

'WHEN YOU'RE SUCCESSFUL, WE'RE SUCCESSFUL': BONNETTE APPLAUDS BUSINESSES AT ANNUAL CHAMBER LUNCH

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Mayor Rick Bonnette put economic development at the forefront of his annual State of the Town address to local businesses, hosted by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce on Dec. 11.

In his speech at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Bonnette highlighted the most notable recent gains in economic development in both Georgetown and Acton.

"Quality of life is more than our cultured programs and events, our rolling hills, picturesque countryside, open spaces and recreation facilities," Bonnette said. "Quality of life also means employment, ensuring businesses continue to create jobs and

new businesses are attracted to our town."

He says Halton Hills has been seeing an increase in both the number of businesses and number of jobs in town, which has led to a higher demand for employment lands and buildings, as well as an ability to attract investors.

"When you're successful, we're successful," he added.

Bonnette cited Premier Gateway employment lands as one of the town's successes, home to businesses such as Kraft Heinz and QRC Logistics. He also mentioned the recent expansion of Toronto Premium Outlets.

"Toronto Premium Outlets is a major attraction for Halton Hills, drawing several million visitors annually," he said. "The

150,000 square-foot expansion added 40 new stores plus dining options and earlier this year they completed a multimillion dollar, five-storey parking garage. That tells me that they are here for the long-term."

The mayor lauded a list of new businesses that have opened in both Georgetown and Acton, including Goodfellas Wood Oven Pizza, the Furnace Room Brewery, Ambition Performing Arts Centre, Helson Law Office (Acton), House of Work Wear, JV Computer Repairs, Oh Behave Canine Pawllege, One Stop Medical Clinic and Pharmacy, Tic Toc Watch and Clock Repair, Plant Society Kitchen and Vegan Food Services.

He then moved on to address an area of concern



Veronica Appia/Metroland

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette gives his State of the Town address at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club on Dec. 11.

that has been looming over downtown Georgetown for the past week: the cancellation of the McGibbon project.

"I'm extremely disappointed and I am concerned about the buyers," he said, adding that the town has been asked questions about their role in the

failure of the project." Let me be clear - this is a private development. The town did not hold up the project or impede it."

Bonnette said the town was seeking to find a balance to issues pertaining to design, height, parking and the environment - many of which he says

were raised by the public. "The town was still waiting on submission and information to finalize the planning process when we learned the project was cancelled," he said. "The town can't do anything more until we learn more ... the town doesn't own the property but we do want to work with the developer to either restart this project or help them find a buyer. So my message to you is stay tuned."

In the second half of his speech, Bonnette touched upon the town's plans to accommodate future growth and its goal to continue to boost tourism in the area, as well as its commitment to making strategic capital investments, such as the construction project on Armstrong Ave.

"There is a lot that we can be proud of and I know that the work is never done," Bonnette said. "I feel it's important to recognize our values and the direction we have taken, and will continue to take, which in turn upholds our quality of life."

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