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Our Downtown Plan Public Engagement Strategy has certainly caught the attention of Oakville residents and business owners. To date, over 1,200 residents and business owners have been engaged through face-to-face consultation resulting in ideas, comments, wants and needs that will shape the future of our downtown. In addition, we have reached out and heard from almost 3,000 residents through our library and cultural surveys.

Two very informative days of stakeholder consultation have been completed with the consultants' research and the public's comments and ideas having been turned into concepts. This next set of public consultation sessions will be critical in further defining the downtown cultural hub, downtown streets and streetscape, and the Towne Square. At these stakeholder consultations, all consultants have started to share their findings and recommendations. Duncan Webb, the consultant leading the Culture and Performing Art Spaces Study, shared the following six recommendations with the stakeholders:

Performing Arts Facilities (3 options)

Edge City Performing Arts Centre

Multipurpose Performing Arts Space 600-700 seats with fly space and orchestra pit

Black box 200 seats

Regionally Distinctive Performing Arts Centre

700-800 seat Music Hall

[Conservation Halton](#)

[Open Data Pilot Project](#)



SUBSCRIBE

UNSUBSCRIBE

300-350 seat Courtyard theatre
Very good infrastructure to support Events and meetings

Boutique Performing Arts Centre

Develop the components of option 1 OR option 2 but in two separate locations with only one piece downtown.

New Outdoor Facilities (all to be included)

Larger Public Square with flexibility of use and high functionality.

Small Amphitheatre to seat 250 -350

Additional infrastructure throughout the downtown and public spaces to support temporary uses. (e.g. power, provision for lighting)

Digital Media Centre

Artist in Residence Programs

Partnership and Synergies with the Oakville Galleries in consolidated location downtown

Partnerships and Synergies with a library in downtown

Urban Strategies Inc. led a workshop where participants could move blocks on a 3D model that represented the above recommendations. It gave residents a sense of space and a look at all opportunities.

Brook McIlroy, leading the Transportation and Streetscape Study, shared some preliminary concepts/ideas concepts of the elements that could exist on Lakeshore Road, Randall Street, Robinson Street and Church Street given all constraints of buildings, road widths and the requirements of safety standards.

Both Urban Strategies and Brook McIlroy will be using this stakeholder input to develop concepts for discussion in April with the community.

Residents and business owners are encouraged to continue to give us their ideas on the Downtown Plan and thoughts about the recommendations and preliminary concepts through our [online discussion forum](#).

You are invited to our next **Community Open House & Workshop** scheduled for **Sat., April 12, 9 a.m. - noon**.

This is when you'll start to see your comments and ideas transformed into real options. We'll have preliminary concepts on April 12 and invite you to join us as we define the cultural hub and downtown streetscape.

[Email](#) us now to attend the April 12th meeting. For complete study information, visit [Downtown Oakville](#).



Community Mail Boxes

Since the mid 1980's all new home developments have received mail delivery through community mail boxes. Canada Post has announced that an additional 26,400 addresses in Oakville will be converted to Community mail boxes beginning in the Fall of 2014.

There will be no change in delivery for: people living in apartment buildings, seniors' buildings, and condominiums who have mail delivered in the building lobby.

Affected residents should have received an information package from Canada Post. It will tell you how to express your priorities and preferences about your new delivery method. There is an extensive list of questions and Canada's Response at [Community Mailboxes](#) in 2014.

Canada Post has stated that they understand that some seniors and Canadians with disabilities may not be able to get to their community mailbox, and it is committed to ensuring that no one is left behind from accessing the mail service. As it transitions existing neighbourhoods, it may need to offer additional solutions for people with significant mobility challenges, who lack viable alternatives and would face unacceptable hardship.

Roughly 5 million Canadian addresses, or about one third of the addresses in the country, still have mail delivery to the door. The other two thirds of addresses have mail delivery to a centralized point such as an apartment lobby box, a post office, or a community mailbox/rural mailbox.

Where community mailboxes are installed, Canada Post will still attempt delivery at the door of parcels too large to fit in the community mailbox's parcel compartments and of parcels or registered items that require a signature.

Canada's federal government has exclusive jurisdiction over Canada Post's mail and its delivery. The Town of Oakville has no say over Canada Post's decision to discontinue door-to-door mail delivery. Canada Post also has a right to the public road allowance, meaning they get to decide where the community mailboxes will be located.

Ward 3 residents with questions about the switch to community mailboxes may contact Oakville MP Terence Young at terence.young@parl.gc.ca. Canada Post has asked residents with questions to contact its customer service line at 1-866-607-6301.

A special meeting of Town Council is being arranged for Monday, April 7th at Town Hall. Representatives from Canada Post have been invited to this public meeting so that members of the public may learn more about this Federal Canada Post initiative.





Merton Lands

The Province, through Infrastructure Ontario, as well as private land owners have submitted requests to the province to remove lands from the Parkway Belt West Plan within the Merton Planning Study area. Town Council recently passed a resolution requesting Halton Region's support to grow the Greenbelt on public lands in the 14 Mile Creek area. This is in accordance with the Greenbelt urban river valley policy and corresponds with the Region's Natural Heritage System.

Halton Regional Council is in full support, and MPP Kevin Flynn has written to the Minister of Infrastructure to ask that any plans to sell these lands are cancelled. The urban river valley designation announced on January 10, 2013 enables municipalities to add publicly-owned lands to Ontario's Greenbelt and ensures that important water connections between the Greenbelt and Lake Ontario will be protected. This new designation would stop encroachment from developments, but allow infrastructure that supports natural systems, trails and appropriate recreational activities.

First Street & Second Street Heritage Conservation District

Town Heritage Planning staff has initiated a project to update the District Plan for the First and Second Street Heritage Conservation District to ensure the document complies with current heritage planning legislation and practices. An RFP is expected to be released this spring with the project expected to be completed in early 2015.



Town announces new heritage grant program



The Town of Oakville has launched a new heritage grant pilot program, with the goal of strengthening the Town's ties to its own history, and encouraging more residents to apply for a heritage designation.

Residents could soon see a revitalization of heritage properties around town. Council has approved a three-year pilot Heritage Grant Program to assist heritage property owners with the cost of restoring and maintaining their properties.

The Heritage Grant Program is a three-year pilot program with up to \$80,000 in total funding available each year. Grants will cover up to 50 per cent of the eligible restoration costs to a maximum of \$15,000 for approved projects. The number of

grants awarded will be subject to available funds. Funding for the program is made possible in part through developer contributions to the Heritage Fund.

Projects eligible for a heritage grant include restoration of historic windows, doors, and porches; repairs to historic masonry and woodwork; re-painting of heritage features in appropriate period colours; refurbishment of decorative

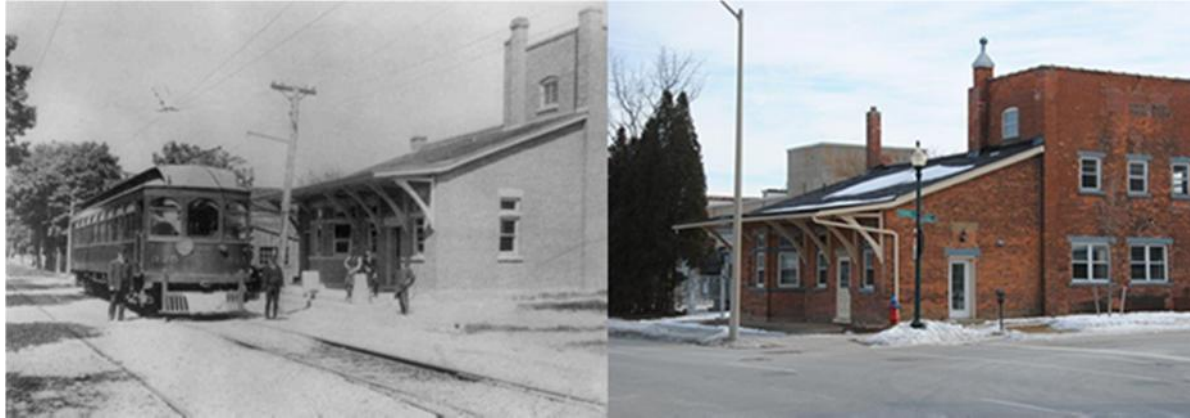
architectural detailing, millwork and trim; and the conservation or repair of any other heritage attribute that increases the cultural heritage value of the property.

Interested applicants should contact Susan Schappert, Heritage Planner at the Town of Oakville at 905-845-6601 (ext. 3870) to confirm the eligibility of their project prior to submitting an application.

Grant applications will be accepted until April 11, 2014. Submissions will be reviewed by town staff along with a working group from the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee. All projects are subject to final approval by Council. Grant notification is expected to be provided to applicants by July 2014.



What IS that?



The picture above left was taken about 100 years ago. This building on the corner of Thomas and Randall served as the Oakville station for the Hamilton Radial Railway, today's equivalent of an LRT! There was a generator immediately east of the station to provide power as the railway was electrically powered. Hourly service to Hamilton was available until 1924 when the railway was discontinued. The station building is a designated Heritage property.



The Lawson Barn

This barn is located off of Morrison Road, just north of Lakeshore in Ray Lawson Park. Built in 1912, this property has potential cultural heritage value for the heritage landscape associated with this historic farmstead. While not a designated Heritage property, it is listed as a property of interest. This building and the land around it was home to the stables, a market garden and cottage where the custodian of the Ballymena Estate to the south was located.

Ballymena was constructed by the oldest son of Timothy Eaton in 1921. The Lawson family purchased the estate in the 1940's. Raymond Lawson served as Ontario's Lieutenant Governor from 1946 to 1952.

TOP



Save the Date

[Joshua Creek Residents Association](#) - Annual General Meeting

Tues., March 25, 7:00 p.m. – Oakville Town Hall

[Trafalgar Chartwell Residents Association](#) - Annual General Meeting

Wed., March 26, 7:00 p.m. - Grace Lutheran Church

Clearview Community Cleanup – Sat., May 3, 9:00 a.m. – noon

For details, visit Clearview's [website](#).

TOP

Community Spirit Awards

Do you know someone who is making a difference in our community? Now is your opportunity to recognize someone that is making Oakville a better place by nominating a community champion in one of the following eight award categories. Nominations will be accepted until **Monday, April 14 at 4 p.m.**

Access Award, sponsored by MEDChair Halton

Arts Award, sponsored by The Oakville Beaver

Environmental Award, sponsored by Tim Hortons

Group Volunteer Award, sponsored by Sun Life Financial

Heritage and History Award, sponsored by Genworth Financial Canada

Individual Volunteer Award, sponsored by Paradiso Restaurant

Senior Award, sponsored by Chartwell Oakville

Youth Award, sponsored by RBC Royal Bank

This year's annual Community Spirit Awards presentation will be held on Wednesday, June 11, at Oakville's Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre (QEPCCC). Award-winning illustrator/artist Soyeon Kim has been commissioned to create the 2014 Community Spirit awards. Nomination forms are available [online](#).

TOP





Sat., April 5th Open House & Sun., May 25th Fund Raising Walk

With Oakville being the home of Dog Guides Canada, these guide dogs in training are a regular sight across town. Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is hosting its spring Open House on April 5th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Oakville training facility on Wilson Street. It will be an excellent opportunity to learn first-hand about Dog Guides, tour the facilities, and see demonstrations from Dog Guides in all six programs (vision, hearing, special skills, seizure response, diabetic alert and autism assistance).

Dog Guides and their clients do not receive any government funding for their service dogs. On May 25th, Dog Guides is holding its annual Fund Raising Walk. This national fundraising campaign directly supports the Lions Foundation of Canada's mission to assist Canadians with a medical or physical disability by providing them a Dog Guide at no cost. For further information regarding participation or sponsorship, please visit [Purina Walk for Dog Guides](#).



Our family's vision foster dog Walker has graduated and is now on the job in Calgary Alberta. If you would like to see what an incredible difference a Guide Dog can make, [read](#) about Walker and his new life in Calgary.



Conservation Halton Foundation is trying to get a grant of \$25,000 through the Shell Fuelling Change contest for the Mountsberg Shrike Recovery Program. You can support this project by redeeming the codes on receipts received when making any type of purchase at a Shell station. Each purchase at Shell qualifies for 10 votes for our project. To participate in the program, go to [The Mountsberg Shrike Recovery Project - Moving Forward](#).

A grant of \$25,000 would pay over 80% of the annual operating costs of the Shrike Recovery Program that is helping to bring the endangered Eastern Loggerhead Shrike back from the edge of extinction.



Eastern Loggerhead Shrike



Oakville's Open Data Pilot Project

The Town is committed to making municipal information more open, transparent and accessible. We're joining municipalities around the world by proactively opening up our data to see what's possible when government and the community collaborate.

Oakville's Open Data Pilot Project will commence this spring. The Town will be releasing a variety of free datasets for public use. We hope you'll be inspired to develop innovative, interesting and user-friendly applications or conduct data analysis that informs public research. Information meetings are being held on Thurs., March 27, 1 to 3 p.m., and Wed., April 2, 7 to 9 p.m. at Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre.

Help us free Oakville's data!

Open Data Pilot Project

- What data you think the town should share?
- How you think the data can be used?
- How you can get involved?

[Email](#) to sign up to receive information about open future open data sessions or to send us your questions and ideas.

Note: The Town of Oakville will not release personal or confidential information or provide ways to identify



individuals as part of our public datasets.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rane".

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