

# Mayor tells developers that town must not expand 'like Brampton'

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frightening to us all that we're going to lose everything and end up being a larger community like Brampton to the east or even to a small extent the way Milton is growing.

"That's the last thing that we want to see in this community. Because when you grow so quickly then you start to lose everything you valued about Georgetown in your presentation... and then not being able to control it (growth)."

Hannay warned that a plan of this size wouldn't happen instantly.

"We're not seeking to do this overnight and we can't do it on our own; it can only happen through you (council), the guardians of the public interest. ...It's a long-range plan... and even long-range plans must have notions of flexibility. There's still opportunity always for governmental input. This isn't about turning it over to the developers and letting things go wild. Decisions may have happened in Brampton but those decisions were made publicly. If you wish to deal with things differently (from Brampton) that's your prerogative."

The mayor questioned whether the Georgetown Commons Group would be satisfied with the selected option or whether the group would decide to challenge it at the

Ontario Municipal Board.

Hannay replied there would be limited abilities to challenge.

Wards 1&2 Regional Councillor Clark Somerville wondered why Hannay was making this presentation before the growth options were released.

Hannay said they are not attempting to prejudice Sustainable Halton decisions, but "we would want to be clear that if change comes, we're willing to think about it only within the context of Georgetown and not thinking about applying some solution that comes from someplace else (i.e. Brampton). What

we're really thinking about is a solution that is specific to Georgetown and that is clearly contingent on decisions on a governmental basis and not ours. We're just trying to put our best foot forward when change comes."

But Somerville, too, said that change could come at a price of impacting the very quality of life that Hannay was praising in his presentation.

Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis requested that if change does come, the developers take into consideration the impact on the existing rural residents such as road infrastructure and buffers.

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

*'...when you grow so quickly then you start to lose everything you valued about Georgetown...'*



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