

**COUNCIL** 

# IN QUOTES: RESIDENTS CALL FOR GROWTH PLAN WITH NO URBAN SPRAWL

Regional council has sent staff back to the drawing board to produce a growth option that would keep new development within current urban boundaries.

In an 18-5 vote, councillors passed a motion that directs staff to develop a fifth growth scenario for consideration during the Official Plan review that would accommodate growth to 2051 within Halton's existing settlement area boundary.

The resolution, put forth by Oakville Mayor Rob Burton and seconded by Halton Hills Coun. Jane Fogal, also calls for an assessment of the relative impact each growth concept would have on greenhouse gas emissions.

Milton councillors Mike Cluett, Zeeshan Hamid and Rick Malboeuf, Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Halton Hills Coun. Clark Somerville voted against the motion.

The north Halton politicians cited a variety of reasons for their opposition, including the inability for Milton to accommodate projected future population and employment growth within its existing boundary, the need to expand and keep new manufacturing/warehousing businesses away from residential areas, and a potential loss of development charge revenues if those

To date, Halton staff has prepared four growth concepts, all of which require an urban boundary expansion to accommodate the population and employment growth targets prescribed by the Province between 2031 and 2051.

businesses went else-

where.

The fifth growth scenario would build on the third concept, which looks to accommodate all population growth and a majority of



Netroland file photo

Halton is undergoing an Official Plan review to guide how the region will grow to 2051.

employment growth within the existing settlement area of the region, with a potential boundary expansion of 980 hectares for employment land uses.

The community's desire for a fifth concept to consider came through loud and clear during the council meeting, when 14 residents from across the region shared their thoughts with the local politicians.

# HERE'S SOME OF WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY:

"We need a strong leadership that understands the importance of growing smarter. Directing growth to existing urban areas improves the protection of farms, nature and water. It also saves taxpayers from paying for expensive sprawl, lowers our carbon pollution and reduces congestion."

## – KAREN BROCK, OAKVILLEGREEN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

"The actual population increase in Halton to 2021 has been, in reality, less than what was projected. It may therefore be possible to accommodate the required density within the existing urban boundary. Perhaps that means that low-density warehousing should become high-rack

warehousing, and that the typical two- or four-storey office building needs to become 10 storeys."

### - MARINA HUISSOON, SUSTAINABLE MILTON

"In 2019, all of our municipalities declared a climate emergency, and today we remain in a climate crisis. We must cut our greenhouse gases by more than half by 2030. We will not achieve a decrease in emissions if we allow urban sprawl, replacing prime agricultural land with singlefamily homes. We will. however, increase our car dependency, destroy natural habitats and increase air pollution."

#### - LORRAINE GREEN, Burlington resident

"As we grow our population within the urban boundary, from necessity we will increase density. This I see as an opportunity to provide a design for our towns in ways that can actually enhance our health. People living in cardependent communities are less likely to be active and have a larger burden of illness directly associated with that inactivity."

#### – DR. DON TRANT, Halton Hills resident

For more on the Official Plan review, visit www.halton.ca/ropr.