

Residents can comment on plan until Monday

• from HALTON on page 1

gy had been developed to deal with the 4 million people expected to locate in the Greater Golden Horseshoe under the growth plan. "We're already short on doctors," he pointed out.

But Ms Evans told him she can't comment on that and advised him to contact the Ministry of Health.

Kilbride resident Jamie Fisher said while he thinks a provincial growth plan is needed, he has concerns with "the big picture."

At some point, Halton will be built out — this plan doesn't change that," he said. "We need to move to a point in the future where we're examining the options for after this 20-year period. Where are we going to put the people?"

He emphasized that, "We still have to start addressing the problem over the long-term or life as we know it in Halton will cease to exist."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz then took the floor, noting the Region just spent about a year working on its Official Plan and now 'Big Brother,' or the Province, has come along with the growth plan, indicating to him the upper level of government doesn't think Halton's doing a very good job.

"I guess it's a little disheartening to some of us," he said.

The new draft plan also forecasts that the number of jobs in Halton will more than double by 2031, going up to 390,000.

Ms Clohecy noted this provides a respectable ratio of one job to every two residents.

Ms Evans detailed the Places to Grow vision, which she said includes a Greater Golden Horseshoe region in 2031 that:

- offers a wide variety of housing choices.

es.

- has modern, well-maintained infrastructure.
- provides fast, convenient, affordable public transit.
- has a healthy natural environment.
- makes farming productive, diverse and sustainable.
- provides easy access to shelter, food, education, healthcare facilities, arts and recreation.

Preliminary regional staff input on the plan will be provided to the planning and public works committee March 23. A regional-local joint response will then go before the committee April 13.

Comments from the public will be considered in the response if they're forwarded to the Region by Monday.

Residents looking to provide further input on the plan can make a delegation to the committee, which can be organized through the clerk's office at (905) 825-6000, ext. 7928, or at the beginning of the April 13 meeting.

The report will go on to regional council April 20. After that, the response will be forwarded to the Province. Although the Province's deadline for comment is April 18, Regional Chair Joyce Savoline said Halton has been allowed extra time because of the public process it's undertaking. "We're very appreciative for that extra time," she said at the meeting. "It's very important that we hear from you."

For more information on the plan, visit www.placestogrow.pir.gov.on.ca or www.region.halton.on.ca.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.


New mental health group meets

A new peer support group for people with mental illness will hold its first meeting in Milton Thursday evening.

Supported by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), the educational self-help group will meet the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Grace Anglican Church.

The focus of the group is on providing education and support to those who've experienced a mental illness and/or their family members. Volunteers who have personal experience with mental illness will facilitate each meeting.

For more information, contact the CMHA in Halton at (905) 693-4270.



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