

All-day parking on Queen St. looked into

Written By JASEN OBERMEYER

Council has approved to send a request to have Peel Region implement all day parking on Queen Street, to make the downtown core more pedestrian friendly in the face of increasing traffic.

At Tuesday's council meeting, council read the report from a motion put forward by Councillor Rob Mezzapelli during a resident delegation meeting.

Jerry Gorman, a resident of Bolton, spoke to council on his support of the motion, and said that Queen Street originated as a commuter route and "action to calm this traffic is needed now."

Mr. Gorman said that he sees a large amount of commuters from Alliston and New Tecumseth. "These commuters are using Queen Street as a thruway as they hurry to and from their work in the GTA. Let's give Queen Street back to Bolton."

He added the motion presents "the opportunity to establish a vibrant and healthy neighborhood for residents and visitors," which will benefit public safety, quick shopping, and commuters can drop in and increase tourism.

Councillor Barb Shaughnessy agreed with Mr. Gorman's thoughts. "Parking is a huge issue right across Caledon, and all our villages and hamlets." However, she added that a similar report came to the region recently, and wondered if the process is pre-emptive or repetitive.

Councillor Mezzapelli said the motion is keeping with the region's plan, and is not repetitive. "Clearly the report talks about an interim solution being the implementation of full time parking on Queen Street."

"Nobody wants wasted resources through duplication of work," commented Councillor Johanna Downey, but said she does believe that, "it's important to put the motion forward and to support it in regard to having a position as a town."

She said that way, the region will know where they stand and what they want, particularly how residents want that "village feel" again.

Mayor Allan Thompson agreed that the motion is complimentary with the region's report, not contradictory, while Councillor Mezzapelli added that he sees it as a collaborative effort.

Councillor Shaughnessy said that she does support downtown parking, but also the "logical safety approach to analyzing it first."

After a brief further discussion, council approved the request.