

Region, Town change official plans to deal with new highway

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

Halton Region and the Town of Halton Hills are taking steps to make changes to their official plans to put in place policies to protect for the planned highway corridor in the rural area southeast of Georgetown.

The proposed highway, which is to run north-south from Hwy. 401/407 ETR in Halton Hills to Mayfield Rd. in Peel, was identified and recommended through both the Halton Peel Boundary Area Transportation Study (HP-BATS) and the Greater Toronto Area West (GTAW) Corridor Study.

The Official Plan Amendment—ROPA 43—would prohibit development of employment lands within the highway corridor until the Ministry of Transportation completes its Environmental Assessment or the Region and Town plans are amended. The OPA would also re-phase Halton Hills employment lands impacted in the corridor protection area.

The study area is bound on the north by 10 Sideroad and Norval, Winston Churchill Blvd. on the east, Auburn Rd. (Milton) to the south, and Eighth

Line to the west.

More than 100 people attended a recent Public Open House on ROPA 43 at Pineview School. Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette was there along with councillors Bryan Lewis, Clark Somerville and Joan Robson.

"Many people in attendance had questions about the future location and construction schedule for the proposed highway," said Mayor Rick Bonnette at last week's council meeting. "Unfortunately these are not answers the Town or Region can provide."

Bonnette said the MTO was invited to attend, and had originally confirmed their attendance, but he added they later said due to the provincial election they couldn't participate in any meetings.

"The timing of the election was a consideration in rescheduling stakeholder consultation activities, however, the overall schedule is not impacted," said an MTO spokesperson Wednesday. "The recent PIC was a joint event hosted by the Town of Halton Hills and Halton Region regarding proposed local and regional Official Plan Amendments, including policies that protect

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