

# Main concern of community deals with delays in getting school built

From page 2

new school will be filled. It's possible they could start with just Grade 9 students in the first year, and add to the numbers annually so kids don't have to switch schools. Or they could set up a holding school, so the students could start a community of their own as they wait to move into the new facility. Students who have been attending Robert F. Hall for a couple of years might not want to change, he observed.

Munn said the board will come up with some options, and the community will have input.

There were a number of positive and enthusiastic comments from the audience in reaction to the prospect of the school coming. But there were some concerns expressed too. There had been 20 properties considered in the area, and some people wondered how they got it down to this one.

Beth Bjarnason, manager of planning for the board, said the 20 sites were based on consultations with a local realtor, as they were looking for a property that offered sufficient space, frontage, services, accessibility and conformity with surrounding land uses. Sites were dropped from consideration for various reasons, such as multiple land owners or being too close to industrial lands.

There were a number of questions about how many students will be bused. Munn said the general rule is busing is provided for students living more than 4.8 kilometres from the school, but he added that provision is intended for people in rural areas. He added there would be considerations for areas without sidewalks, or for students who might have to walk up Highway 50 on Bolton's north hill.

Bjarnason told the audience the planned capacity for St. Michael is 1,400, and she wouldn't rule out the possibility that portables would be needed at some point. Bolton, she said, has the highest per-capita number of Catholic students in Dufferin — Peel, and she added the area could continue to grow. She also said they have planned for possible expansion of the St. Michael site, but it will take more than few portables before the province will go along with it. Long-term need would have to be established.

Concerns about people in the community trying to hold up the process were also raised.

"Nobody's stopped the process," Munn declared, and while he was talking positively, he said there were no hard guarantees that the project will get all the approvals needed.

Di Cosola added the people who had signed the petition weren't trying to apply the brakes. They just wanted information and clarification.

"We just had concerns and we wanted some understanding," commented one man who said he had signed the petition.

One woman charged the Town isn't doing enough to move the process along. She complained she was sick of her kids being bused to Robert F. Hall, and all the snow days this year.

"What are you doing to push this through," she demanded.

Mayor Marolyn Morrison stressed council is supportive of the efforts, but added "there is a process you have to go through."

She also said Towns staff will be sending a positive report to the Committee of Adjustment, but she can't presuppose how the committee will rule.

Cathy Turco, representing the St. Michael Steering Committee (which includes representation from the four elementary schools in Bolton), spoke about the need for the new facility.

"There is no question that there is a need for a Catholic secondary school in Bolton," she declared, pointing to the crowded conditions at Robert F. Hall. "It goes without saying that there is a tremendous strain on our students, teaching and administrative staff, including the strain on our school facilities."

"The parents of Hall continue to advocate and support the development of a secondary school in Bolton to help alleviate the pressures in enrolment," she added. "They have been patient long enough."

Turco also stressed the desire to build a "vibrant,

caring, inclusive faith community."

As well, she addressed students with special needs and their need for an environment where they feel welcomed and belonging.

Turco said the committee has been circulating a petition of its own to generate support for the school, and they have more than 1,500 signatures so far. They plan to present it to Caledon council in March.

Addressing traffic issues, Munn agreed there will be impacts. There will be more traffic generated on Columbia Way, but he added

there will be fewer school buses running from Bolton to Caledon East in the mornings. As well, he said a number of the students will be able to walk to school.

One man charged there are school buses parked all over the street near Pope John Paul II School, and he hoped that wouldn't be the case at St. Michael.

Munn explained they are designing the site to handle the anticipated traffic.

"There is more than enough room to put the cars and the buses," he declared.

One man pointed out Columbia Way is part of the

Bolton Arterial Road network, and he figured that would mean a lot of trucks driving by. He wondered if there are any plans to widen the road. Geoff Hebbert, supervisor of the development in the Town's public works and engineering department, said there are no plans at this time for a widening.

The traffic congestion from parents driving their kids to school was a worry for some. One woman charged the situation going up Highway 50 is going to be "an absolute traffic jam!"

Another man suggested having the kids walk to

school should be encouraged, so they can get exercise. "Let's get 'em out walking," he declared.

There were also some concerns over possible development in the area. Morrison told the audience there are no plans to change the population figures for the north hill, adding a commercial development is possible for the area.

She was also asked about the possibility for public transit in Bolton.

"At this point, no," the mayor replied. "We do not have the critical mass yet to put in a public transit system in the Town of Caledon."



Mayor Marolyn Morrison pledged to Town is supportive of the new school.

**HAGAN TREE SERVICE**  
 Est. 1979  
 • PRUNING • PLANTING • REMOVAL • STUMPING  
**AWARD WINNING**  
 LANDSCAPE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
 FULLY INSURED - CONSULTING  
**BOB HAGAN, I.S.A.** **CERTIFIED ARBORIST**  
 NEW TECUMSETH  
**1-905-936-2876**  
**416-230-3184**

**Retirement Store Closing Sale**

**Everything Priced to Clear**

**FINAL DAY FEB 23**


**alia TANJAY NYGARD**

**Victoria West Fashions**

Mon - Sat 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 103 Victoria St. W., Downtown Alliston  
 705-435-5800

**PLAYFAIR**  
**Dental Centre**  
 FAMILY AND COSMETIC DENTISTRY  
 941-9341

**Dr. Melanie Yu**  
**Now accepting New Patients**



- smile analysis and design
- tooth whitening
- veneers
- crown and bridges
- dental implants
- dentures
- nitrous oxide to relieve anxiety

**We Create Smiles, One At A Time**  
[playfairdental.com](http://playfairdental.com)  
 79 Broadway 519-941-9341

**HELP STOP**  
**The Impact & Improve Quality of Life**

- Asthma
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Arthritis
- Heart Disease
- Infertility/PCOS
- MS
- Fibromyalgia
- Autism

*Plus many more conditions...*

**Reduce your risk of getting a disease with a revolutionary new natural product that has been verified and quantified in medical studies.**

Health Canada Approved.

*"This product in my opinion, represents the single most important breakthrough in health that I will witness in my lifetime. Further I believe that this product will revolutionize, change and transform the practice of medicine worldwide and will make Dr. Robert Keller more famous than Jonas Salk, who created the polio vaccine." Dr. John Nelson, Immediate past president American Medical Association*

Can I stop my condition from progressing?  
 Your DNA, is your risk increasing in a toxic world?  
 How does it work to keep me healthy?  
 How did it obtain a composition drug type patent?  
 Why is it being sold as a supplement?

**FREE PUBLIC SEMINARS, Feb. 27 & Mar. 5 - 7pm**  
 12 French Drive (behind Mono water tower off hwy #9)  
**CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT**  
**Health Practitioners:** request your private presentation, call to book an appointment now.  
**519-941-7008 Toll Free: 866-628-7008**

**WANTED**  
**SEVERAL HOMES IMMEDIATELY**

Several homes in your area will be given the opportunity of having a metal roofing system installed on their home at a reasonable cost. This lifetime product is capturing the interest of homeowners across the country who want to know this will be the last time they will have to re-roof their home. Our product is environmentally friendly and comes with a lifetime, transferable warranty with an excellent choice of colours to complement your home and is going to be introduced to your local market. Your home can be a show place in your neighbourhood. We will make it worth the time to investigate the many benefits of metal roofing. Please call,

**TOLL FREE**  
**1-866-956-1919**