

# Council passes Vision Georgetown secondary plan



Town of Halton Hills

A map of the proposed 1,000 acres area to be developed into housing, parks, schools and other services in order to accommodate provincially mandated growth.

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It's been five years in the making, and Halton Hills finally has a concrete plan for what Georgetown will look like in the coming years.

Council officially passed the Vision Georgetown Secondary Plan, which is an extensive planning document that outlines the details of how the downtown core is set to develop in the coming decade.

"It could have been a knock-down-drag-out fight the whole time and it wasn't," said Mayor Rick Bonnette, who thanked the public for the countless input sessions over the past five years of planning the project.

"I know it wasn't easy," he said. "There were lots of

conflicting opinions."

Nick MacDonald, with Meridian Planning Consultants, gave a delegation to council on the final adjustments to the plan before it was passed.

The major change is the mapping of the community core, which after recent talks with residents was changed to accommodate a more linear north-south corridor.

There were also changes to a storm water drainage area, which was given a new planning classification as a storm water conveyance corridor.

"You're taking out a lot of prime real estate," said Coun. Bryan Lewis, asking if they could divert the water across Trafalgar Road "rather than take this land out of use."

The plans show how the



Jane Fogal

grove is set to accommodate 1,700 jobs as well.

The secondary plan includes 6,600 new housing units, and 57 per cent of the 1,000 acres in the town will be allocated public space.

MacDonald said that the housing density is a bit lower than the region mandate.

"This is kind of a historic meeting for us," said Coun. Jane Fogal, expressing relief that affordable housing was incorporated into the plan at the last minute. "Thank goodness it was caught."

"This is the most comprehensive planning exercise that this town has ever had," said Bonnette. "I think it's going to be worth all the effort."

The plan, which is available on the town's website, was passed unanimously.

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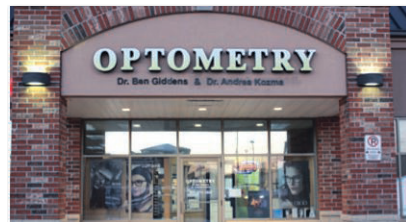
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