

HERE'S WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR HALTON HILLS IN 2020

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A new year doesn't equate to a fresh start for municipal councils, as many ongoing projects are years in the making or perpetual works in progress, and the Town of Halton Hills is no exception.

Mayor Rick Bonnette spoke to thefp.ca about a few of the projects on council's collective mind for 2020.

CLIMATE ACTION

"If you saw the December staff report on climate change, you will note a considerable amount of work had already been done in this area," Bonnette said.

"Now, we are working to further implement plans, embed practices into our business areas and engage the public on new policies."

On May 6, 2019, Halton Hills council passed a resolution declaring a climate emergency for Halton Hills and that permanent changes were necessary in the way the town conducted business.

Council established a target to become a net-zero community for carbon emissions by 2030.

New initiatives to be introduced in 2020 to meet the target include a storm-water management plan, a



Torstar file photo

Mayor Rick Bonnette offers a look at what's ahead for the town in 2020, and beyond.

climate change resiliency strategy and a Town of Halton Hills Home Retrofit Acceleration Program.

The mayor said he would also lead a new Climate Change Task Force alongside Coun. Jane Fogal.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

"The affordable housing portfolio will be advanced as we continue to work with Habitat for Humanity," Bonnette said.

Habitat's current project in Halton Hills began in 2013. The Exchange Hotel, at 37 King St. in Georgetown, was purchased and prepared to become the site of a number of affordable housing dwellings. In the fall, Habitat began restoring portions of the hotel to be integrated into the new builds. Construction on the property is expected to begin in the spring.

GROWTH

"Growth is always a priority and council's direction is to ensure that growth is done in a planned and strategic manner," Bonnette said.

A recent approval from the region will allow for significant growth in Halton Hills.

"We are very pleased with the recent approval at Halton regional council to bring lake-based servicing to Halton Hills for water and wastewater," Bonnette said, adding the approval would ensure the town's ability to move forward with Vision Georgetown as well as advancing intensification around the downtown and GO station.

The \$2 billion development financing plan outlined servicing for 19,329 single detached equivalents, with 3,000 allocated for Halton Hills.

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