

MUNICIPAL REFORM STUDY SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC

Well, this doesn't sound good. Earlier this year, the province appointed a team to study the way Halton and seven other regions around Ontario are governed. It's still ongoing and not expected to be completed until later this fall.

Locally, it could end with municipal maps being redrawn. Halton might or might not retain its regional government, and the four local municipalities could be amalgamated in some way to end up with a smaller number. Or not.

It's all in the mix, we are told.

However, a report published last week by our sister paper The Brampton Guardian says the studies' results might never be made public.

For Queen's Park to impose changes on Halton without revealing the findings from the months of study would be absolutely wrong.

Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown - a former leader of the Progressive Conservative party now led by Premier Doug Ford - and Peel regional Coun. Michael Palleschi say they got the word straight from Steve Clark, Ontario's minister of municipal affairs and housing.

Palleschi provided the newspaper with a video clip from last month's Association of Municipalities of Ontario convention.

In it, Clark is asked whether the findings of the study would be released publicly before or after the provincial cabinet chooses what to do.

"I want to take my time. The recommendations will be presented as confidential advice to cabinet," Clark says on the recording.

"I'm going to take my time, as I've said many times in the past, to review it with my cabinet colleagues."

As Clark describes it, this sounds like absolutely the wrong way to go.

Leaders of the studies - former deputy minister Michael Fenn and ex-Waterloo Region chairman Ken Seiling, both highly respected in municipal affairs - toured the province, hearing comments from the public and local politicians.

The proper way to go about this is to allow Fenn and Seiling to have time to put together a full, fair report. Don't rush.

But in the end, it needs to be made public before cabinet decides what to do.

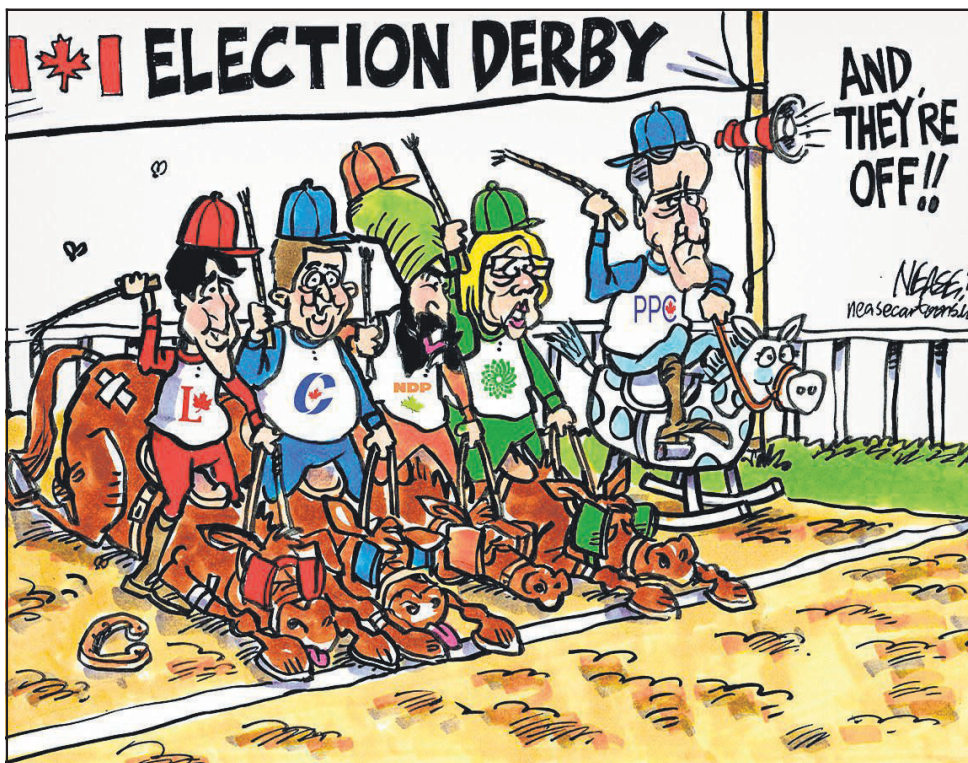
If it's presented first as a cabinet document, though, it might never see the light of day as a matter of cabinet confidentiality.

It's unclear what part of its contents would need to be protected from public viewing. But surely if there are some, those could be redacted while the rest of the report is released.

It's our right to see the results of a study we paid for and were invited to take part in. We might not like the outcome, but if it is fair and well thought out, we can live with it.

What we can't accept is our community being reinvented via decisions imposed on us from behind locked doors.

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LETTERS & COMMENTARY

HALTON HILLS NEEDS READER BOARDS FOR MOTORISTS

Concerning rush hour traffic on our country roads:

Now that school is back and with more and more homes being built in the area, more and more people are commuting.

It is adding to the stresses of rush-hour traffic. Our road systems are not designed for the volumes we now experience, sometimes leading to more stress, road rage and even the occasional accident.

Like on Sept 11. When the road accidents happen, wouldn't it be nice if Halton Hills had reader boards stating where the traffic snarls are.

Eastbound on 5th Side-road and 10th Line the road was closed due to a traffic accident. Halton Regional

Police Service could have installed a temporary reader board at 10th Sideroad and 10th Line advising as such.

Thankfully, I'm getting closer to retirement and I won't have too many more years to tolerate the traffic.

YVONNE BENSON
HALTON HILLS

RECORD NUMBER IN TERRY FOX RUN IN GEORGETOWN

Terry Fox ran through snow near St. John's, rain in Sault Ste. Marie and blistering heat just about everywhere else.

In Georgetown, the skies opened up this year for the 39th annual Terry Fox Run, but it did not dampen the spirits or generosity of those who turned up at the Gellert Centre.

Thanks to the help of a record number of volunteers and the presence and donations of a dedicated

group of runners, walkers, rollers and skaters, we celebrated a very successful event and pushed our total dollars raised in Georgetown in the fight against cancer to just under \$500,000.

Domino's Pizza and Terra Cotta Cookie Co. provided free goodies, while hundreds gathered to honour Terry Fox and put yet another dent in the armour of this disease.

Next year will mark 40 years since Terry Fox ran through Georgetown. On Sept. 20, 2020, we will push past half a million dollars raised in his name.

I want to extend a very sincere thank you to all who braved the rain and volunteered or attended the 2019 Terry Fox Run. See you next year!

STEPHEN DAME
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TERRY FOX RUN

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