

GTA WEST HIGHWAY SHOULD NOT BE BUILT

PLAN WILL HAVE A MAJOR ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT, WRITES MICHAEL CHONG



MICHAEL CHONG
Column

The Government of Ontario is planning a new 400-series highway from Hwy. 400 north of Vaughan to the 401-407 exchange at the south end of Halton Hills.

This 50-kilometre highway would not only chew up thousands of acres of prime farmland, it would also cost a staggering \$6 billion — at minimum.

The highway, also known as Hwy. 413, would not reduce congestion. An expert panel estimated it would reduce commute times by 30 seconds. That's right: \$6 billion in taxpayer money to save 30 seconds in the daily commute.

Many studies have shown that building highways does not reduce congestion. If building highways was the solution to congestion, Los Angeles would have solved its traffic problem decades ago.

The solution is to expand rapid transit and optimize the existing road network — such as building the Acton bypass.

The highway also flies in the face of Canada's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 — only nine years from now. Canada's emissions are rising, from 708

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megatonnes in 2016 to 729 megatonnes in 2018, the last year for which we have official data. Building new highways that increase miles driven is one of the reasons why tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks account for 25 per cent of Canada's emissions.

I work closely with MPP Ted Arnott and Mayor Rick Bonnette, alongside Halton Hills council and staff. In 2011, we all worked together to successfully oppose another highway planned for Halton Hills, the "Alternative 4-3."

Many constituents have expressed concerns about the highway. I share these concerns. I have formally expressed my opposition in writing to Ontario Transportation Minister Caroline Mulroney. MPP Arnott has also spoken to Minister Mulroney to express concerns.

The benefits of this new highway are far outweighed by the adverse impact it will have on our climate, our environment and our community.

The GTA West highway should not be built.

Michael Chong is the MP for Wellington-Halton Hills, and the shadow minister of democratic institutions for the official opposition. He can be reached at michael.chong.a3@parl.gc.ca.

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SNAPSHOT



Ian Jarvie photo

A snowy owl visits a wooded area near Glen Williams. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

USE FUNDAMENTAL PLANNING IDEAS TO HELP ACHIEVE YOUR LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON
Column

A friend gave me the synopsis of the book she was reading. The irony was the main ideas of this book published in the early 1960s were the same fundamental ideas of a course she had just completed.

That made me think of many courses, conferences and studies I have participated in over the years.

Great ideas often stand the test of time.

We can apply this notion of solid, basic, good ideas to your personal financial planning.

Much of what is written

side to recalculate your progress annually.

Pay yourself first. For many, there is not enough money at the end of the month to save. There is a simple solution for that.

At the first of the month, pay yourself first.

Before you've had time to spend, allocate a certain amount to be deducted from your bank account and transferred to an investment.

A fairly simple, time-tested process. Articulate an objective, plan to monitor your progress on an ongoing basis and finally start an automatic savings program.

Use the simple, easy principles that have been around for many years.

Peter Watson, of Watson Investments MBA, CFP®, R.F.P., CIM®, FCSI offers a weekly financial planning column, 'Dollars & Sense'. He can be contacted through www.watsoninvestments.com.

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