

Waterdown Aldershot GO Expansion



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As anticipated, plans move forward for Waterdown Aldershot GO expansion.

If there was ever any question about the need for the widening of Waterdown Road, the article covered in last week's edition of the Burlington Post by Jason Misner would squash that doubt. Jason, who has been covering the history of anticipated growth strategies both provincially and at the local level confirms in his article that the ridership from the Aldershot GO Station is expected to double starting as early as Sept 4/07.

With the total cost of \$72-million from Provincial money being slotted for expanded infrastructure, Burlington Council sees their hopes and directives for rejuvenation of the Aldershot area moving forward. This GO upgrade will result in 34 trains leaving and returning from the platforms of the station. Asking Burlington to continue their bus route by going further up the road into Waterdown to pick up passengers makes all kinds of sense and negotiations are underway to see that happen.

As I have stated previously, the Aldershot expansion, along with the Provincially sanctioned development lands approved in 2002 by Cabinet drives home the need for the Waterdown Road expansion....literately!

Add to this Burlington Council's desire to see the Waterdown/403 interchange completed along with the hundreds of acres of employment and residential lands projected around, and off of Waterdown Road confirms

what the experts have been saying all along, **Waterdown Road needs to be widened to 4 lanes.**

Obviously even with Burlington's glee at the progress towards a more fully re-developed Aldershot they too have not been without their growing pains. Councillor Craven is quoted in last week's edition of the Burlington Post as saying "He had been receiving calls in the middle of the night from residents with noise complaints related to the third track's construction. One of the key messages (in talking with residents) was as time goes by we would benefit from the cost of that construction", he said. "I think time has proven us right." This article can be viewed at:

<http://www.burlingtonpost.com/printarticle/118669>

Pressure, competing interests, and contentious issues are a steady diet for anyone that holds political office; it's to be expected. What also is to be expected is the need to have your voting representative make the best decisions for all residents involved in spite of how politically contentious the situation might be, expect that kind of professionalism - and expect nothing less. A lot of times doing the right thing is not the most popular, and challenging Provincial dictates has done little to stem the tide of growth. The sanctioned development requires that the essential infrastructure be put in place in order to accommodate that growth, to do less, is to ignore the realities of the day, failing to plan for it, is planning to fail, and ultimately is more costly, and indefensible to ALL affected community residents.

P.S. A special thank you to my most valued constituent **Mr. Roger Wilson** for his tireless volunteer work in cleaning up Waterdown for all of us. Roger you are wonderful!!!!!!

Sincerely

Councillor Margaret McCarthy
For more information visit my web site
www.margaretmccarthy.ca