



# John KOVAC



Spring 2018

Regional Councillor - WARD 4



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## Greetings

In this, my 2018 Regional Newsletter, I invite you to explore various topics and issues of interest, as they relate to our city and region.

I am delighted to serve as your local councillor, to work hard and to represent your interests at the council table, ensuring that your tax-dollars are spent efficiently and that you continue to receive the strong quality of public services that Mississauga and Peel have become well-regarded for.

Last year, I had been pleased to preside over a number of city park updates, involving playground and trail reconstructions at Rayfield Park, Brentwood Park, Greenfield Park and Parkway Green. This year, I look forward to unveiling the grand re-opening of Syed Jalaluddin Memorial Park, in 'the Valleys', complete with a modernized playground and a newly added outdoor exercise station. The playground redevelopment at both Brentwood Park and Syed Jalaluddin Memorial Park are a result of financial contributions by the Federal Government. In 2018, I also look forward to two trail reconstruction projects at Huron Heights Park and Gordon S. Shipp Memorial Park.

Preserving the quality of our city parks is of the utmost importance to me, which is why I am continuing to take the lead on our 'One Million Trees' initiative, getting out to help plant and repopulate our collectively-shared tree

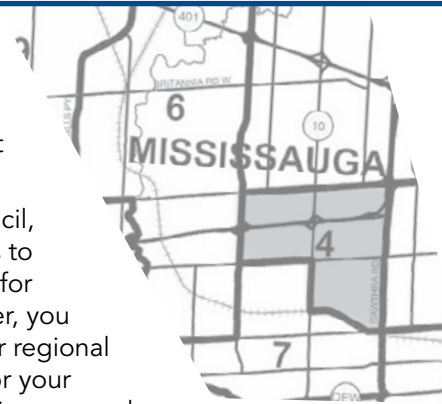
canopy. Watch for updates and please join me at our next Ward 4 tree planting event!

As a member of regional council, I recognize how important it is to work together, always striving for cohesiveness. In this newsletter, you will find a section outlining our regional public services funding split for your reference. I invite you to remain engaged and to continue to offer your feedback during the upcoming 2018 regional budget allocation process and to contribute your thoughts readily. Please visit [peelregion.ca/budget](http://peelregion.ca/budget) for more information.

Your opinions and suggestions are always helpful and I welcome you to continue to keep in touch with my office and to feel free to contact me anytime at **905-896-5400** or by email at [john.kovac@mississauga.ca](mailto:john.kovac@mississauga.ca) to discuss important matters, especially as they are related to our city and region. Our community matters and I thank you for being apart of it!

Sincerely,

John Kovac



## One Million Trees

It was my pleasure to participate in the City of Mississauga's One Million Trees Program at Meadow Glen Park with members of the Latin American Seniors Group, "Por Una Vida Plena." One Million Trees Mississauga was launched to help conserve and enhance the city's open spaces and forested areas for future

generations to enjoy. All trees planted in Mississauga count towards our One Million Trees goal, which is to add one million more trees by 2032. In Mississauga, there are 2.1 million trees on both public and private lands. Visit [onemilliontrees.ca](http://onemilliontrees.ca) for more information and to record any trees that you've planted on your property.





Canada

MISSISSAUGA

## Improvements to Syed Jalaluddin Park

Last year, the City of Mississauga celebrated Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation. The City was awarded approximately \$5.6 million in funding through the **Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Grant Funding Program** from the Government of Canada. One of these projects chosen for infrastructure redevelopment was a playground at Syed Jalaluddin Park, located at 490 Mississauga Valley Blvd. in Ward 4.

Along with the playground redevelopment, the park will be renamed Syed Jalaluddin Memorial Park this spring, as proposed by Councillor Kovac during a City Council session on Sept. 13, 2017. Please join us for the grand re-opening and plaque unveiling:

**Date:** May 12th, 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

**Location:** Syed Jalaluddin Memorial Park (Mississauga Valley Blvd., just south of Cliff Road North)

The park name commemorates the courageous act of Syed Jalaluddin, a Mississauga resident from Ward 4, who lost his life saving a 5-year old girl from drowning in the Credit River in 1979.

Visit [mississauga.ca/parks](http://mississauga.ca/parks) for more information about our city parks or visit [www.eparks.ca](http://www.eparks.ca) to find a park closest to you.



Brentwood Park – newly redeveloped playground



Rayfield Park – newly redeveloped playground



Greenfield Park – newly redeveloped playground



Parkway Green – newly redeveloped playground



Syed Jalaluddin Memorial Park



## Visual Arts Mississauga

### Kids Summer Art Camp at VAM

Summer-fun, friends, fresh air and fantastic art projects! Kids love Kids Summer Art Camp at Visual Arts Mississauga! Register before spaces fill up. Each week is designed to offer a fun and unique array of arts and crafts to appeal to each age group! Visual Arts Mississauga is now accepting registration for children ages 6 to 13. For more information visit [visualartsmississauga.com/camps/summer-kids-art-camp/](http://visualartsmississauga.com/camps/summer-kids-art-camp/)

### Teen and Adult Spring/Summer Fine Art Courses at VAM

Ignite your creativity at Visual Arts Mississauga! VAM is now accepting registration for Spring and Summer Fine Arts Courses for Teens and Adults. Unlock your creative potential with VAM's Fine Arts Courses including watercolour, drawing, acrylics, and more! Registration is now open for our exciting new evening teen courses, including *Illustration for Teens*, *Dynamic Drawing for Gamers & Geeks* and much more! Register at [visualartsmississauga.com](http://visualartsmississauga.com)



## Councillor Kovac to Introduce the City's Second Boxed Soccer Pitch



Through Councillor Kovac's efforts, the City of Mississauga will construct a second boxed soccer pitch in Ward 4, as part of a community benefit, at Mississauga Valley Park. A first of its kind in Mississauga and across Canada, the original field (located on Living Arts Drive) has become a well-used 'pick-up' soccer location in the downtown core. Children and youth use the field on a drop-in basis and expectations are that the second field will be just as popular.

"A densely-populated downtown is one reason for the first field's success – an amenity like it was needed in the core. We couldn't have hoped for a better response from the community. Kids and youth are using it in almost all weather conditions – they're physically active, having a great time and making friends. Best part is that the

field is for everyone, requires no booking permit and little maintenance. It's been great for the downtown and promises to be a win for the Mississauga Valley community as well!" said Councillor Kovac.

The second field will be placed in the northeast portion of the park near Mississauga Valley Gymnasium, within sightlines from both Mississauga Valley Boulevard and the Community Centre building. Many townhouse and apartment dwellings are within close walking distance. Just like the first field, the second will not be programmed and will be open to the public from 7 a.m. – 11 p.m., seven days a week. The boxed soccer pitch is a 15 metre x 30 metre artificial turf surface, built using a durable welded-aluminum frame including soccer boards, two goals and netting.

## Free Basic Dental Services for Eligible Seniors

The Seniors' Dental Program provides free basic dental services, such as cleanings, fillings and dentures, to low income seniors who qualify.

To be eligible, seniors must meet all six criteria:

1. be 65 years or older
2. live in Brampton, Caledon or Mississauga
3. be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
4. have no access to any form of dental coverage (including government programs such as Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Ontario Works (OW), and Non-Insured Health Benefits)
5. have no previous dental care that was paid for by the Region of Peel's Seniors' Dental Program
6. have an income of less than \$20,675 for a one person household or \$25,163 for a two person household (effective July 1, 2017)

Call the Region of Peel – Public Health at 905-799-7700 to find out if you are eligible.



## FREE Dental Screening for Children

The Region of Peel – Public Health provides free dental screening in select grades in Peel elementary schools and community clinics. For more information, call Region of Peel – Public Health at 905-799-7700.

## The Active Adult Centre of Mississauga

On Jan. 15, the Active Adult Centre of Mississauga (AACM), formerly known as the Square One Older Adult Centre of Mississauga, celebrated the Grand Opening of its new facility at Central Parkway Mall, in Ward 4 along with current board member and Councillor, John Kovac.

The space has been transformed to host a number of programs like fitness, Zumba, dancing, card games and music classes.

Approximately one quarter of Mississauga's 55 plus population lives within Central Mississauga. The City's downtown older adult population is expected to grow within the next decade. The City of Mississauga has partnered with AACM to update its current resources and provide members with a brand new facility. The new location meets the needs of the existing membership and will allow for increased growth in the future.

Located at 377 Burnhamthorpe Rd. E., on the second floor, the 8600 sq. ft. space is convenient and accessible. It allows for current and new social, educational, recreational, health and multicultural programs and services. Amenities include:

- kitchen and multi-purpose café space
- technology centre
- smaller private rooms for health and wellness services/clinics
- large auditorium
- multi-purpose program rooms

AACM aims to enrich the lives of Mississauga's seniors by keeping them active, independent, and involved in the community. The Centre will now offer more than 80 social, recreational, health and multicultural programs weekly. AACM currently has more than 1,700 members.

For more information about the Centre, call 905-615-3207 or visit [aacmiss.ca](http://aacmiss.ca)





## Investing in Better Community Outcomes with the 2018 Budget

The Region's annual budget process involves serious discussion and prudent and responsible decision-making. On Nov. 16, 2017, Regional Council approved the 2018 Budget driving the achievement of our vision of a **Community for Life** with investments balanced between the needs of residents and businesses and the infrastructure needs of the broader community. It also balances the current Term of Council priorities, the Strategic Plan's long-term objectives and the overall consideration of affordability.

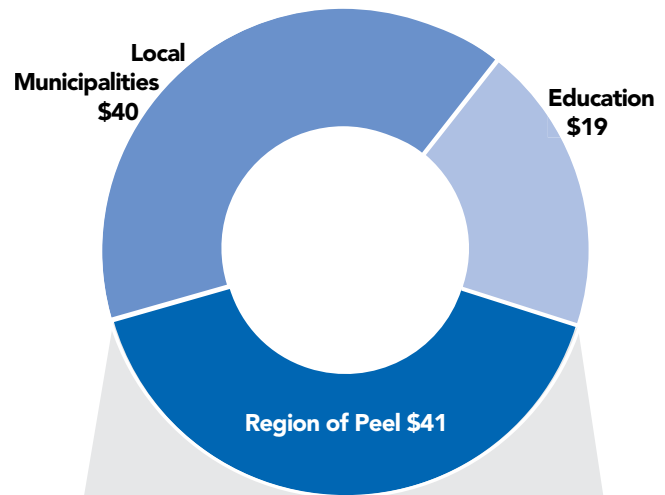
The 2018 Budget invests in better outcomes for residents and businesses as we continue to build a healthy, safe and connected community, strengthening a solid foundation to build a **Community for Life**.

### Community investments in the 2018 Budget include:

- Providing accessible transportation so residents can travel without barriers with 39,000 more accessible transportation trips.
- Expert, reliable pre-hospital care with two additional ambulances and more paramedics to address 6,000 additional 911 calls.
- Preventing homelessness in Peel with additional beds in the Brampton Youth Shelter.
- Providing reliable, safe and environmentally friendly waste collection service to 4,000 new households and safe, reliable and high quality drinking water to 4,750 new water customers.
- Delivering quality, person-centred care for residents with complex needs with additional caregivers for Peel Manor Long Term Care residents.
- Additional police staffing to maintain our safe communities.

For more information on the 2018 Budget, visit [peelregion.ca/budget](http://peelregion.ca/budget)

### Where Every \$100 of Property Tax Goes



1	Police	\$16.35
2	Housing Support	\$4.53
3	Waste	\$4.26
4	Roads and Transportation	\$2.60
5	Capital Infrastructure	\$2.22
6	Paramedics	\$2.04
7	Long Term Care	\$1.34
8	Conservation Authorities	\$1.00
9	Income Support	\$0.95
10	Accessible Transportation	\$0.92
11	Enterprise Programs and Services*	\$0.85
12	Assessment Services	\$0.75
13	Early Growth and Development	\$0.58
14	Homelessness Support	\$0.52
15	Chronic Disease Prevention	\$0.48
16	Infectious Disease Prevention	\$0.38
17	Community Investment	\$0.32
18	Child Care	\$0.32
19	Heritage Arts and Culture	\$0.23
20	Employment Support	\$0.14
21	Land Use Planning	\$0.13
22	Adult Day Services	\$0.09

\*Includes: Corporate Services, Finance, and Service Innovation, Information and Technology.





## TransHelp, Peel's Specialized Public Transit

The Region of Peel's TransHelp buses and contracted vehicles provide specialized transportation for eligible residents with physical, cognitive, visual, sensory and mental health disabilities. This door-to-door service is:

- pre-paid
- pre-arranged
- shared with other passengers

Eligibility is based on an individual's barriers to using conventional public transit, due to his or her disability. If a barrier is preventing you, or someone you know, from being able to travel using Brampton Transit or MiWay, please fill out an application online at [peelregion.ca/transhelp](http://peelregion.ca/transhelp)

### Did you know?

MiWay offers a high level of accessibility, including:

- Fully accessible fleet with low floor, kneeling buses equipped with ramps and two wheelchair/scooter securement areas
- Both voice and visual announcements at all stops
- Shelters at accessible stops have large entrance openings and platform areas to ensure sufficient room for maneuvering wheelchairs and scooters



## Apply for a discounted MiWay monthly bus pass

**If you live, work, or go to school in Mississauga and can't afford a monthly bus pass for travel, you can apply for a discount.**

As of February 2018, the Region of Peel offers a 50 per cent discount off the regular cost of a monthly MiWay pass to eligible applicants.

### To be eligible for a transit discount, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen, a landed immigrant, or have applied for permanent residency, sponsorship, or refugee protection in Canada
- live in Mississauga
- have an after-tax income that matches or is lower than the amounts shown in the table below

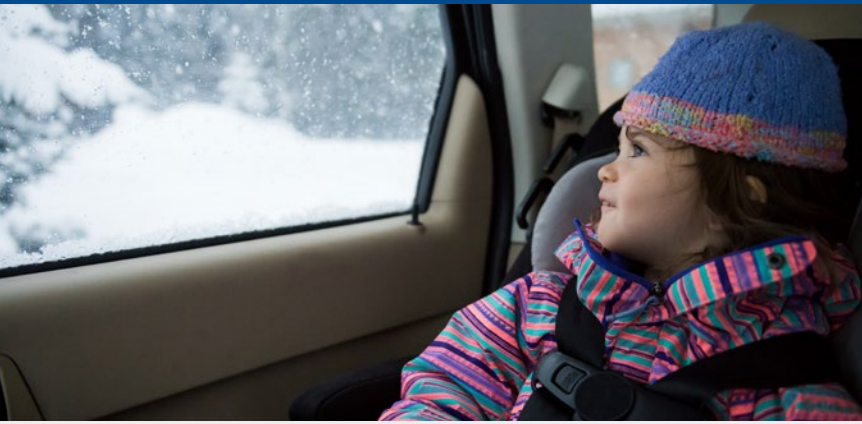
Household size	After-tax income
1 person	\$22,133
2 persons	\$31,301
3 persons	\$38,335
4 persons	\$44,266
5 persons	\$49,491
6 persons	\$54,215
7 persons	\$58,558

**To apply online**, make sure you have the following for every person you are including on your application:

- the most recent Notice of Assessment, and
- a registered PRESTO card

For more information on the program and to apply, please visit [peelregion.ca/affordabletransit](http://peelregion.ca/affordabletransit)





## The Region of Peel's Priority to Increase Affordable Housing

Finding affordable housing in Peel continues to be a challenge for more and more individuals and families. That's why Regional Council has made it a priority to increase the supply of affordable housing. Specifically, we are focused on helping people on Peel's centralized wait list for subsidized housing obtain a permanent place to live.

While the Region of Peel continues to address the community's affordable housing and homelessness needs, the demand for affordable housing continues to increase:

- One in five Peel residents live in poverty
- The cost to own a home continues to be out of reach for many Peel residents
- Low rental vacancy rates keep the supply of rental housing low and rental rates high
- One in five Peel residents rent housing, but private sector housing starts aren't addressing the demand
- More individuals are accessing Peel's emergency shelter system
- Approximately 13,000 people are on Peel's waiting list for subsidized housing

Peel continues to push forward in its affordable housing investments:

- The Region invests about 12 cents of every dollar of the Region's tax levy to increase affordable housing and reduce homelessness
- The Region administers close to 20,000 subsidized housing units in Peel, and owns **7,935 affordable housing units** (Regional and Peel Living units)
- The 10-year Peel Housing and Homelessness Plan guides the work of the Region's Housing and Homelessness Services
- The Region continues to advocate with the federal and provincial governments for policy changes and appropriate funding that will help to increase the supply of affordable housing.

For more information on Peel's housing and homelessness services, visit [peelregion.ca/housing](http://peelregion.ca/housing)

## Vision Zero sets out to create safer roads

Imagine a community where everyone could travel safely on our roads. Peel has created a plan to help us get there. In partnership with various stakeholders, the Region has reviewed traffic accident information, pinpointed the key problem areas and has set actions to make improvements in each of these areas.

As part of **Peel's Road Safety Strategic Plan (RSSP)**, the Region has adopted a "Vision Zero" framework which originated in Sweden, and conveys the key message that no loss of life is acceptable. The plan sets out the vision, goals, and action plan to create safer roads, by reducing, and ultimately eliminating, motor vehicle collisions causing injury and death.

Vision Zero is based on the simple fact that we are human and make mistakes, and that life and health can never be exchanged for other benefits in society. It is based on shared responsibilities among everyone involved in the road system, including planners, police, public health, politicians, community organizations, vehicle manufacturing companies and all road users.

In the next five years, the RSSP will build on the Region's existing road safety programs by enhancing and expanding the key areas of the programs that are most effective in reducing collisions for each of the top improvement areas:

- intersection related collisions
- aggressive driving
- distracted driving
- pedestrian collisions
- impaired driving
- cyclist collisions

A number of countermeasures identified through activities such as engineering, enforcement, education and empathy will be applied to these areas to help reduce fatal and injury collisions.

The Region of Peel encourages all road users to be a safety ambassador and promote Vision Zero and traffic safety.





## Property Tax Rebate Program



Together with local municipalities, the Region of Peel provides annual property tax rebates to eligible low-income seniors and low-income disabled persons to provide relief from financial hardship.

Eligible low-income seniors and low-income persons with disabilities must apply annually to receive the rebate. Application forms must be completed and returned to the local municipality in which the property is located.

Eligibility requirements and application forms are available at the following locations, or can be downloaded online:

### City of Mississauga

**Mississauga Taxes**  
 300 City Centre Drive  
 Mississauga, Ontario  
 L5B 3C1  
 905-615-4311  
[mississauga.ca/portal/residents/taxassistance](http://mississauga.ca/portal/residents/taxassistance)

## New Dog Waste Containers at Community Common Park

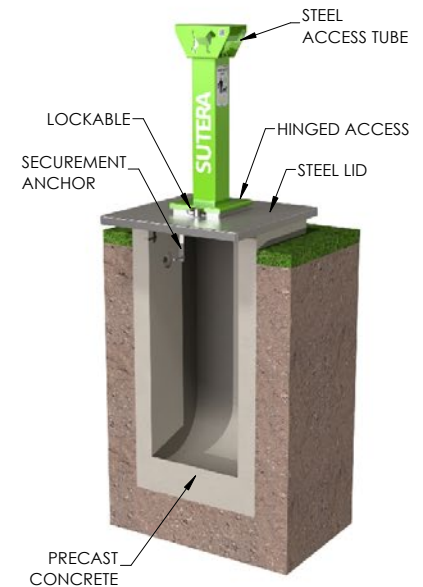
Mississauga is launching a one-year pilot program that will convert dog waste into renewable energy and fertilizer. Starting this spring, 15 in-ground dog waste containers will be installed across eight City parks including two containers in Ward 4 at Community Common Park, 355 Princess Royal Drive.

Dog waste is frequently placed in recycling bins where it contaminates the entire bin and then has to go to a landfill. Dog owners are encouraged to use these new bins to avoid contaminating recyclables and ensure dog waste is diverted from the landfill. These innovative fully in-ground concrete containers can hold dog waste for up to six weeks. The waste will be emptied by a vacuum truck and taken to an organic waste plant where it will

be safely converted into energy and fertilizer.

To find out more ways to live green throughout the year, visit [mississauga.ca/environment](http://mississauga.ca/environment)

ISOMETRIC VIEW



## KNOW WHO 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 [peelregion.ca](http://peelregion.ca) for more information.

## KEY CONTACTS

### Ward 4 Councillor John Kovac

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 300 City Centre Dr.  
 Mississauga, ON L5B 3C1

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Region of Peel 905-791-7800  
[peelregion.ca](http://peelregion.ca)

Water Billing	905-791-8711
Water (24 hours)	905-791-7800
Waste Management	905-791-9499
Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives	905-791-4055
Peel Public Health	905-799-7700

