

New school in Caledon will hold 600 students

By Bill Rea

SouthFields Village Public School is at capacity, and the Province is stepping in to help with funding.

Education Minister Mitzi Hunter was at the school Tuesday to announce the Province will be providing \$12.7 million for a new school nearby to take off some of the load.

"This is a wonderful announcement today for the Caledon community," she remarked.

Trustee Stan Cameron, Caledon's representative of the Peel District School Board, said land is currently being eyed northwest of SouthFields Village, and negotiations to acquire the property are nearing completion. It's 13 acres east of Highway 10, south of Old School Road and west of Kennedy Road. No name has yet been chosen for the new school.

He also observed the school currently houses 1,000 students and there are already 12 portable classrooms on the site.

"We're not happy having 12 portables here," Cameron commented.

Hunter said the plan is to build a "state-of-the-art new elementary school" that will accommodate 650 students.

"This is a sound investment for students and their families," she remarked, adding it's also an investment in the community.

Hunter also commented the government has invested some \$14 billion in school infrastructure since 2003, resulting in more than 760 new schools.

This project is seen as part of the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history, amounting to about \$160 billion over 12 years. This is helping to support some 110,000 jobs annually with projects like roads, bridges, transit systems, schools and hospitals.

"Our government is proud to invest in capital projects like this new school in Caledon that supports students by giving them new, modern facilities and greater opportunities to learn in a high-quality environment," Hunter added.

"This is a great opportunity to really provide thanks and celebrate great, great news," Board Director of Education Tony Pontes declared.

Cameron also said they are hoping to have the school ready to receive students in September 2017.

"That's the target date," he said.

He also said the school, which will have students from junior kindergarten to Grade 8, will draw youngsters from SouthFields Village and Valleywood, as well as some from north Brampton. There won't be any students coming from Mayfield West, he added. Cameron said that community will be getting its own elementary and secondary schools in time.



Joining Education Minister Mitzi Hunter (second from right) for Tuesday's funding announcement was Southfields Village Public School Vice-Principal Jen Stegeman, Principal Daniella Ferrott, Superintendent Michael Logue, Peel District School Board Director of Education Tony Pontes, Vice-Chair Suzanne Nurse and Trustee Stan Cameron. Photo by Bill Rea