

Feb. 16, 2020

Town of Caledon Council Meeting

Subject: 413 Highway through Caledon, Halton and parts York Region

Mayor Allan Thompson & Members of Caledon Council

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

I read with an extremely heavy heart on Saturday February 13, 2021 a Toronto Star Article written by Mr. Paul Webster.

I am a proud member of our community of the Town of Caledon, I love the opportunities that Caledon has presented and could be presented to create a community using what we have and not recreate 100%. I have heard time and time again over the 27 years hear "Caledon is unique, Caledon's has protected lands, and Caledon has farmlands that development will hurt.

What I have discovered is the complete opposite along with now again conformation with this article. Let me quote a few things if I may.

1. **"This is a slam dunk for us"** says Bill Argeropoulos, head of research at Avison Young a Toronto real estate. **"Right now there's huge demand for land for retail distribution centers"**
  - ❖ "This is a slam dunk" I find this extraordinary shocking, a person that is the head of a real estate firm, already knows based on his statement.
  - ❖ **So is this about money that some will make or is this about our history, preserve our farmland?**
  - ❖ Again, we have heard our elected officials talk about the uniqueness of Caledon and standing up for the farming community, the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt.
  - ❖ Shocking FACT: **Caledon voted down** a motion to NOT SUPPORT Bill-66 Section 10 back in early 2019 and send it back to staff, what saddens us is Caledon **neglected to provide what the Peel Federation of agriculture wrote for support Bill 66-Section 10 is shocking.** We actually saw the document at Peel Region on their agenda. The question is why did Caledon not include in the agenda package? Has this been the plan all along, dump our farm land for development?
2. From this same person Bill Areropoulos, and I quote **"there's huge demand for land for retail distribution centers"**.
  - ❖ **FACT: Back in the winter of 2013 there was an article written in Caledon Living, here are a few quotes:**
  - ❖ **"We know manufacturing jobs have been leaving Ontario many for overseas"**
  - ❖ **"priority is on food processing and agri-business"**
  - ❖ **"Caledon is well located in terms of food production"**
  - ❖ **"Various guidelines to facilitate the creation of eco-business employment areas"**
  - ❖ **"Caledon has partnered with the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and Ontario Food Cluster"**

- ❖ **“Caledon also helped the GTA Agricultural Action committee and the Region of Niagara and City of Hamilton, to develop the terms of reference and work plan for the newly created Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming committee to move forward with their strategies”**

3. This history has changed and the advocating from Caledon Council for the GTA West Corridor. One must ask themselves what we learned during this pandemic. We all heard and saw the change in our food chain. Yet we had the plan to support our farming community and build off that.

- ❖ **Feb. 13/2020 article: “The pandemic has also revealed our food system’s FRAGILE reliance on increasingly pricy imported food trucked in across the closed boarder, Ehrilick adds”**

4. As stated in the article of Feb. 13/2021, “Farmers, alongside key business leaders at the helm of Ontario’s massive agri-biz industry which employs almost 1,000,000 people are leading the charge.

- ❖ **Warehouses DO NOT employ a lot of people, we all know this as it is an automated/robotic business.**

Mayor Thompson, along with others YOU changed this from the original support of our farming community to warehouses and its been proven in the article you clearly said in Business View Magazine Feb. 18, 2018 and I quote

- a) **“Caledon needs a good tax base balance to keep FARMERS AND RESIDENTS sustainable in those protected areas”**
- b) **“We’re going to have business parks, but also a freight village – the first ever in the GTA. A freight village is a business hub”.**

- ❖ Mayor Thompson, is your only focus and care of the people that live in the ORM or Greenbelt?
- ❖ **A freight village, the corridor that separates our local farming community.**

5. **Economy in agricultural, “generates \$35 BILLION in annual revenue”**

**I AGREE WE NEED TO PUT THE BREAKS ON THIS AND HAVE A “Agricultural Impact Assessment”**

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Let's look at a few things in the article;

1. Costs: estimated 10 Billion dollars construction costs. Please explain to me and our residents the financial plan to pay for this, when the Provincial Government HAS NO MONEY and neither does the FEDERAL Government. It is borrowed money from the Banking system which is owned by private individuals who are making Ga ZILLIONS of dollars off all of us, we are also heading towards a disaster or a hug economic financial crash.

FACTS:

Dec. 3, 2020 The Fraser Institute tells us how detrimental the situation is now and compares it to the early 1990's our country "faced server fiscal challenges so daunting that may describe the situation as a crisis." We actually have accumulated large deficits due to the Covid-19 response. A possible reason is, we did not have emergency money put away to respond to a pandemic (One of the recommendations that came from SARS).

In Ontario "This year's forecasted budget deficit of \$38.5 BILLION is larger than say year in the 1990's." It also says the forecast is 4.5% of GDP and now compare this in the time line of 1992, 1993 which was 4.2%. It goes on to say **"Ontario is expecting another \$33.1 Billion deficit next year and a \$28.1 Billion deficit the year after that."** So for comparison reasons, they are very close to what was happening in the early 90's.

**WE NEED TO BE VERY AWARE WHEN DEFICITS ADD UP OVER TIME THAT ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEBT BURDEN.**

**"On this metric, Ontario is in a much WORSE SHAPE TODAY than in the 90's."**

There is a most recent article from January 14, 2021 from again the Fraser Institute, it talks about government revenue depleting, I truly do not have to tell anyone why, just look at the situation we are in, job and industry loss in our Province and Country, and past spending over the many years.

Caledon council wants to support a "super highway" of approx... \$10 Billion add on to the current debt load ....on what money?

**This is why an ECONOMIC STUDY" NEEDS TO HAPPEN.**

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What has COVID-19 has taught us, to be way more frugal, to be kind, to sacrifice, to be there for each other and also an important to protect our agricultural lands to produce our own food so we do NOT rely on import...just look at the quality of food and the costs of grocery's now or BETTER STILL WHAT IS AVAILABLE this week shortage of strawberries and now look at past empty grocery shelves.

WE ALL NEED to take a step back to be good stewards of the land, our community, our province and our country and that is what our elected representatives or say "policy makers" who MUST listen to the people. It is clearly written in the Municipal Act Section 224 and the Council Code of conduct that our elected officials are there to provide.

Financial integrity and service....is food not a service to survive? Is money that we do not have a good sound financial integrity?

## **PART VI PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES**

### **MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Role of council**

**224** It is the role of council,

- (a) to represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality;
- (b) to develop and evaluate the policies and programs of the municipality;
- (c) to determine which services the municipality provides;
- (d) to ensure that administrative policies, practices and procedures and controllership policies, practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions of council;
- (d.1) to ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the municipality, including the activities of the senior management of the municipality;
- (e) to maintain the financial integrity of the municipality; and
- (f) to carry out the duties of council under this or any other Act. 2001, c. 25, s. 224; 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 99.

#### **Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)**

2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 99 - 01/01/2007

## **Role of head of council**

**225** It is the role of the head of council,

- (a) to act as chief executive officer of the municipality;
- (b) to preside over council meetings so that its business can be carried out efficiently and effectively;
- (c) to provide leadership to the council;
- (c.1) without limiting clause (c), to provide information and recommendations to the council with respect to the role of council described in clauses 224 (d) and (d.1);
- (d) to represent the municipality at official functions; and
- (e) to carry out the duties of the head of council under this or any other Act. 2001, c. 25, s. 225; 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 100.

## **Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)**

The change of direction from 2013 to now is alarming and to be frank for anyone of you to take our local food away is not cool in my eyes and with that I will leave you all with this:

### **2 Corinthians 9:10**

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

Respectfully, we all must be good stewards of the land to provide.

Sherry Brioschi

Caledon Resident.