




Dave Gittings
Town of Oakville
Town Councillor, Ward 3

Keeping you informed. . .



Over the next week or so, each household in Oakville will receive a copy of *Let's Talk Oakville*.

This Town publication provides updates from both Town Hall as well as from the Councillors for each Ward. During last year's budget process, the frequency of this publication was reduced from four to two times per year in an effort to reduce costs. This email provides some important updates on issues of concern to Ward 3.

Ward boundary review postponed to new year

I have received numerous inquiries regarding Oakville's boundary review, and questions regarding possible changes to the current Ward structure. **The boundary review has been prompted by the growing inequity of population in the existing six wards. A Town report stated the ideal in a six-ward system should see each ward hold about 17% of the total electorate.** Our current boundaries have been in place since 1990.

The 2010 municipal election found Ward 1 and 2 each contain 12% of the electorate while Ward 3 has 15%, Ward 4 has 28%, Ward 5 has 18% and Ward 6 has 15%. Projected growth, particularly in north Oakville, will increase these discrepancies.

Dr. Robert Williams, the consultant hired by the Town to conduct the boundary review, outlined numerous options. Williams looked at the current wards as well as a 2005 Citizens' Task Force Recommendation, which called for six large wards that would run north to south across the entire town. In a north/south ward system, all wards would initially fall within 10% of the optimal size for representation by population. Williams' estimates that by 2021, however, Ward 4 would exceed that optimal size by 25% while Wards 1, 2, and 3 would fall well below it.

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Several public information meetings have been held, with our local residents associations showing keen interest in what effect the different proposals may have on Ward 3. A special Town of Oakville council meeting to discuss the town's municipal ward boundary review has been scheduled for February 21 in Council Chambers at Town Hall, 1225 Trafalgar Rd.

Option 1 would see two wards south of the QEW and four wards in the north — but would divide areas such as West Oak Trails, River Oaks and the Uptown Core.

Option 2 uses Upper Middle Road as the boundary with three wards to the south and three to the north of it.

Williams' estimates this scenario would also eventually result in high populations in Wards 1 and 3.

Option 3 leaves Ward 3 as it is, bounded to the north by the QEW, but moves the north boundary of Wards 1 and 2 north to Upper Middle Road.

To review the various scenarios and see maps, please visit <http://www.oakville.ca/wardreview.htm>



2012 Town Committees

In the fall of each year, Regional and Town Councillors are asked to state their interest in Committees that we would like to serve on for the following year. Over the past year, I have served on

- Community Services Committee
- Heritage Oakville Committee
- Downtown Oakville BIA Board of Directors

In addition to these committees, I was also appointed on November 21st to serve on the following ones in 2012.

- 2013 Budget Committee
- Community Spirit Awards Selection Committee
- Accessibility Advisory Committee

RAK Day a resounding success

On November 4th, the Oakville Community Foundation's Random Act of Kindness Day saw residents across Oakville performing random acts of kindness. A few of the Acts included students at our local schools embracing the day, the downtown BIA handing out flowers, residents dropping loonies into expired parking meters to prevent drivers from receiving parking tickets, coffees paid for by people at the front of the line, and a crossing guards receiving gifts of thanks for the important service that they provide to keep our children safe. Our local 4th Trafalgar Scout Venturer Company took up the challenge by raking Georges Square so that it would look its best for Remembrance Day ceremonies. While plans are underway for the 2012 event, our hope is that residents will continue to perform acts of kindness throughout the coming year.



Town sets budget talks

Before Oakville tables its proposed 2012 budget in January, the Budget Committee wants to know how satisfied residents are with town programs and services and how important they are to taxpayers.

“This pre-budget consultation exercise was designed to engage the public at the onset of the budget process,” said Ward 6 Town and Regional Councillor and Budget Chair Tom Adams. “This input will help us better understand the public’s views on the services the Town provides and how they should be funded as we pursue council’s objective of keeping total property tax increases in line with inflation.”

The Town is also seeking feedback from taxpayers about the top issues currently facing Oakville. To weigh in on this pre-budget consultation, visit www.oakville.ca and click on the 2012 Budget Consultation button to access the online questionnaire. To share additional comments or suggestions, residents can e-mail budget2012@oakville.ca. All resident input will be shared with the Budget Committee as part of its deliberations.

The Town of Oakville will be hosting a series of public open houses, interactive online forums, and Budget Committee meetings starting in January 2012.

For more information about the 2012 budget, visit www.oakville.ca/2012budget.htm.



Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital Lands

I continue to receive a large volume of calls asking about the status of the Linbrook, Chisholm and Brantwood school properties and the future use of the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital lands. Negotiations for the Town's purchase of the school properties continue, and I expect that we will be able to update residents early in the New Year. In terms of the hospital lands, the town will produce a redevelopment plan for the existing hospital lands through the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) Lands Study. The study is a requirement of the Livable Oakville Plan, which designates the hospital lands as Institutional to recognize the existing uses, but also identifies them as a Potential Residential Redevelopment Area.

A community visioning workshop was held in June 2010. The timeline for the creation of land/use design options and a second workshop was extended so that the town may first consult with residents about the **Draft Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan. That document, presented to the Community Services Committee on November 29, 2011, makes recommendations about facility requirements town-wide from 2011 to the town's build-out. The basis for including any parks and recreation facilities in the land use/design options for the OTMH lands, as suggested by a number of residents the first workshop, would come from the need established through this type of review.**

The draft Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan is of particular interest to Ward 3, as it details possible infrastructure needs and possibilities. It is available at

<http://secure.t.oakville.ca/eams/cache/107/lddiyzbnf2yn31exjagwvq55/18439412152011093555149.PDF>



I would appreciate your feedback on any of the items included in this email, or any other thoughts and concerns that you would like to share. Click on reply, or please call me at 905 844 5513.

I would like to extend my best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful Christmas and continued health and happiness in the New Year.

