

Council approves second phase of Mayfield West

By Bill Rea

Several accolades were expressed as Caledon councillors recently approved the second phase of the Mayfield West Secondary Plan. Town planners reported the necessary amendment to Caledon's Official Plan establishes goals, objectives and policies to govern development within the plan area.

That area consists of about 207.5 hectares on the north side of Mayfield Road, roughly bisected by McLaughlin Road.

Planners stated the plan allows for "a complete community that is compact, pedestrian and cyclist friendly and transit oriented.

Collectively, these attributes support the development of a healthy, safe and balanced community."

They also stated the plan conforms with Provincial documents, such as the Provincial Policy Statement.

A public information meeting on the proposed plan was held in March, and planners said there had been some revisions based on the comments that had been received.

Issues raised at that meeting included railway tracks running through the site, plans for a transit hub not far from Hurontario Street, traffic flows to and from neighbouring lands, protecting woodlots to the north, housing for seniors, etc.

Planning consultant Glen Schnarr said it was a "very historic day in the Town of Caledon," adding the coming community "will be like no other community that's ever been built in the Town of Caledon."

His company represented landowners in the phase, and he said the planning process started in 2002 when the landowners' group was formed.

Schnarr was very pleased with the plan, pointing out it will provide a transit service, high-speed internet infrastructure and 7.2 acres of affordable housing. He also said not all the landowners are satisfied with the plan, but he was hopeful that some resolution could be found, and he had been assured the Town will work with them. "I'm confident we'll be able to do it," he said.

He was also pleased with the work of planning staff, singling out Senior Development Planner Tim Manley.

"It's been a long journey," Mayor Allan Thompson observed.

"It was a very intense, very lengthy process," Councillor Annette Groves added.

"A lot of good planning went into it," Councillor Rob Mezzapelli observed.

"It's a team and it's collaboration and we did it as a team here at the Town," Thompson added. "This is a huge watershed moment."