

Timeline motion to go before Halton regional council next week

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The motion indicates that the work will be done instead by December 16, 2009.

The Sustainable Halton plan is being created to steer the growth called for in the Province's Places

to Grow plan while preserving and protecting things like greenspace and farmland.

It'll also help develop the Region's next Official Plan.

A variety of factors have led to the need for a timeline extension,

Halton Commissioner of Legislative and Planning Services Mark Meneray told the *Champion*.

"The (Sustainable Halton) work plan was rather ambitious to begin with," he said.

"Also, we're the region that's

impacted the most by Places to Grow."

Meneray noted that as a result of consultations the Region has held with residents, the local municipalities and private sector through the Sustainable Halton process, the need to also undertake further studies has become apparent, such as a fiscal impact study.

So what could the Province do about the Region not being able to meet the deadline?

"They could amend our Official Plan for us, but that's pretty unlikely," said Meneray.

Regional council doesn't want to feel rushed

If the Province ultimately says that Halton has to have everything done by June 16, he said the Region would conform.

"But the concern is that council would feel rushed," he said.

"Our position is that we would rather do it right than do it on time."

Oakville Councillor Tom Adams, Milton Councillor Colin Best, Burlington Councillor John Taylor and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette all voiced their support for the timeline extension.

"It's better to go slow and right than fast and wrong," said Bonnette.

Over the next couple months, Region staff intends to work with the local municipalities and public agencies to address concerns

that've been raised about the Sustainable Halton growth concepts.

Five concepts were created to show how approximately 2,400 hectares of 'greenfields,' or undeveloped land, in Milton and Halton Hills could accommodate around 100,000 people and the needed community infrastructure between 2021 and 2031.

The concepts also outline where future employment lands could go on about 600 hectares divided between Milton and Halton Hills, mainly along Hwy. 401.

Halton CAO Pat Moyle said the relationship Halton has with the local municipalities is much more important than meeting an "arbitrary deadline" set by the Province.

"The most important thing is to ensure we're engaging local municipalities in this process," he said.

The motion regarding the timeline change will go before regional council Wednesday.

Early next year, staff plans to bring a report back to council with two to three recommended growth options and a detailed timetable for moving forward and completing the Sustainable Halton process.

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A Child's Holiday Wish List

1. Stop Daddy from yelling and hitting Mommy all the time.
2. No more bruises or tears.
3. Help my family feel safe again.

This coming holiday season, not every child will wish for the same things.

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