



## Planning forgotten as Harris names growth panel

Monday's announcement of the creation of a *Central Zone Smart Growth Panel* was lauded as a new connection between municipalities and the province, but key questions remain. The disbanding of the **Greater Toronto Services Board** and its replacement with the panel has paved the way for the province to take the lead on growth management in the GTA and beyond, but the extent to which Queen's Park will take on that role is to be determined.

The provincially appointed panel members will offer their experience and expertise on growth issues to help articulate an overall vision for the zone. But even though half of the 19-member panel is comprised of elected representatives, they are there as provincially appointed individuals, to deliver their personal opinion, and not necessarily that of their member municipalities. This is quite a change from the make-up of the defunct GTSB, whose members were appointed by their respective councils to represent local concerns on a representation by population basis.

The panel will function as an advisory body only and final decision making rests with the province. The **Smart Growth Secretariat**, in collaboration with other ministries, is to work with the panel to develop a long-term growth plan that will present a vision, identify growth-related priority issues, and suggest strategies to deal with them.

The panel is to focus on waste and traffic. There is provincial recognition that unlocking gridlock and promoting livable communities requires cross-sectoral and inter-municipal approaches, but to date, little has been done on the issue. **Gord Miller**, the province's **Environmental Commissioner** has criticised the lack of co-ordination between transportation and land use planning in the GTA in his 2001 annual report *Having Regard*. Miller previously told *GTA Municipal News* that,

"Transportation planning to a large degree controls lands use planning. The province was focused on highway planning," and highways spur urban sprawl (see *GTA October 3, 2001*).

Changes to planning legislation since 1995 have actually weakened the province's role. The five-year review of the *Provincial Policy Statement* has seen a number of municipalities calling for clearer language on how the statement should be applied by planning authorities and the **Ontario Municipal Board**. Also requested were details on the purpose of the policy statement, including the direction of the overall planning vision and its role in establishing a framework for Smart Growth. Changes to the PPS have yet to be announced.

Former changes to the *Planning Act* reduced the timeframes for municipal planning application decisions, which in turn increased the number of applications that appeared before the OMB. As well it effectively eliminated the provincial review of regional official plan amendment's that ensured some type of interregional integration. These changes have resulted in patchwork planning by the OMB in many instances. They also resulted in the province's own ad hoc response to development on the **Oak Ridges Moraine**.

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## PLANNING FORGOTTEN (FROM PAGE 1)

One of the identified Smart Growth goals is to steer pressures away from significant agricultural land and natural areas. The panel has one representative **Robert Davis** who is a member of the **Ontario Federation of Agriculture**, but who is also mayor of the **Township of Essa**, and has a number of other associations. **Jack Wilkinson**, President of the OFA told *GTA Municipal News* that they will be sending a letter to the Premier's office and the **Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing** requesting that an agricultural representative be appointed to the panel. He added that in considering land-use in this area agricultural issues shouldn't be excluded from the process. A significant portion of the GTA is part of the 0.5 per cent of the Canadian land mass that qualifies as Class 1 land under the Canada Land Inventory.

**Hazel McCallion**, who has been appointed the Chair of the Central Smart Growth Panel is confident that it will be able to influence provincial policy as it relates to the municipal sector. But depending on future changes the Province makes in determining its level of involvement, the annual reports required by the panels maybe all that there is. •

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## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VAUGHAN REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP02-005

SEALED PROPOSALS, in the envelope provided, clearly marked as to contents, will be received by the Purchasing Services Department (Portable Building), 2141 Major MacKenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario, L6A 1T1, no later than 15:00:00 hours (3:00 p.m.) local time, **MONDAY, MARCH 04, 2002.** Proposal documents may be obtained from the Purchasing Services Department during regular office hours Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Late Proposals will not be accepted.

Requirements for:

### **PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MASTER PLAN STUDY**

The goal of this study is to develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan for the City of Vaughan. The objectives of the study are:

- To work towards the establishment of a pedestrian and bicycle system throughout the City of Vaughan.
- To integrate the system with existing & proposed transportation facilities, trails in other communities, and the Inter-Regional Trail system under development by the TRCA and the City.
- To liaise with the public and other agencies, and attend public meetings as necessary, to seek input in developing the Master Plan.
- To prepare a report documenting the process followed for the development of the Master Plan.

All Proposals are subject to the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposal, the Terms of Reference, and all other Contract provisions or data that is incorporated.

**A mandatory proponent's meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 20, 2002 at Vaughan Civic Centre, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, in the Public Hearing Room.**

The City of Vaughan reserves the right to accept or reject all or part of any Proposal.

Paul Cook, C.P.P.

Supervisor of Supplies & Services

City of Vaughan

(905) 832-8555, Ext. 8395

  
The City Above Toronto

## Who's doing what, GO Board asks

The new **GO Transit** board is trying to determine its role vis-à-vis the newly announced Smart Growth Panel. At the meeting held February 8, after rehashing a presentation originally made to the **Greater Toronto Services Board** on a GTA Interregional Transportation Plan, questions arose as to the role and mandate of the new GO Transit Board.

The GO Board and the Smart Growth Panel together are effectively replacing the role of the former Greater Toronto Services Board. **Hazel McCallion**, the newly appointed chair of the central zone panel, had requested a presentation on the total plan that the GTSB had handed over to the **Ministry of Transportation** for moving people and goods. "GO Transit is important for the movement of people, but we also need to consider goods." McCallion added that the plan for roads and goods goes beyond the jurisdiction of GO Transit, but thought it would be good for new members to see the entire study. It is expected that

the relationship will become clear in the next few weeks, hinted Chair **Gordon Chong**, days before being appointed to the central panel.

The presentation by **John Bonsall** also spurred debate with **York Chair Bill Fisch**, who is championing a light-rail rapid transit system in York. Fisch noted that in the examples York has reviewed most systems are moving to LRT. Bonsall replied he was not sure if that was correct, since LRT technology is not used as a suburban connector. Fisch countered that as York continues to grow it is becoming more urban because of increasing employment lands. Bonsall compared south York Region with the core of Toronto, and pointed out that York covers a much larger area. In comparison he found that bus rapid transit makes more sense and improves service by reducing the number of transfers, but conceded that there may still be corridors where LRT would make sense.

The Board also moved to have a 15 cent fare increase instituted April 15. •

### King City addendum

In last week's *GTA Municipal News* the solicitors involved with the appeal of OPA 54 in King Township and OPA 4 in York Region were unintentionally omitted. They are as follows: **Chris Barnett** and **Thomas Lederer (Davis & Company)** represented **King Dufferin Developments et al.** **James Harbell (Stikeman Elliott)** represented **York Region.** **Richard Storrey (Goodmans)** represented the **Ontario Municipal Board.** **Robert Wright** from the **Sierra Legal Defense Fund** represented **King City Preserve the Village et al.** **David Estrin** represented the **Township of King.** •

# TRIDEL®

## THE TRIDEL GROUP SEEKS A DEVELOPMENT PLANNER

Tridel's Development Department is seeking a Planner with a minimum of 3 years of experience in the development industry, with an emphasis in residential development. The successful applicant will have the following qualifications:

- A degree in Urban Planning or related discipline
- Comprehensive knowledge of the development approval process
- Ability to coordinate a team of consultants
- Established working relationship with municipal staff
- Experience with Official Plan, Re-zoning, Minor Variance, Site Plan, Plan of Subdivision, and Permit Applications
- Ability to work within aggressive deadlines
- Expertise and skill at problem resolution and management

Salary range will be based on experience. Please forward your resume to Ms. Rachel Greenberg, Tridel Corporation, Development Department, 4800 Dufferin Street, Toronto, Ontario M3H 5S9, Fax: 416-661-0978 or e-mail [rgreenberg@tridel.com](mailto:rgreenberg@tridel.com). No phone calls please.

## Auto industry in trouble: union

A major employment sector in the GTA is in serious trouble unless the government takes a more aggressive stand to protect the country's auto industry, according to the **Canadian Auto Workers**.

CAW president **Buzz Hargrove** has been telling the federal government for over a year that action needs to be taken to shore up automobile production in Canada in the wake of the World Trade Organization ruling that ended the thirty-six year auto pact that protected production in Canada. He told *GTA Municipal News* the federal government did not leap to action and, a year ago, provincial economic development minister **Bob Runciman** was not even interested in meeting with the union.

Since **Ford Canada** announced it would shut the **Oakville** truck plant within two years and it was reported that **GM Canada** would lay off nearly 1,000 workers in St. Catharines beginning this year, Queen's Park announced the creation of an auto industry round table in co-operation with the federal government. According to a spokesperson for Runciman, the round table will include representatives from the auto companies, the labour unions, municipal officials and academics and will likely meet this spring. It will look at how to keep Ontario attractive to auto manufacturers and how to prepare for changes in the auto sector.

"This is a political response to massive lay-offs," Hargrove said. "If they don't get off their collective butts, there is going to be a crisis in this industry in 12 to 18 months."

He said that it needs to be treated as a trade issue and that the Canadian government needs to treat the situation in a similar way that the U.S. government is protecting the American softwood lumber and steel industries. As it is, auto production is being

shifted out of the country. Hargrove said that in 2000, three vehicles were built for each one sold in Canada. This year, the number is expected to drop to two. However, he added, the Ontario government needs to put the issue on the federal agenda, given the importance of the industry here.

The big three auto makers used to be supportive of the auto pact as a way of protecting the North American industry. According to Hargrove, global restructuring and new alliances between the big three and East Asian manufacturers have meant that North American companies now want to take advantage of weaker economies and currencies in Japan and South Korea at the expense of local production.

The CAW has called for an independent analysis of the industry and for a government investment fund on new technologies to spur local jobs.

In the meantime, a task force has been established in Oakville to address the truck plant closure, with representatives from Ford, CAW local 707, **Mayor Ann Mulvale**, **Halton Region Chair Joyce Savoline** and officials from the provincial and federal governments.

"My goal is that 20 months from now we will secure those (1,400) jobs," Mulvale told *GTA Municipal News*. If the truck plant closes, there is a possibility of using the facility to produce parts, given that Ford plans to increase the use of Canadian-made components.

"We are confident that a thorough analysis of the situation and co-ordinated action plan geared to employment and retraining opportunities will realize positive outcomes for those people who have been directly affected by the announcement," Savoline told *GTA Municipal News*. •

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## Players flood electricity market

Ontario is less than three months away from a deregulated electricity market. Restructuring in the industry has been intense since the provincial government initiated its market plan in late 1998, joining a wave of privatization and deregulation across North America and Europe.

For most of the twentieth century, a single crown corporation generated and delivered electricity across the province, either directly to households or to municipal utilities that served their local residences. Since 2000, 261 companies have registered with the **Independent Electricity Market Operator**, known as the IMO, to “participate” in the new market. They are producers, distributors or retailers of electricity.

The IMO, a non-profit, non-share corporation set up by the province to manage the electricity market, is one of five entities split off from the former Ontario Hydro in 1999. Two others are **Ontario Power Generation**, whose main function is to produce power, and **Hydro One**, which distributes electricity across the province. In the meantime, the 300-plus municipal utilities in the province became corporations and underwent a wave of consolidations that has left only around 90 local utilities.

In the GTA, there have been consolidations in **Durham**, with **Veridian Connections** resulting from the merger of utilities in **Ajax**, **Pickering**, **Clarington** and **Uxbridge**. **Vaughan** and **Markham** each purchased half of **Richmond Hill Hydro** after a four-way merger that also included **Aurora** and **Newmarket** fell apart in **York Region**. **Brampton Hydro** was sold to **Hydro One** in late 2000 while **Mississauga** sold a 10 per cent stake of its utility, **Enersource**, to **Borealis Energy Corporation**.

The provincial government’s latest move was to announce the privatization of Hydro One, which will issue an initial public offering of shares in

the coming months. The distribution business, however, will remain tightly regulated by the **Ontario Energy Board**.

Consumer groups have argued that the key element to an open market is competition in the generation of electricity, which Ontario Power Generation now dominates with 85 per cent control. As part of the province’s plan, OPG will need to divest 65 per cent of its generating capacity within ten years.

The biggest change being felt by consumers is the introduction of electricity retailing. Seventy-eight companies, ranging from multinationals to retailing entities set up by local utilities, have applied to the Ontario Energy Board to sell electricity to consumers. These include, for example, **Enbridge Services Inc.**, **Oakville Energy Services**, **Toronto Hydro Energy Services**, and **TransAlta Energy Corporation**. Regulated electricity distributors, such as Hydro One and municipal utilities, must set up separate entities if they wish to retail electricity.

Consumers can sign contracts with retailers for supply after the market opens, often with a fixed price for electricity. The costs of transmission and distribution of electricity, about 50 per cent of the total present hydro bill and are regulated by the Ontario Energy board, will be added to the retailer’s bill.

The wholesale price for electricity will be set on the spot market being managed by the IMO and will fluctuate from hour to hour. Consumers who do not sign on with a retailer will continue to get electricity from their existing utility and will pay the floating price for electricity. In most cases, local utilities will charge a standard annual rate set by the Ontario Energy Board and adjustments will be made to customers’ bills, based on the actual price of electricity, at the end of the year. •

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 • REGIONAL NEWS •
 

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### Canada-wide funding announced for environmental projects

Funding of \$2.1 million for 65 environmental projects across Canada was announced Monday by federal **Environment Minister, David Anderson**. Twenty-one projects across Ontario will share \$483,360. The funding comes from Environment Canada's Eco Action Community Funding Program to help locally based, non-profit organizations undertake environmental projects. Some of the Ontario projects include: establishing multicultural community participation for the protection of local urban habitats, in **Mississauga, Brampton, and Toronto**; the **Elgin Pond** rehabilitation project in the **Township of Uxbridge**; the **Second Marsh** watershed stewardship project in **Oshawa**; and the **York Region** Green Home project. To be eligible for funding, projects must result in positive, measurable environmental benefits and build public awareness of issues such as clean air, climate change, clean water and species at risk. Submission deadlines for the program are February 1st and October 1st of each year.

### CIP website introduces Nation Urban Design Interest Group

Grown from the initiatives of planners in Ontario, the **Canadian Institute of Planners** website has unveiled a new urban design section. Formed in 1999, following a call from *Ontario Planning Journal* for Urban Design editors, the group is part of the OPPI Policy Committee and has a networking group of about 60 planners across the province, led by a co-ordinating committee. Starting with six to seven members, the group organized monthly meetings, round tables and workshops at the OPPI Conference in Niagara Falls in 2000 and at the CIP/OPPI Conference in Ottawa in 2001 and is at the core of the CIP National Urban Design Interest Group initiative. The site has connections to pertinent articles, the goals of the group and is looking for urban design best practices to highlight on a monthly basis. For more information, or contacts, check out [www.cipicu.ca/English/aboutplan/ud\\_welc.htm](http://www.cipicu.ca/English/aboutplan/ud_welc.htm).

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### Brampton approves budget

**Brampton** has approved its 2002 budget and a 2.3 per cent property tax increase. The city will spend a total of \$218 million this year to operate its programs. The tax increase was offset somewhat by \$11 million in interest that has accrued so far on the sale of **Brampton Hydro** to **Hydro One** for \$260 million.

The city also approved a plan for the proceeds of the sale. It will retain \$100 million in a legacy fund and use the annual interest revenue in its

operating budget. A further \$100 million will be used to create a revolving loan to finance the city's capital projects. Some \$30 million will be used for special projects and will be drawn down over a decade, with another \$28 million set aside in a rate stabilization reserve.

**Niagara Region** also approved its 2002 budget last week, providing for a 2.84 per cent property tax increase. About two-thirds of the increase is related to policing costs. •

## REGIONAL NEWS (FROM PAGE 6)

**-Durham Region-****2001 strong year for building in Oshawa**

The year 2001 was another strong year in building permit activity for the **City of Oshawa** with a total construction value of \$190 million. The residential sector was up 30 per cent over 2000, the strongest year of the last five. Major commercial and industrial developments included the new 103,000 square foot **Minacs Worldwide Inc.** offices on **Colonel Sam Drive**, alterations and additions to Oshawa Centre, Canadian Tire, General Motors of Canada Ltd. and the Boundary Mall.

**Oshawa presented marketing awards**

**Oshawa** won two provincial Marketing Awards of Excellence at this week's **Economic Developers Council of Ontario** annual conference in Toronto. One award was for the advertisement entitled, "The right connections, the right people, the right choice." The other, in the product development category, was for Oshawa's newly developed *Community Improvement Plan* for its central business district. The plan includes a number of grants and loans designed to help offset the costs associated with development including building permit fees, development charges and façade improvements.

**-Peel Region-****Peel to consider official plan revision**

**Peel Regional Council** will hold a special meeting to determine the need for revisions to the Official Plan on March 21, 2002 at 1 p.m. in council chambers. Among the issues identified for review are the region's growth projections, transportation, the expansion of the urban boundary in **Brampton**, environmental mapping and water resource policies, and implementation

of the **Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan**.

**Mississauga Road and 401 construction**

Construction begins on the **Highway 401** and **Mississauga Road** improvement project and will take a year and a half to complete. The project includes a new interchange, a new Mississauga Road bridge over Highway 401, the widening of Mississauga Road from four to six lanes from south of Highway 401 to south of **Highway 407**, and the extension of **Syntex Court** under Mississauga Road.

**Additional retail uses on Dundas**

Staff is recommending approval with conditions for a rezoning at **315 Dundas Street East**

(Continued on page 8)

**CONTROLLER**

A planning, engineering and landscape architectural firm with offices in Kitchener, Hamilton, and Mississauga requires a Controller with strong people management skills who can lead the Accounting and Human Resources departments. The successful candidate will be based in the Kitchener office. This position will be responsible for setting standard accounting policies and procedures, and ensuring implementation of same; setting efficient control systems; financial management, budgeting and reporting; coordinating with auditors for year-end financial statements; setting key performance indicators to measure the business performance; and participating in the evaluation of further business expansion. The successful candidate will also be responsible for daily human resource issues and reviewing long-term staffing requirements.

This company stresses teamwork, positive human relations and creating a dynamic work environment.

The successful candidate must be a superior communicator, motivator, and facilitator and will have a CMA/CGA/CA designation, a minimum of 5 years related experience and with a preferred knowledge of the Axium/Protax accounting software.

Please provide resume to Paul F. Puopolo, MA, MCIP, RPP, OALA, President, Planning & Engineering Initiatives Ltd., 450 Britannia Road, Suite 450A, Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 1X9 or ppuopolo@peil.net

## REGIONAL NEWS (FROM PAGE 7)

in **Mississauga**. The application will permit additional retail and service commercial uses within the existing building, having a G.F.A. of 871 sq. metres. The site is located on the north side of Dundas Street East, west of **Grenville Drive**. The proposal by **Anakor Inc.** is deemed to be generally compatible with the surrounding land uses and is in conformity of the City's policies for the Cooksville District. In addition to the existing bath boutique showroom, proposed uses include a specialty food store, convenience store, photo finishing store, travel agency, tailoring establishment, shoe repair and tanning salon.

**Motel on Hurontario Street**

A supplementary report recommending approval of the rezoning application by **1454182 Ontario Inc.** will be considered by **Mississauga Council** at its meeting February 13. The application would permit a three-storey motel with a G.F.A. of 3,273 sq. m. with 65 suites, two meeting rooms, and a snack bar at **7171 Hurontario Street**. The proposal was later amended to permit a barber's shop, a hairdressing and beauty salon, and a convenience store with a maximum G.F.A. of 29 sq. m. as accessory uses to the proposed motel. The 0.8 ha. site is located on the east side of Hurontario Street, south of **Topflight Drive**. •

## • ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD •

**-Halton Region-****Hearing set for Burlington  
OPA 3 appeals**

In a pre-hearing decision issued February 4, board member **Bruce Krushelnicki** set the hearing date for appeals by **Paletta International Corporation** against a decision by **Halton Region** to partially approve proposed OPA 3 for the Alton Community in the east end of the **City of Burlington**. Previously, the board had brought forward OPA 3 appeals in conjunction with those associated with a proposed Wal-Mart within the area. Based on an agreement with the developer for Wal-Mart and the principal appellant in the OPA 3 appeal, **Embee Properties**, the board agreed that the matters should be heard separately. This hearing was to set a separate date for the balance of the OPA 3 matters. The board set a ten-week hearing to begin April 2. Solicitors **Kelly Yerxa** and **Bruce Ketcheson (Reble, Ritchie, Green &**

**Ketcheson)** represent Burlington. **Mike McQuaid (WeirFoulds)** is the solicitor for Embee Properties. Solicitor **Stanley Floras** represents Halton. **Scott Snider (Turkstra, Mazza Associates)** is the solicitor for Paletta International Corporation. Solicitor **Rick Coburn (Borden, Ladner, Gervais)** represents the **Halton Catholic School Board**. **William Thatcher (Thatcher & Wands)** represents the **Halton District School Board**. The **Burlington Parkway Village Joint Venture** is represented by **Yurji Pelech (Bessant Pelech Associates Inc.)** Solicitor **Pitman Patterson (Borden, Ladner, Gervais)** represents **Mikaldo Farms Inc.** and **Norton Sons Ltd.** **Canada Brick Ltd.** is represented by solicitors **John Willms (Willms & Shier)** and **T. Fleming**. **Joe Richardson** represents Richardson farms and Isabella Dunlop. **David McKay** represents the **Burlington Sustainable Development Committee**. **Ron Young** represents **Multinational Five**. (See *OMB Case No. PL010857*.) •

## Coming Up

### Wednesday February 13

**Durham Region Council**, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, 10 a.m.

**Halton Region Council**, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, 9:30 a.m.

**GTHBA Fundraiser for appeal of Catholic EDCs**, Capital Event Theatre, 2492 Yonge Street, Toronto, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Call 416-391-3445.

### Thursday February 14

**Planning vertical gardens**, forum sponsored by the **Canadian Urban Institute**, Metro Hall, 55 John St., Toronto, 7:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.  
Call 416-365-0816.

**Peel Region Council**, 10 Peel Centre Drive, 5th Floor, Brampton, 9:30 a.m.

**Brampton Economic Development Plan Launch**, Lionhead Golf and Country Club, 8525 Mississauga Rd., Brampton, 9:30 a.m.  
Call 905-874-2005.

**Brad Clark speaks to developers**, sponsored by the **Urban Development Institute**, Inn on the Park Hotel, Toronto, 7:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.  
Call 416-498-9121.

### Wednesday February 20

**Energy Minister Jim Wilson at Toronto Board of Trade**, 1 First Canadian Place, Toronto, 7:45 a.m. to 9 a.m. Call 416-862-4500.

**Transforming Planning Education**, forum sponsored by the **Faculty of Environmental Studies**, Room 306, Lumbers Building, York University, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.  
Call 416-736-5285.

### Thursday February 21

**York Region Council**, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, 9:30 a.m.

# GTA MUNICIPAL NEWS



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### COMING UP (CONTINUED)

#### Monday & Tuesday February 25-26

**Planner as Facilitator**, seminar sponsored by **OPPI**, Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Toronto.  
Call 416-483-1873.

#### Thursday February 28

**GTMA Annual Meeting luncheon**, with new U.S. Consul General **Toni Marwitz**, King Edward Hotel, 37 King St. East, Toronto, 12 noon.  
Call 416-360-7320. •