

Town staff looking for ways to spend 84 grand

By Bill Rea

The Town is coming into a good chunk of money from the Province, and municipal staff has been given the job of finding out the best way to spend it.

Town councillors, sitting in committee, recently passed a motion put forth by Mayor Allan Thompson to have CAO Mike Galloway work with staff, and report back.

The money amounts to \$84,657, which Thomson was told would be coming from Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Jeff Leal at the recent conference of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association. The purpose of the money is to support capital projects for the revitalization of downtowns and main streets.

Thompson told his colleagues the Town is not obligated to match the funding on any project, adding there are no strings attached. There are projects in Caledon village and Cheltenham which he said could benefit from this.

‘It came out of the blue,’ he said. ‘We’re grateful for it.’

Councillor Doug Beffort commented it would help to have feedback from village associations around town.

General Manager of Strategic Initiatives David Arbuckle told Councillor Barb Shaughnessy they have contacted the Ministry regarding any parameters governing the use of the money, but haven’t heard anything. He added staff will stay in touch with the Ministry.

He also told Councillor Rob Mezzapelli it’s not clear if there’s going to be more money coming, but it looks like it’s going to be a one-shot deal.

‘It’s not a whole lot of money,’ Mezzapelli observed, adding he wouldn’t want to see it all consumed by studies. He would want to see actual work done, adding it’s also important to see it spread all over town.

Arbuckle also told Councillor Nick deBoer he was not aware of any time frame in which the money has to be used.