



News Release

June 17, 2021

Milton reaches significant milestone to make Milton Education Village a reality

Today, with the Ontario Government's support, the Town of Milton is thrilled to welcome a Wilfrid Laurier University and Conestoga College campus in Milton and a Schlegel Villages long term care facility, taking the next steps towards bringing the Milton Education Village to life.

"This is an exciting moment for Milton, our post-secondary, long term care, and provincial government partners," said Mayor Gord Krantz. "Today's provincial support announcement helps realize our vision of a complete community for the Milton Education Village. I'm delighted to see the province's commitment to higher education and aging to address Milton's future community needs."

The new post-secondary campus will deliver higher education that integrates teaching, learning, research and on-the-job experience for students. The key focus is academic excellence and experiential learning.

The long term care facility will provide the much needed care beds, along with partnering with Conestoga College on their life and health sciences programming. Since 2008, the Town has had a memorandum of understanding and partnership with Laurier to bring post-secondary education to the community, and recently entered into a similar partnership with Conestoga further enhancing the collective educational opportunities within Milton.

"We couldn't be more pleased to be partnering with two leading institutions to make Milton a destination for learning and innovation," said Andrew Siltala, Milton's CAO.

"Bringing post-secondary education to Milton has been a key priority for Milton for over a decade. The partnership with the campus and the long term care facility is one example of innovation and collaboration of the integrated vision of the Milton Education Village."

The vision for the [MEV Secondary Plan](#) area is to develop a dynamic urban village, where innovation meets natural wonder. This vision will be realized by the integration of leading academic institutions, outdoor recreational opportunities, views of the Niagara Escarpment, state-of-the-art research and design facilities and environmentally-conscious urban design.

Milton Education Village academic programming

Laurier's focus will be centered on planetary health with a problem-based, future-focused approach to learning. The university will offer programming, research and work-

integrated learning in the STEAM (science, technology, engineering arts and mathematics) fields. This will foster new developments, community-industry partnerships, market-ready research, and job creation in areas such as clean and green technology, and sustainable development.

Conestoga College will provide a broad range of career-focused programs that align with the labour market needs to support area businesses and address current and emerging skills gaps. The college's program offerings include health and life sciences, business, applied computer science and information technology, community services, engineering, trades and technology and creative industries programming.

- 30 -

Backgrounder Included

For media inquiries, please contact:

Tayjua Squire
Communications Advisor
905-878-7252 ext. 2266
[Email Communications Staff](#)

Backgrounder

Milton Education Village (MEV)

About the MEV:

- The vision for the MEV Secondary Plan area is to develop a dynamic urban village, where innovation meets natural wonder
- This vision will be realized by the integration of leading academic institutions, outdoor recreational opportunities, views of the Niagara Escarpment, state-of-the-art research and design facilities and environmentally-conscious urban design
- The MEV will connect people, business, education and recreational opportunities through a fully integrated transportation system, accommodating public transit, vehicles, walking and cycling
- With a mix of opportunities for young people to learn on-the-job and for forward-thinking businesses to leverage local students and talent, the MEV will be a centre for innovative solutions and education
- Today's announcement allows the following to move forward:
 - Post-secondary campuses;
 - Long-term care;
 - A high school;
 - Housing choices, including higher densities with affordable options and student housing; and,
 - A village core, (which is already anchored by the world class Mattamy National Cycling Centre) with a critical mass and mix of development to promote innovation employment, walkability, transit use and the efficient and cost effective delivery of required infrastructure.

Facts:

- Will accommodate over 12,803 people and 2,500 knowledge-based jobs
- Post-secondary campuses with capacity to accommodate 15,000 students and 2,300 jobs
- A 'main street' village centre and a neighbourhood centre with potential to accommodate up to 257,000 square feet of retail/service space
- Will also house an Elementary school, a high school, and a park
- Sustainable and energy efficient infrastructure that is efficient and incorporates green infrastructure and green building technologies
- The area is 162 hectares (400 acres) of land centered on the Mattamy National Cycling Centre and bounded by the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area to the north, Tremaine Road to the east, Britannia Road to the south and the Greenbelt Plan Area to the west

History:

- In 2007, the Town of Milton began to assess the opportunities for the MEV lands to be developed. Specifically, to provide a local campus for an Ontario University, along with related and complementary uses
- In 2012, the Town initiated the preparation of a Secondary Plan and Implementation Strategy for the MEV. The background and options assessment work was completed and a public open house took place. Shortly thereafter, in the absence of an announcement of provincial funding, the Town paused the Secondary Plan process.
- In October 2016, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development announced plans to create a new university-led post-secondary site in Milton focused on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).
- Wilfrid Laurier University, in partnership with Conestoga College, submitted a proposal to the Province in March 2017.
- In June 2017, Council directed staff to re-initiate the Secondary Plan for the MEV lands.
- In early fall 2017, Town staff held meetings with interested stakeholders to present the work plan and receive input to be considered as part of the MEV planning process.
- A public open house hosted by the Town was held in January 2018, to receive input regarding street networks, land use, built form and key ideas.
- In June 2018, Town staff hosted an Innovation and Future Development Fair and took this opportunity to present a preliminary land use concept for the MEV stemming from the public engagement initiatives
- In September 2018, Milton endorsed a Preliminary Preferred Land Use Concept and Secondary Plan Framework for the MEV
- In September 2020, a statutory Public Meeting took place at Council. Council considered the draft MEV Secondary Plan (DS-033-20) and received delegations from interested parties
- In November 2020, the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to execute agreements and all ancillary documents related to the Milton Education Village. These agreements support Laurier and Conestoga's August 2020 formal submission to the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities for the development of a post-secondary campus in the MEV.
- The MEV Secondary Plan was approved by Town Council in December 2020.