



A Message from the Mayor

A few months ago, Halton Hills Town Council passed a resolution declaring a 'climate change emergency'. It's been a popular resolution amongst many Canadian municipalities. The resolution notes the findings of Canada's Changing Climate Report and specifically the warming that our nation is experiencing. The report notes how climate change will affect people; ultimately

impacting our quality of life. Climate change '...will have a significant impact on heat stress-related illness, mortality and productivity especially for vulnerable populations..".

A key take-away of the resolution is that the Town must make changes in how it conducts its business and that we must make this change now. The resolution notes several actions related to: planning and building standards; transportation and fleet management; tree planting and advocacy efforts with stakeholders and other bodies of government.

While there is still a lot to be done, the Town started work last year with the development of a Climate Change Adaption Plan. Intended to enhance the community's resiliency, the plan will identify and address key climate issues facing Halton Hills over the next 5 years. To date, a modeling exercise has been conducted of our community's past and future climate; a Town facility vulnerability assessment has been completed and a vulnerability assessment of natural areas is in progress. Watch for a report to Town Council later this year.

Keeping it real.

Rick Bonnette,
Mayor



A Message from the CAO

The Town of Halton Hills has been a leader in sustainability initiatives so it's no surprise that Council has focused on climate change as a priority for this term, building on work begun over the past several years.

In 2014, the Town developed its first Corporate Energy Plan following a provincial directive to identify actions to lower the municipality's corporate energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The plan outlined four strategies focused on building optimization, a green fleet, renewable/low carbon energy and financing. The plan included 85 actions of which 75% were achieved while others are in progress. One significant achievement was a reduction in the energy intensity per unit of floor space -- almost 20% since 2011 -- a figure that exceeds the plan's energy target.

This year the plan will be updated with a focus on retro-fitting infrastructure to achieve targets, policy development to integrate energy reduction into business decisions such as purchasing and an even deeper examination of the financial impact of energy usage.

Another initiative is an update to the Green Development Standards Program. The program is intended to lower the carbon footprint of new developments by encouraging best practices in sustainable construction and align with the Town's greenhouse gas emission mitigation and climate adaptation objectives. The updated plan is expected to be completed in 2020.

Brent Marshall,
Chief Administrative Officer