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Outlines several projects

Town attracting industry, says mayor

CYNTHIA GAMBLE

Staff Writer

Industrial square footage—equivalent to three Real Canadian Superstores—will be added to the Town's development roster this year.

Mayor Rick Bonnette outlined numerous business initiatives going on in town, particularly in the 401 Corridor, in his recent speech to the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce.

"The 401-407 Gateway Business Park is very attractive to the non-residential real estate section," said Bonnette, "and property is changing hands and developing quickly now that services are in. The Town could be adding about 400,000 sq. ft. of new industrial or commercial building in the 401-area each year for the next five years, if the economy holds up."

In 2007, three new manufacturing businesses opened: Hayward Gordon (makers of pumps); Patlon Aircraft and industries (aircraft supplies) and Sensient Flavours (food flavouring). Together they employ 175 persons.

Sun Life Financial purchased 20 acres on Steeles Ave. (northeast corner of Fifth Line) and is now completing a 387,000 sq. ft. building to lease to a yet-to-be announced major tenant.

Higgins Developments has more than 100,000 sq. ft. under construction in three industrial condominium buildings, and the company also owns the Hwy. 401 frontage part, which will proceed soon with a further 300,000 sq. ft.

North American Developments has bought the open lot and the Truck Town Terminal business and

'The Town could be adding about 400,000 sq. ft. of new industrial or commercial building in the 401-area each year for the next five years, if the economy holds up.'

are in the final stages of a retail development with a major tenant. The developer will proceed with about 150,000 sq. ft. of retail in 2008, and rapidly develop to about 400,000 sq. ft.

Trans-Canada Energy is building the new natural gas-fired generation facility on Steeles Ave., near the Sixth Line. This will bring significant assessment to the Town's coffers. Plus they re-paid the Town its initial \$1.5 million investment share that helped bring the water and wastewater servicing to the 401 Corridor at least 10 years earlier than planned.

Along the remaining part of the Corridor, from Trafalgar Rd. to Winston Churchill Blvd., the Town reports that companies are buying lands with the intention of building as quickly as possible.

Development in the Town's industrial areas in Acton and Georgetown also continues but is limited by the lack of water and wastewater servicing.

The former Curwood building is now occupied by ISPA Woodworking, which makes custom interior cabinets and store fixtures for retail locations across Canada. The company, which moved from Mississauga, employs 75 people.

Communications and Power Industries (CPI) is a high-tech manufacturer of satellite and medical imaging equipment and just recently opened 60,000 sq. ft. addition at their Mountainview and River Dr. location.

EFCO on Todd Road has received corporate approval to add a 40,000 sq. ft. addition, which will occur in 2008. EFCO makes steel forms for complex concrete construction; one of their contracts was the bridge to Prince Edward Island.

In Acton, Dover Flour has completed an expansion to their flour loading area and sound attenuation.

To continue to encourage more industry to move or expand here, the Town has reduced its development charges by 20 per cent. As well, the Town will set up on a two-year trial basis, an economic development manufacturing fund to assist local companies in improving their business. The initial fund is \$40,000 and will come from the tax stabilization reserve. EFCO will be the first to benefit from this fund.

"Creating a fund to pay for some of the required fees is a positive way to influence company decision-makers to stay in town," said Bonnette to his Chamber audience.



RICK
BONNETTE



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