

Town council votes to take down pedestrian crossovers

Local residents will soon see all the pedestrian crossovers in Milton removed now that town council has voted to do so.

The decision to do away with the crossovers, which are sections on local busy roads where pedestrians can activate flashing yellow lights when crossing the street, was made at council's February 26 session.

Staff recommended the crossovers be taken down for a couple of reasons, such as the complaints the Town has received about motorists not stopping when the lights are

flashing and pedestrians not activating the lights properly.

Also, staff conducted studies at the five crossover locations and found only one of them is actually warranted on Ontario Street at Ridge Drive. A mid-block pedestrian signal — which looks and works like a traffic signal — will replace the crossover in that location.

The motion passed by council says instead of using pedestrian crossovers in the future, only intersection pedestrian signals and mid-block pedestrian signals should be installed

on major roadways if warrants are fulfilled.

Currently there are two pedestrian crossovers on Ontario Street, one at Martin Street and another on Childs Drive. There was one on Bronte Street, but it was taken down to make way for a home that was moved.

Staff will continue to monitor those locations to see if other traffic control devices are needed. It's expected to cost \$150,000 to remove the crossovers and install the pedestrian signal.

Land available for college or university campus

Milton now has a prime piece of downtown land to offer a college or university interested in setting up shop locally.

At its meeting last week, town council approved declaring a Main Street property surplus to use it as an asset to attract a post-secondary institution.

The former Pigment and Chemical Company land, which is between four and five acres, is located on the south side of Main Street between Ontario Street and Thompson Road, adjacent to the Milton GO station.

George Takaki, chairman of the MEDAC post-secondary subcommittee, told council that having a college or

university in Milton will help "keep talent in town."

"It is also a cornerstone of attracting sophisticated businesses," he said.

The municipality will now pursue a number of institutions in a marketing campaign that will last until December 2008.

Subdivision plans get thumbs up

Another phase of a large Mattamy Homes subdivision in the town's west end was approved by town council last week.

The plans call for 109 single-detached homes to be built at the southeast corner of Derry and Tremaine roads. The units come as part of a larger Mattamy development that will have 2,216 homes.

Last year, council approved 566 of those houses. At this point, water and wastewater capacity could only be secured for another 109 units through an agreement with the Region.

Council passed a bylaw to change the zoning on the parcel where the new units will sit from future development to residential medium density.

Accessibility plan approved

Milton's 2007 accessibility plan received a stamp of approval from town council last week.

The plan from the Milton accessibility advisory committee is designed to improve access to opportunities for all Milton residents.

It outlines projects slated for this year, such as continuing to review and ensure the Town's website is accessible, ensuring disability training for Town staff continues and developing a process for reviewing site plans.

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act requires a municipality to prepare an accessibility plan annually.

Mayors going to Queen's Park

Regional Chairman Gary Carr and the four local mayors will take the message of their Fairness for Halton campaign to Queen's Park Thursday.

The initiative aims to raise awareness about the funds that will be needed to make way for the 300,000-plus residents the Province's Places to Grow plan designates for Halton.

The five politicians will hit Queen's Park at 10 a.m. to tell the provincial government that the Region and its municipalities can't accommodate the extra residents called for without financial assistance from the Province.

Regional council will also consider a motion to that effect tomorrow.

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