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## MPP Kaleed Headlines AGM

The Annual Meeting of the Rockwood Homeowners' Association was held on May 4th, via Zoom. Attendance was lower than expected due to a conflict with a do or die Maple Leaf hockey game.

The keynote speaker was MPP Kaleed Rasheed, who was asked to speak on two issues: Bill 23 and Bill 124. As Bill 124 is in the courts he steered clear of many direct answers. Bill 124 which limits pay raises to 1% for the next 3 years for public sector workers

When asked about the shortage of nursing staff, and the fact that Bill 124 exempted paramedics and firefighters, but not nurses, he cited that nurses were given a \$5000 bonus during the pandemic. In terms of fixing the health care system he stated that an increase in immigrants has driven up the health care costs, but did not outline plans to reduce costs. He did indicate that his government was working with the health care system by supporting the building of newly built facilities and additions being added to Credit Valley Hospital; they are encouraging doctors from other provinces to come to Ontario to work and have added seven hundred and fifty beds to Long Term Care facilities to open up traditional beds in hospitals and that his government will continue to work with the health care system.

### Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster Act

According to the city, Bill 23 appears to be usurping the powers of city planners and gives developers the funds that are normally paid to the municipalities to fund infrastructure and local initiatives. The result will be higher property taxes, and increased water bills. Minister Rasheed



Councillor Chris Fonseca



MPP Kaleed Rasheed

answered that the government is currently working with the municipal partners to find ways to ensure 1.5 million homes can be built over the next ten years across the province. There will be no development charges on affordable housing. Four hundred thousand immigrants will be coming into Ontario over the next ten years. When asked how they could be sure they would be more affordable, he stated that when more homes are in the market place the economics of supply and demand will ensure that homes become more affordable.

Minister Rasheed commented on the affects this bill could have on our neighbourhood and basically stated that the province issued the guideline and it will be up to the municipalities to issue their permits based on local zoning and by-laws.

### Policing

Asked if the Region needs to cut police budgets, how will the government ensure that we have more than the bare minimum we have currently, Rasheed responded that no cuts were planned for the police, in fact the budget has been increased by 51M to prevent auto theft. He also stated that changes to the education requirements would encourage more recruits. RW

## Another Year of Upheaval

The Rathburn Ponytrail Integrated Road project is on the schedule to begin, probably this fall. It will take two construction seasons to complete so that will bring us to summer of 2024.

Marcela Colangelo, Field Ambassador for

the City of Mississauga, presented the final design for the project at our Annual Meeting, May 4th. Although a start date was given for June, this only referred to the selection of a contractor. Once the contract is tendered, the contractor will provide a date for construction

*continued on page 3*



## CONTACTS

*The Rockwood*

*Homeowners' Association*

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# Tower Response

*The editorial for this quarter is the RHA response to the proposed telecommunication tower to be located at Kingsbury Plaza. (see photo page 4) While some residents are opposing this as a health and safety issue, unfortunately, whether it is or not, that will not be a factor considered by the Planning Department. They will look at other issues, but health and safety is the purview of the Federal Government, and right now we need to convince the planner this is not a good idea and not supported by the community. We will do our best to work with our Councillor to make contact with the owners of the apartment buildings.*

To Sean Galbraith (Rogers Consultant), Michael Pebesma (City Planner), Chris Fonseca (Councillor) Peter Fonseca (MP)

We are writing on behalf of the Residents of Rockwood Village to request that you find an alternate location for your communication tower. We acknowledge the need for better service in the community, however, we do not agree with the proposed site.

Kingsbury Plaza is the true centre and focal point of our community. The city will begin a massive facelift of the roadways in this area this year and will be enhancing the street entrances.

This tower will not only be an eyesore to the residents of 1951 Rathburn, and homes across the street on Tapestry Trail, but also to everyone who enters the plaza, passes the intersection of

Rathburn and Ponytrail, or accesses our beautiful Garnetwood Park.

When purchasing a home on a hydro corridor, the purchaser is aware that there is a stigma attached to the purchase. Adding a stigma after the purchase will have a profound effect on the value of many properties, and as a result, will reduce their value.

You advised that you have been trying to locate a tower in this area for five years. Surely you have sourced other potential locations. We agree that either of the two condos on Ponytrail and Rathburn would be ideal. There are currently no towers on either building, and we would like to know why they would not want to enhance reception for their current tenants and occupants of 2 additional units in the planning stage.

Perhaps we could assist you in contacting the right person to make the right decision for the community. We find it hard to believe that they would pass on the generous monthly fee you are offering.

We believe that there are other locations you could consider: the parking lot on the north side of Burnhamthorpe, east of Ponytrail, and the field just north of Audubon, west of Eastgate Pkwy. These locations are far enough away from homes and would not be visible.

We urge you to reconsider this location and perform the due diligence that will lead you to another location, and the appreciation of our community and the many customers of Rogers Communications.RW

## RHA to become RRA

*During the Annual Meeting on May 4th, the membership of the RHA unanimously voted to change the name of the Rockwood Homeowners' Association (RHA) to the Rockwood Residents' Association (RRA). This name change was brought to the floor at the 2022 meeting, but at that time it was voted down pending more due diligence into the costs and difficulty in changing legal documents, banking records, website, email and other places where the RHA is identified.*

*Over the past year, Angela Loconte (Director) worked with Nicole Danesi (former Director and resident) to identify the cost and logistics of a name change. For some years there has been discussions that our name suggests we are an association of homeowners, and it is not consistent with our constitution which states that any resident, 18 years and over, can be a member. The cost to change the name is minimal and will be carried out as required. There will be no affect on our local signage or the newsletter. By the fall we should be able to advise you of our new email addresses and social media handles.*

*At this same meeting, a revised constitution was adopted to conform with requirements legislated in the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act.*

*As a part of this legislation we were also required to make changes to the Officers of the Board. Instead of having our secretary as an officer, we now have a Vice President. Angela Loconte was elected to this new position and our Secretary, Iris Schweiger, will remain on the Board. Elections were also held to fill two vacant positions on the Board after Kim Lulham moved out of the neighbourhood and Lisa Portolese resigned. We are pleased to welcome Rudy Fischbacher and Michael Szczur to the Board as Directors..RW*

**The updated constitution is posted on our at [www.rockwoodvillage.ca](http://www.rockwoodvillage.ca)**

upheaval- continued from page 1

to begin. With the amount of construction currently underway, a suggested start date of July 26 is probably wishful thinking.

Concerns about crossings, particularly during the construction, primarily at the hydro lines on Rathburn have been communicated to Councillor Fonseca who is actively working to resolve any potential danger to children crossing at this unsupervised location.

Ms. Colangelo's report included the landscape plans. The RRA has been lobbying for more plantings and less concrete and grass. There are some wins in the new plans but still a lot of grass.

*We will continue to push for more planting and less grass.*

It appears that the website (<https://www.mississauga.ca/projects-and-strategies/city-projects/rathburn-road-and-ponytrail-drive-integrated-road/>) which had the designs has been revised and the plans are no longer available, but there is some information as to the status of the project. As part of her

presentation, Ms. Colangelo provided us with slides that are available.

We would be happy to share them with those interested: please send your request to [RRA.roadsandsafety@gmail.com](mailto:RRA.roadsandsafety@gmail.com).

The noise wall on Ponytrail, and some on Rathburn are finished and the restoration

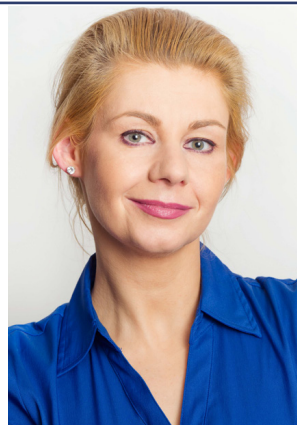
process needs to commence. If this process has not started by June 1, we will be contacting the Councillor for action.

The noise walls on the town homes at Rathburn and Fieldgate are not confirmed at this time. RW

## RATHBURN AND PONYTRAIL DRIVE INTEGRATED ROAD PROJECT - MEDIAN TREATMENT LOCATION PLAN



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## COMMUNITY

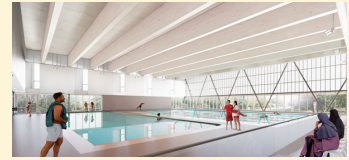
# Fonseca answers **WHY?**

Councillor Fonseca also attended the Annual Meeting with associates: Greg Socha, - Manager of Recreation Facilities; Paulina Mikicich – Manager Planning and Innovation and Marcela Colangelo Field Ambassador for T&W, to provide presentations on the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, Affordable Housing and the Rathburn/Ponytrail reconstruction project. These presentations will be discussed in other articles in this newsletter and more information will be posted on our website: [www.rockwoodvillage.ca](http://www.rockwoodvillage.ca).

Before the presentations, Councillor was asked to explain why she had voted against the residents and for the relocation of Delta Bingo to Rockwood Mall. Fonseca told the attendees that she attended two town halls to hear directly from residents, she connected with: the Alcohol and Gaming Commission; with the Delta Bingo Hall Board; and the Charities that are involved. She noted that only the Board of the Charities can approve the serving of alcohol and that they have the right to not allow Delta the opportunity to install casino type games. This Board does not want either alcohol served or casino type games at the Rockwood location. This relocation allows the charities to benefit from the bingo hall to increase their fundraising. The charities support many initiatives in the Rockwood Village and Mississauga area. Councillor Fonseca also stated that Charity bingo is very different from Casino games. In response to a statement that many community members are upset with her vote and feel that the bingo hall is exploiting some of the most vulnerable people in our community, Councillor Fonseca stated that people can voice their displeasure but she is committed to working with everyone in the community. She has also committed to having a road traffic study done at the mall and that she will hold Delta Bingo to their commitments.

With the meeting running past 9:30, there was not enough time to have all the questions for the councillor addressed. *RW*

The questions and her answers will all be posted on our website, along with the minutes of the AGM at [www.rockwoodvillage.ca](http://www.rockwoodvillage.ca)



## COMING SOON!

According to Greg Socha, Manager of Recreation Facilities, the new and improved **Burnhamthorpe Community Centre** will re-open gradually, starting in September with the indoor rink.

The fitness centre and exercise studio will open in November 2023 with drop-in programs available. In January 2024 memberships will be available and classes will be posted on the Active Mississauga website for registration. The official opening is scheduled for April 2024.

A large variety of programs will be available from infants to seniors; 2 pools, one for laps and one therapeutic, gymnasiums, weight and fitness rooms, meeting rooms and change rooms. Fees for the 12 month fitness memberships will be \$42.00 per month for those people that are 18 years to 54 years and \$34.00 per month for those 55 plus. Ages 10 to 17 or those with a disability will be \$34.00 per month. A variety of payment plans are available.



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# How will the City Deal with **Bill 23** - *Build Better Faster*



There is a lot of confusion, speculation and fear around what effect Bill 23 will have on our neighbourhood. According to our MPP, the province is setting the guidelines, and the municipalities can set the rules.

On May 4th, Paulina Mikicich, Manager Planning and Innovation, City of Mississauga, calmed some of those fears.

One issue presented was a garden home in a neighbour's yard. According to Ms Milicich, under Bill 23, the city cannot decline garden homes and up to 3 units in a house; however, the city sets the zoning regulations and therefore can ensure that garden homes and additions to a house adhere to the city regulations. Otherwise, they would need to go to the Committee of Adjustments for approval. She believes that the zoning regulations will work for all communities and contain setbacks, size of space required, height size, parking etc. To this end, the city will do community consultation on the zoning by-laws.

While the city initially stated that this Bill would increase our taxes by 10%, Minister Rasheed pointed out that Bill 23 does not have any impact on property taxes. However, the tax rate is based on

the costs to run the city and then multiplied by the property value. If costs increase so will the property taxes. Councillor stated that water would not be impacted significantly, however, parking may be a bigger issue. Councillor Fonseca suggested that the RRA invite Kaleed Rasheed, MPP and herself to a forum to discuss which level of government is responsible for the various items under Bill 23. Challenge accepted. We will try to organize a meeting in the early fall. RW

## Pot Shop slated for Kingsbury

On April 19th, Mississauga opted in to allow cannabis retail locations to open throughout the city. Council Fonseca voted against this motion. Once the city opts in, they basically lose control to the province, who has the sole authority to designate where stores can be located.

There are some restrictions to locations, including being located 150 meters from a school, and cannabis products and accessories may not be visible from outside the store.

We are aware that a store is being negotiated for Kingsbury Plaza. It has not yet been approved, and is not even in the system for public notice. To express your concerns, you have to file a written submission with Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario:

[www.agco.ca/content/cannabis-su](http://www.agco.ca/content/cannabis-su)

At our meeting May 15th, the Board voted not to initiate any action to oppose this application.

## May was for Membership

Last month, we sent an email to our subscribers advising them that their 2023-24 membership fees are now due. If you did not get that email, you are also not receiving other timely information on what is happening in the neighbourhood! We only reach out if there is something of importance, maybe once or twice a month, sometimes only every other month.

By joining our member subscriber list for an annual fee of only \$10.00, you will receive all e-blasts and have a vote at our meetings, either on-line or in person.

The fee assists us with our general costs: website, video conferences, fees and office expenses. We also donate to local charities on behalf of the community. The \$10 also tells us that you support our efforts to keep you informed, by publishing this newsletter quarterly, and assisting in resolving the many issues for which our fellow residents ask for our help.

**To join us and get on our email list go to  
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To send your 2023-24 membership fee of \$10, please send an e transfer to [rha.executive@gmail.com](mailto:rha.executive@gmail.com) and kindly include your name and address.

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# The Case *Against* a 5G Communication Tower

Rogers is proposing to erect a flagpole cell tower that supports 5G at 1891 Rathburn Road East beside Kingsbury Plaza. Such an installation would impact not only all the Plaza merchants and the neighbouring 228 units in my townhouse complex but also all the other residences and children's venues in the community. The local area includes a school, a daycare centre, Garnetwood Park, a children's splashpad, a children's playground, and two apartment buildings on Ponytrail Drive. Kingsbury Plaza attracts many customers from other vicinities in Etobicoke, Mississauga, and beyond. So, all local residents, and Plaza merchants and their customers, would be impacted.

The tower's height would initially be 20 metres. The antenna system would start with an unspecified number of antennas and there would be provisions for expansion. Once built, it can be expanded to include more antennas and the height can be increased by 25% without notifying the community.

I would like to point out some reasons why I am opposed to this installation. This information can be found on the Canadians for Safe Technology website [www.c4st.org](http://www.c4st.org)

- Locating this tower in a residential area is not appropriate given the potential consequences to human health, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, the elderly, and persons who have medical conditions.
- There are thousands of worldwide studies that provide evidence of harm associated with the technologies used for 5G.
- In 2015, almost 200 scientists, expert in this field from dozens of countries signed and sent a formal appeal to the WHO, the UN, and each of the UN's member states to express their science-based concerns regarding the harmful effects of the technologies used for 5G.
- As of January 2023, there are now more than 250 scientist signatories

from 44 nations. Among them are 11 Canadian scientists. There are no studies that prove this technology is safe.

• Rogers abides by Health Canada's Radio frequency Exposure Guidelines, oddly named "Safety Code 6." However, this Code is outdated and is biased toward the telecom industry. The Code maximum limits for cell tower antenna frequencies 100 to 6000 MHz, including those used in 5G, are based on a six-minute exposure.

• There are countries where maximum exposure limits are lower than Canada's. For example, the maximums in China, Russia, Italy, and Switzerland are 100 times lower than Canada's.

• After installation, it would be difficult to decommission or remove such a cell tower.

• Experts in radiofrequency/microwave radiation emitted by these antennas recommend that they be built at least 500 metres (1/3 mile) away from residences and schools.

Laura Compare  
Rathburn Rd.

*The content of this article does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the RHA board or members*

*This proposed cell tower would increase the indoor and outdoor radio frequency exposures of every child, adult, and pet in our community, at all times of day and night, and whether or not the person is actively using a wireless device.*



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# The Case for a 5G Communication Tower

*I'm a Technologist that has been testing and teaching telecommunications technology for over 35 years, and a resident of Rockwood Village. I am aware of the controversy surrounding the proposal to erect a Telecommunications (cell) tower in Kingsbury Mall. I wanted to speak to concerns on safety of the radio signals. I can't comment on the aesthetics, placement or any other concerns. If you want to jump to the bottom line. Here it is:*

The power emitted from your or any transmitting cell phone or Wi-Fi router in your home is about 1 million times more powerful than what is being received in your home by any nearby cell sites. The same reality applies to any discussion on prolonged exposure. The signals reaching a resident in their home will be many, many, many times lower than cell and Wi-Fi products already in your home operating at the exact same frequencies.

Rockwood village already has 4 cell sites located on apartment roofs and local buildings that emit the exact same signals and frequencies proposed for the new cell tower.

- Those are at 2121 Rathburn Rd East, Rockwood Mall, 4030 Dixie Road and Burnhamthorpe Community center.
- Antennas are installed and angled with careful planning and frequencies, interference and power levels are enforced by Industry Canada.
- While it's true the transmit power from these sites are indeed higher than from cell phones, the signals weaken very quickly through the air so when they reach any customer they are extremely low (ths of a Watt).
- Sometimes they are placed inside buildings to provide better coverage as in the case of Rockwood Mall.

Adding another Cell site within the Village actually improves safety for residents as it allows all towers to operate at lower power levels since they don't need to cover a larger distance.

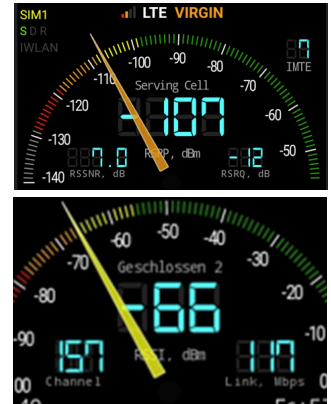
- Having a tower closer to subscribers improves service and speeds, but importantly it also instructs cell phones to transmit at lower power making it safer for calls when your holding it next to your head.
- Having a cell phone transmit near you, like beside your ear, is much, much more of an issue than the receiving power from a nearby cell tower. Received power is over 1 million times lower than transmit power near the handset. The received energy will be much less than the Wi-Fi signals that you or your neighbours have in your homes

It is natural to have concerns about cellular signal safety since there is a lot of misleading information out there. But now you know transmitting devices in your home are more powerful than any signal reaching your home from a cell tower in Canada.

Peter

*Here is a record of some cell signals measured at my home. The large blue numbers are the received power levels. The signal received from the nearest cell tower is -107dBm which is -0.02pW or 0.02 trillionths of a Watt. Very typical.*

*The more negative a number is, the lower the power (it is also a logarithmic scale so a difference of 10 means 10 times difference in power).*



The content of this article does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the RHA board or members

## Time to Rethink Neighbourhood Watch

During a meeting with Peel Police last summer, it became clear that both sides have issues. The police are understaffed and receiving more calls for help than they can handle. Our community feels that we need more police presence and expect them to at least respond more quickly. Last year we ran an article advising the community that



911 should only be used for emergencies. An “emergency” means that there is a threat to life. All other calls should go to the police station.

Crime in our area is increasing. At our Annual Meeting, a resident recounted two car thefts from his property in less than a year. As he fears for his family's safety, he refused to be seen on camera, and we will not disclose his name. He now removes his car battery every

night. He is afraid of recrimination should the perpetrators return to the crime scene for retribution, a possible outcome of the current “catch and release” policy. Another resident was followed home and attacked by four men, who beat him up then stole his car.

Although we had hoped for more police presence following our discussion last year, this has not happened. Perhaps with the separation from Region of Peel in 2025, and the announced increase to the Peel Police budget to more than half a billion dollars, we will have better protection and response. In addition, the provincial government has allotted 51M towards the prevention and detection of auto theft. In the meantime, we need to pull together as a community

and watch out for each other.

Many of our residents are banning together to keep an eye out for each other already. Some have shown interest in a neighbourhood watch program but do not have enough people to start one. The RHA is looking into how we can assist our members connect in their efforts in forming groups. **RW**

Dale Biason

President, RHA

If you have been a victim of a crime, you can contact Peel Police directly at 905-543-3311. If you want follow-up information, you can contact our community liaison officer, Constable Wendy Armitage by email to 3649@peelpolice.ca.



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