



**FRIDAY, SATURDAY
& SUNDAY
3 DAYS
May 27- May 29, 2016**

Mayor Crombie to attend AGM



Bonnie Crombie
MAYOR

Mayor Bonnie Crombie will be the keynote speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the RHA. In order to accommodate the Mayor's schedule, the date has been moved to **7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 17**, at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

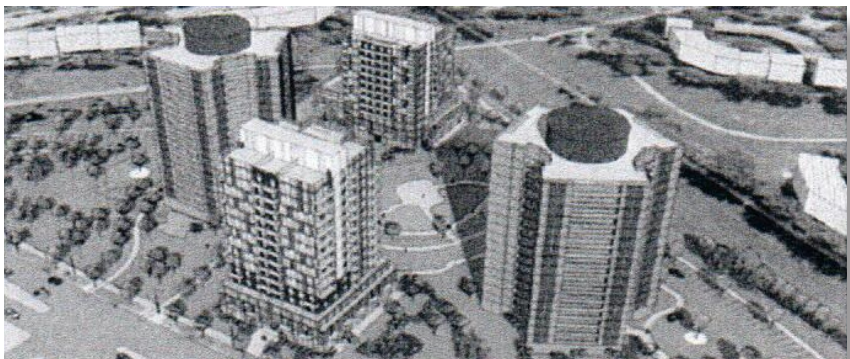


Chris Fonseca
WARD 3

Other speakers will include Chris Fonseca, our Ward 3 Councillor, and Sabrina Salvaggio, from the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). This is an opportunity to come out, meet your municipal representatives, and engage yourself into the community. As always, there will be plenty of opportunity for questions and have your say.

Forest Park Circle Update

City Approves Forest Park



On Monday, March 21, 2016, the City Planning Committee heard all the arguments against the Forest Park Development Plan, and then voted 7-2 to approve. Councillor Chris Fonseca and Councillor Karen Ras voted against the application. The Mayor left the Council Meeting before the vote was taken. The bottom line was that, since the City Planners had already approved the plan, the developer indicated that they would take the City to the Ontario Municipal Board. In essence, the Council would be reversing the

decision of its own staff. The legal council for the City, when questioned by Councillor Carolyn Parish, advised that fighting the decision at OMB would cost the City upwards of \$200,000.

On these grounds, and faced with the fact that their track record was not good when fighting OMB, Council approved the development, with some conditions. The conditions included a list of upgrades to the existing buildings and removing paid parking prior to moving forward with the final plans. **RW**

Rockwood Homeowners Association

AGM DATE CHANGE TUESDAY, MAY 17th

7:00PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located beside the front entrance to Sts. Martha and Mary Church, 1870 Burnhamthorpe Road East. A very short part of the program will be the RHA nominations and elections for the 2016-17 Board of Directors. We are still looking for someone to step forward and fill the role of President. If you are interested, or know the perfect candidate, please drop us a note at rha.executive@gmail.com. No experience required, the only pre-requisite is that you must be a homeowner in Rockwood Village. **RW**



LOCAL CONTACTS

RHA Executives

Boris Swedak *Advisor LM*

VACANT *President*

Joe Silva *Vice President*

Val Thomson *Treasurer*

Nicole Danesi *Secretary*

Dale Bason *Director*

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So, who is running City Hall?

While both the RHA, PDOC and many individuals delivered compelling arguments against the Forest Park Development, none spoke more directly to the underlying issues of who is really in charge at City Hall, than Gord McLean. The following is his address to City Council.

My wife Christine & I have resided in the condominium town home community situated at 4165 Fieldgate Dr. for the past 22 years. We both appreciate the well-established, family-oriented, character of both our complex & the unique surrounding Rockwood neighborhood. Although I've long endeavored to give back to our community, including serving as a founding Director of the RHA, tonight I come before you as the current President of Peel Condominium Corp. 180. Many of our unit owners are highly apprehensive regarding what they believe will be negative ramifications of the Application before you. Question as to this development were raised at our last 3 AGM's. Though clearly out of order, they were allowed because it was adjudged wrong to see good neighbors understandably upset & not hear-out & consider their concerns.

Over the past 3 years, I've attended 4 local public meetings, all attended by hundreds of your fellow citizens, & heard the same fears City government will act in an arbitrary manner contrary to their interests & making a mockery of its Official Plan that they accepted at its face value. Even perceptions of injustice should rightly concern you since they serve to undermine the basis of our civil society: the reciprocal relationship between governed & governing where the former pay required levies & abide by the rule of law and the latter pledge to act justly, conscientiously &, overall, in the best interests of those governed.

This is Canada, where if you keep your end of this societal deal, you're not to fear to the actions of the State.

How we've reached a point where this isn't so falls into 2 general areas.

First, there's the proposal for an untried & bizarre development experiment where existing rental properties & small condominium units - primarily one bedroom & thus alien to the surrounding family-oriented neighborhood, are to exist cheek-by-jowl, sharing amenities & presumably lying down together in peace & harmony like the proverbial lion & lamb. Suffice to say, residents in the impacted area have no wish to be de facto lab rats in an experiment as to the possible results of a mutant form of high density development on an established community.

Second, I doubt City Staff have generally failed to act with integrity & professionalism. Rather, I believe they've been asked the wrong question & one that rightly falls to our elected representatives as opposed to members of the public service. Setting aside the disingenuousness of Council sending Staff to look for areas to increase density while still finalizing the details of an Official Plan the public was falsely led to believe was black letter law settling such questions for the foreseeable future, the Corporate Report before you is a wholly technical answer that ignores the morality, the right & wrong, of shoe-horning this development into our neighborhood. It's your responsibility, not theirs, to adjudge the social impact of the proposal. All Staff has really told you is you have the collective vocal capacity to yell fire in a crowded theater. The wisdom & propriety of doing so is entirely Council's to decide.

Skilled lawyers are said not to ask questions to which they don't already know the answer. Here, it's gone a step further & Staff have effectively been asked a question where a righteous answer is impossible under their appropriate limitations. Throwing-up your hands crying 'the bureaucrats have spoken' abrogates due responsibility while offering the appearance of a Kangaroo Court's manipulated pre-determined outcomes.

continued on page 4

Mississauga Considering Seceding from Peel Region

Mayor Crombie, backed by City Council, has commissioned a study to review the feasibility of the City of Mississauga leaving the Peel Region. The Region of Peel, comprised of Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, was formed in 1974 to assist emerging municipalities by sharing costs. In two-tier regional governments, municipalities only contribute taxes to the region for the services provided at that level.

For example, policing in Peel is handled and paid for by the region. However, other services, such as Parks and Recreation, Mississauga collects its' own taxes for its own municipal government. Seceding would bring everything under one roof, controlled by one council, so Mississauga would have nothing to do with the other municipalities.

Now that Mississauga is the third largest city in Ontario and the sixth largest city in Canada, Crombie feels we should be making our own decisions

as a city. Although any such decision would have to be approved by the Province, it may be difficult from a political standpoint for them to say no.

This is not a new idea. Former Mayor, Hazel McCallion, had been pushing Queen's Park for separation since 2004, arguing that Mississauga was too big to be a part of a two-tiered system, and that it is paying too large a share of the costs. Back in 2004 McCallion told CBC news that a report prepared by chartered accountants found that Mississauga was paying \$19 million to cover services in Brampton and another \$6 million for Caledon. Some councillors have recently questioned why we should be paying to maintain Caledon's rural roads.

In a recent press release Crombie stated, "We are currently undertaking a review of the governance of the Region of Peel, and I think it is important that Council and the residents of Mississauga understand what Regional governance means for them and

whether a change would mean a better deal for Mississauga." If the results of the review are positive for leaving Peel, the issue will be put forth to residents as a referendum in the Municipal Election in 2018.

Brampton Mayor, Linda Jeffrey, says, "Mississauga's growth and development is a direct result of the city's participation in the Region of Peel and the billions of dollars contributed by Brampton taxpayers. Seeking to leave the region is not only disingenuous, but a frivolous use of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga taxpayers' money." She went on to say that if Mississauga goes on its own, "Brampton expects to be compensated for its decades of investment to the regional system" and that "Brampton was there to help Mississauga as it grew and built out and that, now as infrastructure investments are needed in Brampton, it wants to cut and run." **RW**

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MiWay makes changes and undergoes makeover

Transit users should be informed of MiWay construction and service changes. With construction already underway since April 11, the Square One Terminal for buses has closed, and the bus stops are relocated along Rathburn Road. Services still available include the ticket booth, washrooms, customer service, and the north and south doors.

Drivers should be aware of expected traffic delays in and around the Rathburn Road area near Square One until September 5 when construction is completed.

Route changes to our local 26 and 76 bus routes are already underway.

As of April 11, Route 26, which previously served Burnhamthorpe Road and turned north to loop into the Square One transit terminal, will now only run along Burnhamthorpe both east and west from Islington subway station to South Common Mall, bypassing the Square One transit terminal.



To travel to the Square One bus terminal, transit users can now hop on the 76, which will run all day during weekdays between the Square One bus terminal and Islington subway station. On weekends, the 26 bus will run along Burnhamthorpe and through the Square One bus terminal. *RW*

For more information on MiWay routes and construction, please visit www.mississauga.ca/portal/miway

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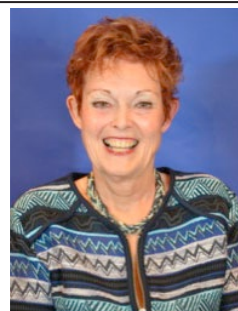


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continued from Page 2

Councilor Fonseca has made it clear that she is adamant this is not the appropriate development for this neighborhood. Unless any among you truly believe your colleague to be other than an honest, perceptive & conscientious representative of our neighborhood, conscience should dictate you support her in this matter.

Reject this Application because to rule otherwise betrays our community's demonstrated good citizenship. Reject this Application because to rule otherwise undermines Mississauga's Official Plan as well as your own integrity. Reject it because it seeks to bend existing law to self-evidently offend social justice and because, as Dr. King wisely counseled, "I would agree with St. Augustine that an unjust law is no law at all." *RW*

As always, we welcome your comments, questions and any concerns you may wish to share. Please email to rha.executive@gmail.com

Eastgate Parkway Bus Route ... a Bust?

If you are travelling along Eastgate Parkway during rush hour, you already know that the volume of traffic is overwhelming. From Rockwood, a trip to Hurontario along Eastgate with merging onto the 403 takes at least half an hour. Traffic is bumper to bumper all the way at least until you reach Mavis Road.

After several years of construction along Eastgate Parkway, the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is now up and running but the buses are empty. There are no cars in any of the parking lots and the stations seem to be deserted.

According to some, the BRT is already a white elephant even though it will not be completed until 2017. Gil Penalosa, a renowned city planner, and previously a business planner with the City of Mississauga, believes this is an example of "doing the right thing, but not doing things right."

Years before Rockwood was built, the City's vision for a light transit line was along the north side of Burnhamthorpe Rd. Proof of that vision is the empty swath of land that forms Rockwood's southern border. According to Penalosa, a transitway along Burnhamthorpe, which is considered the main access road across the city, would have made more sense. Penalosa believes that the Burnhamthorpe corridor would have connected more people to key destinations.

The explosion of industry along Eglinton has created longer commute times for employees, many of whom live in the west side of Mississauga. A bus route to service these commuters seemed to make sense; but according to Penalosa, 95% of workers in the 905 drive to work.

When completed, the BRT will hook up with Metrolinx and continue into

Etobicoke. Perhaps, when all the stations are completed, ridership will be more convenient for commuters and as a result will reduce drive times for those who occasionally want to access the 403 in rush hour. Otherwise, this whole experiment has been a costly mistake. *RW*

**DON'T MISS THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
SPEAK UP...**

RHA AGM
TUESDAY MAY 17th
7:00PM

The Rockwood Homeowners'
Association **Annual General**
Meeting in the Knights of Columbus
JFK Hall.



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“Ask Joe” Your Neighbourhood Handyman

Hi Joe

I remember you had a recipe for achieving a green lawn using simple household products. I wrote it down somewhere but lost it! I did try it and it worked very well. Any chance you can reprint that recipe?

Carol

Hi Carol

I'm happy to help you, neighbour. If you follow the recipe below, you should have the greenest grass on the street without using harsh chemicals and expensive fertilizers. First of all you need to buy a sprayer that fits onto the end of a garden hose. (see photo).

Mix the following ingredients in the sprayer and spray your grass every 3-4 weeks dispensing at a rate of one sprayer bottle per ten gallons of water.



- 1 bottle of regular beer
- 1 bottle of regular pop
- ½ cup of liquid dishwashing soap (do not use anti-bacterial soap)
- ½ cup mouthwash

Spray this tonic when the weather is warm or hot.

The beer and pop contain yeast and sugars that will help break down dead grass.

The liquid soap acts as a bonding and wetting agent to help the formula penetrate the roots. The mouthwash kills bugs and grubs.

REMEMBER: Do NOT use antibacterial liquid soap as it will kill off microbes in the soil that are of great importance.

Joe

Please submit your questions to “Ask Joe” rha.executive@gmail.



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Lack of Inventory generates "Bidding Wars"

It is definitely a Seller's Market. With very few homes on the market, properties are being sold quickly as Buyer's rush to secure a purchase in a very competitive environment.

There are so few listings that the majority of properties that come on the market are being auctioned to the highest bidder in what Real Estate Agents refer to as "A Call For Offers."

A call works like this: when the listing is posted, it includes a date that the Seller will review any offers. On the date that the offer is reviewed, the Seller hopes that there will be more than one offer to initiate a bidding war. With few listings, this is almost a guaranteed. This being said, sometimes homes do not draw many offers or any at all as the Buyers are not prepared to pay more than the asking prices. In other words, the price is already at or above

market value. The trick is that the listing price needs to be less than the anticipated purchase price or market value to create more interest and therefore more offers.

For The Seller who is eager to take an offer, they may also accept a Bully offer prior to the offer date. In this case, the Seller advises in advance that he may consider a pre-emptive offer, otherwise, all agents who have shown or booked an appointment must be advised that the offer date has changed.

In the case of multiple offers, a Seller can expect a firm offer, without conditions on financing or inspection, if a pre-sale inspection report for is provided to prospective Buyers to review before submitting an offer.

According to The Toronto Real Estate Board, there were only 977 active listings in all of Peel this March,

which was down 10% from the 1085 at the same time last year. The number of days on the market also declined from 24 to 14. Not surprisingly, the ask to sell ratio has increased from 98% to 100.2% and March is just the start of the spring selling season.

This year, we are seeing offers come in more than 10% over asking price with as many as 30 Buyers competing for the same property. The problem with this lop sided market is that there is no inventory. Lack of available properties is creating a frenzy for those looking to move.

Generally, agents advise their clients to sell before they buy. In this market, a Seller might be better advised to buy first, unless their expectations for price are unreasonable or if there are other issues which might prevent a quick sale. *RW Dale Biason, Salesperson, Royal LePage Signature Realty*

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Every resident of Rockwood Village is a member of the Rockwood Homeowners Association (RHA). We look to our members to help us to cover expenses and invest in future activities through a membership fee. We do request the \$10.00 membership fee at the AGM. This year we ask those not able to attend to complete the attached form and mail it or drop it off to the address below. Receipts are provided. Your support assists us in ensuring that Rockwood Village remains the most desirable community in East Mississauga.

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Community Open House: Drop in
to review informational story boards
and speak one-on-one with the
GTAA Team and CENAC Committee
Members

6:30PM - 7:30PM – CENAC

Public Meeting: Ratification of
minutes and recommendations, formal
presentations from guest speakers,
and public questions to committee as
a whole.

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