

Memorandum

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

To: Members of Council

From: Devan Lobo, Acting Senior Analyst, Corporate Initiatives, Strategic Initiatives

Subject: ROMA and OGRA Conference Update

On January 27-29, 2019 the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference (ROMA) was held in Toronto. The Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) followed from February 24-27, 2019, also in Toronto. As part of these conferences, municipalities can request delegations with specific Ministries, political and ministry staff, as well as representatives of the opposition parties to advocate on local and shared issues and challenges requiring provincial support. Both conferences also provide an opportunity for delegates to attend Minister speeches and workshops as well as network with municipal representatives from across Ontario.

With respect to the ROMA Conference, the Caledon delegation consisted of Mayor Thompson, Regional Councillor Downey, Area Councillor Early, Regional Councillor Innis, Area Councillor Kiernan, CAO Mike Galloway and General Manager of Strategic Initiatives David Arbuckle and General Manager of Community Services Peggy Tollett. Caledon delegations were held with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Transportation as well as the Green Party.

Later in February for OGRA, Caledon participated in a joint delegation to the Ministry of Transportation along with the Region of Peel and Cities of Brampton and Mississauga. This memo provides members of council with a summary of those delegations and next steps.

ROMA Conference

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Town of Caledon's delegation met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Clark. The first issue that was brought forward was regional governance. Our delegation advocated on the importance of maintaining effective rural representation and that rural Ontario is considered carefully in the decisions related to regional governance.

The second issue that was presented was regarding senior's housing challenges, particularly with finding ways to bring senior-friendly, accessible housing options to the community. We discussed

examples of successful transitional senior's housing in other jurisdictions. Caledon asked for greater local planning authority that would allow us to create complete senior communities.

Ministry of Infrastructure

The Caledon delegation met with Minister Monte McNaughton regarding broadband access. The Ministry acknowledged our challenges with accessing broadband and the need for dependable and affordable internet access. Caledon requested that the Province make broadband an essential service and continue to provide funding to municipalities and partnerships. The Ministry reconfirmed the province's commitment to release a broadband and cellular strategy in early 2019.

The second issue presented was natural gas expansion and affordable energy. Caledon asked for the Ministry's support of natural gas expansion and affordable energy such as geo-thermal to deliver affordable, clean energy.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Caledon delegation met with the Parliamentary Assistant of Natural Resources, Toby Barrett regarding the issue of Aggregate Rehabilitation Master Plans. We focused on the need for flexibility with the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) to allow for innovation when identifying reuses for aggregate sites. The Ministry provided Caledon with a policy contact to speak with directly about the ARA.

Ministry of Transportation

The Caledon delegation met with Minister Jeff Yurek regarding the timeline for completing the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment Study and raised concerns with the impact to economic growth due to frozen lands. The Ministry invited Caledon to submit a proposal of lands to free up as part of the Province's re-initialization of the Study.

In addition, the Caledon delegation brought forward the issue of traffic access to Highway 10 in Mayfield West. The Ministry listened to our concerns and challenges in obtaining the required permit to extend Dougall Avenue to Hurontario Street and committed to reviewing the request.

Green Party

The Caledon delegation also met with Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner and his staff, presenting all issues that were highlighted at the Ministry meetings. The Green Party had a number of follow up questions for Caledon. We committed to reaching out to the Green Party as the issues progress.

OGRA Conference

Ministry of Transportation

The Town of Caledon's delegation, along with the Region of Peel, City of Brampton and City of Mississauga met with the Minister of Transportation Jeff Yurek and other political and Ministry staff regarding transportation planning. The joint delegation requested the province complete the GTA West Corridor EA process and that the extension of Highway 427 to Highway 9 be included in the 2019 Southern Ontario Highway Program.

Next Steps

As part of the Town of Caledon's government relations efforts, Town staff provided copies of all of briefing materials to the office of Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones. The Mayor's Office has followed up with a letter to each Ministry regarding the delegation and next steps. Town staff will be contacting provincial staff at the respective Ministries to arrange follow-up meetings regarding the issues discussed during the ROMA and OGRA delegation meetings.