

Document: Report on Caledon Town Council Meeting
Date: 2007-11-07
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Hi Everybody,

We all did a great job of getting the word out - thank you to everybody who has spent time on the issue, whether writing a letter or calling council or just being informed on the issue. Thank you to all the people who attended last night's meeting. Thank you to all the people who delegating on behalf of staying the course.

It was an interesting meeting and we certainly aren't finished with this topic. Council voted unanimously to accept a new motion and amendment. We did not see the original motion, but the amendment was posted on the screen and then read by the Mayor. The motion appeared to be crafted by some of the Councillors who were on the line or not committed to either side. The Mayor, Councillor Paterak, Councillor deBoer and Councillor Beffort were clearly supporting staying the course although they all stated that they would accept the new motion. Councillor Whitehead and Councillor Groves were clearly supporting opening up the population growth issue. Councillor Payne, Councillor Thompson and Councillor McClure appeared to be somewhere in the middle. The new motion was put forward by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Thompson.

Thanks to Councillor Paterak for providing the text of the motion as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for The Corporation of the Town of Caledon receive Planning and Development/Policy Section Report 2007-61 re: Review of HEMSON and *urbanMetrics* Reports Regarding the OPA 203 Population Forecasts;

AND THAT Council continue to support the currently approved Official Plan 2021 population forecast of 84,444, and confirm Council's endorsement of the 2031 population forecast of 108,000 as contained in proposed Official Plan Amendment 203;

AND THAT Council direct staff to continue to use the population and employment forecasts contained in proposed Official Plan Amendment 203 in all population related planning matters;

AND THAT Council direct that copies of Planning and Development Report 2007-61 be forwarded to the Region of Peel, the City of Brampton, the City of Mississauga, Solmar Development Corporation, the Caledon Chamber of Commerce, and other relevant agencies, community groups, stakeholders and departments.

The amendment to the resolution is as follows and can be read as additional clauses:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT no further population beyond 108,000 by 2031 be considered until, Council has developed an overall strategy for managing growth in the "white belt" and until the Caledon and Peel conformity exercise for "the places to grow" policy initiative has been completed and we have a definitive reaction from the Province of Ontario;

AND THAT Council direct staff to complete the South Albion Bolton Community Plan Studies within the 2008 calendar year.

I am not a big fan of writing policy at Council meetings and I think we need to let the dust settle before we really know what “the extra details” mean. We also need to deal with the issue of the 2021 population figures.

Please let me know what you think.

I have attached below a copy of the presentation that I gave last night – although I did get to say the David Suzuki quote because of the tight time restrictions on delegations!

Nicola Ross also was there to briefly delegate with me, after I used up most of our time! Nicola talked about the cost of servicing and whether or not new residential pays for itself. It led to an interesting discussion and clarification on the discussion period on the issue. Nicola has previously written on the subject and we are hoping she will be able to update the article and it has become a very relevant issue.

I have also attached an inspiring delegation from CCA Member and Local Food Hero, Barb Imrie.

Karen

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1. Delegation from Karen Hutchinson, Caledon Countryside Alliance – 7:15 pm, November 6th Council Meeting

Good Evening Mayor Morrison and Members of Council,

Thank you for receiving this delegation from the Caledon Countryside Alliance.

I want to start off by congratulating the Town’s Planning Department on their comprehensive and thorough report.

I also want to note the number of residents who are attending tonight’s meeting. There has been a high level of interest on this issue. Most people are all here on their own time because they are concerned about the future of Caledon.

For the record, in 2006 the CCA recommended the lowest growth scenario and that any new development should be based on Green building principals and sustainable community development.

So at this time, we would like to provide you, the elected Council, advice on the issues to be considered from the perspective of the Caledon Countryside Alliance (CCA) and Sustainable Caledon? We have five main points.

1. New Planning Regime

We need to start this discussion by looking at the “New Planning Regime” and Growth Strategy from the Province of Ontario. Without question, the Province is showing new leadership on Growth Management and it is not business as usual. They have sent a very clear message that future growth will move away from land based housing in Greenfields to denser mixed use developments located first within existing settlement areas. This direction will be achieved by a number of planning tools including intensification targets and designated densities for Greenfield developments.

To intensify growth, forty percent of new growth after 2015, will have to be located in the built boundary.

As of June 16th, 2006, all Greenfield development will have to be built to a standard of 50 people and/or jobs per hectare. While these numbers will be balanced on a Regional basis, we need to assume that all new Greenfield developments in Caledon will be planned at this density.

If we apply this formula to the South Albion Bolton development at 1500 acres or 607 ha, then we are looking at a community of 30,000 people and/or jobs.

In Caledon, we are no where near ready to accommodate this “New Planning Regime” into our psyche, much less to put it into practice.

Opening up the population projections at this time, would be premature on Caledon’s part since the Official Plan compliance process with the Province’s Growth Strategy will be completed before 2009.

Official Plans for Brampton, Mississauga and the Region of Peel’s will also be brought into compliance by 2009. Brampton and Mississauga are currently working on their intensification plans for completion in 2008. The Region of Peel will need to prepare regional numbers after that.

Caledon already has a projection of 108,000 by 2031 that was approved by the elected Council after all residents, businesses and organization had a chance to give their opinions. It was an all inclusive public process that ended with the elected Council making a decision. To open up this process again would be costly, time-consuming and ineffective considering the upcoming Provincial Official Plan Compliance exercise. We need to stay the course at this time.

2. Manageable Growth for Infrastructure and Municipal Finances

Population figures adopted in 2006 are based on a manageable rate of growth for installing and maintaining infrastructure (that is, water, sewers, roads, schools, community centres, etc.) by the Town and Region. One only needs to travel south to the road chaos of Brampton to wonder if they have had a manageable rate of growth.

Population figures adopted in 2006 are based on a financially manageable rate of growth for the Town’s municipal budget. As municipalities grow, so do the required services. One only needs to look south to Toronto to be acutely aware of budget woes and that new development brings in money to build, but not maintain services. The Town of Caledon currently has a balance budget and the current approved growth will maintain the balance budget.

3. Natural Capital

There is a very old expression that sums up everything, "nature bats last".

As we look around the world today and see an increasing number of unexplained natural disasters and as we hear warnings from scientists, we need to bring the message home for our future generations. We can't just grow for the sake of growing.

In 2002, David Suzuki said, "Efforts to quantify the value of nature's services have been met with suspicion by some economists. A few years ago, one group came up with an estimated annual average of about \$38 trillion U.S. - roughly the size of the annual GNPs of all the countries in the world. But this didn't answer the question of what effect human activities are having on nature's "net worth." (Conserving Nature is like Money in the bank – 2002 - http://www.davidsuzuki.org/About_us/Dr_David_Suzuki/Article_Archives/weekly08300201.asp)

We must consider nature and Caledon's natural capital as we move forward. Natural capital is loosely defined as renewable and non-renewable natural resources, environmental resources (air and water) and land. It counts and it adds to the GDP every day.

4. Sustainable Caledon

We need to move our Town forward on a path of sustainability, where environmental, economic, social and cultural factors are all considered equal.

5. Growth for Caledon's Business Community

At the Caledon Countryside Alliance have the utmost respect for our business community and we urge everybody to shop or use Caledon businesses first and whenever possible. Local support makes a huge difference to their viability and long term success in our community. Population growth is not the only way to support our business community.

Thank you for your time this evening. I would like to turn it over to Nicola Ross before your questions.

2. Delegation from Barb Imrie – Palgrave Resident

Good Evening. My name is Barb Imrie and I would like to address all the Town of Caledon Members of Council.

(Mayor Marolyn Morrison; Regional Councillors: Richard Paterak, Allan Thompson, Richard Whitehead and Annette Groves; Area Councillors: Doug Beffort, Gord McClure, Nick deBoer, and Jason Payne.)

For the past 20 years, I have lived and worked in Caledon as an Environmental Educator teaching about climate change. I shop locally. I eat locally. This year I helped to organize a Thanksgiving dinner in our Palgrave community that served 472 meals of local Caledon potatoes, turkey, corn, peas, beets, onions, cabbages, and carrots. I support local business.

I am here tonight because I believed and thought that Caledon had already made an informed decision to take control of urban growth by supporting the 108,000 population forecast. This decision did involve public process and information meetings. I trusted that this decision was supported by council prior to the last municipal election.

Why is this process being reopened and undermined?

Citizens actively involved in their communities will continue to be the strongest force for progressive change. There are many actions local governments can take to move communities towards sustainability but taking control of urban growth tops the list of priorities. Having a positive vision for an alternative to endless growth - a stable, sustainable community can offer a happier, healthier, better place to live and work and play and shop. Eventually all communities will recognize their ecological limits and have to become sustainable or they will perish. Caledon had begun the process!

We need to shift our values. When we realize that our wants are different from our needs, when we shift our values away from consumption and growth toward simplicity and stability, we can rebuild our bond with the natural world. We can decide to make the turn. A sustainable action plan is one that can be continued indefinitely without degrading the ecological integrity and life supporting capacity of the natural environment. Full cost accounting is necessary to stop overdevelopment. A community impact statement needs to be completed by an impartial third party.

Caledon can build a sustainable community... Caledon has said no to continually growing. Caledon has involved citizens in the public planning and policy-making democratic process. Land is being used wisely keeping the urban footprint as small as possible and recognizing that rural land is not merely "future urban land". Recognizing the physical limits to growth and consumption are important. In 2021, where will our food come from?

Caledon citizens can empower communities to specifically authorize local governments to curtail growth when citizens demand it and when responsible policy demands it.

One of my favourite books ends with this valuable lesson... Dr Seuss in THE LORAX states...UNLESS someone like you, cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better it's not!
The Town of Caledon Council Members have the power to make it better. To establish limits to growth and protect the quality of life in Caledon.
Saying no to continuing to grow WILL make a difference.
It WILL attract people to Caledon, to live, to work, to play and to stay!

Thank you.