

Town working on getting more LED streetlights installed

By Bill Rea

The Town is stepping up its efforts to get more LED streetlights installed.

Town council recently approved a new item in this year's capital budget, to the tune of roughly \$1.3 million to replace lights with light emitting diode (LED) technology.

The staff report that went to council stated there are continuous improvements with LED technology as well as benefits in terms of economic, environmental and safety factors.

Council called on staff about two years ago to look into options for bringing in LED lighting for all new subdivisions, as well as part of the annual streetlighting retrofit programs and installing them as part of road reconstruction projects. LED lighting has previously been installed in the parking lots of numerous Town facilities, including Town Hall, Caledon Community Complex and Albion-Bolton Community Centre.

Staff explained that LED lighting relies on charged electrons that go through a semiconductor chip, which then emits light. The result is lower power consumption, which could result in energy savings of between 40 and 65 per cent. As well, LED lights don't burn out, so they last a lot longer, meaning reduced maintenance costs. They can also be dimmed in areas where a lot of lighting is not needed. They also don't contain mercury or lead.

Staff stated the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), which used to be known as Ontario Power Authority, offers incentives for the installation of LED lighting, and they have been improving, since the cost of lighting has been dropping.

The Town submitted an application for incentive funding, and received conditional pre-approval of funding, worth \$249,272, in May. Staff also pointed out the IESO incentives are scheduled to run out at the end of the year, so they suggested the capital project be approved for this year.

The bulk of the project, a little more than \$700,000, will be funded from the Town's tax-funded capital contingency reserve fund, and another \$393,000 will be coming from Peel Region.