

Caledon seeks works yards to support incoming Regional Road Network

By **Riley Murphy**

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With the Town of Caledon set to receive 506 lane kilometres following the Peel Transition Implementation Act, which legislates the transfer of jurisdiction over regional roads and related stormwater infrastructure from Peel Region to Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon, effective July 1, 2027, Caledon is requesting the transfer of works yard facilities from the Region of Peel.

In a motion tabled by Mayor Annette Groves at the April 28th Council meeting, it was stated that with the increase to Caledon's current road network from the transfer, current Caledon works yard facilities are at full operating capacity and cannot accommodate the maintenance and mechanical needs of an increase to its current road network.

It says that the Region of Peel owns two properties suitable for works yard facilities within Caledon, and with the passing of this motion requests these two properties be considered for use as soon as possible to enable the Town to meet the provincial mandate set out in Bill 45 and to prepare to "provide quality, efficient services to the regional road network in Caledon by July 1, 2027."

The two properties are 2941 King Street and 3121 King Street.

For the property at 3121 King Street, the Town would acquire a portion of the property; for 2941 King Street, it would be a short-term lease agreement.

Council raised concerns about the property at 2941 King Street, which recently suffered a large fire on April 5.

Questions were raised about clean-up fees, hazardous materials on-site, and additional fees for the damage.

Commissioner of Engineering, Public Works and Transportation, Domenica D'Amico, answered that the fire wiped out the building in the yard, and it would all have to come down.

"We want to be involved in the rebuild of that yard if at all possible, and redirect some of those funds to the larger facility if we could," said D'Amico, referencing the two properties. "Having access to both of those facilities will certainly help better fit and better prepare Caledon for what's to come in the next year."

The motion states that any capital and operating budgets associated with the current and future works yard facilities be transferred to the Town of Caledon, and that maintenance services on the regional road network be provided by July 1, 2027.

When it comes to questions about cleanup, environmental assessment, and on-site hazards from the blaze, D'Amico said her expectation is that much will be resolved as part of the insurance claim.

Also, as the Town would be continuing the existing use, they can manage any contamination within the property.

The Region was stated to be responsible for cleanup and assessments.

"Due diligence will not be compromised," said D'Amico. "But it's also why we've chosen a lease arrangement on the existing site and full transfer of the property that was slated for development for a new regional yard. Also, the existing yard is much smaller than that other property, so our preference would be to obtain the larger property and do what we need to do appropriately to deal with growth and regional roads."

With more concerns about hazards, D'Amico added that the leased land would provide "much-needed storage space" while they "construct our new facility."