

High-density housing way of the future for Milton: Mayor and CAO

MELANIE HENNESSEY
mhennessey@milton
canadianchampion.com

What does the coming year have in store for Milton?

Continued growth with a population increase of about 10,000, more news on the university front, construction of new municipal facilities, roadway im-

provements and perhaps a few new faces around the Milton Council table, to name a few, according to the heads of council and Town staff.

Mayor Gord Krantz and Milton CAO Bill Mann recently polished up their crystal ball to give the Champion their forecast for the coming year and beyond.

While a municipal election is on the horizon, Mann assures residents that it will be "business as usual" for staff at Town Hall.

"Our overall priority is still growth management, from a corporate point of view," he said. "The indication we get from the majority of residents is they really appreciate the commu-

nity that we're developing."

Both Krantz and Mann say that local residents should expect to start seeing more high-density housing, with 10 intensification projects on the books at the moment.

"We have to get our heads around the fact it's going to be more dense in Milton, in Halton and in the Greater Toronto Area," said Krantz. "A lot of people resist, but you have to buy into that notion."

Mann said the Town has been sensitive to educating the current community on the topic, noting that the municipality views intensification as a "real opportunity."

Higher density development will be situated around the Milton GO station, Milton Education Village (MEV) and Sustainable Halton lands in southeast Milton. As part of the latter, the Town is advocating for a GO station at Derry and Trafalgar, which would also create opportunities for transit-oriented, higher density housing development.

"I'm really excited about what we could develop at Derry and Trafalgar," remarked Mann. "We see that as a major priority in terms of what we're trying to accomplish."

Near the current Milton GO station, Mann said the Town has conditionally sold its works yard for a



Town of Milton logo

high-density, mixed-use development and has also had discussions with Milton Mall about redevelopment opportunities. Rounding out the area is the Region's plans to redevelop the Allendale property with a mix of high-density housing, retail and green space.

While more people may equal more cars, Krantz said the secret to Milton's long-term success will be the use of public transit.

"It won't happen overnight, but the sooner we can get out of our cars and start using public transit, the better," he said.

Mann expressed his enthusiasm for some of Metrolinx's initial ideas for the redevelopment of the Milton GO lands, including a central platform that

would facilitate two-way, all-day service and the creation of a pedestrian tunnel.

In the meantime, several roads projects are on the way to help alleviate the number one challenge the municipality continues to address - gridlock.

"People have to appreciate that the major road system (in Milton) is a Region of Halton responsibility, but we are working very heavily with the Region," said Mann.

The widening of Britannia Road and extension of Tremaine Road northwards from Steeles Avenue are among the imminent regional roads projects, with a Hwy. 401 interchange at Tremaine being proposed for 2020, noted Mann.

While it's one thing to expand roads, Krantz argued that the solution to gridlock lies in the creation of new provincial highways, namely the previously proposed GTA West and GTA Niagara corridors.

"In my opinion, the

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— Town of Milton
CAO Bill Mann



MPP Notebook

By: Indira Naidoo-Harris, MPP Halton



It's 2018 and I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year! This is an exciting time and the arrival of January 1st marked the introduction of a number of key pieces of legislation that will have a positive impact on the lives of many Halton families.

As we look forward to the coming year thoughts of keeping our families, safe, healthy and happy is always a focus. In fact, the wellbeing of youth and families, is what led our government to roll out OHIP+. This historic investment in health care, means free medications for everyone 24 years old and under.

Through this program young Ontarians will now have access to medication they need, when and where they need it. OHIP+ means that no family will have to choose between paying for medication for their sick child or putting food on the table. It's the right thing to do.

The OHIP+ program is comprehensive. It covers the cost of more than 4,400 drug products that are currently available through the Ontario Drug Benefit program for youth 24 years and younger.

By simply showing the pharmacist their prescription and health card or

health card number, young people will now be able to access free medication when they're ill. A new online, mobile-friendly tool lets Ontarians quickly search through a list of the medications and other drug products covered under the program.

Universal health care is a defining characteristic of Canadian society. The introduction of OHIP+ represents a fundamental step towards access to medications as part of a universal, publicly funded health care system.

OHIP+ represents the government's commitment to building a stronger, healthier Ontario. By creating a system in which young people have immediate access to the medication they need, we are investing in the future health of Ontarians. This historic investment in health care will have a major positive impact on the lives, wellbeing, and financial security of youth and families. I am pleased our government is also expanding access to quality, affordable child care, including new spaces right here in Halton, and expanding the Ontario Student Assistance Program with free tuition for students who qualify. We're investing in our young people, and building a strong future for all of us.

For more information, please visit ontario.ca/ohipplus

Constituency Office

450 Bronte St. South, Unit # 115 Milton, ON L9T 5B7

T: 905.878.1729

F: 905.878.5144

inaidoo-harris.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org



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