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## Councillor Keith Bird announces he will not seek a 14th term of office

Ward 3 Local and Regional Councillor Bird has announced that he will not seek re-election in the upcoming municipal election. First elected to Council in 1976, Councillor Bird noted that it was a family decision to enter politics, and it is a family decision that the time is right to step back from public service. *"After very careful consideration with my wife Gail and family, we have made the decision that I will not be seeking a 14th term of office," said Bird. "It has been a great privilege and honour to represent and serve the residents of*

*South East Oakville on council for 36 years, and I am now looking forward to spending more time travelling with Gail and enjoying time with our grandchildren."*

Councillor Bird said the highlight of his time in office was the opportunity to work with so many tireless volunteers and community leaders to preserve and enhance the great features of Oakville, such as our cherished downtown, heritage districts, trails, valleys, parks and waterfront. Bird also noted that he was proud to have contributed to putting in place the financial policies and practices that have ensured future generations would not be overburdened with excessive debt and infrastructure renewal costs. Over his 36 years in elected office, Councillor Bird has served with four different mayors and over 100 different councillors, and noted that one common characteristic they all shared was a commitment and desire to make Oakville the best community in Ontario.



*"I want to thank my family, friends and supporters who have afforded me the unique opportunity to serve this wonderful community. I am leaving elected office confident the work we have done to set out a long-term vision for this community will ensure that future generations will be proud to call Oakville home," said Bird.*

It has been both a privilege and an incredible learning experience to have been able to work closely with Keith during my first term of council. He has been a great mentor and friend, and I have deeply appreciated him sharing his vast experience.

With Keith's decision to retire, I have revised my nomination for this fall's municipal election from Ward 3 Town Councillor to Ward 3 Town & Regional Councillor. I look forward to being given the opportunity to carry on working for the residents of Ward 3 at the Regional level in addition to the town.

For election info, visit [Elections](#).

SUBSCRIBE

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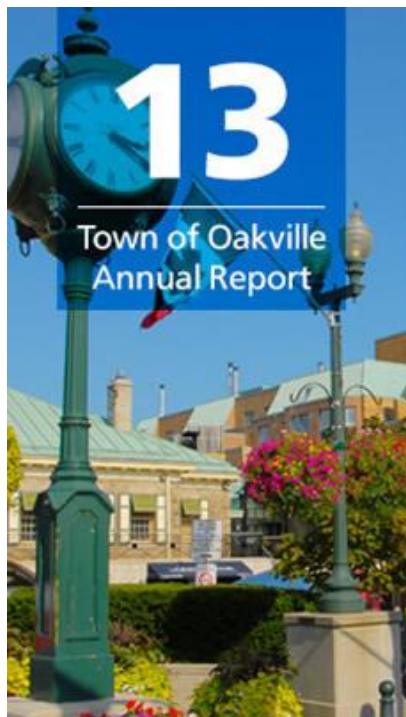


## Town hospital donation won't be funded by property taxes

The Town of Oakville's contribution of up to \$130 million towards the local share of the new Oakville Hospital will be able to be done without property taxes. At a recent Council meeting, Mayor Rob Burton stated, "We've made history today, no municipality has ever been able to make such a donation without putting it on taxes.



And we won't be affecting our other capital projects. We owe a great vote of thanks to Oakville Hydro for so successfully rising to the challenge I set for them four years ago." The town will be in a position to finance its local share commitment of up to \$130 million without using property taxes by applying the \$40 million special dividend it received from Oakville Hydro from the sale of Blink Communication in 2009. The balance of up to \$90 million will be debentured, with the carrying costs funded by annual special dividends from Oakville Hydro's successful portfolio of companies in green energy projects and other utility related services. Oakville Hydro will provide the town with additional special dividends of between \$6.5 million and \$8.5 million a year by 2020. Based on forecasted growth and interest rates for 2015, the town will be able to borrow up to \$90 million and stay within Council's existing policy limits of 6.25% of revenues for tax- supported debt charges, and 12% for total debt charges. Provincial law limits the town's total debt charges to 25% of revenues, but Council has adopted a lower and more conservative policy. The new hospital will replace Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital that no longer has the capacity to expand in its current location. The Province of Ontario donated the land at Third Line and Dundas Street for the new hospital. It will be one of the first facilities in Ontario built to new provincial government standards. Information on the new Oakville hospital can be found on the new [Oakville Hospital website](#).



## The town's Consolidated Financial Statements are now available

The annual report describes the town's major accomplishments in 2013 such as the development of our new comprehensive zoning by-law to guide what, when and how buildings can be constructed in Oakville and the launch of the Downtown Plan project to rejuvenate our downtown streetscapes, transportation and cultural facilities. Both initiatives are set out in the town's Vision 2057 plan. Other highlights from the past year include the unveiling of the town's new memorial wall at George's Square; hosting the RBC Canadian Open and starting construction on our North Operations Depot that will be home to Roads and Works, Parks and Open Space and an interim Fire Station that will enhance services for residents in north Oakville. The town also launched new online tools such as the Ethics and

Efficiency Hotline, Report a Problem tool, and released datasets through the Open Data project.

The audited financial statements are presented in accordance with the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards, and prescribed policies issued by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. An annual report with its audited Consolidated Financial Statement presents the financial position of the town and its consolidated entities for the 2013 fiscal year with its achievements. The 2013 Annual Report, as well as the town's Municipal Performance Measurement Program, can be viewed at [Annual Report 2013](#).



## Smart Meters Safe in Oakville



I have received calls from concerned residents worried over recent media coverage of 'smart meters' catching fire. Here is an update from Oakville Hydro. It is actively engaged with its regulator, suppliers, and customers about recent reports of fires related to the Sensus Generation 3.3 meters ("smart meters") in Saskatchewan. While Oakville Hydro has over 60,000 Sensus meters in its distribution area, it does not have any Generation 3.3 meters.

The Ontario Energy Board, the province's electricity regulator, released a statement on August 11 stating, "The Ontario Energy Board has gathered information on smart meter model types that are used by electricity distributors across Ontario. The Board has confirmed that no utilities in Ontario use the Sensus Generation 3.3 meters, the model used in Saskatchewan."

According to Mike Brown, Chief Operating Officer of Oakville Hydro, "We have not experienced any reports of smart meters catching fire since we began installing them in 2009. We have no safety concerns related to smart meters in Oakville ... As safety of our customers and employees is our top priority, we will continue to monitor the findings emerging from Saskatchewan".

## West Nile Virus (WNV)



Splashes of colour on area sewer grates show that they have been treated with larvicide by Halton Region. Catch Basins and Storm Water Management Ponds are treated with larvicide to assist in the prevention of the WNV. The dots confirm that the catch basin has been treated, and the colour identifies the application cycle. Mosquitoes that transmit WNV to humans most commonly breed in urban areas where items that hold water, including birdbaths, plant pots, old toys, and non-draining eaves troughs, are abundant. Residents are asked reduce mosquito breeding sites by removing all water-filled objects and by changing the water in birdbaths at least once a week.

For further details, visit [West Nile Virus](#).



## Oakville Transit (OT) schedule changes effective August 30, 2014

OT will be changing all bus route schedules effective Saturday, August 30, 2014 to help riders make their connections to and from the GO train station. On the same day, the new Lakeshore West train schedule goes into effect. OT's service enhancements include coordinated connections for customers taking the GO train both east and west of Oakville, and more time for connections at GO stations during off-peak hours.

During most off-peak hours, the new bus schedules will lessen the impact of delays and ensure riders can make a connection within 15 minutes. Other than some adjusted times, service will remain the same for rush hour travellers making their connections within a few minutes of arriving at the GO station. This new bus schedule will help reduce the stress of making a connection during off-peak hours, especially when there has been a train or bus service delay.

GO Transit announced recently that it would be making schedule adjustments to the Lakeshore West GO Train service schedule effective Saturday, August 30, 2014.

For more information, visit the [GO Transit](#) website. Oakville Transit's new bus schedules are available on the [Oakville Transit](#) website.

## Halton Food Council



The Halton Food Council is recruiting new members, including a representative with a Youth voice, with the following background:

1. Knowledge of the food system and
2. Skills and/or experience in any of the following areas: education, communications, food policy, advocacy, research, food industry

If you are interested in food and want to be part of the changing landscape, visit [Halton Food Council](#). The deadline for submission is **Friday, September 12, 2014**.



## Turn your old electronics into a bright future for a First Nations Student

Donate your old electronics for recycling at Maple Grove United Church on **Saturday, October 4, 2014** from 10am – 3pm. Start collecting your old cell phones & speakers, cameras and keyboards, or any other electronics for a great cause. All funds will support the Maple Grove First Nations Scholarship. Large items? Please call (905) 845-5721 for pick-up.

## kidneywalk



## This year's Kidney Walk will be held on Sat., Sept. 20th

at Bronte Creek Provincial Park. This non-competitive pledge based walk is focused on raising awareness about kidney health and organ donation. Inspire hope & change lives. Register online at [Kidney Walk](#). For further information, contact [Ron Newman](#).



## **SHINE OUT! SHOUT OUT! Hockey Tournament – Sat., Sept. 6th**

In support of Peer-to-Peer Mental Health Support Programs for Youth in Halton at Canlan Ice Sports on Cornwall Road. For further details please visit [Shine Out, Shout Out](#).

Thank you,

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



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