

# Town slashes planning fees in effort to attract more industrial development

**CYNTHIA GAMBLE**  
Staff Writer

Future industrial developers in Halton Hills will get a 50 per cent break on planning fees that will cost taxpayers close to \$120,000.

Council unanimously approved a revision to the planning fees at a recent meeting.

"We are sadly lacking in industrial development so anything we can do to encourage more industrial development in the industrial areas in our town, the better off we are," said Acton Councillor Michael O'Leary. "The first thing is we'll get more new taxes and that's basically a forever situation.

Secondly, industrial development requires less services— they don't require parks or schools or rinks, pools, community centres or libraries, but the development charges they pay contribute to all those."

He said a revenue increase in development charges would offset the taxpayers' portion by about \$37,000.

Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis called it a "long-term investment for taxpayers," while Ward 4 Councillor John Duncan said, "we're telling businesses we are here and we want you."

In 2007 the total revenue increase for industrial, commercial and institutional is expected to be about \$237,250, but once the 50 per cent fee reduction is implemented, taxpayers will have to pick up \$118,625.

Overall cost recovery of planning fees in both the residential and ICI sectors would be at about 82 per cent— the overall cost to the taxpayer would be \$146,625.

The fee structure will be reviewed annually. Mayor Rick Bonnette said the market is hot and there has been a lot of enquiries, and the Town has to be competitive. He pointed out industrial taxes represent only 9 per cent of total taxes, and "we have to look at any other way to create opportunity to increase assessment and jobs."



**MICHAEL O'LEARY**

The Town's industrial areas will be designated as Town Priority District "where the establishment of new industrial, commercial and office development is a top corporate policy."

There is no water capacity available at this time in Acton to allow any industrial developments. There is capacity in the Georgetown industrial area and in the 401 Corridor (which is supplied by the Big Pipe).

(Cynthia Gamble can be reached at [cgamble@independentfreepress.com](mailto:cgamble@independentfreepress.com))

## Kennedy here Apr. 12 for dinner and dialogue

The Wellington-Halton Hills Federal Liberal Association will be holding an evening of dinner and dialogue with defeated Liberal leadership candidate Gerard Kennedy on April 12, at The Plantation Restaurant, 77 Market Street, Georgetown.

Kennedy, who lost the Liberal leadership to Stephané Dion last year, is seeking the Liberal nomination for the Toronto riding of Parkdale-High Park.

Cocktails will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person.

For tickets please contact: Dennis McLay, 905-877-2948 or Carol Lawson, 905-877-3753.

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