

Milton transformation projects highlighted at innovation and development fair

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More than 100 people attended this week's Innovation and Future Development Fair at Milton Town Hall getting a glimpse of significant change planned for the municipality.

The recent community engagement event is the first-of-its-kind for Milton. It combined public consultation with an evening of interactive activities, presentations, demonstrations and workshops to highlight some of the initiatives and studies underway.

The event, hosted by Milton's Planning and Development Department, showcased four major studies and featured some of the initiatives happening

across the town and at the Milton Education Village (MEV) Innovation Centre.

The four studies are The Milton Education Village, Milton's Mobility Hub (around the Milton GO station), The Trafalgar Corridor and the Agerton Employment area study.

The MEV, home of Milton's future campus of Wilfrid Laurier University, is intended to be a catalyst for knowledge-based employment, a mix of uses and a variety of housing choices.

The MEV is a 400-acre area along the Niagara Escarpment. The Ontario government has committed \$90 million to the project.

The Mobility Hub Study is an opportunity to support the town's existing GO station and provide mobili-

ty choices for residents through transit-supported community design.

The Trafalgar Corridor, on Trafalgar Road, connects Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville. It is a key component of Milton's planning with the opportunity for a new GO station near Derry and Trafalgar roads.

The Agerton Employment area is an urban population and employment expansion zone in south-east Milton.

At the fair residents and guests were invited to participate in two interactive workshops, as well as take part in a number of engagement activities to provide input on future development in Milton.

"It was particularly nice

to see such a diverse collection of residents come out; we had young families, professionals and seniors contributing feedback and discussing ideas with each other. I know the (project) teams felt there was a lot of passion, interest and ideas drawn from both of the formalized workshops," said Town of Milton communications and marketing advisor Jenna Patterson.

Specific feedback is being compiled, she said.

"Milton is focused on thinking differently about how we approach community engagement," said Jill Hogan, director of policy planning and urban design.

"We want to create opportunities for innovative, interactive and authentic engagement that truly involves residents at each stage of the planning process in order to create strong, sustainable future development."

At the event residents were introduced to some of the smart initiatives and technology that Milton has been integrating into projects, services and facilities in order to improve efficiencies across the town.

"In addition to showcasing and gathering input on four major planning studies, this event was an opportunity to highlight some of the innovative initiatives happening within Milton through collaborative partnerships and forward-thinking local businesses," said Andrew Siltala, the town's director of strategic initiatives and economic development.

"The MEV Innovation Centre plays a key role in



Town of Milton/submitted

About 100 residents and guests attended the Milton Innovation and Future Development Fair held June 26 at Milton Town Hall. Hosted by the town's Planning and Development Department, the fair showcased four major studies and featured some of the initiatives happening across the town and at the Milton Education Village (MEV) Innovation Centre.

helping to cultivate and grow this type of innovation within our community."

The MEV Innovation Centre was on-site at the event with an informative and technology-focused booth that showcased the achievements and new projects being created by current tenants at the centre.

Some of the tenants at the fair included: RoboGeek, a company that provides training courses and programs for kids that want to learn how to program and interact with robotics; Throwback Entertainment, a Canadian-based gaming company that develops and publishes immersive and interactive video games; and 3Open labs, an open innovation lab that helps corporate partners navigate new opportunities with Artificial Intelligence and IoT tech-

nologies.

For community members looking for updates on the Milton Education Village, information boards were displayed to help summarize the input that was received at workshops hosted earlier this year. The presentation also demonstrated how community feedback has been translated into a preliminary plan for the site.

Information about the initiatives and studies presented at the fair will be made available on the Town of Milton website. Residents will have the opportunity to review materials from the fair and provide feedback to planning teams in the coming weeks.

Visit www.milton.ca/engage for updates and information on how to get involved in future engagement opportunities.

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