



## Mayor Crombie to Address Annual General Meeting

We hope to see you at the Rockwood Homeowners' Association (RHA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Wednesday, May 22**, at the Knights of Columbus Hall at Sts. Martha and Mary Church, 1870 Burnhamthorpe Rd E.



Mayor Crombie



Councillor Fonseca

The keynote speakers for this AGM will be Mayor Bonnie Crombie and Councillor Chris Fonseca. Topics to be discussed will include local road construction, crossrides, traffic calming (speed bumps), Mississauga's proposed exit from Peel Region, and airport issues.

Registration will commence at 6.30 p.m., and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00. You must register to be able to speak or vote at the meeting.

Annual membership is now due. Payment will be accepted at the AGM, or if you are unable to attend, you can send your payment by e-transfer to RHA, executive@gmail. Please send us by separate e-mail the answer to your security question.

Last year, 125 homeowners paid \$10 to renew or join the association. Several other benefactors made substantial donations. While this was the best year ever for membership, it falls short of a good showing, considering there are 2,800 potential members. Your membership helps us to keep you informed of local events and to work on your behalf with provincial, federal and municipal leaders to ensure that Rockwood remains the premier neighbourhood in East Mississauga. **RW**

## Should we stay?

When the door to reviewing the structure of 82 municipalities was opened by the Province in January, Mississauga was prepared to enter the fray. As far back as 2003, then mayor Hazel McCallion was already actively lobbying to leave the Region of Peel.

The Region of Peel was set up in 1974 in order to facilitate the sharing of costs for services such as water, waste management and policing among Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga.

However, both McCallion and current mayor Bonnie Crombie feel that Mississauga residents are not getting an equitable deal in the amount we pay to subsidize Brampton and, to a lesser extent, Caledon. In 2004, Mississauga was contributing \$32 M to Peel. That contribution has now risen to \$85M of which Brampton received \$74M. With the opportunity for change in the horizon, Council lost no time preparing their position. On March 20, 2019, council voted in principle to ask the Province to grant Mississauga the status of a single tier (independent) City. As such, we would separate from the Region of Peel. Mississauga is the sixth largest city in Canada and the third largest in Ontario. Many smaller cities, such as Hamilton, Windsor, London, and even Guelph and Elliot Lake, enjoy single tier status.

On April 8, the Mayor held a town hall meeting to present council's

proposal, and to initiate a dialogue with residents. Council had considered three options:

1. *Regional Reform*: Mississauga might remain part of the Region of Peel if changes were made to address inefficiencies and systemic issues.

2. *Amalgamation*: Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon would combine to form one large city.

3. *Independence*: Mississauga separates from the Region of Peel.

Speculation abounds about what the provincial report will determine. However, it may all come down to politics. The Mayor of Brampton, Patrick Brown, is opposed to changing the structure of Peel and believes that Mississauga should repay funds from the Peel Budget that were paid to Mississauga for a variety of projects. However, his opinion may carry little or no weight to his political opponent about whom he wrote a scathing "tell all" book about the Conservative Party. Premier Ford, critical of the book, referred to it as, "A disservice to the people of Brampton."

On the other hand, Ford may want to show his appreciation for Hazel McCallion's robust support for his candidacy by fulfilling her decade long fight to make Mississauga a single tier city.

According to Mayor Crombie, the attempt to exit in 2003 failed as a

*continued on page 5*



## LOCAL CONTACTS

### RHA Executives

Joe Silva • *President*

Dale Biason • *Vice President LM*

Val Thomson • *Treasurer LM*

Kimberly Lulham • *Secretary*

Leszek Pisarek • *Director LM*

Frank Medoro • *Director*

Richard Schwarz • *Director*

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# Rasheed comes to Rockwood



MPP,

Kaleed Rasheed, East Mississauga. He

is new to politics and was previously employed by Blackberry. He expressed that his first hand knowledge of turning around a failing company inspired him to enter politics to "bring this province back on track." He believes that the key to success is "looking for efficiencies" (political speak for budget cuts) about which our children will be able to look back and say, "They (the Ford Government) did something for us."

## Education

The MPP said there are no plans to cut full-day kindergarten. However, he added that the province is working with school boards to see what they can do about full-day kindergarten. They are making efforts to make sure it stays in place. As they are "looking to see what they can do", it seems apparent there are no guarantees here.

Mr. Rasheed says he'd like to know where the cuts are happening in education, and so far he "doesn't think anyone is losing their job". Clearly, this is not what we are hearing in the news and from teachers.

A long-time resident and educator, retired after 33 years, voiced concerns about modifications to education, specifically class size and e-learning. She believes the focus should not be on teacher job loss but the impact that increased class sizes will have on the children. Nadeem Shaikh, executive advisor to the MPP, stated that the input that guided these changes came from consultations with multiple boards in the city (which may or may not

Our MPP, Kaleed Rasheed, graciously accepted an invitation to attend the RHA Board meeting on April 7 to address several topics of interest to our residents. Mr. Rasheed represents

East Mississauga. He

have included teachers) fed into the delivery of what's been recommended. E-learning was also recommended by third-party experts. The feedback from 72,000 surveys was also used in the recommendations.

## Health Care

Mr Rasheed was asked directly if the Conservative Government would honor the expansion to the Trillium Hospital promised by the previous government. His answer was that they were freeing up beds through expansion to long-term care facilities and they had also implemented a RAZ (rapid assessment zone). When pushed as to plans for the new hospital, Mr. Rasheed said he will talk to the CEO to get an update on its expansion. However, he pointed out there was a \$12.5 billion deficit to contend with. Sounds like this is political speak for it's on hold.

## Airport Issues

As the airport expands, Rockwood will be faced with more traffic overhead. The MPP was asked how he could assist in mitigating noise, particularly in inclement weather. Mr. Rasheed says, "It's a federal thing," but he is trying to meet with Peter Fonseca to control noise and doesn't as yet have a full answer.

Joe Silva replied, "There is a disconnect because the federal government won't help, so what is your government doing to get involved?" The MPP says he spoke with Mayor Crombie whose response was, "Do you want me to take 50,000 jobs from Mississauga?" He also went to the city to collaborate with Mayor Crombie, but still needs more information. Richard Schwarz suggested asking Mayor Crombie to implement a decent curfew for flights going overheard (between 12-6 AM),

Mr. Rasheed asked if the RHA has met with the GTAA. Joe Silva replied that he is involved with the airport and the Community Table provided by the GTAA.

When asked if the MPP was aware of the Community Alliance for Airport Safety (CAAS), he confirmed he was not. As safety is now generally viewed as the best path to reducing air traffic, it was suggested that the community would appreciate his support of CAAS. The MPP replied that he never said he wasn't supporting our area's issues but he sees his job as "resolving issues within the best of our abilities." Joe Silva requested more involvement from the provincial side for airport issues starting with changing the focus from noise to safety. Mr. Rasheed suggested sitting down with Joe and the GTAA to understand how the province can better help.

### Development Fees

Although Mayor Crombie noted at a recent budget meeting that the province is looking into eliminating or making significant changes to development fees, the MPP was adamant that this was false. These fees represent a significant portion on the City Budget and are used to fund community projects. Mr. Rasheed stated that "there is no such thing" and he had confirmed this with the Minister.

### Municipal Government

When asked if he supports Mississauga becoming a stand-alone city. Mr. Rasheed stated, "There are two qualified people reviewing the cities. Only after their report is done will we know what the outcome may be." He went on to say that he would need to look at this report and see some data before making an informed decision regarding splitting from the region. The report should be ready in June 2019. *RW*

**OOPS!** We sincerely regret that in the last issue of the *The Rockwood Times*, we misspelled the name of our MPP, Kaleed Rasheed. We apologize for this error.

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## “Ask Joe” Your Neighbourhood Handyman

Hi, Joe,

I purchased a couple of Adirondack/Muskoka style plastic chairs last year. I left them out in the yard over the winter and this spring I noticed that they have turned fairly dark and look dirty. Is there an easy, economical way to clean these chairs?

Walter in Rockwood



Hi, Walter in Rockwood,

You may recall that I wrote an article in the Fall 2018 issue about power washing a fence.

I'm glad to write on this again, and it turns out that this also involves a power washer. Have a look at the attached before and after photos; I was amazed at how good the power cleaning turned out.

I placed the chairs on my lawn and just power washed away. The great benefit of this process is it is environmentally friendly, as no chemicals were used and, by doing it on the lawn, all the water stays in your lawn helping to keep it moist and green.

I'm starting to think that my power washer is one of my best investments for around the house. **RW**

Joe

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



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# Should we stay?

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result of what she referred to as "lack of will" from the provincial government. Now she believes this has changed. According to Crombie, "The bottom line is that there has to be the political will at the provincial government. So, when this government announced they were going to review regional governance in nine different regions, we thought, 'this is our opportunity to make our business case'."

"It's all about controlling our own destiny. We feel we're fiscally responsible. We've proven (we) can manage ourselves and govern our own affairs and we want the ability to do so fully," she added.

The City has identified 10 reasons why Mississauga should be a single tier city. Residents are being asked to show their support towards independence by:

1. Completing the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing online public consultation at: [www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-regional-government-review](http://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-regional-government-review) before May 21, 2019.

2. Posting on social media using the following hashtag: #OneCityOneVoice.

The advisor's report is expected to be completed by June 2019. **RW**



## Top Ten Reasons for Mississauga's Independence

1. One City, One Voice
2. Eliminate an Entire Layer of Government
3. Better Value for Taxpayers' Dollars
4. Better Decision Making
5. Increased Accountability and Transparency
6. Improved Customer Service
7. One Set of Rules, Procedures and By-laws
8. One Set of Fees and Charges
9. Greater Access to Funding
10. Respect

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# "My Favourite Rockwood Playgrounds!"

Now that the snow has melted and the flowers and trees are budding; you are probably outside with the kids! Also, you may already know of all the great playgrounds in Rockwood Village; but if you are new to the area, or you just want to see what one of your favourite RHA Executive members thinks--here are my TOP THREE playgrounds:

## Garnetwood Park Playground

Just southeast of Rathburn and Ponytrail, Garnetwood Park has always been a "popular destination" for kids to play! The playground is located right beside the tennis courts and steps away from the basketball courts and the new public washrooms. In the last 5-7 years this playground has been updated with new climbers and slides. There is an apparatus for kids aged 7 and up and a play structure for kids 0-6. Both boast two slides, ladders, and steps. The play structure geared for older kids also has a small climbing wall and a "windy slide". The playground also has many swings—again for the smaller kids and also



for the older ones. There's also really cool spring-loaded "rocking-horse-esque" contraptions that the kids can swing on; these are definitely "fan favourites"! In addition, there is a separate climbing apparatus coloured in orange that the kids like to play "king (or queen) of the castle" on. To conclude a nifty little thing is a "chin-up" structure for kids no more than five-feet encourage the gymnasts in the neighbourhood OR the "gymnasts-at-heart." So for those kids who love to climb, this is the playground to check out!

## Fleetwood Park Playground

Not necessarily located right IN Rockwood Village, as it is South of Burnhamthorpe and also South of Garnetwood Park and Burnhamthorpe Road. Despite this being a very busy road to cross, Fleetwood Park Playground is very easy to access by travelling under the Burnhamthorpe Bridge (the bridge that divides Mississauga and Etobicoke over the Etobicoke Creek). You can catch this path on foot or by bicycle, by travelling on the Lorrie Mitoff trail from Garnetwood Park right into the ravine and then southbound on the path, under the bridge, until you see the playground on your right-hand side; beside the baseball diamond. In addition, this is the safest way to access the



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playground without crossing the busy Burnhamthorpe Rd. Fleetwood is a smaller playground than Garnetwood but just as much fun with good views of the Etobicoke Creek and the Markland Golf Course.



The vibrant pink and blue colours make the playground structures really stand out and a “fan favourite” here is also the pink “windy slide”. For those children whose favourite colour is pink, and I tell you, this is the slide for them! However, one downside of this playground is instead of a wood-chip surface it has a sandy surface. This presents a problem with dirt on your child and dirt on your clean Rockwood home floors! The playground also sports swings for all ages and is a quieter option than Garnetwood and Sts. Martha and Mary Park discussed below.

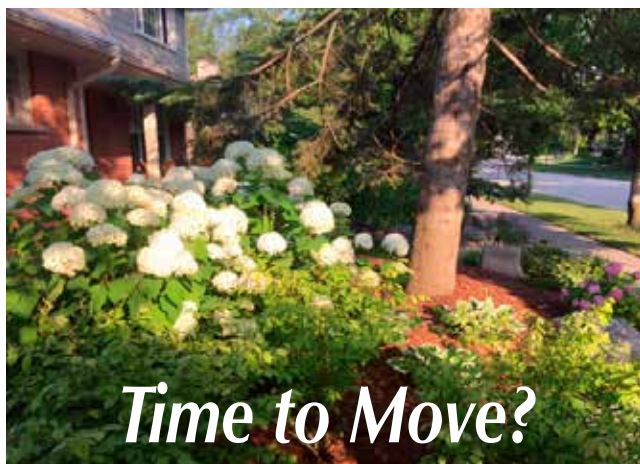
### Bough Beeches Park

Located right beside the Catholic Elementary School— Sts. Martha and Mary on Bough Beeches Blvd--this is a very popular park for students who go to this school. I’d say it’s also a great “community building” playground.

Many of the students play together on the number of structures, swings and a HUGE rotating green and yellow play structure that almost doubles as a “merry-go-round”. Most of the younger children Grades K-4 love this structure! It’s about 15 feet



high and about 8 feet wide with yellow “climber’s rope” wrapped around it. There’s also usually a parent that twirls the “Climber’s Merry-go-round”; and at 3:45pm on a weekday, during the school year, there’s approximately 10-15 kids on this thing at one time! Be sure to be extra vigilant with supervision on this structure and at this playground in general because of how busy it is. For the parents, this is a great opportunity to catch up with parents in the neighbourhood as the kids play. Whether it be how our professional hometown sports teams always manage to “choke” in the playoffs or the latest news on health and/or education in the Province in Ontario; you’ll be sure to find a friendly Rockwood resident willing to “chew the fat!” Who knows...you may even see THIS GUY at one of the above favourite playgrounds in the very near future...That is if the weather holds-up! *RW Jason Haraschuk, RHA Director*



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