



# Dave Gittings

## Town of Oakville

Town Councillor, Ward 3

*Keeping you informed . . .*



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### Draft Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan (PRLFMP) Passed by Council

**GREAT NEWS!** Thank you to the Ward 3 residents and Residents Association representatives who attended the Community Services Committee (CSC) meeting on October 23rd and Council meeting on October 29th to provide feedback and support of the staff report and to reinforce our communities' request for equitable geographic distribution of recreation facilities. The Draft Parks Recreation and Library Master Plan Update is available at - [Website](#)

The Community Services Committee (CSC) approved in principle the Draft Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan (PRLFMP) pending the 10 year capital budget forecast. This motion was carried at Monday's Council meeting. **Recommendations**





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**include the construction of a community centre in south Oakville containing multi-use and activity space, including a provision for a pool to replace Centennial Pool.**

In 2011, Council received the draft PRLFMP technical assessment, developed to assist decision-makers, stakeholders and residents in understanding Oakville's priorities for additional parks, recreation, and library facilities, and released it for public consultation. Consultation was broad and included focus groups, stakeholder interviews, feedback forms, and public meetings. The plan also included public feedback from the South Central Public Lands Study online survey.

One recommendation in the updated PRLFMP and a separate staff report approved by the CSC proposes that a single pad arena be preserved at Trafalgar Park. Staff recommended that two options be further examined: to refurbish Oakville Arena or demolish it to rebuild a new arena in its place. Subject to Council approval, staff will develop architectural design concepts for both options taking into consideration the arena's heritage attributes, public input, and cost estimates. Funding for all options will be determined through the 10 year capital forecast in the spring 2013.

***Other recommendations in the draft PRLFMP include:***

- Creation of a community centre for north Oakville as part of the second phase of the development of Sixteen Mile Sports Complex that would include gymnasiums and pools.
- Consideration for the future replacement of the Oakville Senior Citizens' Recreation Centre on Kerr Street within a new community facility, possibly on the Oakville Arena site.
- Relocation of the Cross Street Youth Centre to north of the QEW, the development of an additional youth centre in north Oakville, and additional space for youth in the Sixteen Mile Sports Complex.
- Development of a community hub facility in Palermo Village for multi-use programming.
- Maintenance of an active parkland of 2.2 hectares per 1,000 population

- Development of additional outdoor facilities including 44 soccer fields and two multi-use fields and conversion of under-utilized ball diamonds to address gaps in other facilities.
- New library branches in Bronte, the Sixteen Mile Sports Complex, Trafalgar corridor north of Dundas Street, and Palermo Village.

The updated 2012 PRCLMP accounts for changes that have occurred since the approval of the original plan in 2006, such as the acquisition of Joshua's Creek arenas, the construction of Sixteen Mile Sports Complex, and the opening of Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre. It also identifies timing for new facilities based on criteria including community needs, demands from growth, and affordability.



## Gairloch Gardens

At the October 23rd Administrative Services Committee meeting, a motion was passed to consider three options for the future of the Gairloch estate home.

- Keep estate intact and complete all repairs to the property and find a municipal use for the facility.
- Keep estate intact and lease out the estate house.
- Sever estate house and outbuilding, dividing property at the bottom of the natural hill of the property and retaining lakefront access for the town.



While it was approved by committee, I introduced a motion at Council on October 29th to 'separate' this motion to allow for a full Council debate. After vigorous session, Councillor Bird and I were thrilled that option #3, the possible sale of the Gairloch home, was defeated. Only options #1 or #2 above will be evaluated.

### **History**

Gairloch Gardens was originally part of 400 acres of farmland. In 1922 Colonel William Mackendrick purchased 11.4 acres of this land and built an Arts & Crafts style house with lake side landscaped grounds.

In 1960, James A. Gairdner, an investment dealer in Oakville, bought the property and named the estate Gairloch, a Gaelic word that means "short lake." He died in 1971 and bequeathed his estate to the Town of Oakville with the wish that "the residence and the land immediately adjacent thereto be used as an Art Gallery for the display of art by contemporary artists and the remainder as a public park". The staff report stated that 'The town is not legally bound to this wish'.



## **Downtown Oakville Heritage Conservation District Study (DOHCDS)**

The Downtown Oakville Heritage Conservation District Study (DOHCDS) is an implementation initiative of the Downtown Oakville Strategic Action Plan (DOSAP). The objective is to study the heritage resources of downtown Oakville, and depending on Council direction, create a plan that will identify existing heritage resources, provide guidelines to preserve heritage resources, manage change and guide future development in the area. Community engagement is integral to this study.



### **Background**

The purpose of the Downtown Oakville Strategic Review was to produce a prioritized set of actions to maintain and improve those qualities that make Oakville's downtown a great place. It addressed critical factors including cultural heritage, urban design and streetscape, public facilities, economics, transportation, and sustainability. The DOSAP received Council approval in August 2010 and the DOHCDS was initiated in the fall of 2011. Council endorsed the proposed boundary for a Downtown Heritage Conservation District and directed staff to proceed to the next phase of the project to create a Heritage Conservation District Plan and Guidelines. Council emphasized the need for continued communication with stakeholders, especially the business community, to keep them involved and informed. The first draft of the Downtown Oakville Heritage Conservation District Plan and Guidelines is now available online at - [Guidelines](#)

The statutory public meeting for the Plan and Guidelines will be December 10, 2012 at Planning and Development Council. To participate, please contact Susan Schappert at [sschappert@oakville.ca](mailto:sschappert@oakville.ca)

## Oakville's New Hospital

The Town of Oakville has voted to formally request that Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) name the new Oakville hospital, to be built at Third Line and Dundas Street, the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH). The existing OTMH, located on Reynolds Street, will be demolished shortly after the new hospital opens in late 2015.

Councillor Bird and I brought this motion forward to respect the history of the existing Oakville hospital and to honour ongoing support provided to the local hospital by Oakville residents who have contributed millions of dollars and thousands of hours of volunteer work over the past 60 years through the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

The motion also pointed out the Town of Oakville has committed to donate \$130 million towards the construction of the new hospital, making it the largest single donor. The motion was carried unanimously by Town council.



MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION

## MPAC 2013-2016 Property Value Assessments

Property owners can expect to receive MPAC assessment notices this Fall, as 2013 marks the beginning of another four-year property assessment cycle for the period 2013-2016. Properties will be assessed based on their worth as of January 1, 2012. Property value increases since the 2008 assessment will be phased in equally over four years, while decreases will be recognized immediately.

In Oakville, residential property values have increased by approximately 21.1%. With MPAC's four-year phase-in program, property owners will see an average assessment related increase of 5.2% for 2013.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*My 2012 assessment value has increased 20 per cent over the previous 2008 value. Does this mean that my taxes will increase by 20 per cent?*

**No.** A 20% increase in your 2012 assessment value does not mean your tax bill will increase by 20%, since taxes are based on the assessed value and the tax rate.

- **Assessed value (or CVA):** Your new 2012 assessed value increase needs to be compared to Oakville's "average increase" which is 21.1%. If it's below this average, you will see a tax decrease due to reassessment, if it's average there will be no change, and if it's above you will see a tax increase due to reassessment.
- **Tax rate:** Residential property taxes are calculated using your assessed value, the town's tax rate, the region's tax rate, and the education tax rate, set by the Province of Ontario. These rates are not known until the current year's budget and tax policies are finalized, and the effects of any provincial legislative changes are determined. The town's tax rate is determined by Town Council through the budget process. Only by applying the current year's tax rates to your assessed value will you know the overall impact on your property taxes.

### **What does the "phase-in" period mean?**

The CVA phase-in period is a four-year cycle. If your property assessment value rose by 20%, the increase will be incremental at five per cent over four years so you won't be taxed on the full 2012 value until 2016.

### **How do I determine if the value and classification placed on my property seems fair/right?**

A good test is for property owners is to ask themselves if the value of the home on the statement equals to what the house would have sold for as of January 1, 2012. If the answer is yes, then the assessment is accurate. If not, property owners can ask MPAC to have

another look at the assessed value by applying for a Request for Reconsideration (RfR), at no cost, by April 1, 2013.

This is the mandatory first step in the appeal process for residential, farm and managed forest properties (for other property classes filing an RfR is optional, therefore owners of such properties may instead file an appeal directly to the Assessment Review Board if they so choose).

**How can I find out the assessed value of my property or properties similar to mine?**

You can use the MPAC About My Property website to search for comparable assessment values. Remember that January 1, 2012 phased-in assessment values are used for taxation purposes for tax years 2013 to 2016 inclusive.

**Who do I contact if I have questions?**

Please contact the MPAC office at 1-866-296-6722 or by fax at 1-866-297-6703, or visit the MPAC website, [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca) .





## Zoning By-law Review

A key action of the 2012-2014 term of Council is the inZone project that involves the implementation of Oakville's new official plan, the Livable Oakville Plan, into the Town's zoning framework.

### Background

The Livable Oakville Plan was unanimously adopted by Council on June 22, 2009, and approved by Halton Region on November 30, 2009 and by the Ontario Municipal Board on May 10, 2011. The Planning Act requires a municipality's zoning by-law to conform to its official plan. On October 11, 2011, Planning and Development Council received the terms of reference and work plan for the inZone project, and Council directed staff to begin work on phase two of the project.

### Goals of inZone

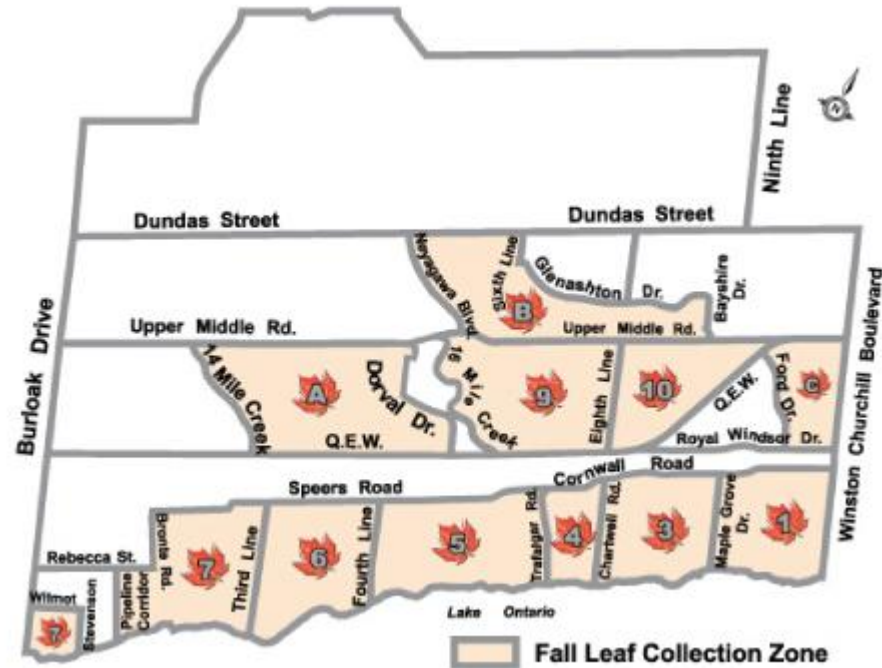
- To adopt a new zoning by-law by early 2014 to help achieve the town's vision to be the most livable town in Canada.
- To create a zoning by-law that provides a framework which reflects Oakville's vision for growth, and guides what, where, and how buildings can be constructed in Oakville.

Currently, the project is in phase two (Research and Analysis). For details of the work plan/timing - are available at - [Work Place](#) .

The main products of this phase are a series of 12 Technical Papers, each informing a different component of the Zoning By-law. Details are available at [Zoning By-law Review](#)



## Loose Leaf Collection — Fall 2012



**Ward 3 Collection Dates:** Oct. 29-Nov. 2 (Zone 4), Nov. 12-16 (Zones 1, 3, C), Nov. 19-23 (Zone 4), Nov. 26-30 (Zones 1, 3)

### Guidelines

- Place all loose leaves on the boulevard or on the shoulder, not over catch basins or in the ditches in front of your house
- Ensure leaves are free of debris and other foreign matter
- Put leaves out no earlier than seven days before the first day of your pickup, and no later than 7 a.m. on the first day of collection in your zone

- Remove contaminated piles of leaves or leaves that have been put out after the collection dates

**Bagged leaf service** - Halton Region continues to pick up bagged leaves and yard waste on the same day as your garbage pick-up. Please use only paper yard waste bags or open, reusable, rigid containers labelled yard waste. Yard waste in cardboard boxes, Blue Boxes, GreenCarts or plastic bags will not be collected.



### **Random Act of Kindness Day** – Fri., November 9th

Oakville will be celebrating its 2nd Annual RAK Day, a unique community event, where you can participate without leaving your house or even getting out of bed! You don't have to go anywhere or sign anything – just share some kindness. Call a senior or shut-in to say

“hello”, rake some leaves for an elderly neighbour, hold a door open, smile at people you meet, bake and share some goodies, or pick up litter in your community park.

**Here’s what some others are doing:**

- Oakville Tim Horton stores will each randomly offer free coffee to 100 people per store
- Seniors at Delmanor will be serving lunch at the Kerr Street Mission
- Students in the Catholic School Board will be exchanging RAK cards and kindnesses
- Details available at [www.theocf.org](http://www.theocf.org).



**Chartwell-Maple Grove Residents Association Annual  
General Meeting – Tue., November 20th**

All welcome to join CMGRA’s AGM, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at Oakville Town Hall  
(Committee Rooms #1 and #2), 1225 Trafalgar Road.



## **Upcoming Downtown Oakville Events**

### **Tree Lighting Ceremony – Fri., November 16th**

Celebrate the lights, the magic, and the charm of Downtown Oakville this Christmas as the Downtown Oakville BIA kicks off the holiday season with the official lighting of the Towne Square Tree. Santa and his elves will be treating everyone to hot apple cider and holiday cheer. A special part of this evening is the annual downtown Christmas carol sing-along. The fun begins at 7:00 p.m. in Towne Square, followed by the lighting of the tree at 7:30 p.m.

### **Santa Claus in Downtown – Sat., November 17th**

Our traditional annual parade which travels throughout Lakeshore Road in 'beautiful Downtown Oakville'

### **Holiday Magic featuring Christmas in Downtown - December 2012**

Discover the magic of the holiday season in Downtown Oakville. Enjoy your holiday shopping this year for a change as you escape the stress of busy mall shopping. Surrender to the charm of Oakville's old-world ambiance and new-world brand names. Featuring over 400 shops, services and eateries, "Christmas in Downtown Oakville" brings people together with the warmth and friendliness found in our perfect downtown.



## **Region of Halton Launches “311” Service**

Residents can now connect to programs and services by simply calling “311” for non-emergency services from all eight Halton government partners (regional and local municipal

governments, Halton Regional Police Service, Halton District and Halton Catholic District School Boards) or visit <http://webap.halton.ca/forms/311/> .

311 calls will be answered by customer service representatives in Access Halton. Some examples of these calls: location and hours of libraries; registration requests for parks and recreation programs; booking travel health clinic appointments; parking bylaw infractions complaints; reports of potholes, stolen property after an event has occurred, and missed garbage collection; and queries about on site applications, police security checks, and road construction projects.

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*I would appreciate your comments and input on the above updates, or any concern that your family may have. Each time I send out an update I am reminded of the level of engagement and caring of our residents as I am swamped with feedback – I am looking forward to yours.*

*Thank you,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D".