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Council approves amendment to zoning by-law regarding drive-thrus**New regulations balance needs of residents and businesses****May 14, 2010 - For immediate release**

Oakville Town Council has approved an amendment to the town's zoning by-law regarding drive-thrus that addresses resident concerns regarding noise, air quality and traffic, while balancing the interests of the business community and the traveling public.

"We're providing a balanced approach to drive-thrus," said Mayor Rob Burton. "Opportunities for new drive-thrus will continue within our commercial areas located on major arterial roads and all existing drive-thrus will continue to be legal. Within our residential areas new drive-thrus will not be permitted."

Prior to making its recommendation, town staff conducted a comprehensive public consultation process and Town Council carefully weighed input from members of the public as well as the business industry. The by-law amendment will include the following key regulations:

- New drive-thrus be restricted from locating within Downtown Oakville, Bronte and Kerr Villages, the Midtown Core, Palermo Village and the Uptown Core.
- New drive-thrus will continue to be permitted in certain commercial zones only if they are located on a road classified as a major arterial within the Town's Official Plan.
- New drive-thrus will not be permitted within other commercial zones and will continue to not be permitted within employment areas that abut residential areas.
- That a minimum 15m setback be required for all yards of a drive-thru facility, including the intercom ordering station which abuts a residential zone.
- That a 7.62m wide landscaped buffer and 1.8m high board or masonry wall be provided along all property boundaries abutting a residential zone.
- That a minimum of 10 vehicle stacking spaces for a restaurant and a minimum of 4vehicle stacking spaces for all other drive-thrus be required.

"Public consultation was a key part of this work and Council thanks all those who shared their opinions," said Mayor Burton. "This amendment is consistent with our vision to be the most livable town by preserving existing neighbourhoods, promoting our new urban centres and providing convenience in areas where motorist travel frequently."

Ward 2 Councillor Cathy Duddeck, who had raised the concern with drive-thrus within the stable residential areas of her ward was pleased with Council's decision. "These recommendations will surely address many of the concerns brought forward by the residents not only in my ward but throughout the town."

In November 2008, Town Council passed an interim control by-law prohibiting construction of new drive-thru facilities so town staff could conduct a study into where drive-thrus could best be located. In September 2009, Council directed staff to seek further public input on the issue before making decision on the study's recommendations. Over the past several months, six meeting were held to gain public feedback.

Council's decision may be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

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