

John Kovac

Regional Councillor - WARD 4

MISSISSAUGA

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Greetings

Welcome to my 2016 Fall Newsletter, providing information that will affect you, your family and our neighborhood.

It is my privilege and pleasure to serve you as your local Ward 4 Councillor here in the City of Mississauga and Region of Peel. I am proud to work hard for you and your families and I intend to continue to do so! Ensuring your tax dollars are spent efficiently is my top priority, as is, making sure you continue to receive the high level services you expect from our City and Region.

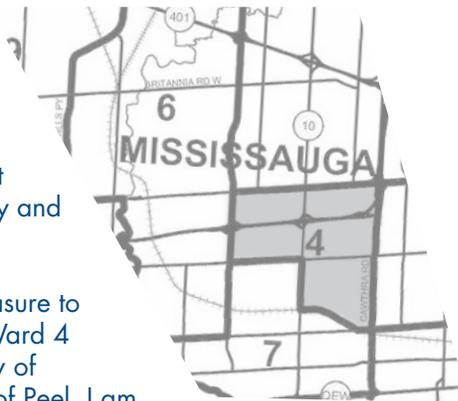
2016 has been a year of great progress for Mississauga, Peel and for Ward 4. I have been delighted to attend numerous town halls, events and festivals in our community and have had the opportunity to hear, first-hand, from so many of you living right here in Ward 4. With so much happening from a city and region-building standpoint, it can sometimes be a challenge to provide timely and up-to-date information. As a result, I encourage you to stay closely connected with me, by following me on Twitter @JohnKovac4 or by contacting my office at any time at 905-896-5400. On behalf of my Executive Assistant, Seema Bakshi and my Administrative Assistant, Shelley Blake and myself, we welcome you and look forward to always being of service to you!

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve and represent you and your interests on Council. I am always welcoming of your feedback and would love to hear from you at any time. Please reach out to me for any assistance needed!

Yours sincerely,



John Kovac



Bi-Weekly Collection

This first year of bi-weekly waste collection has been a great success thanks to the enthusiastic participation and effort of Peel residents.



Beginning January 2016, waste collection changed and now garbage, along with organics is collected one week, while recycling and organics is collected the next. Thanks to the efforts of residents, the Region has already seen a 50 per cent increase in Organics Program participation.

During this change, you have worked together with Peel staff, reported any problems you experienced online, set your items to the curb on the correct day, followed set out guidelines, and adopted the new program within the first few collection cycles. Thank you for your efforts in making bi-weekly collection a success!



Councillor Kovac inspecting the Region's new automated waste trucks with members of Progressive Waste Solutions.

Yard Waste

Not only has the Region launched the new bi-weekly program, but they also have offered you a longer yard waste collection season. This year, the yard waste season is two weeks longer, continuing to Dec. 12, 2016. Be sure to visit peelregion.ca/waste to find your personalized collection calendar.

The longer yard waste season means that there are more opportunities to place unlimited amounts of acceptable items, such as tree trimmings, branches, leaves, grass clippings and household and garden plants (solid removed), at the curb for pick-up on your regularly scheduled collection day.

When preparing yard waste for collection follow these guidelines:

- Cut stumps/tree trunks and large branches over 10 centimetres (four inches) in diameter to 1.2 metres (four feet) lengths and drop them off at a Peel Community Recycling Centre
- Use string or twine to securely tie brush in bundles up to 1.2 metres (four feet) long and 76 centimetres (30 inches) wide
- Put your yard waste in labelled, rigid, reusable containers; bushel baskets or paper yard waste bags, and ensure your reusable containers, bushel baskets or paper yard waste bags do not exceed 20 kilograms (44 pounds) each when full.

A great reuse option for old blue boxes, grey bins or garbage cans is to label them "Yard Waste" and use them as a container to set out your acceptable material on your scheduled collection day.

If you are unsure if your item is acceptable in the Yard Waste Program visit peelregion.ca/waste and use the How to Sort Your Waste tool; it proves proper disposal instructions for more than 600 items.

2016 Regional Budget

Last December, to address the diverse and growing needs of the Region of Peel, Regional Council approved the 2016 Capital and Operating budgets. The Budget included a property tax increase of 0.8 per cent and a utility rate increase of 9 per cent (keeping Peel's utility rate as the lowest in the Greater Toronto Area).

The average residential property and small business saw an increase to their property tax bill of \$35 and \$61 respectively. Additionally the average home saw a \$47 increase to their utility bill, while the average small business saw an increase of \$120. These increases ensure that the necessary resources are in place to support existing service levels and growing service demands.

Along with meeting the Capital and Operating needs of the Region, the budget provides funding to the three local conservation authorities (Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Halton Conservation Authority and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority), Peel Regional Police and the Ontario Provincial Police.

For more information on the Regional budget please visit peelregion.ca/budget.

Health care for non-emergencies

Knowing what care is available for you and your family before you get sick can help ensure that you receive treatment as quickly as possible.

1. Call Telehealth Ontario at **1-866-797-0000** and speak with a registered nurse 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
2. Visit your doctor. If you don't have one, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care can help you find a doctor through their online Health Care Connect Program at health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/healthcareconnect/public/overview.aspx.
3. Go to your nearest walk-in clinic or urgent care centre. To find a walk-in clinic near you, visit ontario.ca/locations/health.

2016 Vacuum Leaf Pickup

Those eligible for Vacuum Leaf Pickup will receive a postcard in the mail with their zone and collection dates. Residents are instructed to rake leaves to the boulevard's edge or into their ditch by the Sunday prior to their leaf collection dates. Leaves should not be raked onto the road.

Residents who miss their leaf collection are asked to remove them from the curbside or ditch to prevent flooding. Remaining leaves can be raked into open reusable containers, such as



Affordable Housing Needs and Homelessness in Peel

Being able to afford housing is dependent on many factors including housing supply, employment, affordable child care, transit and food security. Not having access to these supports and services affects an individual or family's ability to find or keep housing. That's why the Region, the City of Mississauga and our community partners continue to invest in ways to increase affordable housing and reduce poverty in Peel.

Peel's Housing Needs:

- Demand for rental housing continues to outpace supply
- Peel's unemployment rate (7.7 per cent) is above the provincial average (6.8 per cent)
- Many jobs are precarious, including low wage, part-time or temporary work
- Peel's rental vacancy is 1.5 per cent, making it difficult for people to find affordable rental housing
- 11,747 households are on the Region's wait list for subsidized housing
- The Region provided 13,131 housing subsidies to residents in 2015

We have been able to make significant progress over the last to address our community's affordable housing needs, in collaboration with community partners:

- We continue to implement Peel's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan with the goal that "everyone has a home and homelessness is eliminated". Our annual update is available at peelregion.ca/housing/housinghomelessness
- There are fewer households waiting for a housing subsidy in Peel today than there have been in the last 13 years
- We have increased the affordable housing supply through a partnership with Supportive Housing In Peel (SHIP) to build 205 affordable housing units ready for occupancy in the fall of 2016, and we acquired 40 condo units to provide affordable housing for 40 households on the wait list
- Regional Council implemented a new housing investment framework that supports a continuum of services from homelessness prevention to home ownership

Youth homelessness also continues to be a priority. The Region, and our community partners, are working together to respond to the needs of our vulnerable youth, both within the shelter system and through outreach teams. Currently, Mississauga has only one youth homeless shelter and transitional shelter. In April, Regional Council directed staff to create a new youth shelter in Brampton as an interim approach to a longer term strategy addressing youth homelessness. Regional staff and community partners are developing programs and community engagement plans, targeting fall 2016 to open the shelter.

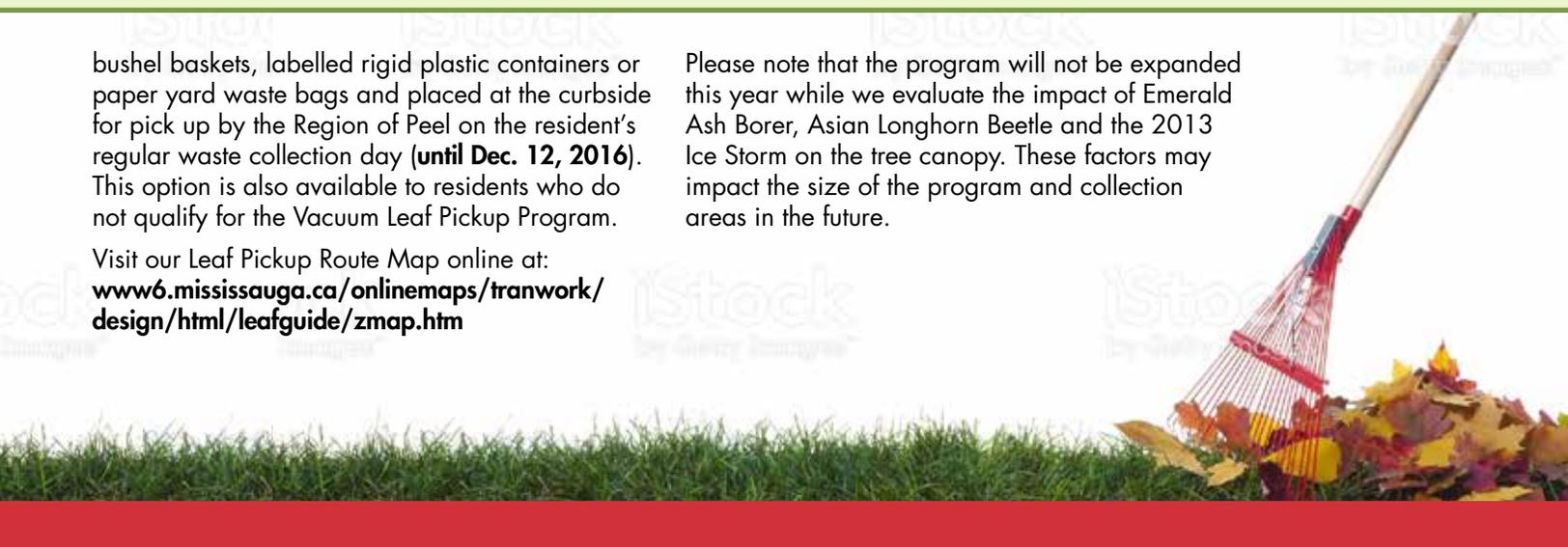
As we learn more about our community and the specific needs of our residents, the Region will continue to build community partnerships to coordinate expertise, resources and funding to address current and emerging affordable housing needs in Peel.

For more information on housing and homelessness in Peel, please visit peelregion.ca/housing.

bushel baskets, labelled rigid plastic containers or paper yard waste bags and placed at the curbside for pick up by the Region of Peel on the resident's regular waste collection day (**until Dec. 12, 2016**). This option is also available to residents who do not qualify for the Vacuum Leaf Pickup Program.

Visit our Leaf Pickup Route Map online at: www6.mississauga.ca/onlinemaps/tranwork/design/html/leafguide/zmap.htm

Please note that the program will not be expanded this year while we evaluate the impact of Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Longhorn Beetle and the 2013 Ice Storm on the tree canopy. These factors may impact the size of the program and collection areas in the future.



Are You Doing Everything You Can to Avoid Basement Flooding?

If you live in an older home (pre-1975) you may need to take some steps that can help you avoid flooding.

The Region of Peel offers a Basement Flooding Remediation program to help you prepare your home for whatever mother-nature has to throw at it.

Sanitary Backwater Valve Rebate Program

Homeowners may be able to reduce the impact of increased rainfall and some types of basement flooding by installing a sanitary backwater valve on your sanitary sewer system.

The sanitary backwater valve rebate program offers eligible homeowners \$700 dollars until Dec. 31, 2016. Please visit peelregion.ca/pw/water/sewage-trtmt/backwater-valve.htm for more information.

Voluntary Downspout Disconnection Program

One easy way to help protect your home from flooding is to disconnect any downspouts connected to the sewer systems. You may be eligible for a Downspout Disconnection rebate or for the Financial Assistance program which runs until Dec. 31, 2016. At this time a decision has been made by Regional Council to defer a mandatory downspout disconnection program.

Visit peelregion.ca/pw/water/sewage-trtmt/downspout-disconnection-rebate.htm for more information on these programs.



Grown in Peel Guides Now Available

Peel is home to farms that grow everything from apples to watermelons, and beets to pumpkins. To help encourage residents to eat fresh and buy local, the Region of Peel launched its 2016 Grown in Peel guide. The guide features 34 farms, retailers and farmers' markets in Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga, as well as an easy-to-read map and information on the seasonal availability of local fruits and vegetables.

The Grown in Peel guide is available free of charge at Peel libraries, fairs and municipal buildings or you can request a copy by emailing growninpeel@peelregion.ca. GrownInPeel.ca features an interactive map, lists events happening at your local farms and farmers' markets and provides the seasonal availability of nearly 50 fruits and vegetables.



Councillor Kovac with Manny Castellino of the Mississauga Central Lions Club, administrators of the farmers market.

Take Part in One Million Trees Mississauga



Councillor Kovac planting trees at Rayfield Park with Catherine and Jeff from the Parks and Forestry department, as part of the One Million Trees Program.

In Mississauga, there are 2.1 million trees on public and private lands. Let's add one million more over the next 20 years. Get involved today!

Are you a homeowner, business, community group or school looking to add trees to your property? Do you want to volunteer to improve Mississauga's natural areas? Here's how you can get involved in One Million Trees Mississauga:

- Join a City-run tree planting event – contact us about registering for a community tree planting
- Count your trees! Did you plant a tree or shrub on your property? Have it count by registering your trees at onemilliontrees.ca.
- Join an event run by one of our partner groups – our partner organizations will work with you to organize a tree planting event in your neighbourhood.

All trees and shrubs planted in Mississauga count. Plant trees today and visit onemilliontrees.ca to enter your tree planting totals and have it count towards our One Million Trees Mississauga goal. For more information, please call 3-1-1 (if outside Mississauga call 905-615-4311).

Regional Road Safety

The Region is using Vehicle Activated Traffic Calming Signs (VATCS) as part of the ongoing commitment to enhance road safety. The traffic calming signs remind motorists of the posted speed limit. VATCS are electronic LED roadside signs that remain blank until an approaching vehicle exceeds the set threshold speed limit to trigger the sensor. The sign then illuminates for three to four seconds with the posted speed limit and message to "SLOW DOWN", further enhanced by flashing horizontal beacons.

The signs have been installed at various locations along Regional Roads. In Mississauga Ward 4, the sign is on Cawthra Road between Bloor Street and Schomberg Avenue for the southbound

direction. The sign has been active since June 2015.

Facts about the sign:

- The sign displays the speed limit, not the driver's speed. The sign does not capture license plates or images (not photo radar)

Additional safety measures in the area

Additional signs of the posted speed limit were also installed, as well as "stop bar" pavement markings painted on Cawthra Road between Silver Creek Boulevard and Burnhamthorpe Road.

"Advance street name" signs were installed to provide improved early notice to drivers of upcoming streets before reaching the intersection.



Are You Connected?

Receive emergency updates, community event information and seasonal news right to your email.

Sign up for
Connect to Peel (C2P) at
peelregion.ca/connect



Lawn Signs

The City of Mississauga is distributing Please Slow Down lawn signs to promote safe driving habits and to lower vehicle operating speeds on neighbourhood streets. These signs can be obtained at no cost from Councillor Kovac's office.

Permitted Sign Placement:

While placing the signs, residents must ensure that they do not create any sight line obstruction and do not create a hazard for users of the road.

Seven Grandfather Teachings



Bravery



Truth



Humility



Love



Honesty



Respect



Wisdom



In the spring of 2016, the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) hosted the exhibition *From the Heart of Turtle Island: Contemporary Art From Manitoulin Island*.

Students from Peel Alternative School North were invited to collaborate with Wiikwemikoong artist Mike Cywink to create panels based on original designs by Indigenous artist Dolly Pelletier. Through the project, the students learned about the Seven Grandfather Teachings: Bravery, Truth, Humility, Love, Honesty, Respect, Wisdom.

The seven animals shown symbolize these teachings as well as the values of the administrative departments of the Wiikwemikoong Unceded Territory Government on Manitoulin Island.



These smaller paintings represent some of the wildflowers that grow on Manitoulin Island.

You can see the original Seven Grandfather Teachings Paintings at PAMA until December 11, 2016.

Visit pama.peelregion.ca to learn more



Resources for Parents in Peel

Parenting can be wonderful and rewarding...and tough and confusing – all at the same time. Whether you're looking for some general parenting tips or struggling with a particular issue, the Region of Peel can help. Call **905-799-7700** to speak with a public health nurse or visit **ParentingInPeel.ca** to find out which of the following free parenting resources are right for you:

- Prenatal Programs: In-person prenatal classes, online prenatal classes, Healthy Start Program, Teen Prenatal Supper Club
- Breastfeeding Programs: Clinics, online instructional videos, Breastfeeding Companions Program (peer telephone and in-hospital support), telephone support from a public health nurse
- Healthy Babies Healthy Children: In-home support from public health nurses and family visitors to help families during pregnancy and after baby is born
- Postpartum Mood Disorder (PMD) Program: One in five women will experience PMD during pregnancy or after the birth or adoption of a baby. For information or help, call **905-459-8441** or visit **PMDinPeel.ca**
- General parenting and pregnancy telephone support from a public health nurse
- **Facebook.com/parentinginpeel**: Provides parents, caregivers and parents-to-be with information and resources about planning for pregnancy, having a healthy pregnancy, taking care of yourself after birth, breastfeeding, and parenting your child (under age six)

Parenting and family workshops: Refresh your parenting skills, learn new information and make connections with other parents in your community. Visit **peelregion.ca/children/resources/workshops.htm**.



Councillor Kovac spending time with kids at PLASP Child Care Services' 40th Anniversary Celebration - St. Matthew Catholic School.

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** for more information.

KEY CONTACTS

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Region of Peel 905-791-7800
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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

