

MPP throws weight behind Town's bid for an Acton bypass

By **Melanie Hennessey**
Special to The IFP

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is joining forces with the Town to raise awareness at Queen's Park about the need for an Acton truck bypass.

Arnott recently sent a letter to Mayor or Rick Bonnette that says he spoke with Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca about the matter in the Ontario Legislature and hand-delivered a

letter to him in support of the Town's request for bypass study funding.

"I want to work with you and council on this issue and do whatever I can to help," Arnott said.

The letter goes on to indicate that the local MPP is willing to table a resolution in the legislature to raise awareness of the need for a bypass around Acton.

"While the resolution would not be called for debate anytime soon, hav-

ing it on the Order Paper would help to draw attention to the need for the project," Arnott said. "It would also allow me to make reference to the need for an Acton bypass in my speeches to the House from time to time."

As an example, Arnott said the resolution could read: "That, in the opinion of this House, the Minister of Transportation should prioritize the Highway 7 Acton Bypass project by placing it on the Southern Highways

Program, the Ministry's five-year investment plan in highway construction for southern Ontario."

During the latest council meeting, Ward 1 Councillor Jon Hurst spoke in favour of Arnott's efforts, noting the bypass must be on the transportation minister's plate to discuss the need and location.

Bonnette told council that he will respond to Arnott's letter.

"We're in no position to turn down

any help," he said.

The Town has applied to the Province for \$100,000 in funding to help offset the cost of a truck traffic strategy and Acton bypass study. Town staff intends to commence the study next year at a cost of \$200,000 and is proposing a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement with the Province. The Town's portion will be included in the 2016 budget and is subject to council approval.

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