

Four million more people to settle in Ontario in next 10 years

• from WE on page A1

of talk we'd be having today if Ontario had lost 70,000 jobs?"

As for the record \$21.3 billion deficit the McGuinty government is facing, Chiarelli assured the audience the Province will work to eliminate the shortfall, "without jeopardizing the gains we have made or the services families need."

He said the Province has spent about \$10 billion a year for the last six years on infrastructure needs in Ontario, \$74 million of which stayed in Halton.

Chiarelli added that with four million more people expected to settle in Ontario within the next six years, and as the population ages, the Province will have to focus more on partnerships with the private sector. "We know the government can't do it all."

"If I left you today with one message, when it comes to decisions taken by the McGuinty government, our goal is to create the conditions for Ontario businesses to grow, succeed and create jobs," he continued. "This will happen through tax-friendly policy, removing red tape for small business, and providing the infrastructure that communities need."

Milton's CAO Mario Belvedere said the Province's investment in Milton through stimulus funding "made a world of difference and set us up to prepare for the future."

Following Chiarelli's address, a panel discussion between Dean Chudleigh of Chudleigh's apple farm, Bill Galloway of Holcim Canada, Bard Hart of Manheim



NIKKI WESLEY / METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

While Ontario Infrastructure Minister Bob Chiarelli (centre) was in town for last Tuesday's Breakfast with the Mayor event, he took some time for a quick tour of the Milton Centre for the Arts. He was assured by Mayor Gord Krantz (right) that the Town is on track to meet the March 31 construction deadline. The \$39.9 million project was given \$16.2 million in federal and provincial stimulus funding. Here, project superintendent Jon Ridge speaks with Chiarelli and Krantz in the central library.

Toronto and Krantz ensued. Guests enjoyed a debate on the Town's development charges, tax rates and services.

Chudleigh admitted when his family's company was looking to expand in 2007, the

town's high development charges had them looking outside of Milton before settling in town.

"If we do want more business, I think the development charges are too high and it's

scaring companies away," he said. "I hate to see all the cars that go toward Mississauga in the morning. Those people should work in Milton."

However, Krantz said the high development charges help keep taxes low, which also attract businesses to town. "It's that old term cliché 'short-term pain for long-term gain'. You either pay me now or pay me later."

In terms of taxes, panelists were asked if they would like to see taxes go up for the Town to provide additional services, or to keep to the status quo.

"Ideally, I'd like the Town to provide added services without the tax increase. One could argue Milton could do that with the management of Mayor Krantz and his team," Hart joked. "There is room for Milton to do a tax increase and still be competitive. Milton is a desirable place to live and do business. We should not be shy about providing a great level of services with added tax."

However, Galloway said there's no rush for Milton's tax rate to catch up to Mississauga's.

"At end of day we don't want to lose sight of strong fiscal management that was put into place. For the overall business perspective, lower taxes lead us to reinvesting and growing businesses and that usually results in more jobs and more opportunities."

Christina Commisso can be reached at ccommisso@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

AUTOSHOW Specials

Check out all of our
SPECIALS at
www.miltonchrysler.com

Shop indoors in our
14 CAR SHOWROOM!

Milton
CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep

81 ONTARIO ST. N. MILTON
#1 Chrysler Dealership in Canada for Customer Satisfaction

1-888-247-7001
TOLL FREE, CANADA WIDE, SALES HOTLINE...

WE ARE HERE!

NEW 2010 DODGE JOURNEY

Best Price in
the GTA!

SE-4 CYL \$17,688^{*} OR \$116^o

plus HST & Lic.

HAVE YOU SHOPPED?
OUR JOURNEY SE IS CANADA'S BEST VALUE IN THE
FAMILY CROSS OVER MARKET TODAY!

22F Pkg 2.4L 173HP DOHC, Auto OD Trans, Air Cond, AM/FM/6 Disc CD/MP3 stereo, 4 Wheel Independent Suspension, Tilt/Telescopic Steering, P.Windows, P.Door Locks, Heated Mirrors, Keyless, Remote, Chill Zone Drink Holder, ABS, ESP, Traction Control, 6 Airbags & much more. Stk 214250

^{*}Not exactly as shown. # Based on Dec 2008 12 month SSI results regional group scores. See dealer for details. *Offer valid on date of publication only All Cash Incentives Applied. EG. \$20,000 Finance/60 months @ 3.0% variable rate = \$165.86 Bi-weekly, total cost of borrowing \$1562.19. 0% financing available on a 36 month term. OAC. See Milton Chrysler for complete details. †Based on R.L. Polk Jan. - July 2010 Milton Market automobile retail sales of cars and light trucks.