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President's Viewpoint

The long awaited, highly publicized "410 Highway to Glory..."

Over the past decade, The City of Brampton has experienced unprecedented growth. Along with that growth come transportation and traffic challenges. Gridlock is an expensive issue. It results in lost productivity for businesses and commuters as vehicles are slowed or stopped in congested traffic arteries. It has financial, energy, and environmental impact as well, while thousands of cars and trucks sit idling on our highways. Over the years, our transportation infrastructure has garnered much attention at municipal, regional, and provincial levels alike.

As we near the final completion of the four-phase, decade long, Highway 410 extension, it's gratifying to trace the unwavering commitment and continued focus of countless people representing many organizations who brought this project to life and made significant contributions, leaving an indelible legacy for the Brampton community and everyone who travels through it.

Your Brampton Board of Trade has been an unwavering advocate for completion of the 410, listing the issue as one of its top policy advocacy priorities. Brampton Board of Trade representatives met numerous times and corresponded regularly with successive Ministers of Transportation to ensure the project was also top of

BBOT President
Charles Waud



mind for the provincial government. Former Board of Trade President Linda Ford reported in a past Trade Talks' article that "completion is pivotal to reducing congestion for businesses and residents in Brampton".

Considered one of our community's most pressing issues, your Brampton Board of Trade, City, Region, and Province went to work planning a long term solution. Broken down into four phases, the stages of construction were:

- * Phase 1A - Sandalwood Parkway extension and structure over Highway 410
- * Phase 1B - from Bovaird Drive to Sandalwood Pkwy.
- * Phase 2 - Construction to Mayfield Road including the Mayfield interchange.
- * Phase 3 - North side of Mayfield road to Highway 10.

In May 2006, then president of the BBOT, Michael Luchenski wrote in a Trade Talk articles that,

"Since the last municipal election, there has been significant movement

on the extension of Highway 410. In that regard, The Brampton Board of Trade was very pleased last month to welcome to Brampton the Ontario Minister of Transportation, The Honourable Harinder Takhar, to meet with local business representatives to discuss transportation and traffic gridlock issues in Brampton and Peel. Brampton MPPs Linda Jeffrey and Vic Dhillon, and representatives from the City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, Region of Peel, and Caledon Chamber of Commerce also attended the meeting and participated in the discussion."

Following the successful completion of the previous phases, the final Phase 3 construction started in August of 2007. It opened on November 16th. According to material available from the Ministry of Transportation, it is scheduled to be completed with final restoration in the spring of 2010. The province estimates up to 60,000 cars will use the road daily.

On a personal note, I live very close to the end of the 410 in Summer Valley (Hurontario and Mayfield Road area). I bought my house in 1998 partly because the 410 was nearby, and I saw it as being an easy way for me to get to my office at Queen and Rutherford, and/or the Ontario Food Terminal where I do a lot of work. It has been

frustrating to wait all these years for the completion. I was very pleased to see it open a few weeks ago, and it is now saving me a significant amount of time almost every day.

The opening of this highway brings to completion a Brampton Board of Trade Advocacy issue, which has been on the table at our Policy and Government Relations committee for many years. It took a long time, and a lot of work, but we stayed on top of the issue, and are most pleased to see it through.

I am interested in your opinion. You can reach me by email at president@bramptonbot.com

