

Spring 2010



A Community Update From **Gael Miles** Regional Councillor

Dear Friends of Wards 7 and 8:

You don't have to travel too far from home to realize Brampton is a pretty wonderful place to live. In this 50th Anniversary year of the Bramalea community I have encountered many people who have made Bramalea their home over the last 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years. They all tell me the same thing, "I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

Most "Bramaleans" were new Canadians. In the 60s and 70s, the majority of our population came from Great Britain; today we are a community of many nations, cultures and religions. Our school classrooms are filled with the beautiful faces of children from around the world, playing and learning in harmony: a lesson for all of us.

What hasn't changed is the strong sense of community and the fact that people move to our city because they feel it is an excellent place in which to live and raise their family. We have great parks and green spaces, and offer excellent recreation and leisure activities for people of all ages.

Why do people love Bramalea? It's because of the people. People who care about one another; who lend a helping hand to their neighbour; who volunteer to help those most vulnerable; and who volunteer for every minor sports organization in the city. It is because of people who get involved to make our community the best place in the world to live.



1981 | Gael with her daughters on the first street in the M-section of Bramalea.

View newsletters online at
www.peelregion.ca/council

 **Region of Peel**
Working for you

In 2007, Brampton was declared a safe community by the World Health Organization. One reason is that we have people from over 40 different agencies running over 100 different safety programs for people of all ages in our city. In 2009, we won the International Award for Communities in Bloom competing with cities from around the globe. We are a community of involved citizens who care about each other, work to ensure we protect our environment, and celebrate our history and heritage.

As your Regional Councillor my priorities have not changed. I continue to make safety, health and prosperity my top priorities. Regional government is the primary provider of human service programs and I will continue to work with Council to ensure we can provide: adequate affordable housing and long-term care for seniors; child care and breakfast programs for our children; and support and resources for families, those in need, and new Canadians. Peel continues to be seriously underfunded compared to the rest of Ontario, and we will continue to strive for our fair share.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. I have tried to provide you with information that I feel is important to all of us. Please feel free to send me your comments and concerns on any issue facing us in Peel at gael.miles@brampton.ca.



Gael Miles
Regional Councillor, Wards 7 and 8
905-874-2671



1984 | Brampton recognized during Crime Prevention Week in Ontario by the Solicitor General of Ontario.

**Join Bramalea's
50th Anniversary
Celebrations.**

**Check the local
newspaper or e-mail
bramalea50@brampton.ca
for more information.**



Diversity matters in Peel

The Region supports local organizations and institutions that share the goal of creating a society where individuals and families can prosper and enjoy a high quality of life, free from racism and discrimination.

This year, Regional Council proclaimed March 21, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Peel. It's a strong statement of our belief in this goal, and the benefit from the gifts diversity brings.

As one of Canada's most culturally diverse areas, Peel enjoys many benefits from the social, cultural and ethnic diversity of its people. Our businesses, restaurants, and entertainments are enriched. The opportunities for recreation, education and cultural events are expanded. Our arts scene is enviable.

We also know there are challenges. Last year, Ontario's *Roots of Youth Violence Report* identified racism as a major factor behind youth violence. This is also a concern to Peel's Youth Violence Prevention Network and others in our community. More recently, the Region's labour market survey found that newcomers are lagging behind their Canadian-born counterparts in finding jobs equal to their skills.

Our immigration web portal (www.immigrationpeel.ca) is a good example of community efforts to help newcomers settle and establish themselves. The Region led the development of the portal through a team that relied on community input throughout the process.

A safer community

The enhancement and promotion of community safety continues to be Peel Regional Police's highest priority. The 2008-2010 *Peel Regional Police Strategic Plan* was developed from valuable input gathered from our community, stakeholders and employees, through a series of workshops and surveys.

The focus of Peel Regional Police continues to be on the following key strategic issues:

- Growth and changing demographics
- Community safety
- Communication and collaboration
- Organizational capacity
- Quality service and fiscal responsibility

Peel Regional Police will continue to protect our community by responding to crime through effective investigation, enforcement, education and increased police visibility. With continued support of Peel Regional Council, the Police Services Board, community partnerships and the dedication of uniform and civilian employees, we will continue to progress towards the vision of Peel Regional Police: "A Safer Community."

For more information visit www.peelpolice.ca

connect2ENDviolence

As Co-Chair of connect2ENDviolence initiative, I'm pleased to report that www.connect2ENDviolence.ca is the place where our community is fostering a safe and secure environment for Peel. The website has been visited by thousands of individuals since its launch, and we've had some wonderful successes in connecting victims with support groups, matching volunteers with service opportunities, and linking anti-violence educational groups to outreach events and venues.



The Peel Police Services Board has extended funding for www.connect2ENDviolence.ca until at least January 2011. As this newsletter went to press, plans were being finalized for new website enhancements and enhanced community outreach activities.

I encourage you to visit www.connect2ENDviolence.ca and get involved.

www.connect2ENDviolence.ca

- YOUR place to talk about your concerns on violence
- YOUR place to find information and help if you're a victim of violence
- YOUR place to talk about how to reduce violence
- YOUR place to connect online
- YOUR Facebook group

**GET INVOLVED!
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

connect
2 END
violence

voice
PEEL
YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION
INITIATIVE

**VOICE
YOUR
RIGHT TO
A SAFE
HOME
SCHOOL
AND
COMMUNITY**

Help prevent youth violence
in your community, visit
www.voice4peelyouth.ca

An engaged community is a safe community



Oct. 17, 2009 | One Act Impacts, a youth event hosted by IMPACT Youth Group, a youth advisory group for Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network (Chaired by Gael Milles).



What does it take to raise a teenager today? It takes parents, politicians, teachers, police officers, religious leaders, health and social service providers, and young people working together to minimize risks, bridge gaps and nurture a safe and supportive community.

It also takes a considerable amount of awareness, money, and people to reduce the roots of youth violence. In our quest to ensure a safer environment for our youth, we need to focus on the causes of violence. We need to deal with racism, oppression, youth mental health issues, disadvantaged and underserved neighbourhoods, as well as barriers to education and recreational activities. We

need more community hubs, adult role models and culturally specific services for families. We should make improvements in youth and public policy frameworks.

Through the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network (PYVPN) and its partners, we are taking significant steps towards reducing youth violence in our community.

The Network's youth advisory group, IMPACT, recently hosted a community outreach and awareness event at Playdium in Mississauga that engaged over 400 youth, parents, community service providers and politicians on the subject of youth violence issues and prevention.

The Network's steering committee is made up of representatives from Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga. Reporting to the steering committee are three volunteer working groups that strategize improvements in key areas related to violence prevention: services and support for youth, community development, families and education.

As Chair for PYVPN, I want to thank Brampton residents for their support of this valuable program.

Visit www.voice4peelyouth.ca to learn more about community services and events for youth and parents in Peel, or to find out how to get involved in violence prevention.

Bramalea Community Health Centre

The Bramalea Community Health Centre (BCHC) serves residents of Bramalea who do not have access to a family doctor or other health care provider, and who are a member of one or more priority populations.

Priority populations for service were determined by a community consultation process, and include:

- youth
- isolated seniors
- newcomers
- people who are homeless, under housed, or at risk of homelessness
- people dealing with mental health and/or substance use issues
- families under-resourced
- members of racialized communities

Contact BCHC for more information or to register as client.

Bramalea Community Health Centre
40 Finchgate Blvd.
Suite 224

905-451-6959
www.bramaleachc.ca



BCHC has a successful track-record in providing inclusive, accessible, and sustainable health services. Its focus is on complete health; supporting individuals, families and the community. BCHC is a primary care office, not an emergency or urgent care facility.

A complete care team at the centre provides:

- primary health care
- diabetes education
- youth programs
- newcomers information
- seniors programs
- under-housed/homeless support
- counselling

BCHC works in partnership with the community. A number of community agencies including staff from the Region of Peel worked for the past eight years to open this important and unique centre in early 2009.

Peel Paramedics

work to improve response times

Responding to over 220 emergency calls every day, Peel Regional Paramedic Services (PRPS) work around the clock to save lives. How quickly they respond is affected by hospital offload delays, demand of emergency calls, traffic congestion and the misuse of 9-1-1.

To improve response times, PRPS has partnered with area hospitals, the Province and other GTA paramedic services to:

- run a dedicated offload nursing program to reduce the amount of time paramedics are waiting for the hospital to take over patient care
- educate the community on proper use of 9-1-1
- deliver programs such as Community Referral by EMS to ensure residents receive support from appropriate health-care services

In addition, the Region's 2010 Budget provided for paramedic services to increase by 12,775 hours to help improve 9-1-1 response times

New paramedic stations

Over the next 10 years, we are building 25 paramedic facilities in carefully planned locations throughout Peel. These stations will help paramedics meet the growing needs of our community so we can respond to emergencies more quickly.

How you can help:

- Call 9-1-1 for emergencies only
- Visit your family doctor or local walk-in clinic for non-emergencies
- Learn CPR and use it in emergencies when needed



Peel Regional Paramedics respond to more than 80,00 emergencies every year.

Peel hearts in good hands

Your chances of surviving a certain type of heart attack have greatly improved thanks to a new program in Peel.

A STEMI (ST-Elevated Myocardial Infarction) heart attack happens when almost no blood is flowing to the heart. Since your best chance for survival is having surgery within 90 minutes of the attack, Peel Paramedics and Trillium Health Centre have partnered to ensure life-saving care is provided within that timeframe.

Paramedics on the scene diagnose a STEMI and consult with a cardiologist at Trillium Health Centre to arrange for an immediate angioplasty (the opening of a blocked vessel causing a heart attack) at Trillium. For the patient to receive the most benefit, this must occur within the first 60 minutes of the attack.

Since the program started in August 2009, Peel paramedics were involved in transporting 24 of the 34 STEMIs performed at Trillium. The average time of paramedics assessing and transporting a patient to a cardiologist who then restored blood flow was 68.5 minutes - well below the program's 90-minute goal.

For more information about Peel Regional Paramedic Services or the STEMI program, visit www.peeems.ca

Saving the environment one collection day at a time

Last year, the Region of Peel collected almost 500,000 tonnes of residential waste from 1.2 million residents – an average of 416 kg (915 lbs.) of waste per resident. Now that's a lot of waste!

Thankfully, much of the waste we generate can be diverted from landfill and recycled.

For example, recyclable items that you place in your blue box or recycling container are brought to the Region's recycling facility in Brampton for sorting, then sold to end-markets that use the material to manufacture new items. Last year, the Region diverted more than 90,000 tonnes of blue box material.

Organic material (e.g. food waste and soiled paper products) makes up 30 per cent of your household garbage. Using your green bin reduces the amount of garbage you set out at the curb, and also keeps food waste out of landfill. This is important because when food waste decomposes in landfill, it produces methane – a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Keep up your great efforts in our recycling programs. When it comes to recycling, your actions make a positive difference.

For more information, refer to your *2010/2011 Waste Management Guide* or visit www.peelregion.ca/waste



Do you know where it goes?

Let's face it; proper waste disposal can be confusing at times...but not any longer.

The Region of Peel has revamped its searchable waste database to include more items, improved user functionality and a new home at www.wheredoesitgo.ca

wheredoesitgo.ca

A lot of your waste can be recycled. Enter the item you want to dispose of and we'll tell you how.

paper gift wrap

The composite multi-layered packaging is not recyclable. Please place this item in the garbage.



Every year, Brampton residents get together to keep our community clean.

Energy conservation – a top priority

As one of the top five municipal energy consumers in Ontario, the Region of Peel takes pride in its reputation as a leader among municipalities in energy management and conservation, and environmental protection. Since 2003, the Region's conservation initiatives have contributed to over \$28 million in savings for Peel residents:

- energy efficiency audits
- building retrofits
- exploring opportunities for renewable energy
- bio-fuel generation
- demand reduction programs
- educating Peel residents about smart energy use at home, at work and on the road



Peel residents and small businesses may drop off used cooking oil at any Community Recycling Centre. The oil is converted to biodiesel fuel for use in the Waste Management division's car and light truck fleet.

Conservation at work

- All new Regional construction and renovation projects incorporate green building measures. Air conditioning systems at the Region's headquarters at 10 Peel Centre Dr. in Brampton automatically recover heat, while lighting systems automatically adjust to the amount of daylight available. Renewable or "green" energy supplies 100 per cent of the building's electricity needs.
- The Region ensures residents have clean and safe water through continuous energy management improvements in its water and wastewater facilities and processes.
- For almost 20 years, the Region has been converting a portion of its garbage into energy at its Energy-from-Waste facility in Brampton. Converting garbage into energy has given the Region the ability to manage a large portion of its waste in Peel, reducing its need for landfill.
- When the Britannia Landfill in Mississauga was redeveloped into BraeBen Golf Course, a gas recovery system was installed that captures the landfill gas to generate green electricity. The electricity is sold at a premium "green power" rate to the power grid and the Region receives a share of the revenue.
- Smart Commute Peel is an employee trip reduction program that encourages and supports Peel Region employees to make commuting easier, healthier and more enjoyable.
- The Region currently has 43 hybrid vehicles in its fleet. These vehicles have higher fuel efficiency and lower environmental impact than standard gas or diesel vehicles.

Our energy use impacts the environment because burning fossil fuels – in our vehicles, to heat our homes, or to generate electricity – releases pollutants. The air we breathe is affected by the amount of energy we use, and the ways in which we produce it.

Learn more:

www.peelregion.ca/finance/corp-energy
www.peelregion.ca/waste
www.peelregion.ca/health/cleanairpeel

Watermain replacement

This summer, a significant amount of watermain work will be happening in Wards 7 and 8. Construction is scheduled to start spring 2010, finishing between August and mid-November 2010. Residents will be notified by the Region when work is about to begin.



How are these streets chosen?

Watermain replacement is based on:

- the type of material the watermain is made from
- the history of watermain breaks and interruptions to the water supply

Many watermain replacements are funded through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, where both the federal and provincial governments have partnered with the Region of Peel for the completion of approved infrastructure projects.

For detailed information, visit www.peelregion.ca/pw/construction and click “Construction Projects in Your Neighbourhood”

East Brampton reservoir and pumping station

The reservoir and pumping station are located at Northampton Park.

The reservoir stores water for use during high-demand periods and for firefighting. The Region is completing concrete coatings to the reservoir cells, which will provide a longer life span for the facility. The Region is working to minimize impact to residents, with no planned interruption to water supply. This project is receiving Infrastructure Stimulus Funding and will be complete by March 2011.

The high-lift pumps in the pumping station provide for the daily water service demands of the community – more than 150,000 people! One high-lift pump is being replaced as it is nearing the end of its design life. This will lead to better performance and efficiency, and reduced energy consumption. This work is taking place inside the pumping station.

Prevent basement flooding

Follow these general guidelines to help decrease your chance of having a flood in your basement:

- Ensure the grading outside your home directs water away from your foundation
- Repair any cracks or holes in basement walls or floors
- Disconnect down spouts to direct water onto your lawn, away from your home
- Consider using a rain barrel to collect rainwater
- Keep your sewer pipe in good working order; free from collapse, tree roots, and debris, as well as fats, oils or greases that can lead to blockages
- Be aware of what items are flushed or put down toilets or sinks - even small items can cause blockages when they accumulate and may cause a backup



For information about sewer systems in your neighbourhood or what to do in case of a flood, visit www.peelregion.ca/pw or call 905-791-7800, ext. 4409.

Parking management strategy

Due to major redevelopment and construction by the City, Region and Bramalea City Centre, parking has become a concern to many.

The area east of Dixie Road and south of Queen Street is fast becoming a major centre for Regional and municipal services, public transit, and retail. The area includes Peel Regional headquarters, City of Brampton Civic Centre and Bramalea City Centre.



Parking management is key to ensuring our residents have access to those services. The Region of Peel, City of Brampton and Bramalea City Centre property owners have come together to identify parking options to address the community's concerns.

In January 2010, these three partners began working on a parking management strategy to address current and future growth needs in the area. Long-term planning is essential to ensure development, infrastructure and services meet the needs of this rapidly growing community and all Peel residents.

I look forward to working with task force members to identify parking solutions by 2012.

2-1-1, 3-1-1, 9-1-1

Making it easier to call

2-1-1 is for confidential information and referral to non-emergency community, health and social services in Peel:

- employment leads
- doctors accepting patients
- social housing resources

3-1-1 provides residents with direct access to local municipal government programs and services in Peel:

- garbage pick-up
- water billing
- recreation programs

9-1-1 is for life-threatening emergencies or crimes:

- a fire
- a crime in progress
- a medical emergency

Visit www.peelregion.ca for more information.



The Region of Peel, in partnership with the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon, launched 3-1-1 in fall 2009.

Working for you

Gael Miles is elected to represent the residents of Wards 7 and 8 on the councils for the Region of Peel and the City of Brampton.

Regional Council consists of 24 elected members, plus a Regional Chair (12 members from Mississauga, seven from Brampton and five from Caledon).

Gael also serves on Brampton City Council, which is comprised of five Regional Councillors, five City Councillors and a Mayor (one City Councillor is also appointed by City Council to serve at the Region).

The following services are provided by the City of Brampton:

- Animal control
- Arts and culture (Rose Theatre, Tourism)
- By-law enforcement
- Economic Development
- Fire services
- Parks and Recreation
- Provincial offences administration
- Planning
- Public transit
- Roads (local)
- Tax collection
- Snow removal, road and sidewalk maintenance

The following services are provided by the Region of Peel:

- Children's Services
- Long Term Care
- Ontario Works
- Paramedic Services
- Peel Living
- Peel Regional Police
- Peel Heritage Complex
- Planning
- Public Health
- Roads (Regional)
- Social Housing
- TransHelp
- Water and Wastewater
- Waste and Recycling

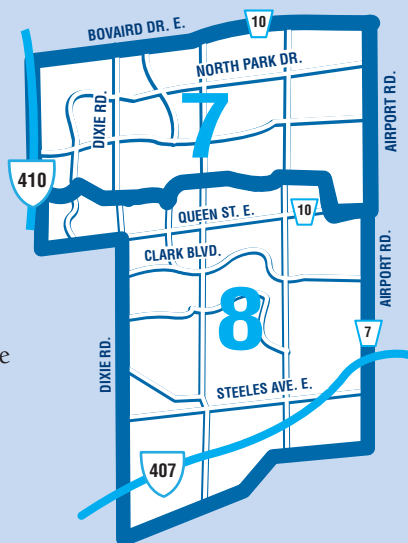
Ward profiles

Ward 7

- Population grew 1.3 per cent between 2001 and 2006 to 40,290 people
- 16,990 immigrants represented 42.2% of the ward's 2006 population
- 6.3% of this ward's economic families were low income in 2006

Ward 8

- Population decreased 2.7 per cent between 2001 and 2006 to 40,345 people
- 18,385 immigrants represented 45.6% of the ward's 2006 population
- 12.7% of this ward's economic families were low income in 2006



Source: Peel Data Centre
Statistics Canada 2001 and 2006 Censuses.
See www.peeldatacentre.ca for more information.

Statistics Canada undertakes its Census of Population every five years. The most recent census was conducted in 2006. The next census will be conducted in May 2011 and its data will become available in late 2011.

2010 Regional Budget Highlights

The Region of Peel's 2010 Budget was approved at \$1.6 billion for operations and \$527.6 million for capital projects. The approved budget includes a combined tax rate increase of 1.9% or an average of \$32 per household, and a utility rate increase of 5% or \$21 to the average household for Water and Wastewater services.

During budget preparations, Council's priority was to find a balance between meeting the needs of the community and maintaining fiscal strength, while trying to minimize the tax impact on residents.

2010 Service Enhancements

- Paramedic services will increase by 12,775 hours to help reduce 9-1-1 response times
- 33,000 more Accessible Transportation trips will be offered to persons with disabilities
- Funding directed to youth and child-focused programs for families living in neighbourhoods identified as having high needs will benefit from summer day camps, literacy and learning programs, and after-school activities
- 4,200 more families and individuals will receive social assistance and job supports
- 1,000 more low income seniors will benefit from urgent dental treatment
- 25 additional families and housing providers will receive support for assisted housing
- Elimination of child care co-payment fees for 2,650 working families with low income
- Enhanced ability to help prevent disease outbreaks, obesity and diabetes, and increase public health inspections
- Tax rebate program for low income seniors and low income persons with disabilities
- Increase of 27 uniform positions in Peel Regional Police to maintain service for the growing population base, and to meet emerging service demands
- Addition of 1 O.P.P. officer for a new high school in Caledon, 2 part-time court officers, and 1 civilian court officer
- Additional investment in Conservation Authorities to address flood control and climate change

Peel Region Recognized for Quality Service

Having served as Chair of the Management section of the General Committee, I am pleased to share that the Region of Peel earned the honour of becoming the first government in Canada to receive the National Quality Institute's (NQI) Order of Excellence for quality services. In addition, the Region earned the Canada Award for Excellence for a Healthy Workplace – making us only the second government in Canada to ever receive this recognition.



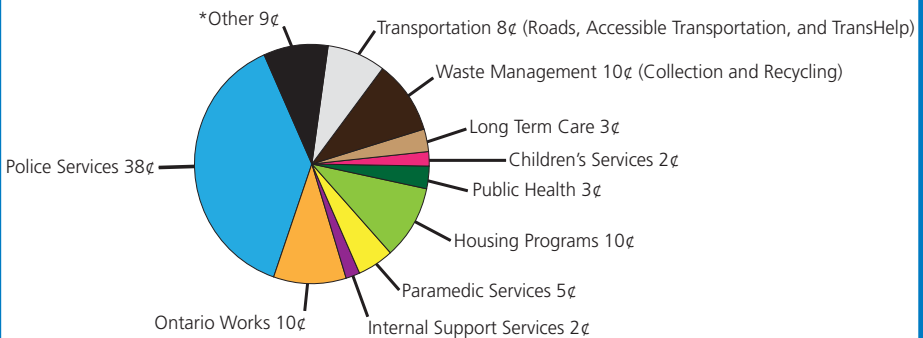
The NQI Canada Awards for Excellence are presented annually to private, public and not-for-profit sector organizations that display outstanding performance.

An independent review process evaluated the Region's approach to leadership, planning, customer service, employee satisfaction, process management and partnering.

Being committed to building a workforce of engaged employees who focus on satisfying our customers and instilling trust and confidence with our residents helped us earn this external recognition.

Receiving these awards reaffirms our commitment to residents to continuously improve our services to meet the evolving needs of our community.

How your tax dollar supports Regional



*Includes Ontario Disability Support, Conservation Authorities, Assessment Services, and Toronto Tax (also known as GTA Pooling)

Regional committee representation

Over the past four years, I have represented you as Chair on:

- Audit Committee
- Management Committee
- Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network Steering Committee
- 3-1-1 Council Liaison Committee
- Connect2ENDViolence

I have also been a member of:

- Chinguacousy Health Services Board
- Peel Housing Corporation Board of Directors
- Human Services Committee
- Planning Committee
- Public Health Committee
- Public Works Committee



Gael has long been a supporter of a healthy community. Here, she and City of Brampton Councillor Sandra Hames lend their support to the Peel Public Health team as they bring messages around the dangers of alcohol poisoning and teens. She has also been instrumental in the work of the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network where she sits as Chair, the Brampton Safe City Association (Member at Large) and Wellspring Chinguacousy (President and Founder).

Contact us

Councillor Gael Miles

905-874-2671

Region of Peel

905-791-7800

www.peelregion.ca

Water Billing

905-791-8711

www.peelregion.ca

Water (24 hr)

905-791-7800

Waste Management

905-791-9499

Peel Public Health

905-799-7700

Peel Heritage Complex

www.peelheritagecomplex.org

City of Brampton (24 hr)

905-874-2000

www.city.brampton.on.ca

Peel Regional Police

(Non-emergency)

905-453-3311

www.peelpolice.on.ca

Crime Stoppers

1-800-222-TIPS

www.toronto-crimestoppers.com

Brampton Safe City

905-793-5484

www.bramptonsafecity.ca

