

## Town of Halton Hills' transportation issues scheduled for debate in the Ontario Legislature

(Queen's Park) – The transportation needs of the Town of Halton Hills will be debated in the Ontario Legislature on September 28<sup>th</sup> as a result of a Private Members' Resolution which has been tabled by Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

Mr. Arnott is working with Mayor Rick Bonnette and Town staff to draw attention to a number of transportation priorities which Town Council has identified in recent years, requiring the assistance of the Provincial Government.

"Transportation issues have emerged as urgent challenges in our Riding, in part because of the planned growth that has been imposed upon us by the Province's Places to Grow strategy," Mr. Arnott said. "Mayor Bonnette and Town Council have done a great job of looking to the future, and together we're asking the Provincial Government to partner with us in this process."

"Responsible planning means it's important that the Town's transportation agenda is advanced so as to best meet current and future needs," said Mayor Bonnette. "I'm pleased that our local provincial representative recognizes and supports our efforts to meet and manage the impacts that accompany designated growth targets."

The text of Mr. Arnott's Private Members' Resolution is straightforward and direct. It reads as follows: *That in the opinion of this House, the Minister of Transportation should partner with the Town of Halton Hills to develop a long-term transportation strategy for the Town, including a review of the need for a Highway 7 Acton bypass, taking into account the need for improved safety, efficiency, and economic development opportunities.* 

"We are prepared to work constructively with the Minister of Transportation, Steven Del Duca, to try to get these issues addressed," Mr. Arnott added. "I discussed the Resolution with the Minister on September the 13<sup>th</sup>, and he seemed receptive. I have always been willing to reach across Party lines in order to get things done for our Riding."

Some of the Town's transportation issues include Highway 7 through Halton Hills, increasing truck traffic making necessary a study of the need for an Acton bypass, help with the proposed new business development at the 340 Main Street Acton property, needed action on the Halton Peel Boundary Area Transportation Study (HPBATS) affecting Georgetown and Norval, the GTA West Corridor Study suspension, the need to widen the 401 to reduce congestion, all-day, two-way GO train service to Union Station with stops in Halton Hills, and the need for traffic signals at Guelph Street (Highway 7) and McFarlane Drive/Hall Road in Georgetown.

Mr. Arnott plans to highlight all of these issues in his remarks to the Ontario Legislature when his Resolution is debated on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

"We know these problems aren't going to be solved overnight, but we need to get started. The Town of Halton Hills is prepared to partner with the Ministry of Transportation, and I wholeheartedly support this approach," Mr. Arnott concluded. "By working together, I hope we will be able to get this underway."

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