



# Dave Gittings

## Town of Oakville

Town Councillor, Ward 3

*Keeping you informed . . .*



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### Dog Guides Canada – Purina Walk for Dog Guides (Sunday, May 27)

Since 1983, the lives of hundreds of Canadian women, men, and children have been enriched thanks to the services of specially trained Dog Guides provided by the Lions Foundation of Canada. Their mission is to help Canadians with disabilities achieve greater mobility, safety, and independence with the assistance of five types of Dog Guides: Canine Vision for the blind or visually impaired; Hearing Ear for the deaf or hard of hearing; Special Skills for those with a medical or physical disability; Seizure Response for epilepsy; and Autism Assistance for autism.

Training takes 4 – 6 months and is conducted right here in Oakville! While the dogs are in class through the week, like all students, they get the weekend off. Our family fosters a dog guide on



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weekends. We take our current dog, 'Vanilla', everywhere with us, and it has been an incredible joy knowing the difference that she will soon make to a visually impaired teenager.

The Lions Foundation does not receive any government funding, and provides Dog Guides free of charge to qualified applicants. To some, these Dog Guides are their eyes and, to others, their means to live independently. On Sunday, May 27th, The Lions Foundation is holding its annual fund raising walk. If you are able to participate or donate, please visit <http://walkfordogguides.com>.



The Gittings' family Foster Dog Guide 'Vanilla' with Barb Smith from Holcim Canada at the Joshua Creek Residents Association tree planting last Saturday. Holcim provided 300 spruce and pine seedlings, residents provided the labour, and future Joshua Creek residents will reap the rewards for years to come.



## Spring has Sprung!

With the arrival of warm weather, our area is also experiencing the arrival of vandalism and inappropriate and potentially dangerous behaviour in schools, parks, and open spaces. This issue is being reported throughout Oakville. In our neighbourhood, there have been several instances of costly acts of vandalism, as well as mid-afternoon and late night partying in local parks. The Halton Regional Police Service is fully aware of our concerns, and uniform patrols and plain clothes officers have been informed. Our **Community Officer, PC Draper**, asks residents to contact the non-

emergency police number, **905-825-4747** , if you see or hear a problem in the area. These calls are assigned on a priority call basis. The police will respond as quickly as possible to deter the problem from escalating.



## South Central Public Lands Study (SCPLS)

The SCPLS is a comprehensive land use study focussing on our three surplus school sites (Brantwood, Chisholm, and Linbrook Public Schools), the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital site, and the Oakville Arena site. The purpose of the study is to:

- determine the preferred location of any recreational needs established in the final Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan
- identify other public or community needs that may be accommodated on these sites
- define a preferred land use option for each of the specific sites included in the study

The study is recommended by the draft Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan (PRLFMP Nov. 2011), which says that the establishment of a community centre (approx. 20-30,000 sq. ft.) in south central Oakville should be explored.

You are invited to attend one of the upcoming open houses to learn more about the draft PRLFMP and provide feedback:

- **Wednesday, May 30** - Oakville Room at Town Hall (1225 Trafalgar Road), 1:30-4 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 30** - Committee Rooms 1 and 2 at Town Hall (1225 Trafalgar Road), 6:30-9 p.m.
- **Tuesday, June 5** - Rehearsal Hall at Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre (2302 Bridge Road), 6:30-9 p.m.

Council recognizes that there are limited opportunities to accommodate public uses and meet community needs in the developed areas of the Town. When large sites such as Brantwood, Chisholm and Linbrook or the surplus hospital site become available, consideration must be given to other possible uses that could be accommodated on them, and the most appropriate long term land use.

The SCPLS Council Subcommittee is authorized to provide comment on all aspects of the land use study, including the public consultation, and the recreational needs identified through the Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan relative to the SCPLS. The subcommittee will meet and provide on-going advice to staff until the completion of the SCPLS anticipated in early 2013.

For full details, please visit the Town website at <http://www.oakville.ca/business/south-central-public-lands.html>.



## **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

Oakville is facing potential devastation of almost one in every 10 trees from the EAB. Having made its way from Asia in 2002, EAB is a metallic green beetle that has eaten its way through more than 70 million indigenous ash trees in Canada and the United States. Its presence in Oakville was first confirmed in July 2008 in the vicinity of Eighth Line and Falgarwood.



**How to tell if a tree is infested** - Early detection can be difficult and symptoms misdiagnosed. If you are concerned that your tree might be affected, here are some signs to look for: reduced foliage, yellowing of the leaves, vertical cracks, and small D-shaped exit holes in the tree's bark, as well as evidence of woodpecker and squirrel feeding sites. It's

recommended that a certified arborist or forester confirm a diagnosis, as professionals have other ways to determine if a tree is infested.

**What to do?** - Without intervention, infested trees usually die within five years. So, depending on the severity of the infestation, there are really only two options. If the beetle is discovered early enough, trees can be treated with a natural pest control product called TreeAzin. It helps prevent further damage by killing off the destructive larvae. In cases where trees have advanced stages of infestation, however, the pesticide is no longer effective and the only option is to remove the tree.



Infestation by the EAB will force the Town of Oakville to cut down and replace approximately 8,700 ash trees in its parks and along its roads over the next half a dozen years. Staff will be treating approximately 5,800 ash trees (with bi-annual bio-insecticide injections) as they meet a certain size criteria and overall health. This will preserve 75% of the municipal treatable ash canopy.

Around 3,000 Oakville ash trees are scheduled to be treated with the bio-insecticide TreeAzin in 2012. A total of 2,420 ash trees were treated in 2011. Town staff state all trees treated since 2008 are still alive and generally in good condition while many of the untreated trees have died or been removed once decline

was evident. While the Town has been working to deal with its own ash trees, it has previously stated that about 80% of Oakville's nearly 180,000 ash trees are on private property and are the responsibility of individual property owners.

For details, visit [www.oakville.ca/residents/emerald-ash-borer.html](http://www.oakville.ca/residents/emerald-ash-borer.html)



## **Ward Boundaries to remain status quo for the 2014 municipal election - Council recommends future seven-ward option, pending increase to regional council representation.**

I would like to express my thanks to all of the Ward 3 residents who reached out to me to express their views during the Ward Boundary review. Ward 3's five residents associations also deserve everyone's thanks for all the time and effort that they put in to attending focus groups, public information sessions, and Town Council meetings.

The 2011-12 Oakville's ward boundary review began in May 2011. Council confirmed three guiding principles for the review in February 2012 that were prioritized in the following order: one, effective representation; two, the protection of communities of interest and neighbourhoods; and three, consideration of physical features as natural boundaries. Council also confirmed the federal numerical standard of 25% as an acceptable percentage variation in population size among the wards and asked that Sixteen Mile Creek and Trafalgar Road be recognized as ward boundaries where possible.

With a unanimous vote to keep the status quo until Halton Region awards Oakville an additional seat on Regional Council, the town's ward boundary review has been completed. The decision means that Oakville's current six-ward system will remain in place for the 2014 municipal election. With the town's population expected to grow over the next few years, an additional seat on Regional Council is possible as early as the 2018 municipal election, allowing for the implementation of Council's recommendation.

The seven-ward option recommended by Council uses Sixteen Mile Creek as the chief east-west boundary up to Dundas Street. The QEW serves as a significant north-south boundary for most wards, with Trafalgar Road the boundary from the QEW to Dundas Street. The new seventh ward is created north of Dundas Street with Burlington as the boundary to the west and the planned extension of Eighth Line to the east.



## "Goings-On" in our Downtown



After a 30 year career in business working every day with business owners large and small, it is my privilege to be a member of the Board of Management of the Oakville Downtown BIA. The BIA represents over 400 businesses in the heart of Oakville. I have a keen respect for the shopkeepers and business owners who provide goods and services for our community.

While full details of events may be found at <http://www.oakvilledowntown.com/>, I would like to inform you of upcoming events and encourage you to attend them.



### **Downtown Oakville Sidewalk Sale June 14th – 16th**

This 3 day shopping extravaganza is celebrating its 37th year. This Oakville tradition brings our downtown to life as retailers bring their best buys of the season to the street. Please be sure to come by and stay for great food at one of our many restaurants.

**Midnight Madness** – Downtown’s largest retail event will be held on July 20th with community performers, live music on each block, great food, and of course great offers from Oakville’s downtown stores.

**Oakville’s Downtown Jazz Festival** - Mark August 10-12 on your calendar! Invite some friends so that they may experience our 20th Jazz Festival featuring some incredible talent from across North America.



## **Oakville Historical Society**



The Society offers four walking tours exploring various aspects of Oakville's rich historical heritage. For full details of the work of the Oakville Historical Society, please visit <http://www.oakvillehistory.org/index.htm>



**Heritage Houses in Old Oakville** - This walk explores the homes of the Old Oakville Heritage Conservation District. It includes many of the Town's oldest homes including some interesting insights into the lives of Oakville's early inhabitants.

**Heritage Main Street of Old Oakville** - This walk covers the original business section of the town which has extended since the 1830's from the Sixteen Mile Creek to Trafalgar Road. From that point eastward, the street was mainly residential to Allan St. until its transformation starting in the 1950's.

**Historical Walk of Trafalgar Road** - This walk explores the homes and other buildings of the Trafalgar Road Heritage Conservation District. Take this walk to gain insights into many of the lesser known aspects of Oakville's historical heritage: Trafalgar - a wood plank toll road; the Great Fire of 1866 that sent flaming kerosene all the way down the Sixteen to the harbour; the connection between the Temperance movement and Tim Horton's; the Underground Railway connection, as well as the Hamilton Radial Railway.

Best Regards,



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