

# FIVE THINGS THAT HAPPENED AT TOWN COUNCIL

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## 1. GTA WEST CORRIDOR RE-INITIATED

Despite an on-again, off-again relationship, the province has announced that the GTA West Corridor expansion is once again on-again. The 400-series highway connects Halton region to Vaughan. Started in 2007 by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, the project was later suspended in 2015 and cancelled in February 2018.

In June 2019, the province re-established the corridor plan, but details and timelines won't be revealed until fall.

"I was surprised," Mayor Rick Bonnette said. "I have a lot of concerns. I don't think this is sustainable and this is not going to get people out of cars."

Bonnette noted that the highway could take more than a decade to complete, citing the fact that the 407 highway took decades before it was completed.

"If this is taking place, it is completely out of context from climate change," Coun. Jane Fogal said. "It seems like a horrible waste of taxpayer money that should be going into transit."

## 2. HALTON HILLS PURCHASES A NEW PUMPER

Council approved the purchase of a 2020 Spartan Metro Star, a tanker-pumper, for the replacement of a 1999 tanker-pumper. Purchased from Camions Carl Thibeault Inc. in Pierreville, Quebec, the vehicle will cost the Town \$743,230, which is \$68,230 above the approved budget. Contributing to the increased price was changes in the ex-

change rate between the Canadian and American dollar, as roughly 60 per cent of materials used in construction are manufactured outside of Canada.

## 3. SOLS IS BACK ON

In April, the province halved the Southern Ontario Library Services (SOLS) budget resulting in the cancellation of the Interlibrary Loan Service, a service that allowed Ontario libraries to lend out resources to other Ontario libraries. In 2018, nearly 419,000 items were lent through the service, with Halton Hills lending 2,424 items and borrowing 2,046. While the service has been resumed, the courier service has been abandoned in favour of sending items via Canada Post at a discounted rate. Libraries will now receive a partial provincial subsidy for materials shipped through Canada Post.

## 4. ALCOHOL ADS IN HALTON HILLS BALLPARKS

The council was split on a decision to allow alcohol to be advertised at ball diamonds in town ball diamonds. Presented with three options, the town could prohibit advertising of alcohol at diamonds, seek public input on the advertising, or essentially test the practice until 2021. Council voted for the latter option, though the decision came from a 6-5 vote to amend an earlier Community and Corporate Affairs Committee decision to seek public input.

In 2018, Georgetown SloPitch League and Halton Hills Minor Baseball Association received permission from the town to sell banner advertising on the outfield fences of town baseball diamonds. Through sales, the associations raised and donated \$5,200 from banner sales for the town's special account for baseball operations. However, an ad sponsored by Molson Coors Light would have brought an additional \$6,000 to the fundraising. Councillors who opposed the advertising expressed concern over the precedent set for advertising alcohol in public spaces.

## 5. TOWN SEEKS PARTNERS IN RAINBOW CROSS-WALK INSTALL

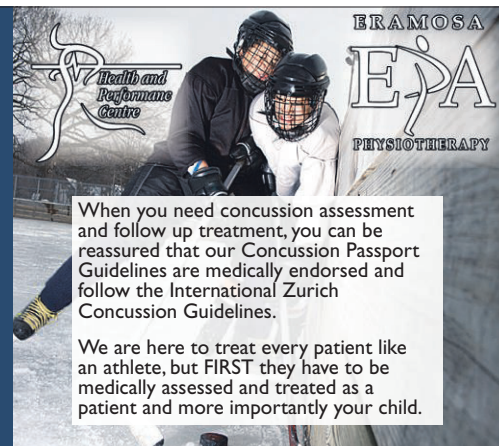
With an estimated cost of \$4,000 to install a rainbow crosswalk near the Halton Hills Public Library's Georgetown Branch, the town is seeking interested community partners to support the project.

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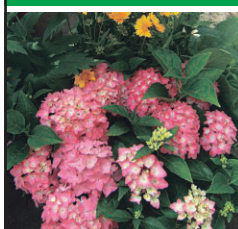
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