TOWN OF CALEDON

Caledon's Strategic Plan 2023-2035 Grade 10 Assignment Results Summary

What We Heard

In March/April 2023, the Town engaged grade 10 high school students through a strategic planning assignment to better understand what is most important to youth over the next 12 years. We asked them about their hopes and dreams for the future of Caledon to inform Caledon's 2023-2035 Strategic Plan. Classes were transformed into a mock strategic planning task force, receiving an initial presentation about the Town of Caledon, strategic planning, and the assignment. Along with assignment instructions, classes were provided relevant documents including an environmental scan and municipal strategic plan examples. Three weeks later, about 15 groups of 2-5 students for a total of about 80 students presented their proposed municipal strategic plan vision and goals to their class and Town of Caledon staff. A summary of the findings is included in this document.

Results from this engagement should be treated as a snapshot into youth viewpoints on the project and considered alongside other data sources for a full picture of community feedback.

Here's what youth told us:

- Youth appreciate Caledon's green landscape and environment and want to preserve/protect it, however they are also looking for better transportation options as well as entertainment, activities and community events.
- An ideal Caledon 12 years from now tended to be described as environmentally friendly/green/sustainable, accessible (in terms of transportation and mobility), lively/socially connected.
- To move toward an ideal Caledon, it was largely suggested that the Town focus its attention on:
    - Environment;
    - Transportation and mobility (including active transportation)
    - Economic development (including tourism and culture)
    - Planning for growth
- Green was often applied to other categories such as green transportation, green economy, and green growth. Green activities included supporting renewable and sustainable energy, building eco-friendly buildings and transportation infrastructure, creating more green spaces and conservation, preserving the greenbelt, promoting biodiversity, environmental restoration and supporting eco-friendly packaging.
- Transportation activities included improving/expanding public transportation, increasing walkability through trails and sidewalks, creating more bike lanes, and improving roads.
- Though not as prominent as other themes, youth mentioned importance of recreation, health and social services, public engagement and education.
- While students conducted a variety of research for this assignment, it was clear more communication is needed from the Town to reach and engage students about services, events and opportunities.

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Next Steps

Data collected throughout the entire consultation process will be analyzed and used to inform the 2023-2035 Caledon Strategic Plan Staff Report. The report will be discussed at a meeting in Summer 2023. Use the Q&A tool or staff contact information on the Have Your Say Caledon page to ask us questions.

Engagement Marketing & Promotion

Thank you to Grade 10 ‘Discovering the Workplace’ students from Humberview Secondary School and Grade 10 ‘Politics’ students from King’s College School who participated in the engagement assignment. Throughout February/March 2023 high schools in Caledon were invited via phone and email to participate.