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FRATON HILLS JEWELRY

A Metroland Media Group Publication • Vol. 149 No. 31

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

52 Pages • \$1.00 (incl. G.S.T.)



CLAUDIO CUGLIARI / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

I'LL TAKE THIS ONE: Kennealy Nolan, 4, examines the strawberries during the annual Strawberry Fair at the Milton Fair Grounds Saturday. See more photos from the event on page A17.

CN drops planned intermodal terminal

But now railway looks to build industrial park

By **Melanie Hennessey**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

CN Rail has announced it's calling off its controversial plans to build an intermodal facility in southern rural Milton, instead looking to develop the 350-plus hectare land into an industrial park.

At last week's regional council meeting, Richard Paton of CN informed councillors that "our intention is to not build an intermodal terminal" on its property that's generally framed by Britannia and Tremaine roads, Lower Base Line and First Line.

"We would like to develop this land into an industrial park that's rail-served," said Paton. "We see a great need for rail-served industrial lands. There's a shortage of those."

The news comes about seven years after the proposal first surfaced and caused quite a stir in Milton.

When asked by Wards 1 and 3 Councillor Barry Lee if an intermodal is a possibility in the future, Paton said he doesn't foresee it, but couldn't make a 100 per cent commitment that it will never happen.

Opposition group still concerned

While cancellation of the intermodal plans is the news that RAIL — or Residents Affected by Intermodal Lines — has been waiting for, the group is still concerned about what may ultimately end up on the property.

"(The news) has helped put an end to a lot of worries, but we're not jumping up and down," said Sandra Campbell of RAIL. "CN still owns the land and that worries me a bit. We don't want industry here."

She noted that an industrial park could bring about the same kind of

truck traffic that would've been generated by an intermodal facility.

Regional Chair Gary Carr told the *Champion* that council is pleased CN has finally let Halton know its intentions. "There's been a lot of concern about this," he said, referring back to a 6,000-name petition opposing the intermodal that he delivered to Parliament Hill when sitting as an MP.

CN has now asked the Region to include its property when examining potential employment lands through the Sustainable Halton process.

The Sustainable Halton proposed growth concepts that have been put forward focus future employment lands on about 600 hectares divided between Milton and Halton Hills, mainly along Hwy. 401.

The concepts will be going out for public consultation soon.

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