

5G COMING TO HALTON HILLS

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Downloading a movie to a smartphone used to take 26 hours on the 3G network, but new technology in Halton Hills could reduce that time to mere seconds.

The Town of Halton Hills has an agreement in place for the construction of 5G infrastructure expected to come online in 2020. In June 2019, Rogers Communications approached the Town with a proposal to construct new infrastructure to support a future 5G network. The proposal outlined two phases to the rollout: six small cell units would be installed in the first phase on Town-owned street lights along Guelph St. between Sinclair Ave. and Delrex Blvd., followed by micro and macro towers on Town-owned land in the second phase.

The small cell units are housed in metal boxes about 20 cm by 20 cm by 15 cm and attached to lamp posts. These units are designed to boost cell coverage in the surrounding area by about 100 to 200 metres.

In the second phase, the installation of towers would comply with the Town's Protocol for Establishing Telecommunication Towers and Related Facilities, which would



Town of Halton Hills photo
5G infrastructure from Rogers is anticipated in Halton Hills in 2020.

include a site plan review, as well as a public consultation process for any tower within proximity to a residential or school area. Macro towers provide wider coverage and would stand between 15 and 60 metres. All towers and devices must comply with Health Canada's standard as prescribed by Safety Code 6, a regularly reviewed guideline for protection against all known potentially harmful health effects.

The new 5G technology would increase data delivery, improve connectivity, and reduce dead zones for Rogers mobile customers. A report from Town staff to council noted "movies that used to take 26 hours to download on 3G, and six minutes on 4G, will now take four seconds to download through 5G." On top of better, faster service for cell-phone users, the new tech would help to support the use of autonomous vehicles, 'smart' metering, and enhanced services for first-responders.

Phase one is expected to begin this year.

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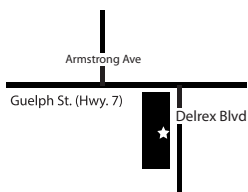


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