

# Halton Hills' approval of Steeles Ave. shopping centre challenged by Town of Milton

**MELANIE HENNESSEY**  
Special to The IFF

The Town of Milton is appealing a decision made by the Town of Halton Hills to approve a shopping centre on Steeles Avenue, east of James Snow Parkway.

At its meeting Monday night, the Milton's administration and planning committee endorsed a motion to go ahead with the appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). The appeal is based on Milton's concerns that the development, planned by the North American Property Group, could impact Milton's central business district and other planned commercial areas.

This summer, the Town of Halton Hills had approved the site specific rezoning of industrial property on Steeles Ave. near James Snow Parkway for commercial stores, proposed by North American Property Group. The rezoning will allow individual retail stores over 2,750 square metres (30,000 sq ft) and a total retail space of over 10,000 sq m (107,642 sq ft). It's expected to include a large home improvement centre and other retail uses.

According to Halton Hills' retail

impact study, "the introduction of a 150,000 sq. ft. home improvement centre and 250,000 sq. ft. or retail/service space will not have a negative impact on the planned function of the Town of Milton's Central Business District."

Town of Milton staff contend the decision doesn't represent good planning and isn't in the public's interest.

Milton had its commercial policy consultant, Scott Morgan, review the development plans. His conclusions were that while the market can support the home improvement store, there's insufficient capacity for the additional non-department store, non-food store retail space.

Morgan also recommended a 3,000-square-foot minimum store size cap be introduced for the shopping centre to protect Milton's existing commercial structure that places a priority on the central business district.

The motion supported by the committee directs Town staff and the municipality's solicitor to continue negotiating a potential settlement regarding the development.

The item will go before Milton Town council Monday.

## Pitching in

Maple Reinders Construction team of 18 volunteers were recently photographed at the Habitat for Humanity build site at 51 John St., Georgetown. Team members included (front, from left) Amjad Khan, Ed Sikkema, Cameron Dawson, Dan Brownson, and Shirley Vandenberg. (Second row) Harold Reinders, Ken Kamminga, Dan Hayhoe, Dave Cole, Roberto Zen and David Mason. (Third row) Chris Nicol and Simon de Groot.



Photo by Ted Brown

## Public, Catholic school calendars almost identical

The 2008-09 school year calendars for the Halton Catholic and public school boards, as in most other years, are virtually identical.

The school year will end for students of both boards on Thursday, June 25, 2009.

Both Halton boards have scheduled the maximum number of professional activity (PA) days allowable under the provincial Education Act— six— however there is a slight difference in their dates.

The public board has the same PA days for its elementary and high school panels. Those dates, all on Fridays, are Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 30, April 24 and June 25. The Catholic board has the same first five dates but its final PA day for elementary is May 15 while the secondary panel's final PA day is June 26.

Both boards observe the same eight statutory holidays when schools are closed including the Christmas break (Dec. 22-Jan. 2) and March break (March 16-20).

High school exams at both boards are slated

for Jan. 22-28 and June 18-24.

The 11 elected board of trustees and two appointed student trustees of the Halton public board meet to discuss and vote on school-related issues the first and third Wednesday of most months during the school year.

They meet at the education centre on the northwest corner of Guelph Line and Upper Middle in Burlington. The new start time for most public board meetings is 7 p.m.

The nine elected board of trustees and three appointed student trustees of the Halton Catholic board meet to discuss and vote on school-related issues the first and third Tuesday of most months during the school year, at the education centre at 802 Drury Lane in Burlington. Meetings normally start at 8 p.m.

The complete school year calendars for both Halton boards, which also provides the names and phone numbers for all schools and senior board administrators, can be found by visiting either [www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca) or [www.haltonrc.edu.on.ca](http://www.haltonrc.edu.on.ca)



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