



Chong a shoo-in for GTSB Chair

By Karen Wirsig

The Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB) is preparing for a coronation of its Chair, according to Markham Mayor Don Cousens. Cousens told *GTA Municipal News* that Gordon Chong, a former Toronto Councillor who did not seek re-election in November, has the votes lined up to replace newly elected MP Alan Tonks as Chair of the GTSB. The GTSB will meet on January 12, 2001 to officially select a chair.

Chong has been meeting with GTA mayors and, according to Cousens and Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion, has lobbied for the job.

"I'm not thrilled with the whole thing," Cousens said. "It is too bad we didn't set up a process before the end of the last term to choose a new chair. I would have liked to see a list of people who were interested."

"It should be someone from outside Toronto," McCallion told *GTA Municipal News*. She said she didn't have anyone particular in mind, but added it doesn't have to be a former politician. She hasn't met with Chong and said she won't make her mind up about who she'll support until the January meeting.

Cousens said he's been approached by at least one other person who is interested in the job, but advised

(Continued on page 2)

King Township's sewer pipe on hold

By Maya Harris

In an emergency council meeting held December 12, 2000, the night after Council's inaugural meeting, King Township councillors voted 4-3 to halt all work on the Big Pipe project, and requested that York Region also stop work. The councillors asked staff to investigate alternative technologies over the York-Durham Sewage System pipe that was approved by the OMB (See *GTA Municipal News* March 15, 2000). The OMB approval of local OPA 54 and Regional OPA 4 stated that hook-up and related growth would maintain the rural character of the area and guard against the more suburban character of neighbouring Oak Ridges and Maple.

When contacted, town officials said that the Township is preparing Terms of Reference for a study of alternative technologies, but at present they are unaware of what applicable technologies could be out there. During the 1995 Environmental Assessment process a number of alternatives were examined, but at the time it was determined that the York servicing scheme was the best choice. The new councillors are concerned that technologies could have changed over the last five years, and they want to address this possibility.

Mayor Margaret Black told *GTA Municipal News* she was disappointed that the new council made the motion for the emergency meeting, without being prop-

(Continued on page 2)

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In this Issue of GTA Municipal News

Top Ten Municipal Law Firms in the GTA	3
GTA People	6
Regional News	7
Municipalities Urged to Reject Drug Testing	8
Development News	8
Ontario Municipal Board	9
Coming Up	11

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CHONG (FROM PAGE 1)

him “not to put his name forward”, since Chong seems to have enough votes already. Among Chong’s supporters are the delegates from the **City of Toronto** and **Richmond Hill’s Bill Bell**. Cousens said he would support whoever becomes chair, just as he supported Tonks despite not having voted for him.

“I’m keeping my options open,” **Halton Region Chair Joyce Savoline** told *GTA Municipal News*, suggesting there are likely to be other candidates. “I’ve talked to Gordon a few times and I feel comfortable with him” she added.

Oakville Mayor Anne Mulvale told *GTA Municipal News* she has also heard that a couple people besides Chong are interested in chairing the GTSB. She said she doesn’t think it matters where the chair comes from, since the candidate’s “vision, leadership style, and ability to develop a compromise” are more important criteria for the job.

Transportation and transit in the GTA are the major issues on the horizon for the board, which many feel is floundering. The GTSB is preparing recommendations for the province on its future, likely to be forwarded next spring. In response, the province could provide the board with a stronger mandate, since many members are not happy with the way the GTSB has worked so far. (See *GTA Municipal News*, September 27, 2000).

McCallion wants to hold off choosing a chair until the GTSB is restructured. “A temporary chair might be the answer,” she said.

McCallion and Cousens both support a strong GTSB, but said that it didn’t accomplish much in its first term. McCallion favours a strong regional coordination body for the GTA, together with strong local governments, which would replace the role of the GTA’s existing regional governments.

“We’re running around to meetings all the time,” McCallion said. “It’s an unnecessary waste of time for both politicians and staff.”

“Regional governments are dead now,” Cousens said. “The sooner we put them out of their pain, the better.”

As for the GTSB, “we don’t have a lot to show for what we’ve done,” he said. “We tried to do too much. The big job is to make sure we’ve can deliver transportation solutions and the chair has to help us move forward on our transportation strategy.”

Bell told *GTA Municipal News* Chong’s focus on transportation and transit, as well as his links to the provincial Tories, make him a good choice for chair and may help get provincial money back into transit.

“I’ve known Gordon Chong since the days of the provincial “Who Does What” panel,” Bell said. “I’ve always liked him and been impressed by him. I’m glad he’s put his name forward.”•

KING TOWNSHIP (FROM PAGE 1)

erly appraised of the background on the Big Pipe. “First and foremost I consider this a health issue,” said Black, “there is a community plan that places growth boundaries on development, and 37% of the plan is environmentally protected.” Black said she has a letter from the **Minister of Health** dated November 1998 stating there were concerns about the sewage situation in King Township. **York Region’s Medical Officer of Health, Helena Jaczek**, reiterated this sentiment at the Council meeting by urging approval of the proposal to ensure healthy drinking water for King Township.

In terms of alternative technologies, Black said York Region was present at the hearing, and they keep abreast of new technologies. As far as York is concerned, considering all the factors, the pipe is still the best option. **Former Councillor Jane Underill** had debated throughout the previous council that alternatives to the pipe existed, but during her campaign for Mayor when questioned directly about specific alternatives, she couldn’t name one.

“Most upsetting about the meeting was the refusal to

allow the public to speak on the matter,” said Black. “I’ve been Mayor for seven years, and this is the first time Council has ever decided an issue of this import, without going to committee first, and hearing from staff or the public. This is a serious issue with potential future liability issues for the Township”.

Regardless of the request by Council for mandatory inspections of individual septic systems, Black said that this does not give the whole picture, “mandatory inspections allow access to private property, but not access into the house”. In Black’s view this approach hurts the individual landowner who may be negligent, and still doesn’t resolve the servicing problem.

Apparently there are developers that are interested if and when the pipe goes through, but Black emphasized that her number one concern is health. “I will be asking for one day sessions with the Councillors to explain all the concerns and the ten year history of this decision,” said Black “This is democracy in action, and I feel that I’ve done all I can”•

Top Ten Municipal Law Firms in the GTA (1999-2000)

Last year we undertook an analysis of the most prolific municipal law firms in GTA/905 region as a tribute to all those lawyers who have worked so hard in the planning and development field. As promised, here is our review of the municipal legal activities in the GTA from August 1999 to July 2000, as reported by *GTA Municipal News*.

1. Aird & Berlis

[Rank last year: 1]

(Jane Pepino, Leo Longo, Robert Doumani, Christopher Williams, Kim Kovar, Steven Zakem, Patricia Foran, Josephine Matera, Tom Halinski)

How the information was collected

With the assistance of our search engine in our website, we tracked each of the law firms mentioned in GTA Municipal News OMB News and Development News over this one-year period. From there we determined the firms which most frequently came up and sorted out the projects and hearings they were involved with. It became apparent that some firms (given their size) were involved in a variety of developments across the four regions in the GTA/905, while others had particular associations to major clients. The original data were collected from application and OMB files plus our research for GTA Municipal News stories.

Determining the top 10

This was the most difficult task in that we had to balance the number of clients, the range of projects, the difficulty of cases, as well as some unique features about the projects/cases. The other important point is that this list was determined on only items covered in GTA Municipal News, excludes activities in the City of Toronto and did not account for the vast number of cases and firms involved with items such as minor variance applications, assessment appeals and as part of a development team without our knowledge. To this degree we recognize that there is a certain degree of subjectivity in our ranking.

The listings

Each grouping in the list notes the firm and each of the lawyers mentioned in GTA Municipal News in a given matter. Items have been grouped into 1) noted development projects- those development applications that noted a solicitor on file; 2) OMB matters/hearings- those involved with hearings, pre-hearings, and mediation sessions. In cases which involved board decisions and a clear winner/loser or settlement was determined, we noted the appropriate symbol (✓) or (✖) following the case description. If there was no clear win/lose or the matter involved a pre-hearing, or if the matter is still pending before the OMB no symbol was applied; and 3) Other- an open category which noted the involvement of a law firm in our stories. Finally, a brief reason is given at the beginning of each firm listed explaining why we ranked them as we did. •

Reasons for Ranking: Volume, diversity and success rate helped Aird & Berlis maintain its position this year. It was a close race amongst the top three performing law firms, but winning hearings like the “big pipe” in King City and being involved with hearings on the proposed Wal-Mart warehouse in Brampton and new municipal charges in the Region of Peel, helped push Aird & Berlis to the top.

OMB/Court Matters or Hearings: representing King Township over the “big pipe” issue (Pepino, Matera) (✓); representing King Township for wetland infill (Williams) (✓); representing the Town of East Gwillimbury regarding a new cinema (Matera); representing the Town of East Gwillimbury and the Region of York for a proposed entertainment node on Yonge Street near Newmarket (Foran); representing Cantay Holdings Inc and Canadian Tire Real Estate Limited for the transfer of development rights in Mississauga (Longo); representing Torno Holdings Ltd on proposed Brampton residential development (Pepino, Foran) (✖); representing the City of Vaughan for a proposed retail facility adjacent to the Vaughan Mills site (Zakem); representing Emery Homes on the Oak Ridges Moraine development (Zakem); representing the Region of Durham on the proposed Gan Eden development in Uxbridge (Pepino, Longo); representing 1315872 and 1327545 Ontario Limited (Rocco Cerrone and Denny Finelli) for a proposed seniors condominium complex (Alati) (✖); representing St. Mildred’s – Lightbourn School regarding a second storey addition (Pepino) (✓); representing Eastpine Kennedy – Steeles Limited in court regarding Markham’s “best efforts” clause (Williams, Halinski) (✖); representing Region of Peel (jointly with Ira Kagan of Kagan, Zucker, Feldbloom Shastri) regarding new municipal development charges (Doumani); representing Hilda Lennox for a residential intensification in Pickering (Williams) (✓); representing Loblaw Properties Limited and Sapphire Hills Homes Ltd regarding Hurontario Street commercial developments (Zakem); representing Fram Building Group (successor in title to St. Lawrence Starch) regarding revised Lakeshore OPA (Longo) (✓); representing Steeles Confour Investments Limited regarding Metrus Central Properties Ltd’s proposal for a Wal-Mart warehouse (Longo).

2. Davis Webb Shulze & Moon

[Rank last year: 3]

(Ronald Webb, Neil Davis, Ronald Sleightholm, Ellen Pefhany)

Reasons for Ranking: An improvement from last year, Davis Webb Shulze & Moon had a higher volume with a

(Continued on page 4)

TOP TEN MUNICIPAL LAW FIRMS IN THE GTA (FROM PAGE 3)

variety of cases and a good winning percentage. Highlights for the year included hearings on the Bram West Secondary Plan, and involvement with the proposed Home Depot warehouse in Oakville, the proposed Wal-Mart warehouse in Brampton, and a retail/entertainment complex in East Gwillimbury/Newmarket.

OMB/Court Matters or Hearings: representing Altone Investments Limited and Steeles Confour Investments Limited on Bram West Secondary Plan (Webb) (✓); representing Olga Roll on Bram West Secondary Plan (Davis); representing Manulife Financial and Karamar Management Corp regarding a new cinema in East Gwillimbury (Webb, Davis); representing Universal Am-Cam Ltd for Brampton residential development (Davis jointly with Leon Paroian of Paroian, Raphael, Courey, Cohen & Houston) (✓); representing 940887 Ontario Ltd (Norstar Development Corporation) for Home Depot store in Oakville (Webb); representing Britannia Meadows Development Corporation in court on the Churchill Meadows development (Webb) (✗); representing 940887 Ontario Ltd, Norstar Development Corporation and Home Depot Canada for a retail warehouse in Oakville (Webb) (✗); representing Manulife Financial and Karamar Management Corp for an East Gwillimbury entertainment development (Davis, Pefhany) (✓); representing The Kaneff Group of Companies, 840966 Ontario Limited and Accordland Corporation for a proposed warehouse for Wal-Mart by Metrus Properties Ltd (Webb, Sleightholm); representing Danwal Developments Inc for a residential development in Mississauga (Webb); representing Neola Investments Limited for an Inglewood Village Estates Limited residential proposal (Pefhany); representing 1304326 Ontario Inc for an infill development in Mississauga (Webb) (✓); representing Blue Sky Realty Corporation regarding the development of a commercial building in Brampton (Sleightholm); representing James Elder for a residential development in Aurora (Webb); representing Brampton Brick Limited regarding Hurontario Street commercial developments (Webb) (✓);

3. Davies Howe Partners

[Rank last year: 6]

(Jeffery Davies, John Alati, Michael Melling, John Inglis (formerly with McCarthy Tetrault), Kim Beckman)

Reasons for Ranking: A significant increase from last year, Davies Howe Partners had an increase in volume, a variety of cases and performed well in their OMB hearings.

OMB/Court Matters or Hearings: representing Hutonville Association for the Rights of Property Owners and Bram West Secondary Plan Landowners Group on Bram West Secondary Plan (Davies); representing Beechnut Development Corporation on Phase 1 of Eastdale development (Alati) (✓); representing Britannia Holdings Inc in court on the Churchill Meadows development (Davies) (✗); representing Lionheart Enterprises Limited, 583753 Ontario Limited, 668152 Ontario Limited, Amir Hessam Ltd, Upper City Corporation, Clearpoint Development Ltd, Capital Building Partnership, Max and Greta Glicksman, Morris and Alan Glick and Bayview Valley Group on the Oak Ridges Moraine development (Davies); representing 853402 Ontario Limited regarding DC charge for South Unionville (Davies); representing 1097467 Ontario Limited for a proposed residential development in Ajax (Alati) (✓); representing Huntington Business Park Group regarding a proposed cemetery in Vaughan (Davies); representing Southwell Valley Estates regarding garage sizes compared to lot frontages (Davies); representing 648649 Ontario Ltd (Costco) regarding reimbursement from Burger King (Alati) (✓); representing 8171883 Ontario Limited regarding the need for a parking study (Davies); representing Snelgrove Plaza Inc regarding Hurontario Street commercial developments (Alati); representing Premier Operating Corporation Limited regarding Oakville By-law 2000-052 (Alati) (✓); representing the Vellore Woods Development Group for revised zoning and subdivision applications (Davies) (✓).

4. Goodmans (formerly Goodman, Phillips & Vineberg)

[Rank last year: 4]

(Catherine Lyons, Roslyn Houser, Allan Liebel, Mark Noskiewicz, Alexandria Pike, Julia Ryan, Michael Stewart)

Reasons for Ranking: At the same position as last year, Goodmans remains one of the most prolific law firms in the GTA.

OMB/Court Matters or Hearings: representing Toys R Us (Canada) Inc for parking at the Mississauga Marketplace Plaza (Noskiewicz) (✓); representing Metrus Central Properties Inc and Erin Mills Development Corporation on Bram West Secondary Plan (Lyons); representing Feltar Holdings Limited (Metrus Development Inc) for the development of a cinema in East Gwillimbury (Ryan) (✓); representing Fetlar Holdings Limited for a proposed East Gwillimbury entertainment facility (Lyons) (✓); representing The Erin Mills Development Corporation in court

(Continued on page 5)

TOP TEN MUNICIPAL LAW FIRMS IN THE GTA (FROM PAGE 4)

on the Churchill Meadows development (Storrey, Ryan) (✖); representing Langstaff Woods Development Corporation, 482697 Ontario Limited, Armeria Investments Limited, Dufferin Contwon Investments Limited, Ner Israel Yeshivah College of Toronto and Trustees of the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jarnaat of Toronto Community Centre for a residential development in Vaughan (Houser) (✓); representing Glen-50 Development Limited regarding a cemetery in Vaughan (Noskiewicz); representing Mattamy (Wellwood) Ltd and Mattamy (Brownridge) Ltd regarding subdivision applications in Milton (Ryan); representing Glen-Steeles East Three Limited and Glen-Keele East Three Limited for interim control by-laws in the Vaughan Corporate Centre (Ryan); representing Erin Mills Development Corporation regarding new municipal development charges (Noskiewicz); regarding revised Lakeshore OPA (Noskiewicz);

5. McCarthy Tetrault

[Rank last year: 2]

(Mary Bull, John Dawson, Stephen Diamond, Cynthia MacDougall, Paul Peterson, Phil Sanford, Brad Teichman, Gordon Willcocks, Dennis Wood)

Reasons for Ranking: A fall from last year, McCarthy Tetrault still placed well in this year's ranking, primarily due to their performance. Highlights include representing the two Durham School Boards regarding education development charges and representing landowners in the Vaughan Corporate Centre trying to lift an interim control by-law.

OMB/Court Matters or Hearings: representing Durham District School Board and Durham Catholic District School Board on education development charges (Teichman) (✓); providing legal advice to Jay-M Holdings on Gan Eden development (Diamond, Dawson); representing Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board in court on the Churchill Meadows development (Teichman) (✓); representing Louis and Peter Giannakopoulos regarding the provision to sell cars at a gas station (MacDougall) (✓); representing Sevenbridge Developments and First Vaughan Investments Limited regarding interim control by-laws for the Vaughan Corporate Centre (Wood); representing United Capital Investments Limited and United People Corporation regarding rezoning applications for a seniors retirement community (Patterson, Bull); representing Cambridge Shopping Centres Limited and 2725312 Canada Inc regarding the new municipal development charges (Teichman); representing Graywood Developments Ltd regarding residential intensification in Pickering (MacDougall) (✓);

Other: representing the City of Mississauga regarding assessment for vacant industrial uses.

6. Stikeman Elliott

[Rank last year: in the next ten list]

(Jim Harbell, Mark Osbaldeston)

Reasons for Ranking: A huge jump from last year, Stikeman Elliott had an increase in volume and performed well. Highlights for the year include the Chrysler Canada matter in Brampton, and involvement with a proposed retail facility near the Vaughan Mills shopping centre.

OMB/Court Matters or Hearings: representing Chrysler Canada Limited regarding Brampton residential development (Harbell) (✓); representing Shirley Endean on the Oak Ridges Moraine development (Harbell); representing 547495 Ontario Ltd on a proposed retail development adjacent to the Vaughan Mills shopping centre (Osbaldeston) (✓); representing 547495 Ontario Limited and Buetel Goodman Real Estate Group Inc regarding interim control by-laws for the Vaughan Corporate Centre (Osbaldeston).

Noted Development Projects: representing The Moatfield Partnership for a development in Georgina (Harbell); representing Sithe Energies Canadian Development Ltd for a proposed electrical power plant in Mississauga (Harbell)

7. Davis & Company

[Rank last year: 7]

(Chris Barnett, Tom Lederer, Karen O'Neil)

(Barnett and Lederer were formerly with Genest Murray which no longer has a Municipal Law department)

Reasons for Ranking: A different name, a few changes, and still placed among the top ten. The dynamic duo of Barnett and Lederer joined Davis & Company from Genest Murray, and had a strong showing in this year's ranking. Highlights include being involved with the "big pipe" issue in King City, representing the Region of Peel vs. the GTAA, and representing the developer of a retail facility adjacent to the Vaughan Mills shopping centre.

OMB/Court Matters or Hearings: representing King Dufferin Development Inc and King North Development Inc over "big pipe" issue (Barnett, Lederer) (✓); representing City of Brampton on proposed Tornoth Holdings Limited's residential development (Lederer); representing Parktrail Estates Limited for a retail facility adjacent to the Vaughan Mills Centre (Barnett) (✓); representing Joe and Peter Falconi, William and Diane Thompson, Zavala Developments Inc and Oak Ridges Farm Co-Tenancy on the Oak Ridges Moraine development (Lederer); representing the Region of Peel in court regarding the appointment of Lou Parsons to the GTAA (Barnett, Lederer) (✓); representing the South Aurora Land

(Continued on page 6)

TOP TEN MUNICIPAL LAW FIRMS IN THE GTA (FROM PAGE 5)

Owner's Group regarding a residential development in Aurora (Lederer);

8. Kagan Zucker Feldbloom Shastri

[Rank last year: not ranked]

(Ira Kagan, Lawrence Zucker)

Reasons for Ranking: Kagan Zucker Feldbloom Shastri broke into the top ten this year with an increase in volume and diversity as reported by *GTA Municipal News*.

OMB/Court Matters or Hearings: representing Credit Valley Conservation for an Inglewood Village Estates Limited residential proposal (Kagan); representing Neighbours Against St. Mildred's Expansion regarding a second storey addition (Kagan) (✕); representing Region of Peel (jointly with Robert Doumani of Aird & Berlis) regarding new municipal development charges (Kagan); representing the Region of Peel and Credit Valley Conservation regarding a development that backs onto a river valley in Caledon (Kagan);

Other: representing the Region of Peel in the Oak Ridges Moraine hearings, seeking party status (Kagan).

9. Borden Lander Gervais (formerly Borden & Elliot)

[Rank last year: not ranked]

(Rick Coburn, Stephen Waque, Pittman Patterson, Frank Spreduti)

Reasons for Ranking: Like Kagan Zucker Feldbloom Shastri, Borden Lander Gervais was not listed last year, but had a significant increase from last year in cases and variety as reported by *GTA Municipal News*. Highlights include representing King Preserve the Village vs. the "big pipe," and representing the City of Vaughan regarding Interim Control By-laws for the Vaughan Corporate Centre.

OMB/Court Matters or Hearings: representing King Preserve the Village over "big pipe" issue (Coburn) (✕); representing 840966 Ontario Limited on Bram West Secondary Plan (Waque); representing Gartley Kids Inc and E.K. Birch Hill Properties Inc on a residential development in Halton (Waque, Patterson); representing K. Ward on the Oak Ridge Moraine development (Spreduti); representing the City of Vaughan regarding interim control by-laws in the Vaughan Corporate Centre (Waque); representing Silver Creek Estates regarding insufficient water supply in Halton Region (Waque);

10. Cassels Brock & Blackwell

[Rank last year: in the next ten list]

(Stanley Makuch, Virginia MacLean, Neil Craik, Michele Wright)

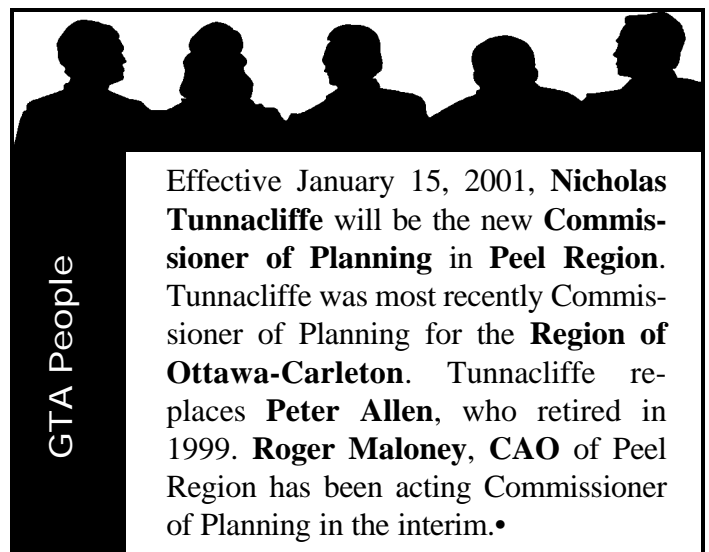
Reasons for Ranking: Breaking into the top ten list this year, Cassels Brock & Blackwell had a significant showing with a variety of cases.

OMB/Court Matters or Hearings: representing Parallax Land Corporation regarding financing of public works (Makuch) (✓); representing Reff Holdings Inc regarding interim control-by-laws for the Vaughan Corporate Centre (Craik); representing Beacon Hall & Country Club and York Region Condominium #676 regarding a residential development in southern Aurora (Makuch); representing the Town of Georgina regarding a residential development in Sutton (Craik).

The Next Ten

Based on mentions in *GTA Municipal News* the following firms make up The Next Ten in GTA/905 - based development activity: (11) Osler, Hoskin Harcourt; (12) Weir & Foulds; (13) Bratty & Partners; (14) Goodman and Carr; (15) Russell Cheeseman; (16) Lynda Townsend-Renaud; (17) Blake, Cassels & Graydon; (18) Kerzner, Papazian, MacDermid; (19) Miller Thomson; (20) Blaney, McMurty, Stapells, Friedman.

To ensure *GTA Municipal News* covers your interesting cases, please drop us an email or fax. The count for the third annual Top Ten has already begun. •



Effective January 15, 2001, **Nicholas Tunnacliffe** will be the new **Commissioner of Planning in Peel Region**. Tunnacliffe was most recently Commissioner of Planning for the **Region of Ottawa-Carleton**. Tunnacliffe replaces **Peter Allen**, who retired in 1999. **Roger Maloney**, CAO of Peel Region has been acting Commissioner of Planning in the interim. •

• REGIONAL NEWS •

-PEEL REGION-

Task force for youth homelessness wins grant

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation announced December 14, 2000 the winners of innovative ideas for affordable housing. In all, eighteen local groups will share \$350,000 in grants to develop their ideas under the **Homegrown Solutions** initiative. The **Region of Peel Task Force of Youth Homelessness** was one of the winners for their proposal to create a facility for homeless youth. The facility would provide a full range of programs and supports, and be created with active involvement from youth. The Homegrown Solutions program is open to individuals, communities and organizations, public or private, seeking practical and affordable solutions to their housing needs. The submissions were reviewed on a basis of innovation, potential to enhance housing affordability, transferability of ideas to other communities and a high degree of community involvement and support.

-MISSISSAUGA-

Public private partnership for Mississauga Hydro

Mississauga Council and the **Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS)** announced December 13, 2000 the completion of a strategic alliance agreement and the appointment of members to the **Enersource Corporation Board of Directors** to lead the City-owned utility and energy services company. Representing the City of Mississauga are board members **Mayor Hazel McCallion, Gerald Beasley, Norman Loberg, Patrick Quinn, Elizabeth Stroback, and Alex Taylor**. To complete the eight member board **Dale Richmond** and **Michael Nobrega** were appointed from OMERS. "We are confident that this board has the experience and skills to build on our utility's strengths as an efficient and well-managed company, and to further develop new and innovative business opportunities to benefit our hydro customers and the Mississauga community," said McCallion. Enersource, formerly Hydro Mississauga, was kept by the City following an extensive public process where residents indicated they

wanted the City to keep the utility and continue running it. The partnership with Borealis provides funding to Enersource to pursue competitive opportunities while ensuring public control over the utility.

Robots in sewers

A first in North America, **Stream Intelligent Networks Corp** and the **City of Mississauga** have implemented a specialized robotic technology to install a high speed fibre-optic network within the City's storm sewer system. This environmentally friendly technology lays cable up to eight times faster than existing methods and with minimal traffic disruptions. Known as **STAR (Sewage Telecommunication by Robot)**, the cabling system has been used in Europe and Asia, and Toronto-based **Stream Intelligent Networks** has exclusive rights to deploy the technology in Canada. The cable is designed to be rodent-proof and chemically resistant.

-YORK REGION-

Richmond Hill wins budget award

The **Town of Richmond Hill** has won the **Government Finance Officers' Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for the second year in a row. The award is given for budget documents that provide comprehensive information in a user-friendly format. The award criteria include an articulation of priorities and issues for the budget year, a summary of major revenues and expenditures, information on three consecutive budget years (prior, current, proposed), data on debt obligations, program or service descriptions, an organizational chart, a personnel count, and a description of the decision-making process. The awards program was first established in 1984 and covers municipal, state and provincial governments, as well as universities, in the US and Canada. More than 1,000 governments apply every year and 90% receive the award. However, fewer than half of new applicants receive the award on their first submission. As reported in the December 13, 2000 *GTA Municipal News*, **Peel Region** won the award for the first time this year. **Mississauga** also won the award.

REGIONAL NEWS (FROM PAGE 7)

-HALTON REGION-**Rate supported budget for 2001 introduced**

Halton Region has released its rate supported budget for 2001 which contains only those services funded through utility rates, namely, water and wastewater services. It is set to be approved by Council on January 17, 2001. To respond to newly emerging concerns and pressures from the public, the **Rate Budget** puts forward a plan to address three areas of critical importance, protection to people's health and safety, protection to people's investments in infrastructure, and improvements to customer service. The recommended options, if fully approved by Council, would result in a utility rate increase of 6.7% for 2001. •

Municipalities urged to reject drug testing

The **Ontario Liberal** social services critic, **Michael Gravelle**, wants municipalities to refuse to impose mandatory drug testing on welfare recipients, as the provincial government is proposing.

"Mandatory drug testing is nothing more than a grotesque abuse of power, a transparent political ploy and a stunning violation of human rights," Gravelle said in a statement. "This is not about a government going to bat for people that need help. This is all about the Mike Harris government taking another swipe at those they see as an easy target."

Gravelle points out that similar schemes have been rejected in jurisdictions where they've been attempted and such a program could have legal and financial consequences for municipalities. •

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• DEVELOPMENT NEWS •

-OAKVILLE-**Townhouses and clubhouse for Woodside and Rebecca**

Trafalgar Senior Homes Limited has submitted an application for official plan amendment and zoning by-law amendment to permit construction of 30 semi-detached linked garden homes and a 2500 sq. ft. private club house. The site is located at the corner of **Woodside Drive** and **Rebecca Street**. The proposal is for eighteen 1000 sq. ft. units and twelve 1400 sq. ft. units. The 0.99 ha. site owned by the Town of Oakville is presently the location of a fire hall that will be torn down. Consultants for the project are **Quadrange Architects Limited**, and **Trafalgar Engineering**.

-RICHMOND HILL-**Subdivision on Hillsview Drive**

Liberty Development Corporation has submitted an application for draft plan of subdivision and a zoning by-law amendment for **180 Hillsview Drive** located southeast of **Weldrick Road E.** and **Kirsten Street**. The application will permit the development of seven single detached lots and six single detached reserve blocks to be merged with a 0.80 ha. subdivision. The 0.67 ha. site in conjunction with the adjacent lot will create a total of 23 lots. **Brutto Land Management Consulting Limited** is the agent for the project. •

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-REGION OF PEEL-

-CALEDON-

Severance granted in Caledon

In a decision issued December 14, 2000 board member **Robert Beccarea** allowed an appeal by **1096288 Ontario Limited** regarding an application for consent that was refused by the **Region of Peel's Land Division Committee**. The application was to sever a residential lot with an area of 0.77 ha. from a 40.7 ha. lot in the **Town of Caledon**. Although the subject lot was approved for consent in 1985, the deeds were not registered, and it was thought that the parcel had been legally severed. Application for purchase of the lot occurred December 1999, and 1096288 Ontario Limited agreed to make application to re-sever the lot. The application was opposed by the Town on the basis that the entire 40.7 ha. parcel should be developed as part of a registered plan of subdivision. Planning evidence from Caledon's planner **Stirling Todd** did not convince the Board that the proposal would jeopardize a future plan of subdivision on the remaining lands. Provisional consent was granted with conditions. **Robert Harper** was the solicitor for 1096288 Ontario Limited with planning evidence from **Clare Riepma**. Solicitor for the Town of Caledon was **David Ostler**. (See *OMB Case No. PL000747*).

Hearings continue for *official plan amendment 161* in Caledon

In a pre-hearing decision issued December 15, 2000 board members **Susan Fish** and **Robert Beccarea** allowed the addition of parties to the appeals by **Franceschini Bros. Aggregates Ltd**, **Blue Circle Aggregates Canada**, the **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing** and **James Dick Construction Limited** regarding official plan amendments that establish new policies for the management of aggregate resources in the **Town of Caledon**. With no objections heard, the

Board allowed the addition of the **Town of Erin, County of Wellington, James and Eleanore Gravely, Steven Zaichuk, Wendy Mattice and Harvey and Barbara Barber** to the proceedings. **Graham Bros Aggregates Limited** advised the Board that they intend to bring their motion before the Joint Board, and asked that the motion before this Board be stayed pending the Joint Board hearing, the Board agreed.

Beacon Hall also requested that this Board stay its motion pending the outcome of the other panel's deliberations about its site specific applications. **Thomas Lederer (Davis & Company)** is council for the Town of Caledon. **Stephen Garrod (Turkstra Mazza Associates)** represented the **Region of Peel**, the Town of Erin and County of Welland. The **Niagara Escarpment Commission** was represented by solicitor **Josephine Matera (Aird & Berlis)**. **Mario Faieta** was counsel for the **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**. **Lynda Tanaka (Weir & Foulds)** is the solicitor for **Blue Circle Aggregates Canada**, and **Graham Bros. Aggregates Limited**. Solicitors for **James Dick Construction Limited** are **Donald Hindson (Cattanach Hindson Sutton Van Veldhuizen)** and **Wayne Fairbrother (Templeman Menninga)**. **Robert Maisey (Blake, Cassels & Graydon)** is the solicitor for **Franceschini Bros. Aggregates Ltd**. The **Aggregate Producer's Association of Ontario** is represented by solicitor **Jonathan Kahn (Blake, Cassels & Graydon)**. **Ronald Webb (Davis, Webb, Schulze & Moon)** is the solicitor for the **Coalition of Concerned Citizens of Caledon**. **Pitman Patterson (Borden & Elliot)** is the solicitor for the **Beacon Hall Group** including: **Beacon Hall Limited; 810676 Ontario Limited; 840996 Ontario Limited; Forgehill Equities Inc; Forgeat Funding Corporation Inc, Roman Humeniuk and Nancy Hunter; and Hurontario Capital Corporation**. **Clare Riepma** represented **1096288 Ontario Limited**. **Glen Broll** represented **Jim Lyons, Barry Livingston and Cassie Gairdner**. (See *OMB Case Nos. PL000508, PL000757 and PL000643*) (See *GTA Municipal News March 22, 2000, August 23, 2000 and December 13, 2000*).

(Continued on page 10)

OMB (FROM PAGE 9)

-REGION OF DURHAM-**-PICKERING-****Pre-hearings continue on official plan amendment no. 60 in Pickering**

In a pre-hearing decision issued December 13, 2000 board member **Gregory Daly** consolidated all of the matters related to the appeal by **Sandhill Aggregates Ltd, Cougs Investments Limited** and **Cherry Down Co-Venture Ltd** regarding *official plan amendment no. 60* for the **Region of Durham**. Cherry Down has also appealed zoning amendments and OPAs, that would permit a 125 unit recreational residential community on communal services, a golf course maintenance facility, an irrigation pond and private servicing works. The next pre-hearing conference, to be held March 30, 2001, will finalize the draft procedural order. **Andrew Allison** is counsel for the **Regional Municipality of Durham**. Solicitor for the **City of Pickering** is **Andrew Biggart (Reble, Ritchie, Green and Ketcheson)**. **Francis Handy (Stitt Feld Handy Houston ADR Ltd)** is the solicitor for **Cherry Downs Co-Venture Ltd. Greater Toronto Airports Authority** and **The Air Transport Association of Canada** are represented by solicitor **Stanley Stein (Osler, Hoskin)**. **Durham Conservation Association** is represented by **Brian Buckles**. **S. Gaudet** is the solicitor for **Department of Justice (Transport Canada)**. (See *OMB Case Nos. PL000037 and PL000947*) (See *GTA Municipal News October 18, 2000*).

-WHITBY-**New bungalow permitted in Whitby**

In a decision issued December 14, 2000 board member **Narasim Katary** allowed the appeal by **Michael and Norma Surano** for a variance on **Applewood Crescent** in the **Town of Whitby**. The original variances were to permit construction of a new one-storey bungalow style detached dwelling on the currently vacant lot. The variances dismissed by the **Committee of Adjustment** requested an increase in the maximum allowable lot coverage from 20 percent to 33 percent, and a reduction of the minimum required front yard setback from 10.5 m to 9.5 m. A number of objectors in

the neighbourhood sought participant status, and filed a petition by the residents of the area expressing their opposition to the proposed variances. **Robert Martindale (Martindale Planning Services)** gave planning evidence in support of the application showing how it met the four tests as set out in the *Planning Act*. The Board allowed the appeal and authorized the variances with the condition that the applicant erect a 2.0 m. high board fence at the south perimeter of the property. **Shan Jain** was the solicitor for **Michael and Norma Surano**. (See *OMB Case No. PL000974*).

-REGION OF HALTON-**-HALTON HILLS-****Pre-hearings continue for subdivision**

In a pre-hearing decision issued December 15, 2000 board member **Don Granger** urged parties to cooperate with one another in sharing information regarding the appeal by **Georgetown Estates Corporation** in the **Town of Halton Hills**. The appeal is about applications for *zoning amendment 97-008*, official plan amendment, and a plan of subdivision to permit a 38 lot plan of subdivision. The last pre-hearing conference was adjourned sine die "due to the lack of reasonable expectation that a safe potable water supply would be available to the site within a three-year period." The water issue is the only one now stopping a hearing from being scheduled. The Town is addressing two other important issues with positions expected from Council in the new year, these are the issue of stream corridor works along the east-west branch of Silver Creek and the issue of access to the subject lands being reconsidered by the applicant. The next pre-hearing will be held March 9, 2001 at which time the Region is hopeful that results from pump testing of a candidate well site will be available. **Jeffrey Wilker (Thomson, Rogers)** is the solicitor for **Region of Halton** and **Town of Halton Hills** which is also represented by solicitor **Stanley Floras**. Solicitor for **Credit Valley Conservation Authority** is **Ira Kagan (Kagan, Zucker, Feldbloom, Shastri)**. **Georgetown Estates Corporation** is represented by **Russell Cheeseman**. (See *OMB Case No. PL981013*).•

Coming Up

- January 12 Friday, **Greater Toronto Services Board**, Inaugural Meeting, 1000 Murray Ross Parkway (Jane and Steeles), Toronto, 10 AM to 1 PM.
- January 17 Wednesday, **Durham Region Council Meeting**, 605 Rossland Rd. East, Whitby, 10 AM
- January 17 Wednesday, **Halton Region Council Meeting**, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, 9:30 AM.
- January 18 Thursday, **York Region Council Meeting**, 17250 Yonge St., Newmarket, 9:30 AM.
- January 22 Monday, **Dinner to Honour Douglas Colbourne** (outgoing Chair of the Ontario Municipal Board), Delta Chelsea Inn, Toronto, 6:30 PM. Call (416) 326-6251.
- January 25 Thursday, **Peel Region Council Meeting**, 10 Peel Centre Drive, 5th Floor, Brampton, 9:30 AM.
- January 25 Thursday, **Making Municipal Infrastructure Partnerships a Reality**, conference sponsored by **Canadian Urban Institute**, Four Seasons Hotel, 21 Avenue Road, Toronto, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Call (416) 365-0816, ext. 234.
- February 1 Thursday, **Avenues for Citizen Influence in the GTA**, sponsored by **GTA Forum**, Toronto Archives Auditorium, 255 Spadina Rd., Toronto, 4:00 PM.

Be sure to check these dates and locations for any last minute changes.

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IAN A.R. GRAHAM, PUBLISHER
(*info@nrupublishing.com*)

IAN CONNERTY, EDITOR
(*ianc@nrupublishing.com*)

KAREN WIRSIG, NEWS REPORTER
(*kwirsig@nrupublishing.com*)

MAYA HARRIS, PLANNING REPORTER
(*mayah@nrupublishing.com*)

PETER NIKOLAKAKOS, CONTRIBUTOR
(*petern@nrupublishing.com*)

JASON HAREMZA, LAYOUT COORDINATOR
(*info@nrupublishing.com*)

SAMARA GABRIEL, SALES/SUBSCRIPTIONS
(*samarag@nrupublishing.com*)
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Tel: 416.260.1304 Fax: 416.979.2707

Holiday Notice

Please note that there will be no issue of *GTA Municipal News* next Wednesday (December 27). Publication will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2001. Until then, the staff of **NRU Publishing, Inc.** would like to wish all of our readers and subscribers a happy holiday season and a joyous and prosperous new year.