



Patricia Mullin

Regional Councillor's Report, Ward 2

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Winter 2011

Regional News

The Planning Act and the Ontario Municipal Board

On June 22, 2011, I moved Resolution 0172-2011 requesting that the Planning Act be amended to abolish the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), which was adopted by City Council.

The current OMB hearing process is too formal, too expensive, too time consuming and too legalistic to facilitate wide-ranging citizen participation and is therefore, unfair to the local residents as well as the community at large. I have urged that we keep planning in the hands of local municipalities where they are most in tune with the issues and needs of their communities.

Given the significance of a decision of this nature and the impact it will have on residents, City Council requested that the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, hold public consultations throughout this process.

To read the resolution visit mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/ward2

Dear Neighbours:

I am very pleased to provide you with updates and share information about Regional programs and services that affect our City and Ward. I hope you will find this newsletter informative and I urge you to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

My staff and I are available to assist you with any City or Region concerns that you may have. You can speak with my Executive Assistant, Helena Francisco or Noreen Stesky, my Administrative Assistant by calling 905-896-5200. They will be happy to assist you. Please feel free to contact me directly at pat.mullin@mississauga.ca or by phone at 905-896-5200 and I will respond to your concerns.

Stay up-to-date on key issues in the Ward by visiting my website at mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/ward2. Subscribe to Region of Peel news about programs and services at peelregion.ca/connecttopeel/. The City of Mississauga website offers numerous online services at mississauga.ca.

It is my extreme pleasure to work with our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

Pat Mullin
Councillor, Ward 2

Government announces pilot project for Oakville-Clarkson airshed

On Aug. 17, 2011, the Honourable John Wilkinson, Minister of the Environment, announced the Ontario government was going to implement the recommendations of the Balsillie Report and set up a pilot project to reduce pollution in the Oakville-Clarkson Airshed.

The pilot project will be a first for Ontario. It aims to establish an air management plan that will lower the current high levels of ambient air pollution and limit the location of additional polluters. It will include a program of continuous monitoring of cumulative pollution, and real-time reporting of pollution levels to the public.

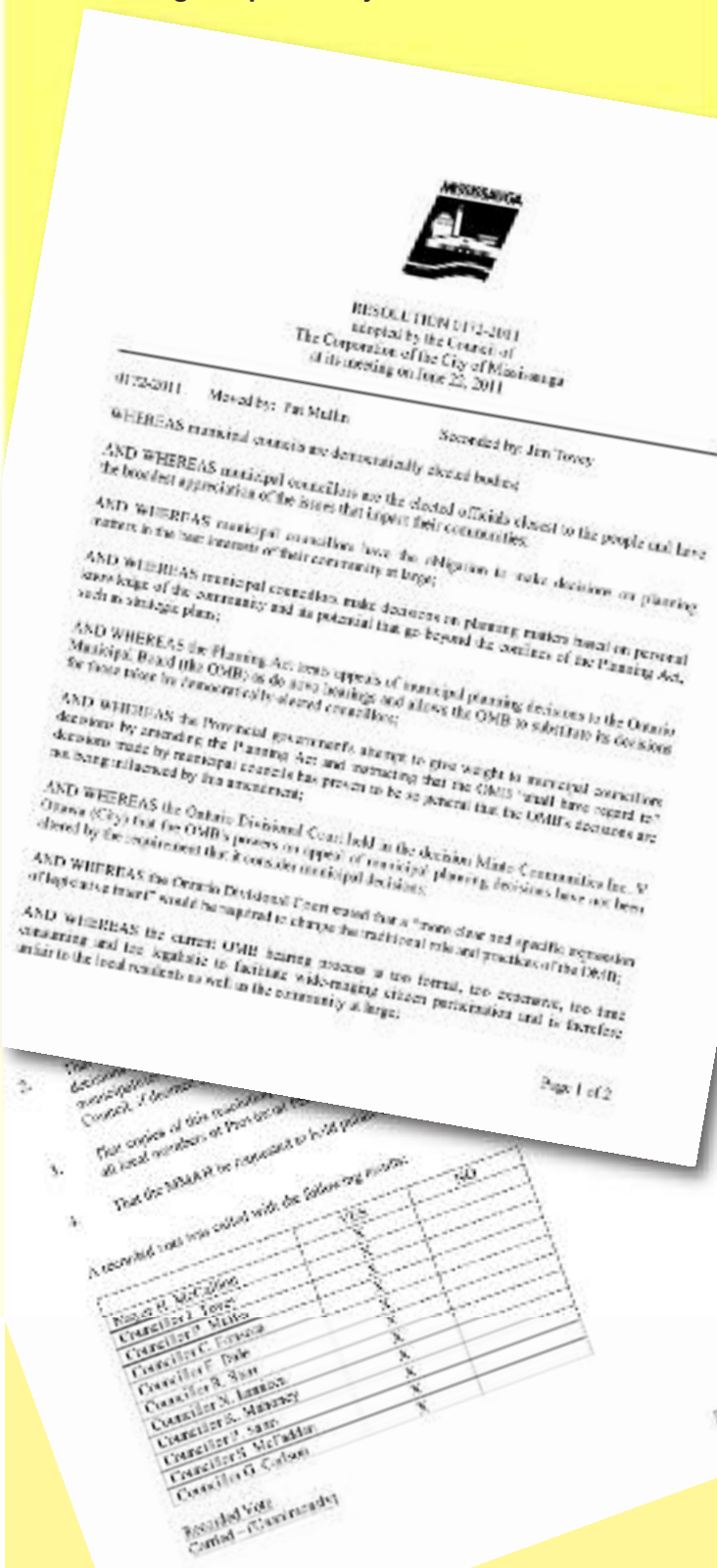
An Action Committee will be established, composed of appointments from the Ministry of Environment plus communities in Peel and Halton. Terms of Reference will be developed jointly by the Ministry and the community representatives.

The Balsillie Report's 35 recommendations were groundbreaking, calling for management of pollution in the airshed from all sources – industry, business, transportation, residential and trans-boundary. Until now, industries and businesses emitting pollutants were required to secure a Certificate of Approval for Air and Noise. Each application was deemed to be a stand-alone enterprise in a pristine environment.

A significant recommendation is the formation of an Inter-Ministerial team comprised of Ministers of Environment, Energy, Health, Transportation, and Municipal Affairs and Housing. The task of this team will be to assess – in advance of locating such things as heavily polluting gas-fired generating stations – the consequences on the municipalities and on the health of people most affected before any decisions are taken.

Meetings are scheduled for Fall 2011 to draft Terms of Reference for the Action Committee.

Prepared by: Dr. Boyd Upper, member of task force



Understanding your home's sewer system



The first step to understanding your home's sewer system is knowing there is a network of pipes and systems that run in and around your home.

The sanitary sewer takes water from toilets, showers, laundry and sinks and is called wastewater. The water is collected in pipes that run throughout your home, then sent through one central pipe running underneath your home, which goes to the Region of Peel's sanitary sewer system. All of the water collected in the sanitary sewer system is sent to a wastewater treatment facility before being returned to Lake Ontario.

As a homeowner you are responsible for your wastewater pipes inside and underneath your home to your property line. Keep them free of debris such as hair, grease and large objects so they function properly. If they get clogged, it's your responsibility to get them cleared out.

The storm sewer on your street collects rain water and melting snow, as well as water from lawn watering and car washing and

sends it directly into Mississauga's storm sewer system. The water then flows into storm water management ponds, creeks and rivers and eventually ends up in Lake Ontario.

Storm sewer pipes run beneath the road outside your home. Storm water on your property is your responsibility. You can ensure storm water gets to the sewer as easily as possible by disconnecting your downspouts directing the rainwater away from your home and onto your lawn. You should also check the grading of your property so that water flows away from your home toward the storm sewer.

Avoid basement flooding

Disconnecting your downspouts and checking the grading of your property is a good way to protect your home and the sanitary sewer from flooding and back-ups. Repair any cracks or holes in your basement walls or floors, and be aware of what you flush or put down your sinks. Small objects, when they accumulate, can cause sanitary pipe blockages.

For more information and helpful tips for your home's sewer system, visit peelregion.ca/pipes

Peel Public Works now on Twitter



Peel Public Works is committed to keeping you up-to-date. If you have a mobile Twitter app on your phone, receive our Tweets while on the go!

We will Tweet on:

- Emergency road closures and watermain repairs
- Construction and project announcements
- Updates on service changes and emergencies
- Waste collection delays and holiday schedules
- New programs and promotions
- Notices and public meetings

Follow us at twitter.com/peelpublicworks



Put waste in its place



- Visit wheredoesitgo.ca to help make garbage day easy
- Participate in the Organics program to help decrease Peel's dependency on landfill
- Consider donating gently used items instead of throwing them in the garbage
- Use the Community Recycling Centres for free disposal of:
 - ✓ household hazardous waste
 - ✓ re-usable goods
 - ✓ dedicated loads of blue box materials
 - ✓ electronics
 - ✓ passenger or light truck tires
 - ✓ large metal appliances and fixtures

For more information on how to manage your waste, visit peelregion.ca/waste



wheredoesitgo.ca

Recycle more, recycle wise

Since the Region's introduction of the single-stream Blue Box program in 2006 – and thanks to the participation of our residents – we have diverted more than 500,000 tonnes of material from our waste stream. In Mississauga alone, an estimated 1,100 tonnes of Blue Box material is collected each week and brought to the Region's Integrated Waste Management Facility.

This large-scale Region-owned facility opened in 2006, processing approximately 105,000 tonnes of recyclable material and organics annually. Organic material is composted for 7-10 days and then sent to the Peel Curing Facility. Material

recovered from the curbside recycling program are sorted by material type, then are baled and sold to various markets where they are manufactured into new products.

Last year, the Region generated approximately \$11 million from the sale of recyclable items. This money is used to offset the operating costs of the Blue Box program.

The Blue Box program is integral to support a healthier, sustainable community – and we all have a role to play. The full benefits of the program can only be realized by the quality of the material that is set out for collection.

'Contamination', (the term used to describe material that is not recyclable and incorrectly placed in blue boxes), is a costly issue to manage. It impacts the Region's ability to market the material, and increases the operating costs of the recycling facility. Materials such as socks, plastic toys, plant trays, coat hangers and dishes all have to be removed (largely by hand) to keep the integrity of the recyclable material that is shipped for future manufacturing. Contaminated material currently accounts for 18% of the weight of the total number of recyclables collected. With your help, the Region hopes to reduce this figure to 10% by 2012.

Peel continues to fluoridate water to improve health

In late April, Regional Council reaffirmed its 40-plus year commitment to the reduction of tooth decay and disease – particularly among children – by continuing to provide fluoride through municipally-provided drinking water.

The Peel community is particularly vulnerable to dental disease. Compared to Ontario, Peel has a higher proportion of children and immigrants – both of these groups have a relatively high rate of tooth decay.

Region of Peel municipal water supplies have been fluoridated since the late 1960s. In Peel, we recognize community water fluoridation as a safe, effective, equitable and economical disease prevention strategy.

Safe: Health Canada recently completed its review of any health effects associated with fluoride in drinking water and confirmed there is no link between low levels of fluoride in drinking water and health problems like cancer, gene mutation, and reduced bone density or intelligence levels.

Effective: Water fluoridation reduces the occurrence of tooth decay in children, adults and seniors. Research has also found a significantly lower incidence of root cavities for adults over 65 living in fluoridated communities (compared to those in non-fluoridated communities).

Equitable: Water fluoridation benefits all residents regardless of age, income, education, employment status, disability, geographical location, race or gender.

Economical: Prevention of tooth decay costs much less than the treatment of cavities. The cost of fluoridating community water is less than one dollar per person per year.

For more information, call Peel Public Health at **905-799-7700**.

I recognize some residents continue to have concerns with respect to water fluoridation. Therefore at the May 26, 2011 Regional Council meeting I moved;

"That the Medical Officer of Health bring forward a future report on the feasibility of reducing fluoride in the water to 0.2 or the least possible amount; And further, that the concern regarding the amount of fluoride in toothpaste be referred to the Medical Officer of Health to bring back appropriate recommendations that can be sent to the Ministry of Health."

The Medical Officer of Health is bringing this report back to Regional Council on Nov. 10, 2011, just after the publication date of this newsletter.



Peel Parents: find us on Facebook



Find Peel Public Health on Facebook: [facebook.com/parentinginpeel](https://www.facebook.com/parentinginpeel)

The Parenting In Peel Facebook page offers another option for parents and caregivers to get information. They can communicate with Public Health Nurses and learn from others' unique experiences. Be sure to "Like" Parenting In Peel and "Share" the page with your friends!

Find information on:

- Preparing for a baby
- Healthy pregnancy
- Self-care and baby care after birth
- Breastfeeding
- Parenting children up to age six



Don't have a Facebook account? Don't worry!

Visit parentinginpeel.ca, email parentinginpeel@peelregion.ca or call a Public Health Nurse at **905-799-7700** (905-584-2216 in Caledon).

Province-wide standards sought for private patient transportation services

When a friend or loved one needs transport for medical treatment or diagnosis between healthcare institutions, we want to be sure they receive the very highest care and are safe when transported. In April, Regional Council learned the private companies hired to provide this transportation service operate with no provincial oversight or rules to ensure patient safety or patient care.

Every year in Ontario about 500,000 trips are made by medically stable patients between health facilities such as hospitals, long-term care homes, residences and other institutions. Some of the vehicles for transporting patients may look like ambulances, but they are not.

Unlike ambulances operated by Peel Regional Paramedic Services, these services are run by private companies operating with no provincial rules or regulations. There are no standards for patient care and safety, staff training, or equipment maintenance and cleanliness.

The need for basic standards has been an issue for Ontario's Auditor General and for Ontario's Ombudsman. After hearing about this issue this past spring, Regional Council added its voice, calling on Queen's Park to bring in province-wide standards for these services.

In June, the Ontario government announced its plan to bring in comprehensive regulations for this service following the fall election and once the provincial legislature is in session. Regional Council will continue to advocate for safe and quality patient transport by these private patient transportation services.



Gone to the dogs: construction in Marie Curtis Park

Many Ward 2 residents know that a new off-leash dog park is being established as part of Marie Curtis Park. What you may not know, is that the City of Toronto operates and manages the park – and they require the off-leash area to have access to a water supply for maintenance.

Recently Regional Council approved the installation of a water service connection, as an existing watermain is available nearby. The new connection will provide the off-leash dog area with the required water. All associated costs for the installation will be paid by the park's owner, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority.



QEW/Credit River Bridge construction

The Ontario government is working on improvements to the QEW/Credit River Bridge. All construction is expected to finish in October 2012.

The rehabilitation of the bridge's deck surface and underside will maintain the bridge for 10 to 15 years. Work has been staged to minimize the impacts to QEW traffic, while addressing environmental imperatives (i.e. reducing noise, retaining/restoring heritage attributes, protecting the Credit River).

Deck work will start in April 2012, and includes:

- ✓ replacing bridge expansion joints (a major source of noise)
- ✓ replacing median steel beam guide rail with tall wall barrier
- ✓ resurfacing driving lanes
- ✓ replacing median lighting system with "Elizabeth Regina (E/R)" light standards

Nighttime work will close one to two lanes of traffic on the QEW. There will be no daytime closure of traffic lanes on the QEW.

A construction access road will be built from Mississauga Road (immediately north of QEW) to the Credit River valley. This is required to construct a temporary working platform underneath the existing bridge structure.

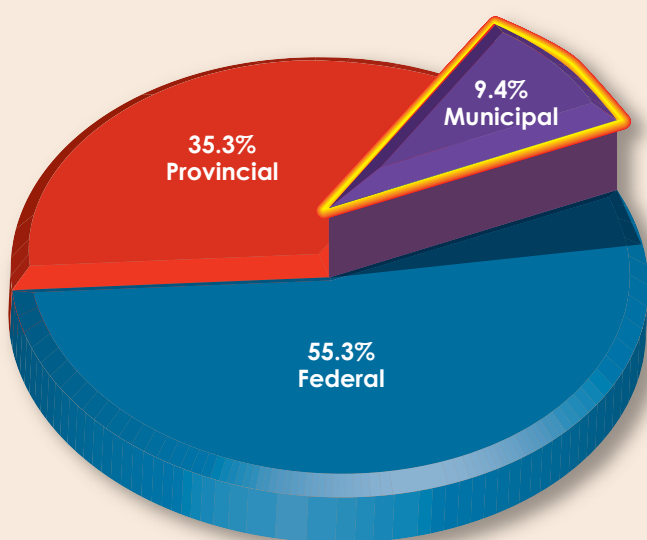
A future second strategy to accommodate future full bridge rehabilitation is under development, and will require the twinning of the existing bridge.

For more information, contact Mike Marinelli, Ministry of Transportation at **416-235-4639** or email mike.marinelli@ontario.ca

Canadian tax distribution

Approximately 9.4 cents of every dollar goes to cities

Approximately 9.4 cents of every dollar that you pay goes to support municipal services. The largest recipient of your tax dollars is the federal government, followed by the provincial government. If you consider the scope of services that you receive from the City and the Region of Peel, it becomes increasingly clear that municipalities are required to fund an extensive list of programs with a very small portion of the overall tax dollar. These are the same services that touch you closest to home and affect your quality of life on a daily basis.



2010 Breakdown of Average Family's Tax Bill
Source: The Fraser Institute's Canadian Tax Simulator, 2010 for Ontario

Peel Asks **Why?** ... a community engaged

During the 2011 provincial election, the Region of Peel leveraged the power of social media to engage the community and influence the overall tone of the provincial election in Peel. Peel Asks Why was a non-partisan campaign that proved successful to engage candidates, provincial parties, residents and businesses in a conversation around one important question:

Why?

do Peel residents wait longer than other Ontarians for key community human and health services?

Through our website, peelaskswwhy.ca, candidates and the community were educated on key services residents wait for. Whether child care, housing, mental health, or supporting individuals with special needs, we empowered residents with the information they needed to ask important questions of their candidates.

If you followed us on Twitter or shared stories of the services you or someone you know waits for on Facebook, thank you for your participation. As you know, the success of a campaign like this is by active community participation. Together we made this happen!

Regional Council continues to advocate to the federal and provincial governments on these and other important issues affecting residents.

To learn more, visit peelregion.ca/council/advocacy

Helping kids make better food choices

Mandatory changes to food and beverages sold in Ontario schools came into effect at the beginning of September 2011 by the Ministry of Education. The changes are significant, and are a great step to help young people make better food choices when they're not at home.



What will be different in secondary schools?

- ✓ Fried foods such as french fries and chicken fingers have been replaced by non-fried and more nutritious options like baked sweet potato fries, grilled chicken strips and more.
- ✓ Most pop and sports drinks have been replaced with 100% fruit juices, water and milk.
- ✓ More pizza types, including some with whole-grain crusts, lower-fat toppings and more vegetables, may be available.
- ✓ Vending machines now offer items like whole-grain granola bars, lower-fat popcorn and baked chips, instead of chocolate bars, regular chips and candy.

What will be different in elementary schools?

- ✓ Beverage machines will serve smaller, more age-appropriate containers of 100% fruit juices, water and milk.
- ✓ Tuck shops and treat days will now sell items like granola bars or healthy baked snacks instead of chips or candy.
- ✓ Pizza days and hot dog days will now offer healthier, more nutritious options.

Healthy eating during childhood and adolescence not only improves health but also enhances learning and promotes the best possible growth and intellectual development. It can also create changes that support life-long healthy eating patterns.

Peel Public Health is working in partnership with both school boards to support schools with the introduction of this policy. Call Peel Public Health at **905-799-7700** for more information or visit **SchoolHealth101.ca/action** and select "Food and Beverages."



Lorne Park Library opening with Councillor Pat Mullin and Mayor Hazel McCallion, June 11, 2011.

Everyone is welcome at The Compass

At The Compass, people can drop in for a coffee and a snack, or participate in one of many programs. There are life skills groups for men and women, English as a second language classes, free tax preparation, and computer classes. A weekly breakfast and supper are offered – and in the summer, a weekly BBQ is hosted by churches or community groups. Special occasion dinners are held off-site for seasonal holidays. The Compass is also a depot for 'The Good Food Box', an economical way of obtaining fresh fruits and vegetables.

Volunteers are the strength of The Compass, and needed for the following services:

- counseling
- teaching classes
- teaming up with clients to assist with the food bank
- organizing food drives
- picking up donations
- sorting food
- stocking shelves
- hosting dinners



Currently, the need is greatest for volunteers who can help out with office administration, or would like to help people shopping in the food bank. Days and hours are flexible and the rewards are great. Of course, food and monetary donations are always welcome.

The Compass is located at 310 Lakeshore Rd., W in Port Credit. Plan to drop in; it's a place where everyone is welcome.

For more information, visit thecompass.ca or call 905-274-9309.



Long Service Recognition with Tom Gutfreund, manager of local governance, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Councillor Pat Mullin and former Councillor Maja Prentice, June 15, 2011.

Peel Seniors Portal

Older adults, seniors and their families can access a wide range of information and programs available to them from government and community organizations in the Region of Peel.

Visit www.seniorsinfo.ca/en/peelregion

Manage your electricity use

Time-of-use (TOU) rates allow you to take advantage of lower electricity pricing during low-demand, off-peak periods.

Some Enersource customers will shift to time-of-use rates in the fall in the south and east areas of Mississauga. Other customers will be moved over in early 2012. Enersource will give customers advance notice before TOU rates arrive. Look for information packages with your bill.



Want to learn more?

Visit the Enersource booth at the following community locations:

- Mississauga Valley Community Centre: Nov. 9 & Dec. 5 from 3 – 8 p.m.
- Cawthra Community Centre: Nov. 15 & Dec. 15 from 3 – 8 p.m.
- St. Pio of Pietrelcina: Nov. 23 from 6 – 9 p.m.

Visit enersource.com/tou

Mississauga's Affordable Housing Strategy and Action Plan

Providing options for affordable housing is an important part of ensuring we have the housing choices we need as Mississauga grows.

Recent changes to provincial legislation require all municipalities in Ontario to permit secondary units.

Secondary units are self-contained units in single-family homes. They are often called basement apartments or in-law suites.

Secondary units can expand housing opportunities within established communities and provide much-needed safe housing options. They can offer accommodation for people with affordability issues such as youth, older adults and new immigrants. They can also provide additional income for young couples looking to buy their first home, or older adults wanting to stay in their neighbourhood.

We are developing a Made-in-Mississauga strategy that includes secondary units, as well as other housing initiatives to meet our city's needs. Public consultation sessions are planned for early 2012 to discuss how to meet the provincial requirements in a way that works in Mississauga.

Visit mississauga.ca or email Housing.Choices@mississauga.ca



Contacts

Councillor Pat Mullin

Ward 2 Councillor
pat.mullin@mississauga.ca
905-896-5200

Non-emergency calls for direct access to **government services** (Regional and City)



City of Mississauga

300 City Centre Dr.
Mississauga L5B 3C1
mississauga.ca
905-896-5000



Development Updates

mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/ward2

Non-emergency calls for information and/or referral to **community, health and social services**



When you don't know where to turn.™

Region of Peel

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Brampton L6T 4B9
peelregion.ca
905-791-7800



Watch Regional Council meetings live on Rogers Cable television. Visit peelregion.ca for dates and times.

