

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN GRANTS PRESENTED AT 2 ACTON LOCATIONS

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The Town of Halton Hills has presented grants to two of six locations selected, as part of its community improvement plan.

Through providing businesses and building owners with financial incentives, the plan aims to help attract private sector investment and aid in the beautification and revitalization of commercial buildings in town.

On Dec. 12, Helsons Law received \$27,853 for facade and interior improvements made to its new office in Acton, and MCO Management Inc. received \$20,007 for upgrades made to the Giant Tiger Plaza.

Jason Karametch, of MCO, says the additions to the plaza included siding work and a new stone skirt at the bot-



Veronica Appia/Metroland

From left to right: Councillor Jon Hurst, Linda Olson (Chair of the Downtown Acton BIA), Mayor Rick Bonnette, Tim Efthimiou (MCO), Jason Karametch (MCO), Kris Misevski (MCO), and councillors Mike Albano and Clark Somerville.

tom of the plaza, new signage with LED lights, fresh paint, new LED lights in the parking lot and the addition of bollards.

"There are substantial improvements going on (in town) and we can see it too; it's nice to be part of it," said David Ashbee of Helsons Law.

"We like the fact that they rewarded us for doing this renovation and we think that it's substantially improved from what it was and it makes the downtown, at least in our little part, look a little better."

Renovations at the law firm's new unit included wheelchair-accessible front doors, new floors, added insula-

tion and soundproof rooms for client privacy. Ashbee says the grant will help offset the cost of the exterior fascia.

"It's another way that the town has invested in these buildings," Mayor Rick Bonnette said. "They get an attractive looking building, they get tenants, the place looks better than being an old brick, looking tired and run down, and at the end of the day, their assessment goes up higher and that's the payback to the town."

Bonnette says one additional location in Acton and three locations in Georgetown will be receiving grants in the new year.

GEORGETOWN, ACTON TO GET INCREASED GO TRAIN SERVICE

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Starting next month, commuters in Acton and Georgetown will experience additional GO Train trip options on the Kitchener line.

Ontario Transportation Minister Jeff Yurek made the announcement on Dec. 17 at the Kitchener VIA Rail Station, introducing the service changes, which will come into fruition on Jan. 7.

"We are now increasing service to Kitchener GO by 25 per cent and there will be more news to come," he said. "This is an important step as we continue working with CN to deliver more service and offer two-way, all-day GO train service for people on the Kitchener line as soon as possible."

The changes mean morning service that presently begins in Georgetown, will begin at Kitchener GO at 5:40 a.m. The train will then stop in Guelph and Acton, before arriving in George-

town and making the usual stops to Union Station.

In the afternoons, the trip leaving Union Station at 3:35 p.m., that currently ends in Georgetown, will also be extended to Kitchener, with stops in Acton and Guelph.

A morning option will also be added from Georgetown, Brampton and Mount Pleasant stations, as well as an extra afternoon option from Union Station to Bloor, Weston, Etobicoke North and Malton stations.

"This will give our commuters more choice," Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said, adding that the announcement is a welcome step closer to the town's larger goal.

"The more trains we get in Halton Hills, the closer we are inching to two-way all-day GO service. Something that myself and the other mayors on the Kitchener line have been advocating to the provincial government."

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