



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Andy Scott, Director, Strategic Initiatives & Business Development

Date: January 29, 2024

Report No: ES-001-24

Subject: MEV Post Secondary update - Conestoga College

Recommendation: **THAT council receive this report for information.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Milton Education Village (MEV) is a key strategic initiative that supports our future growth, the achievement of our corporate Strategic Plan and our Vision of Milton in 2051.
- A range of activity is ongoing on the MEV lands and we can anticipate further activity throughout 2024. As a result, staff plan to bring periodic updates to Council to keep Councillors and the community informed.
- Both Conestoga College and Wilfrid Laurier University have secured interim spaces within the community to offer academic programming. The three spaces secured will each commence operating in 2024.
- Conestoga College has commenced operating their Park Hill campus and will provide an overview of the academic offerings, student services, future MEV plans and anticipated community impacts to council by way of presentation.

REPORT

Background

In the early 1990's the Town identified the need to attract post-secondary educational institutions to the community and in 2007 the Town began to access the potential of the MEV lands as a local post-secondary campus location with related and complimentary uses.

Since that time work has progressed both internally and externally with a range of academic, landowner and government partners to make the MEV a reality.

Background

2023 was a milestone year for the MEV in that site works began one two developments. Schlegel Villages began their Phase One site works to commence construction of a new Long Term Care Facility, and Wilfrid Laurier University began their site works with a view to commencing construction of their first academic building, Milton One.

We also saw both Conestoga College and Wilfrid Laurier University publically announce their intent to offer academic programming in community by securing interim campus locations across the community.

Staff are anticipating progressive development on the MEV throughout 2024 while we also see increased academic program offered by our post secondary partners.

'Planned Community Growth' is a strategic theme as identified within the Town's Strategic Plan; with the MEV a key driver of this community growth. As a result, staff plan to bring periodic updates throughout this term of Council, highlighting progress on the MEV land development and progress by our academic partners on the availability and uptake of post-secondary programming in Milton.

The Milton Education Village will be a dynamic urban neighbourhood where innovation will meet nature. At full build out, the Town anticipates the MEV will be home to over 12,000 residents and a range of employers offering 2,500 highly skilled knowledge based jobs. In addition, the academic campus will host around 15,000 post secondary students and a further 2,300 jobs.

Discussion

Below are a range of key highlights which focuses on the activities currently underway on the MEV land development site and the associated post-secondary academic programming which is being offered by our academic partners. It is anticipated that as the MEV land development progresses, both academic institutions will transition their existing and future academic programming to the MEV campus location. This is expected to occur in 2028.

Ongoing MEV site works includes:

- An interim water and wastewater servicing strategy is under development by Halton Region.

Discussion

- Wilfrid Laurier University has begun work on their initial Milton One site. This currently entails raising the grading on the site through the installation of structural fill.
- Schlegel Villages have broken ground on their land development and named their future site 'The Village or Ridgeview Court'.

Interim Campus locations

- Conestoga College opened their 21,000 sq. ft. Park Hill Campus location in early January 2024 with approximately 700 students receiving academic programming at that location. This campus location has the capacity to support 2,000 students' when full enrollment occurs.
- Conestoga College are also initiating leaseholder improvements at their Steeles Avenue location which will host their Centre of Excellence in Health starting in May 2024. This campus will have the capacity to host 800 students at full enrollment.
- Wilfrid Laurier University has begun demolition of the ground floor at 555 Industrial Avenue which will host the Milton Laurier Academic Campus and offer academic programming from Fall 2024. This campus will have the capacity to host 300 students at full enrollment.

By the end of 2024 the Town can anticipate all three interim campus locations to be fully operational with an anticipated student population of approximately 3,000 students.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications considered within this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Scott
Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives & Business Development

For questions, please contact: Andy Scott

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Attachments

None.

Approved by CAO
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer

Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.