

# Destiny Milton 2 plan receives council's OK

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

'Milton: engaging, balanced, connected' is the vision town council has adopted for the community's future.

The statement comes as part of the Town's updated strategic plan, called Destiny Milton 2, which was approved by council Monday night.

The plan's intent is to establish the overarching vision, goals and directions the Town will consider when making decisions.

It contains five goals designed to implement the aforementioned vision:

- Responsible, cost effective and accountable local government
- Well-managed growth, well-planned spaces
- A safe, livable and healthy community
- A diverse and sustainable economy
- A thriving natural environment

Before adopting the plan, council first heard from local resident Bob Beyette, who said he thinks Destiny Milton 2 is "a plan that could fit any community."

"The recent exercise completed by the consultant is, in my view, just a text book derivative of planning 101," he said.

He also asked council to have the

consultant highlight who made every suggestion in the plan.

"When the task is completed, we all should then be allowed to see who defined Destiny Milton 2," he said. "We need to see who is painting our future, don't we? I honestly think we do."

Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau argued that credit should be given to every citizen who participated, noting it would be difficult to assign credit to the ideas in the plan.

Nick McDonald of Meridian Planning Consultants Inc., which helped the Town prepare the plan, said Destiny Milton 2 is a product of collaboration and that dozens of residents gave feedback.

He also highlighted how councillors worked together and brainstormed to contribute to the final product.

In response to Beyette's "planning 101" comments, McDonald said while there may be some general themes in Destiny Milton 2, there are also others that are very unique to Milton.

The next steps in the Destiny Milton process are to create service area master plans, which will provide direction for the initiatives identified in the strategic plan, and an implementation plan.

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# Land designated as trial site for leash-free dog park

An east-end neighbourhood is going to the dogs — literally.

At its meeting Monday, town council approved using a two-acre parcel of land — located west of Fourth Line, north of Derry Road and south of the train tracks — as a pilot site for Milton's first leash-free dog park that's expected to open this fall.

The pilot comes about a year after a group of local residents — now known as Residents for Off-Leash Opportunities, or ROLO — petitioned the Town for a dog park.

ROLO will be responsible for fundraising for the park's ongoing development and operation

and picking up garbage at the site.

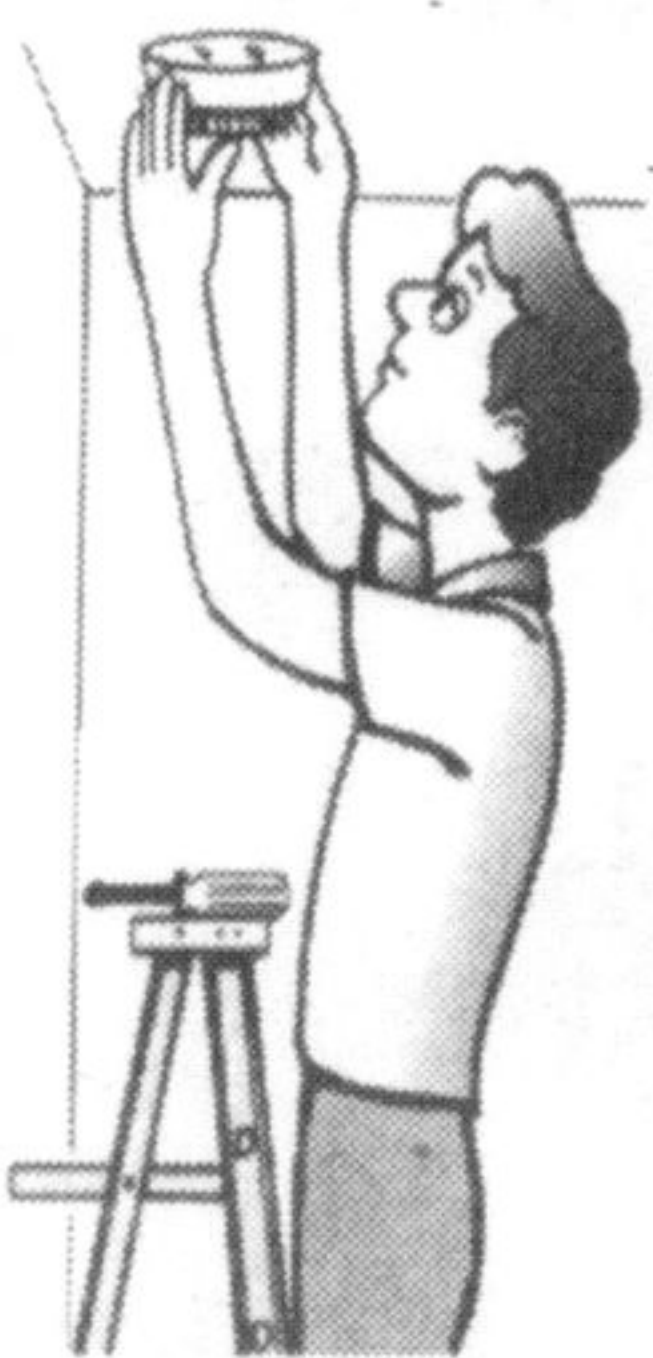
Meanwhile, the Town will design the park and provide the land and initial funding for things like fencing and park furniture.

Staff is also in the process of co-ordinating the creation of a temporary parking area that could accommodate 12 vehicles.

Council approved an amendment to the 2006 budget to provide \$50,000 for the initial development of the park.

A public information session will soon be held on the leash-free initiative. A date has yet to be set.

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