

Dave Gittings

Town of Oakville
Town Councillor, Ward 3

Keeping You Informed



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Thanks to everyone who came out to the Downtown Plan workshop in April. The objective was to obtain your comments on the preliminary options - what you liked, what you didn't, and what else we should consider - and you did a great job!

Town staff and consultant teams came away with a lot of information that will help refine the options before we present them to you at the next Downtown Plan community meeting on **June 10, 2014**.

We've posted videos of the workshops, the presentations and the workbooks on our website. You'll also find a booklet and videos online with background information on the Cultural and Performing Arts Spaces Study, the Oakville Public Library Study and the Oakville Galleries. We appreciate your commitment to this project and look forward to future opportunities to meet with you and hear your thoughts on the Downtown Plan.



When is the next chance to participate?

Tuesday, June 10, 2014 - Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts
6 p.m. - open house 7 p.m. - presentation

At this meeting, the options to date will be presented, and the evaluation criteria will be discussed. Email us to attend this meeting, or leave your name at 905-338-4710. For study information, visit [Downtown Oakville](#).



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Midtown Oakville



At the May 27th Special Planning and Development Council meeting, staff presented reports that will help give shape to the Midtown Oakville Strategy - a comprehensive plan that looks at the area bounded by the QEW to the north, Cornwall Road to the south, Chartwell Road to the east, and Sixteen Mile Creek valley to the west. One of the strategies was to complete a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to confirm the significant transportation and storm water network improvements that would be required to support growth in Midtown.

The Ontario Government's Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006 identified Midtown as an Urban Growth Centre and required that a minimum of 200 residents and jobs per hectare be located there by 2031. This equates to approximately 20,000 residents and jobs. Midtown is also defined as a Mobility Hub by Metrolinx's Big Move Plan as it serves several transit functions through Go Transit, VIA, and the Town's transit station. A Mobility Hub Study specific to Midtown was recently completed by Metrolinx.

The Town's Livable Oakville Plan, adopted by Council in 2009 and approved by the Ontario Municipal Board in 2011, introduced Midtown as an Urban Growth Centre and defined it as one of the Town's primary Growth Areas planned to accommodate significant intensification.

The land use designations and policies that currently apply to Midtown enable development to support a minimum of approximately 12,000 residents and 8,000 jobs to meet the Province's growth requirement. A future transportation network was provided through the schedules to Livable Oakville, which was to be confirmed through an environmental assessment process.

The staff report highlighted the following recommendations from the Environmental Study Report:

- Improvements to transportation/roads to, from and around Midtown for cyclists, pedestrians, motorists and transit
- Improvements to Iroquois Shore Road
- Improvements to the Royal Windsor Drive interchange
- Improvements for active transportation and pedestrian crossings
- Improvements to storm water management

The Environmental Study Report will be available for public review for 30 days from June 5-July 4, 2014 at the Oakville Public Library Central Branch, and at Town Hall at ServiceOakville, in the Clerks, Planning and Engineering and Construction departments as well as online at oakville.ca.

The draft amendment to Zoning By-law 2014-014 introduces new zoning for all Midtown lands. It includes new use permissions, regulations and parking requirements, as well as holding provisions – criteria that limit redevelopment until certain conditions are met – all of which implement the policies and direction of Livable Oakville. Consultation with stakeholders and the public regarding the proposed implementation of Midtown Oakville, which includes the draft official plan and zoning by-law amendments, will be held over the next few months.

An open house will be held on **Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 7 p.m.**, at Town Hall.

For a look at the possible changes that will occur over the next several decades, have a look at Midtown [Oakville](#).



What is that?



This concrete structure in the middle of the QEW, west of the Trafalgar bridge, was poured by the Ministry of Transportation during QEW improvements, in preparation for a proposed Pedestrian Bridge & Overpass as part of the Midtown redevelopment. This proposed QEW pedestrian bridge will provide a pedestrian connection in west Midtown and create an available physical link between Midtown and the residential neighbourhood to the north.

Canada Post Community Mail Box Update

Canada Post Corporation (CPC) representatives have started to visit residents adjacent to proposed Community Mail Box Locations to

advise them of the location.

I have been receiving calls from residents who are confused or upset over the location(s) that have been selected by CPC. Town Councillors have a map showing the DRAFT locations for these boxes. As these maps are DRAFT and the property of CPC, I have been advised that I am not allowed to post them or link them to this newsletter. If you would like further information or your area's DRAFT location, please let me know.

CPC has exclusive jurisdiction over the location of their Community Mail Boxes. Neither the town nor Oakville Council had, or has, any say over CPC's decision to discontinue door-to-door mail delivery. Further, CPC even has the right to use our public road allowance for its post boxes and community mailboxes; therefore, Building Permits are not required for the construction or placement of these units. You may contact CPC at 1-800-267-1177 and your federal MP Terence Young at young.T@parl.gc.ca or at 905-338-2008 to make sure that they are aware of your concerns.

A number of residents have contacted me stating that the CPC representative told them that the Town of Oakville had selected/approved the locations. When asked about these allegations, a senior CPC official provided the following response:

"I want to reassure you that our teams have undergone thorough training for the customer contact phase and have been instructed repeatedly to tell customers that Canada Post, not the municipality, is choosing the mailbox locations. Our team members also carry identification and do provide a name. If you do get a concern raised by an Oakville resident and you do not have the name of the Canada Post representative, I will be able to make inquiries if I have the resident's name and address, including postal code, which will lead me to the mailbox site.

I have also been in touch directly with the team lead who has told me: "The community outreach team in Oakville is very cognizant of the situation with the town and are NOT telling residents that the town is choosing/approving any of the sites." Even with that response, we are reminding our teams to NOT say in any way that the town is deciding on the locations.

As you have experienced, it can be a very emotionally charged issue and in that environment, the messages may sometimes be misheard or simply don't get through. Please do not hesitate to pass along your residents' concerns to us and our teams will address them."

The following motion was passed at the May 26th meeting of Town Council:

Preserving Canada Post Door-to-door Delivery

WHEREAS Canada Post has announced plans to cease door-to-door delivery in Oakville and other communities;

WHEREAS many citizens, especially seniors and persons with disabilities, will be impacted by this change; and

WHEREAS issues of concern for the Town of Oakville related to the placement of the new community mailboxes include,



but are not limited to, access for seniors and persons with disabilities, the location of the boxes and impacts to adjacent properties, traffic, parking, land use policy, street lighting, littering, graffiti removal, theft and vandalism, snow and ice clearance, downloading of responsibilities and costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Federal Government direct Canada Post to maintain the current system of residential door-to-door postal delivery in Canada and that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be requested to support this motion; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Region of Halton, City of Burlington, Town of Milton, Town of Halton Hills, local Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament and Canada Post.



Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

The EAB is infesting ash trees across Canada and the United States and is responsible for killing tens of millions of ash since its discovery in 2002. While Oakville has the most aggressive EAB management program in Canada, we are now seeing the full effect of the devastation that is decimating ash trees across North America. In total, the town will be treating approximately 5,700 municipal ash trees over the next 10 years. Currently 40% receive treatment in odd years, while the remaining 60% receive treatment in even years. TreeAzin® is a natural and safe bio-insecticide derived from the seeds of the neem tree, and provides up to two years of protection against EAB before it must be reapplied.

The balance of the municipal ash tree canopy on public roads and parks do not qualify for treatment due to heavy infestation or tree size or are becoming structurally unsound. "The devastation by EAB is unprecedented. It is on *Time* magazine's top ten list of evil animals," according to John McNeil, Manager of Oakville Forestry Services. "With 80 per cent of Oakville's ash trees located on private property, it's important for residents to make a decision about the fate of their ash trees. We're encouraging residents to treat their trees or have them removed and replaced." If you have started a treatment program, great! Continue treating. If you have not yet begun a treatment program, contact a certified arborist to assess whether your tree is suitable for treatment. Forestry staff suggests treatment can now only begin on qualifying ash trees located within the "moderate" infested zone (much of Ward 3).



Typical ash leaf

Treatment must take place between June and August. Treating in June or July is preferred to minimize damage. For further details on your options or for full details on Oakville's program, please visit [EAB](#).



Vehicles Speeding

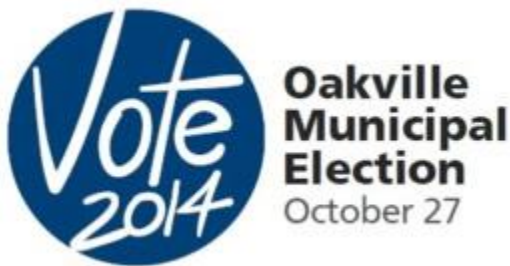
As a result of ongoing community concerns over speeding throughout our area, I was successful in having Ward 3 selected as the test site for Solar Powered Speed Sentry Unit testing last year. Based on the feedback received, Council has approved a pilot project starting this month to install Radar Speed Display Signs (RSDS) at 6 locations throughout town for a period of 6 months to evaluate this tool for potential inclusion into our traffic calming program. Besides displaying vehicle speed, they record the numbers of vehicles and their speed, allowing for the data to be collected in place of the usual rubber strips that are traditionally used for this purpose.

Halton Regional Police Service encourages residents to document specific instances when the vehicle can be identified using their ROAD WATCH ONLINE report. These reports will be viewed by a police officer and, if deemed appropriate, a letter may be sent to the registered vehicle owner encouraging all who drive their vehicle to do so in a safe and responsible manner. Further information and the report can be located at [Road Watch](#).

One of the methods that may be used to remind motorists to watch their speed is the signs pictured to the right. Based on the experience of several Ward 3 residents who have used these signs, the difference has been noticeable. I have obtained a number of these signs and would encourage you to contact me if you would like to use them on your street. In order to be effective, this should be a neighbourhood effort, with signs rotated among a number of properties. The signs should be removed at night to prevent damage/theft. Please contact me if you would like further information on this SLOW DOWN /NO NEED TO SPEED programme.



TOP



Many residents have contacted me regarding the upcoming Ontario Municipal election.

On October 27th, Oakville residents will be electing Oakville's Mayor, Halton Region's Chair and members of Oakville's Town Council and Halton Regional Council for the next 4 year term. Candidate nominations close on September 12th. Full details may be found at [2014 Municipal Election](#).

Serving the residents of Ward 3 has been incredibly rewarding and it is a privilege to represent you and your concerns at Town Hall. I have filed my

nomination papers and will be running in the upcoming election for the opportunity to represent you and your family for the next term of Council.

Oakville Children's Festival – Sunday, July 27, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



The Town of Oakville and Tim Hortons are proud to present the first-ever Oakville Children's Festival at Coronation Park that will be transformed into an arts and culture playground for kids of all ages. Free live performances and fun events will engage young imaginations. Confirmed performers include: Sharon, Bram & Friends; Sheesham & Lotus; Jack Grunsky; and Corpus – Les moutons. There will also be interactive building and art activities, yoga and dance lessons, reptile, magic and science shows, kids' play zone and obstacle course, face painting, food vendors, and more! The aim of the Oakville Children's Festival is to introduce children to arts and culture in an engaging and interactive way. Face painters, balloon artists, characters and storytellers are sure to capture the curiosity of young minds, while the interactive activities will encourage participation and discovery. Festival-goers are encouraged to take a free Oakville Transit shuttle from the Bronte GO Station or ride their bike. Special bike parking corrals will be available on site. Festival admission is free and the event will take place rain or shine. Full details are available at [Oakville Children's Festival](#).



New online tools make connecting with the Town easier than ever

New features include Open Data Catalogue, Report a Problem tool, and an Ethics and Efficiency Hotline. In the 2013 Citizen Survey, 64% of respondents identified the website as their preferred way to access information about the town. Whether reporting a problem, accessing data, sharing ideas, getting involved or finding information, the Town has made it easier than ever for residents to connect with it through new online tools recently released.

"Our new online services enhance opportunities for our residents and stakeholders to access information, get involved and share their thoughts and observations with us," said Mayor Rob Burton. "Council is committed to being open, accessible, and accountable ... and is always looking at how we can best serve our citizens whether by phone, in person or online. We will continue to enhance our services to respond to the changing needs of citizens, businesses and the larger community. We look forward to continuing to expand our online services to best serve our increasingly mobile and digitally connected society."

A few of the town's newest online features include:

- ServiceOakville Online
- ServiceOakville has added an online Report a Problem tool for service requests for non-emergency issues such as garbage, graffiti, park, and road or sidewalk maintenance. You can access the tool at [Report a Problem](#).

Since its launch in December 2012, ServiceOakville has responded to almost 120,000 calls and counter visits, and created over 12,000 service requests on behalf of residents. Now citizens can enter their own service requests online in addition to calling ServiceOakville at 905-845-6601.

Report a Problem

Use this tool to report a problem or make a service request online. Requests are assigned within one business day. Inspection times vary depending on the type of the problem.

[Check case status](#)

Trying to report an issue that's not listed here? Please call ServiceOakville at 905-845-6601.

Please note: This tool works best on Internet Explorer 9, 10 and 11, Chrome and Firefox. If you have trouble reporting a problem online, ServiceOakville will be happy to help you over the phone during business hours at 905-845-6601.



Garbage



Graffiti



Park Maintenance



Road and Sidewalk Maintenance

The Open Data Catalogue

The town's first open data catalogue includes the release of 10 machine-readable, downloadable datasets. Open data promotes the release of the town's collected data to enable citizens, business and other organizations to leverage it in innovative and productive ways. The town will be releasing further data sets throughout the year as it evaluates its approach to open data. Private information and non-town-owned material will not be published. Find out more about this pilot at [Open Data Catalogue](#).

The Ethics and Efficiency Hotline

As part of its commitment to being open and accountable, the town has created an Ethics and Efficiency Hotline to provide citizens with another convenient and confidential way to report suspected cases of waste, dishonest activity or fraud; or to provide specific recommendations to make town areas more efficient or effective. Operated by a third party, the hotline will provide options for both online and telephone reporting. Visit [Ethics and Efficiency Hotline](#) for more information.

Citizens and businesses can also:

- Check out our new YouTube channel for videos about town projects and promotions.
- Create a custom brochure about business demographics and opportunities in Oakville.
- Sign up for ePost to help manage your property tax bills online.
- View the town's photo gallery — from scenic landscapes to community events.

These new online features are only the first of many changes that will occur over the next few years as the town continues to transform the way it delivers service, engages with the community and promotes open, accessible and accountable government. Later this month, the town will be launching a redesigned Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts website.

To check out the town's new online tools and engagement channels, visit the town's [website](#).



The Lighthouse Program for Grieving Children



The Lighthouse is a registered charity providing peer support groups for grieving children, youth and their families in the Halton and Peel area. It is a forum for companionship with others who, too, have experienced a "life-altering death", which means they also learn to cope with the loss of mother or father, brother or sister. The journey of acceptance and healing takes time, space and understanding. Team Lighthouse is getting ready for another

amazing run in support of The Lighthouse on **Sunday, September 21st** as part of the Oakville Half Marathon (2K for Kids/10K run or walk/Half Marathon). Come join and help fundraise for this local charity that is bursting at the seams! **Run. Walk. Any Distance. Any Speed.**

With your help, Lighthouse wants to recruit even more runners, even more donors, to support more children and families who seek help. For further information, visit [Lighthouse](#).

Thank you,

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


TOP