

Open houses scheduled to discuss Strategic Plan

Halton Region is hosting four community open houses next week to hear comments from the public on the 2007-2010 Strategic Plan's draft themes and goals that will set out Regional council's vision for the next four years.

At each open house, regional staff will give a brief presentation and be available to hear feedback. Staff will then pass along all feedback gathered at these meetings to regional council for it to consider while finalizing the Strategic Plan over the coming months.

The times, dates and locations of the community open houses are:

Monday, March 19— 5-7 p.m. (presentation at 6 p.m.) Halton Regional Centre, Auditorium, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville

Tuesday, March 20— 7-9 p.m. (presentation at 7:30 p.m.) Halton Hills Cultural Centre, The Gallery, 9 Church St., Halton Hills (Georgetown)

Wednesday, March 21— 7-9 p.m. (presentation at 7:30 p.m.) Hugh Foster Hall, 53 Brown St., Milton

Thursday, March 22— 7-9 p.m. (presentation at 7:30 p.m.) Burlington Public Library, Centennial Hall, 2331 New St., Burlington.

More information on Halton's strategic planning process is available online at www.halton.ca/strategic-plan.

Town wants compensation for tax cash lost to hydro

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loss of industrial/commercial assessment by virtue of the significant change required to the 401 Prestige Industrial Corridor in that location and the reduction in the gateway designation. The changes being made by your proposed project will reduce the amount of assessment and therefore, the important industrial and commercial property taxes the Town might otherwise have expected from those lands."

Also in the letter, the mayor expressed full support for the other Halton Hills residents affected by the tower twinning and requested Hydro One deal with them fairly and transparently.

A town staff report stated that Hydro One will obtain land rights mainly through easements, but where the 175-200 ft. wide corridor directly impacts a home or building, Hydro One will likely choose to purchase (or expropriate) the entire property at market value.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2008.

(Cynthia Gamble can be reached at cgamble@independentfreepress.com)

Liberal leader Dion in Milton

Local residents can share their environmental concerns with federal Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion Friday at the Halton ecoSummit in Milton.

The event, which will take place at Country Heritage Park at 3 p.m., will be co-hosted by Dion and Halton MP Garth Turner.

Those interested in attending need to reserve a seat. To do so, call Esther Shaye in Turner's office at 905-693-0166. Country Heritage Park is located at 8560 Tremaine Rd., Milton.

Damage set at \$3,500 after fireplace mantle catches fire

Halton Hills firefighters were called to a 25 Sideroad home at approximately 10:30 p.m. Saturday.

When they arrived they discovered it was the mantle above the fireplace that had actually caught fire.

The mantle and some of the brick-work had to be removed to put out the blaze. Damage is estimated at \$3,500.

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