GASLINE INSTALLATIONS
- HEATING
- FIREPLACES & MORE

BBQ • AIR CONDITIONING

5 • The I/P • Halton Hills, Thursday, April 18, 2013

Century Church Theatre

72 Trafalgar Rd, Hillsburgh • www.centurychurchtheatre.com

presents... **The New Footlight Follies**

Let's all go to the Music Hall

All the fun of a Traditional Vaudeville Show A Music and Comedy extravaganza devised by Neville Worsnop

Featuring the musical and comedy talents of Dale Jones, Dave Pounds, Brigida Scholten, Norman Stell, Lindsay Van Der Grinten. Aply assisted by Frank Rempel & Martyn Worsnop

Accompanied on the pianoforte by **Jessica Callaghan**

With your genial Host and Chairman **Chris Worsnop Esquire**

April 26-28

Fridays & Saturdays 8:00pm. Sundays 2:30pm

Tickets \$25

Box Office **519.855.4586**

Benefactor

Centennial Rd, Orangeville

Season Sponsors

Erin Arts Foundation

Erin Optimist Club

RAPID RENTALS

19 Shamrock Road
Erin, ON N0B 1T0
519.833.9569
www.rapidrentals.ca

Jacqueline Guagliardi

ROYAL LEPAGE
KIC Realty, Brokerage
Independently Owned & Operated

Media Partners

ADVOCATE

**ATTENTION
ALL CONTRACTORS
You're Invited**

Friday April 19th

12 - 5 pm

Food • Prizes
Vendors • Demos

348 Guelph St.,
Georgetown

BROWSE THE TARGET FLYER

(And many more money saving deals in our flyer section.)

NOW AT flyerland.ca

A Word and Spirit Faith Church

Starting April 21, 2013 at 9 am

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT YOU?

Meeting Location:
Mold-Masters SportsPlex - Gordon Alcott Heritage Hall
221 Guelph St., Georgetown

Pastor Sandra & Blair Dalziel 647-786-8594
info@spiritwaveministries.ca
www.spiritwaveministries.ca

Child care for infants to 5 years

Realize your Worth, Find Acceptance, Know Your Value and Be Encouraged

The BRICK.com

Nobody Beats The Brick.

moonlight madness

sale

FRIDAY, APRIL 19
6PM - MIDNIGHT

If it's not in the flyer, take

30% OFF

OUR TICKET PRICE

All Furniture & Mattress Sets

Including individual furniture items, home decor, and our ready-to-ship bedroom and dining room package prices!

Everyone in the store between 6PM - 7PM on Friday, April 19th, gets a **\$25 PROMOTIONAL BRICK CARD**

*Promotional Brick Card valid towards today's purchase of mattresses purchase of \$399 or more. Cannot be used toward items of limited quantity items.

On Now at The Brick!

For more details go instore or online @thebrick.com.