



Dave Gittings

Town of Oakville

Town Councillor, Ward 3

Keeping you informed . . .



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inspire. connect. protect

In June 2012, Council received a report from Oakville's Chief Administrative Officer indicating that staff was initiating a Downtown Cultural Hub Study in order to define a redevelopment plan for the Centennial Square site, the former post office site, and other assets of town owned



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properties in the downtown. The outcome of the study will provide the Town with a preferred redevelopment strategy to be considered in the context of the objectives of the Cultural Plan, the Downtown Strategic Action Plan, and Livable Oakville.

Town Council has directed staff to move forward with plans to create a downtown cultural hub (DCH) centred around town lands at Centennial Square and the former post office site. The DCH update report to Planning and Development Council also highlighted the extensive community engagement program to take place before staff reports back to Council with concrete options for potential future development. Over the next year, you will come to learn more about the Downtown Cultural Hub Study and the Transportation and Streetscape Study.

This is an exciting time for the downtown. Oakville residents and business owners are asked to dream! What do you see when we talk about creating a cultural hub or revamping the streetscape? How do you think we can make better use of current facilities or outdoor spaces? Can we make cycling, walking or driving in downtown safer or better? The DCH update report identified a potential range of actions from modernizing and revitalizing Centennial Square facilities including the library, gallery, theatre and outdoor plaza (the pool is already scheduled to move to a new south central community centre to be built on the hospital site), to redevelopment strategies for town-owned property in the downtown area. Costs to complete this work range from \$30 to \$100 million, with opportunities for the Town to monetize its assets and seek partnerships to offset some of these costs. The Downtown Cultural Hub is one of two major projects the Town has under way that will help determine the future of the downtown. The second project, a Transportation and Streetscape Study, will look at mobility, streetscape and parking in the downtown district.

Community involvement is critical to allow staff to report back to Council in June 2014 with detailed information on the community's vision for a downtown cultural hub and specific program needs for cultural and performing arts groups, the library and gallery's needs, as well as the interests of businesses located in downtown Oakville.

You're invited to join us as we set the stage for one of the most creative, inclusive and compelling projects in Oakville with:

- Joe Berridge, Partner at Urban Strategies Inc.
- John Bowker – Vice-Chair & Chair of Beautification, Roncesvalles Village BIA
- Anne McIlroy, Principal at Brook McIlroy
- Don Pangman – ArtHouse

Event details: Downtown Studies Launch - **Thursday, December 5, 2013**
Doors open at 7:00 p.m., Presentation at 7:30 p.m. Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, 130

Navy Street. **R.S.V.P. by December 1, 2013** to 905-845-6601 ext. 7529
or boxoffice@oakville.ca



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2014 Budget - 1.3% overall tax increase recommended

On November 18, Town staff presented Oakville's proposed 2014 operating and capital budgets to the Budget Committee, achieving Council's direction to keep the total property tax increase in line with inflation. Town staff recommended a 2.93% increase to the Town's portion of the tax bill for an overall property tax increase of 1.3% including estimated regional and education tax rates.

Staff is recommending a \$296.2 million combined budget for operating and capital requirements to help maintain existing programs and services, and ensure appropriate funding to keep Oakville's infrastructure in a state of good repair. Additional funding for road resurfacing, parks maintenance, expanded transit care-A-van services, and operation of Oakville's newest facilities (North Operations Depot and Fire Station 9) were also highlighted in the 2014 budget overview.

The 2.93% increase to the Town's portion of the tax bill includes a 1.77% increase for the costs of providing Town programs and services, and a 1.16% increase in funding for infrastructure

renewal. When the Town's portion of the tax bill is combined with the estimated regional and education tax levy, it results in the proposed 1.3% increase on the property tax bill.

The Town's capital budget provides funds for both the replacement of aging infrastructure and the construction of new infrastructure. Some of the top capital projects include \$6.3 million for road resurfacing and preservation; \$5.1 million for parks and harbours rehabilitation and development; \$3.6 million for the Emerald Ash Borer management program; \$2.9 million for transit buses; \$2.8 for the North Service Road expansion at Ford Drive; and \$2.3 million to secure lands for a future fire station in north Oakville.

Based on the Budget Committee recommendations, Council approved modest increases to rates and fees effective January 1, 2014, to help fund service delivery. Council is maintaining the current 20% seniors discount on recreational memberships and programs as recommended by the Budget Committee, which is consistent with the discounts offered by the cities of Mississauga and Burlington.

All submissions whether in person, writing, email or social media, will be considered as part of the Budget Committee deliberations.

To review the 2014 Budget documents or for more information about opportunities to get involved in the budget process, visit the [2014 Budget](#) page or email budget@oakville.ca

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Linbrook Boys School

On July 10, 2013 Town Council approved the future use of the closed Linbrook Public School property for use as a private boys school. The Committee of Adjustment recently approved the following variances: to permit a private school to be located on a lot fronting onto a street which has a right-of-way width that is equal to 20 meters; to permit the existing side yard of 4.37 m.; and to permit the surface parking areas. Conditions included that the school enrollment be limited to a maximum of 180 students, that the Linbrook Boys' School enter into an agreement with the Town, to be registered on title of the subject lands, to address matters identified from Development Engineering Services; and that the local residents' association be consulted with the respect to the annual meetings to be held by the school with local residents.

Outdoor Skating

Again this year there will be an outdoor rink on the ball diamond in Clearview Park, as well as in Wallace Park, subject to weather conditions. **New** this year, courtesy of the Downtown Oakville BIA, will be a **synthetic** skating surface in Towne Square! Visitors to Downtown Oakville will be able to skate even if it's warm out. The skating surface will be free to the public, open all day and evenings, 7 days a week. Sharp skates are recommended for the synthetic surface



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What is that?

I receive calls on a regular basis from residents inquiring about an item, a building, or a construction project. My most frequent calls recently concern the two structures below.



This structure being built in the parking lot of the Oakville Entertainment Complex at the North West corner of the QEW and Winston Churchill is the new home of 'iFLY'. This is the first indoor skydiving simulator of its kind in Ontario.

The wind tunnel, which has a 14-foot diameter glass flight chamber, will not only be the leading training facility for Ontario's military personnel and skydivers, but will provide a perfect meeting place for adventurers corporate groups. It is scheduled to open in Q1 2014.



This structure is on the south side of Cornwall in the Old Mill Parkette, directly across from the 'new' GO parking garage. It is the remaining piece of the Oakville Basket Company Steam Engine and was designated as a property of cultural heritage value and interest in 2011. This drive wheel was taken out of operation in 1967 when the factories machines were converted from steam to electricity. The Oakville Basket Company made Oakville one of the largest basket manufacturing centres in 19th Century Canada.

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Lakeside Park Washroom Replacement



ATA Architects has been retained by the Town to complete a design for the replacement of the public washroom facility in Lakeside Park. Design concepts were presented at a public open house on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 and can be viewed on the Town's [webpage](#). The Town has put forth funds in the 2014 capital budget submission and hopes to proceed with construction in 2014. Following the open house, the Town hopes to proceed with detailed design of a preferred concept. Plans will then go to Oakville's Heritage Review Committee, and then through the Building Permit process. Full details and options are available on the Town's [website](#).

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The merchants of Oakville's downtown BIA have some exciting Christmas plans for us. Santa will be in Towne Square on Saturday, November 30th. Christmas Carolers will be performing throughout downtown between 11am & 4:00pm every Saturday and Sunday until December 22nd. Wagon Rides with Santa every Saturday & Sunday between Noon & 4:00 (pick up at Towne Square).

Mayor and Council's New Year's Levee

Mayor Rob Burton and Members of Council invite you and your family to join them for a New Year's Levee.

Sunday, January 5, 2014 1-3 p.m.

At Town Hall

Come enjoy light refreshments as we welcome in the new year!

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays
Dave, Sue and our foster Vision GuideDog Walker.

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Thank you,

