

Parents anxious to get new Catholic high school going

By Bill Rea

There might be opponents to the notion of a Catholic high school in Bolton. If there are, these people either stayed away or stayed quiet at last Wednesday's public meeting on the proposed school.

More than 200 were out for the session at St. John the Baptist Elementary School to hear what's being proposed, as well as get a progress report on the project.

There was general agreement in the room that the school is needed, and is going to be a reality. Many of the concerns raised dealt with things like the site selection process and which kids are going to be bused, as opposed to being expected to walk to school.

"Where's the smoking section?" one woman asked (she was told smoking is not allowed on school property).

There were also a number of people who complained about how long it's all taking, and some of those lashed out at elected officials on hand for the meeting.

"Step on some toes," one man urged toward the end. "Twist some arms. Call in some favours. Let's get the

school built."

The facility is to be called St. Michael Secondary School, and is slated to go on a property of almost 20 acres on the north side of Columbia Way, just east of Highway 50.

Trustee Frank Di Cosola, Caledon's representative on the Dufferin — Peel Catholic District School Board, told the audience the meeting was called in response to a petition circulated by local residents, who were calling for more information on what's in the works.

He added approval of this project is critical, but it's an emotional issue too. The current school serving the area, Robert F. Hall Secondary School in Caledon East, currently accommodates some 1,900 students. The site also has 24 portables, so overcrowding is a concern.

Ken MacSporran, of Moffet and Duncan Architects, outlined some of the plans for the facility. The property provides lots of space for the building, as well as parking and playing fields. The lands to the east are part of the provincial Greenbelt. They are heavily treed and environmentally

protected.

The main entrance of the school will be on the west side of the building, facing the parking lot (there will be provisions for student parking). The school chapel will be at the southwest corner and will be a focal point. It will have a specially designed roof, making it visible throughout the entire frontage and showing its place in the community and its importance to the school.

There will be a one-way driveway for cars, as well as school buses, and there will be a kiss-and-ride area too. MacSporran added there are provisions for safe walking areas from the cars and buses. There will be a separate driveway on the east side of the building for trucks and custodial services.

It will be a two-storey building, he said, adding it will be divided into north-south sections. These two sections will be separated by a student gathering place or forum. The west end of this area is narrow, and will be near the office and administration section. It broadens further to the west, and MacSporran said it will offer good views of the

environmental lands to the east.

The north section will house the athletics area, including a triple gym, six change rooms and access to the playing fields outside. That will mean the fields are accessible without having to cross the parking lot or driveway. This section will also include a ring hall, containing health services, technical and computer rooms, student council area and a tuck shop.

The south section will contain an L-shaped corridor with the chapel at the corner. It's doors will be visible from the forum, MacSporran said, adding it will be buffered by quiet areas, like the vestry and special education section.

He also said the special education area will have direct access to the south front of the building, with designated buses stopping there.

The south section will contain the cafetorium, with a stage, and music rooms, as well as the custodial services area.

The library and resource centre will be in the north section, off the forum at the east end, offering a good view of the environmental lands.

Referring to the second floor, MacSporran said the north section will contain six science labs, all connection with a central preparation and work area,

along with four classrooms, two art rooms, two computer rooms and a design technical lab. The south area will contain regular classrooms.

Thane Munn, senior planner with the board, said this plan is the result of a design consultation with the architect to come up with something that will fit on the site and in the community.

A site plan was submitted to the Town early in 2006, and Munn stressed that is a slow process that has to be followed. There has also been a traffic study prepared, and he said Peel Region has signed off on it, while the Town is still looking at it.

There have been adjustments to the plan during the process. Originally, it was thought there were going to be seven minor variances needed, but

Munn said that has been reduced to one, and that concerns the amount of the property the building will cover. Caledon's Committee of Adjustment is scheduled to address that issue next month.

"We've got lots of work yet to do," Munn declared.

For one thing, the board does not yet own the property, because it's been waiting for the necessary approvals to build. The site is privately owned, and the board is involved in a process which Munn described as "friendly expropriation."

Once all the approvals are in place, Munn said the board will start addressing such issues as the catchment area boundaries.

The board will also have to work on deciding how the

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Local school Trustee Frank Di Cosola told the audience at last week's meeting about the need for the new school in Bolton.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW

AND MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Board Room, HJA. Brown Education Centre
5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario



The Peel District School Board (the "Board") proposes to amend the Peel District School Board 2004 Education Development Charges By-law which came into effect on September 1, 2004 and which was amended on May 28, 2006.

The schedule of education development charges now imposed by the By-law, as amended, is as follows:

Charge on residential development:	\$1,367 per dwelling unit
Charge on non-residential development:	\$0.19 per square foot (\$2.05 per square metre) of gross floor area

The proposed amending by-law will increase the charge on residential development to \$1,605.00 per dwelling unit and the charge on non-residential development to \$0.23 per square foot (\$2.48 per square metre) of gross floor area. The increase is due to an increase in the education land costs incurred by the Board over those estimated when the by-law was amended in 2006.

The said by-law referred to above applies to all lands in the Regional Municipality of Peel. Accordingly, a key map showing the location of the land subject to the by-law is not provided as part of this notice.

The Board will consider the proposed amending by-law at the regular meeting of the Board to be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario.

Should a new by-law be passed on such date, collection of education development charges pursuant to such bylaw will commence on Monday, March 31, 2008.

A copy of the proposed amending by-law, the education development charge background study in connection with the Peel District School Board 2004 Education Development Charges By-law, and information concerning the proposed amendment are available on request during regular business hours in the Planning and Accommodation Department at the Board's administrative offices, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario.

The Board would appreciate receiving on or before Tuesday, March 18, 2008 any written submissions which may be made so that they may be distributed to trustees prior to the meeting. If a person wishes to address the Board at the meeting, he or she should advise the Board on or before Tuesday, March 18, 2008. Submissions and requests to address the Board as delegations at the meeting should be submitted to: Marion Smith, Executive Assistant, Peel District School Board, Tel: (905) 890-1010 ext. 2011.

All submissions received in writing and those opinions expressed at the meeting will be considered prior to a decision by the Board to amend the by-law.

Any comments or requests for further information regarding this matter may be directed to Suzanne Blakeman, Planning Officer, Peel District School Board at (905) 890-1010 ext. 2216.

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ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

The Town of Caledon seeks expressions of interest from energetic community-minded residents who wish to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee - Caledon (AACC).

Residents or employees of Caledon who have a disability, or an interest in matters regarding persons with disabilities, are encouraged to apply for this volunteer committee.

A limited number of non-residents may be considered where they have qualifications or expertise.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest to the Town Clerk, indicating why you are interested, outlining any relevant background or qualifications.

Applications accepted until Friday, February 29, 2008.

Upon review by Council, appointments will be announced at a Regular Council Meeting by April 2008.

For more information, contact the Town Clerk [905.584.2272 x4218] or visit www.caledon.ca.

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