

NEW BILL PROPOSES MAJOR URBAN EXPANSION

REETI ROHILLA
rrohilla@metroland.com

Town council members believe approval of Bill 23 — the More Homes Built Faster Act — could cost Halton Hills its small-town environment, and need more time to respond.

With Bill 23 proceeding quickly through the provincial legislature, Halton Hills, among other Ontario municipalities, could be burdened with its economic, social and environmental implications.

"Looking at the maps with the naked eye, it looks like we might be getting 5,000 acres developed, which is far more expansion than what the council unanimously supported a year ago," said outgoing Mayor Rick Bonnette, during the current term's last council meeting on Nov. 7. "It's going to be a hard time for future councillors to try to keep that small-town feel because it is almost going to look like the City of Halton Hills down the road," he added.

All three levels of government must collaborate to solve the housing crisis, according to a town resolution for the provincial government.

Without meaningful consultation, crafting legislation that significantly affects municipal financing, infrastructure planning and funding, climate change strategies, and staffing levels, can negatively impact municipalities and their ability to provide services, stated the resolution.

Bill 23 proposes to limit the ability of municipalities to implement design standards under the Planning Act — limiting the application of Green Development Standards to improve energy efficiency and the climate change impact of new buildings, the resolution stated.

"It's just stupid not to build them better when we can do it and we can do it easily," said Coun. Jane Fogal.

The resolution said the introduction of Green Development Standards has reduced greenhouse gas emissions and lowered operating costs of hundreds of buildings in Halton Hills with no apparent impact on the speed of building homes, while



Jane Fogal photo
Jane Fogal is among the councillor who takes issue with the local impact of the proposed Bill 23.

"It's just stupid not to build them better when we can do it and we can do it easily."

- Coun. Jane Fogal

also reducing the long-term cost of home ownership.

"We have to answer to the proposed bill within 30 days, with no consultation — it's totally unacceptable," said Fogal. "Residents are starting to understand what the issues are and there's going to be a lot more people coming forward as the word gets out," she added.

With the far-reaching and consequential legislative changes introduced immediately after the municipal elections, town council is asking the provincial government to extend the public commenting periods to 66 days to allow for a more realistic municipal participation.

WE'RE THERE WHEN NEWS HAPPENS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

FIND BREAKING NEWS DAILY AT
THEIFP.CA



Mountainview

The Only Family Owned & Operated Retirement Home In Halton Hills.

TERRACE BY THE GLEN

You've worked hard to enjoy retirement, now it's our pleasure to make this the best time of your life in a family, friendly atmosphere. Our residents enjoy weekly housekeeping, social meals & activities to support their independent lifestyle.

- 5+ Acre Property
- All Suites Are Private Accommodations
- 1 Bedroom Suites with Kitchenette & Large Storage Closet
- Indoor & Outdoor Activity Options
- Encouraging Social, Physical & Mental Wellbeing



BOOK YOUR PRIVATE TOUR WITH US TODAY



RETIREMENT HOME
222 Mountainview Road North,
Georgetown
905-877-1800



www.mountainviewresidence.com