

The Corporation of the TOWN OF MILTON

Report to: Chair & Members of the Administration & Planning Standing Committee

From: E. Iovio, M.C.I.P., R.P.P., Director, Planning and Development

Date: September 18, 2006

Report No. PD-063-06

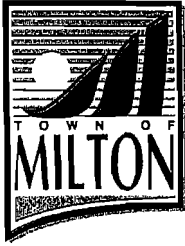
Subject: Municipal Street Name and Addressing Review

RECOMMENDATION: THAT staff be authorized to proceed with Public Open Houses and all the components of the public consultation process as noted in report PD-063-06 and that staff report back to council regarding results of Open Houses.

AND, THAT report PD-063-06 be forwarded to the Naming Convention Committee to recommend suitable street names for renaming purposes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to highlight the street name and house numbering changes required to correct conflicts that exist throughout the Town of Milton's databases. The need for change is precipitated by the need to provide accurate data to the GIS system and the Fire Department's Computer Automated Dispatch (CAD) system. This report will also outline a program for correcting these conflicts.



The Corporation of the TOWN OF MILTON

AP Report No.PD-063-06
Page No. 2

REPORT

Background

The Town of Milton has two address numbering systems, one rural and one urban. As a result of the creation of regional government in 1974, the street names and house numbers from the four former Township areas were merged together into one amalgamated municipality of the Town of Milton. Numerous street name and addressing conflicts were created. Our current system is in place more as a result of the amalgamation of "inherited" addressing, than by the design of a system based on the needs of the Town of Milton. Conflicts continue to cause confusion, not only during interpretation of the geographical information, but also within both the Bell 911 and Town GIS - Geographical Information System databases. These databases rely on unique addressing information for each property to ensure that Fire, Police and Ambulance response personnel are dispatched to the correct location in an efficient and timely manner.

Many of the current problem areas within our system stem from the fact that in the past address numbering has been generally performed without consistent guidelines and with little or no communications with the other addressing use entities within the municipality.

Our addressing system is also somewhat complicated by the application of the Regional road numbering network within our common areas.

The combination of these factors has led to:

- Duplicate street names,
- Similar, or confusing street names,
- Multiple street names being used for the same roadway,
- Duplicate address range areas, (street name and numbers)
- Inconsistent use of street direction and street type designations,
- Address numbers out of sequence,

Prior to Milton's current growth, which started in 2001, the overall community and road network basically remained unchanged. With limited change occurring and our street name list being somewhat finite, emergency response personnel became quite familiar with the vast majority of roadway locations. More importantly they became quite familiar with the problem areas within the system created due to the numerous "hidden"



inconsistencies. The personnel were familiar with the problems and changes were not thought of as a high priority issue.

Magnitude of the Problem

Presently, Halton Regional Police and EMS emergency response organizations are using automated response technologies. The Town of Milton is about to implement these capabilities through a new Computer Aided Dispatch system. Automation is essential as it is much quicker and more efficient than paper driven maps. However, the success of going automated is completely based on the accuracy of the data. Through the implementation of the Fire Department's Computer Aided Dispatch system, a consultant was hired to identify all of the addressing and street naming inaccuracies town wide. The findings presented by the consultant are as follows:

566 Properties are Implicated by Street Name Changes

484 – Rural

82 - Urban

170 Properties are Implicated by Municipal Number Changes

170 – Rural

50 Properties are Implicated by both Street Name and Municipal Number Changes

33 – Rural

17 – Urban

NOTE: This does not involve the wholesale renaming of conflicting rural roads such as First Line, Second Line etc.

The Town of Milton has invested significant time and funding into technologies that offer residents access to information about their community. These systems include GIS based online mapping services, address locators, online recreational program registrations and online parking ticket payment systems. The need for an accurate and reliable municipal address system is essential for these programs to be run efficiently and to allow the Town of Milton to continue to provide a high level of customer satisfaction to its residents and out of town guests or investors.



The Corporation of the TOWN OF MILTON

AP Report No.PD-063-06
Page No. 4

Similarly, these datasets need to be highly accurate when dealing with external agencies and/or partners. Circumstances will arise where business associates may request a digital copy of our municipal address data. Examples may include, surrounding municipalities, Provincial / Regional governments, Elections Canada, Bell 911 emergency services, landuse planning consultants, engineering firms and others. The need to have an accurate dataset is essential if the Town of Milton will be distributing them to agencies such as these.

Discussion

Public Consultation

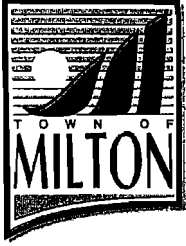
Before any updates to the Town of Milton's various databases can commence, a number of specific benchmarks need to be achieved. Firstly, a list of suggested names for the streets to be changed needs to be developed through consultation with the Naming Convention Committee. Secondly, a Communication Plan must be formed that lists dates and times for Open Houses, Newsletter rollout, and press releases. Thirdly, Public Meetings and Open Houses will be organized and conducted.

Upon conclusion of the Public Open Houses, another Report to Council will be submitted, commenting on the public's feedback and responses. Under Section 47 of the Municipal Act, it is stated that "Before passing a by-law naming a highway or changing the name of a highway, a municipality shall give public notice of its intention to pass the by-law." The Town of Milton currently has by-law's 27-97 and 46-2003, in place to specifically deal with street name and addressing changes.

Subsequent to a successful Public Notice campaign, two new By-Laws needs to be prepared for approval that describe what needs to be done to specific road segments and sequences in order to conform to all addressing and street naming conventions. The by-law will need to be registered on title.

Recommendation

THAT Town of Milton Fire Department staff and Planning Department staff be authorized to hold public Open House's regarding street name and house number changes in Milton, and THAT a staff report be forwarded to Council regarding the results of the Open House's and plans outlining a detailed implementation strategy.



The Corporation of the TOWN OF MILTON

AP Report No.PD-063-06
Page No. 5

Future Initiatives

Once approved, Town staff will continue to review by-laws that pertain to updating street names and municipal addresses. Also a review of any by-laws pertaining to protocols that are currently in place, that pertain to creating and maintaining corporate databases and data sets, will be completed as well.

These initiatives will be constantly updated

Financial Impact

The Town of Milton will install new street name signage and rural house numbering signs where a change of address will be made. Current inventories of new house numbering signs will be utilized wherever possible to defer costs.

The home or business owner will absorb any house number address change costs in the urban area. Costs associated with newspaper advertisements, newsletters to home owners and open house expenses are unknown at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director of Planning and Development

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If you have any questions on the content of this report, please contact:
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Attachments: none

CAO Approval: _____
