

Numerous transportation issues need addressing, says Halton chair

Development, traffic congestion and transit. Roundtable discussions will then enable residents to discuss points raised during the day. "Our desired outcome is that we have an engaging discussion about the critical issues facing the municipalities of the Western GTA and the whole GTA," said Crombie.

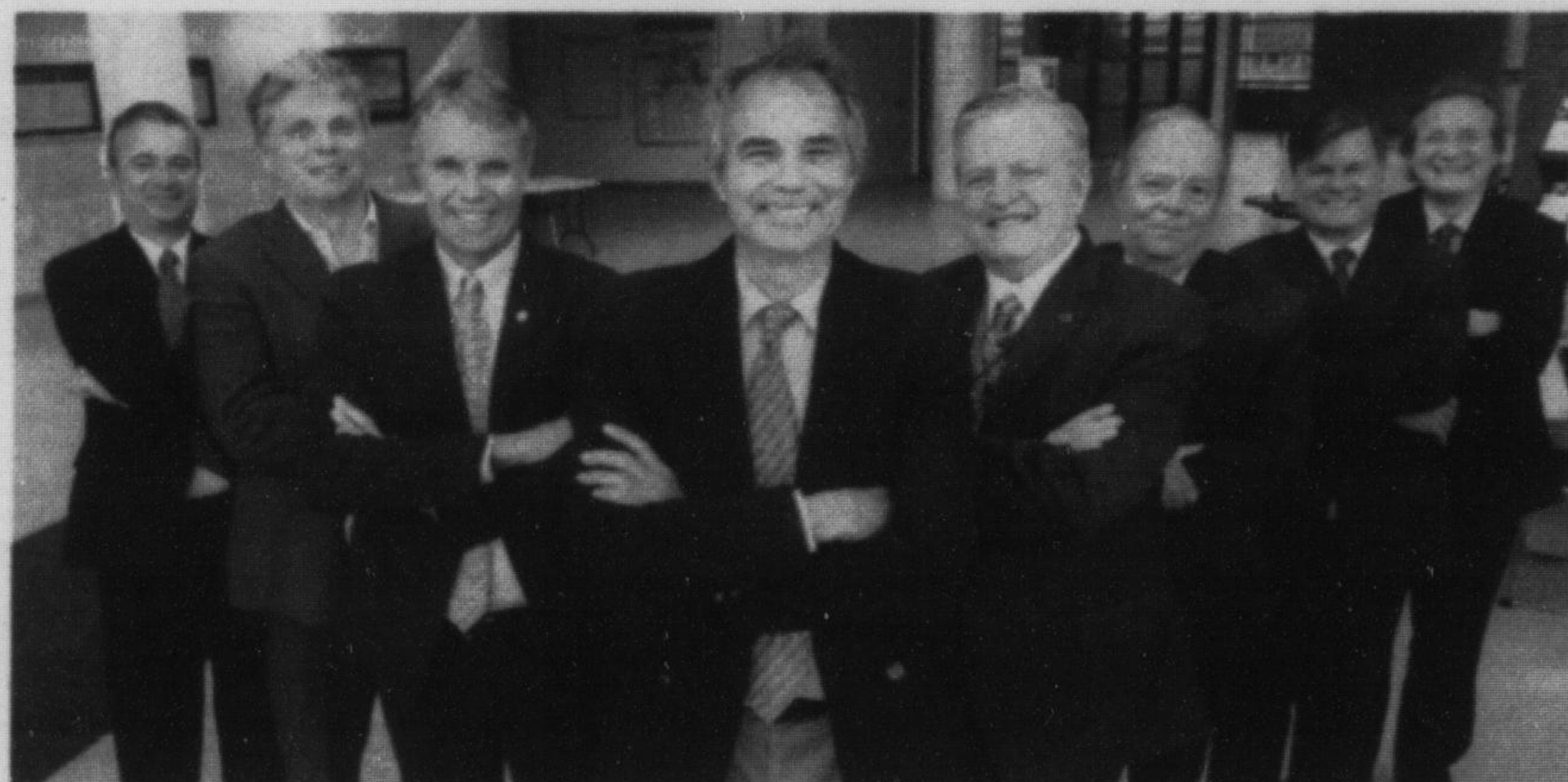
"We want to have an impact on shaping the transit and transportation agenda in the whole GTA, give the Western GTA a voice, and engage residents in shaping the future of their municipalities."

Halton Region Chair Gary Carr, who will also serve as co-chair at the summit, said there is no shortage of reasons to talk about Halton's future.

Under the provincial plan, Places to Grow, Halton's population is expected to mushroom from its current 500,000 to 780,000 by 2031. Carr said the transition will involve challenges.

Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring agreed. "As great as the communities in the Western GTA are, we cannot take our current situation for granted," said Goldring.

"Our approach going forward cannot be government and politics as usual. We need 22nd Century thinking to help us address our current and future challenges and opportu-



Co-Chairs for the Western GTA Summit from Brampton, Burlington, Caledon, Mississauga, and Oakville along with Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring and Oakville Mayor Rob Burton gather at Sheridan College to discuss the upcoming agenda. From left are: Sheridan College President CEO Jeff Zabudsky, Burlington Co-Chair Alf Zeuner, Mayor Rick Goldring, Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr, Mayor Rob Burton, Caledon Co-Chair Tayler Parnaby, Brampton Co-Chair Peter VanSickle, and Mississauga Co-Chair Brian Crombie. *Hannah Yoon/Metroland West Media Group*

nities. Elected officials, as well as the people we serve, need to work together now more than ever so we can have the future that we all aspire to."

With half of Burlington's labour force leaving for work in the Hamilton and Toronto areas

every day, Goldring said the costs of traffic congestion for Burlington commuters and consumers are significant.

Burton said all the municipalities in the Western GTA are neighbours and when they work together, their residents benefit.

"If you look back at how we have come such a long way, you will see we did it by working hard every step of the way. The same solution, the same method is going to be required for the future," he said.

"There is no better way to calibrate your plans for the future, check your plans for the future and rededicate yourself to making the future better than by coming together and listening to the citizens of the Western GTA at the summit."

News of the summit comes as the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Oakville Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with other GTHA chambers and boards of trade, unveiled the results of a GTHA-wide consultation of businesses on how to fund The Big Move. The report showed a clear consensus (66 per cent) among GTHA business that new revenue tools are inevitable to fund the massive project.

Some potential revenue-generating tools, recommended by the majority of the businesses surveyed, included highway tolls and a fuel tax.

The Western GTA Summit is free, but residents are encouraged to register at www.westerngtasummit.ca. The Mississauga Convention Centre is located at 75 Derry Rd.

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