

NEWS

Halton Hills planting seeds for Green Legacy Programme

By Kathryn Boyle
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Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott wants his riding to go green.

On Oct. 22, 2015, Arnott presented to Legislature Wellington County's efforts in battling climate change: planting trees. The program, which began in 2004, has allowed the county to plant over a million trees. On Dec. 7, Arnott brought the program forward once again, but this time asked the rest of Canada to follow.

With all of Legislature behind him, Arnott implemented the Ontario Green Legacy Programme, which will see 150 million trees planted with efforts starting in 2017.

The topic was brought to Halton Hills council on Feb. 1 where they discussed how the program could work in this community.

"I took up this torch when I saw what Ted Arnott had proposed in legislature because I recognized for one thing, the Wellington program for their trees was something I saw at a conference years ago and I

thought, 'what a terrific idea,'" Wards 3&4 Regional Councillor Jane Fogal said. "In their case, they decided as a county they would grow all their own trees. They have the greenhouses to get them started and that's how they've managed to plan a million trees themselves."

"Trees are so important in our environment and it's something everybody can appreciate," she said. "I think it's a great initiative."

Wards 1 & 2 Regional Councillor Clark Somerville shared similar sentiments.

"It's an excellent idea to support this," he said. Then he raised a comment asking to speak with town staff about possibly growing their own trees, like Wellington did.

"It will probably drive down the cost in the long-run as to what it is that we're going out to do, but it's just something to consider to be able to plant a lot of them."

In a unanimous decision, council voted to support the motion and to contact Sheridan Nurseries in Norval to see if they could grow some trees to get them started.

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