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Councillor's Report



Environment

2008





Table of Contents

Welcome to the City of Mississauga	1
Tidiness	2
Environmental Efforts	4
Urban Forestry	6
Natural & Heritage Conservation	7

Welcome to the City of Mississauga



Mississauga, Canada's sixth largest city, is a big city with a small town feel, warmth and approachability. We have world-class performing arts and attractions, fine art galleries, historic homes, superior sports facilities, challenging, award-winning golf courses and of course beautiful parks and a scenic waterfront trail.

With over 6,600 acres of open space, 480 parks, 200,000 trees and 224 kilometres of trail sprawling across the city, opportunities to make the most of the city's green spaces are endless and change with the seasons.

Mississauga is a clean, green city that works closely with ratepayer groups, commercial property owners and institutions to keep our city beautiful. Highlights of our city include 22 waterfront parks, beautiful garden parks, unique wetland areas, old growth forests, mature-treed neighbourhoods, a unique 'green energy' generating golf course and standard-setting leash-free zones.

2007 MUNICIPAL INFORMATION FORM

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Municipality: City of Mississauga

Population: 700,000

Municipal Budget: \$255,200,000

Parks budget as a % of municipal budget: 8.5 per cent: Parks – \$14,648,100
Forestry – \$4,485,100

Total area: 29,000 hectares

Parks and green spaces area as a % of total area: 11 per cent



Tidiness

Mississauga Earth Days – April 18 to 26, 2008



This annual event promotes environmental awareness and the clean-up of litter in public spaces, business areas and community neighbourhoods. Businesses and residents were asked to join thousands from across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and volunteer to pick up litter around their workplace, schoolyard or neighbourhood for 20 minutes! Throughout the week, more than 100 groups participated in community and corporate clean-ups, tree plantings and naturalization initiatives throughout the city in woodlots, creeks, trails, parks, schoolyards and business properties. Through the Earth Days events awareness regarding litter and environmental issues is heightened, a sense of pride and ownership is developed and most importantly, the City of Mississauga becomes a cleaner, greener, more beautiful place to live, work and play.



LitterNot



Currently, 104 businesses, sports organizations, service clubs, schools, community groups and neighbourhoods have become LitterNot Leaders by adopting a street or park through the volunteer clean-up program. The volunteer clean-up program involves a two-year commitment with a minimum of three clean-ups to be conducted per year and goes a long way to promote a positive image and discourage litter. The City supports by providing the necessary training, safety equipment, garbage bags and garbage pickup. To recognize the efforts of the volunteers, a special sign is erected in the adopted location and the groups receive recognition through our annual thank-you promotions. You can find more information at www.mississauga.ca/litternot.

Along with the numerous clean-up and anti-litter programs and initiatives, the City of Mississauga has passed a number of by-laws that help support the efforts, including fines for littering and not cleaning up after your dog (“Stooping and Scooping”) as well as property standard acts which ensure residential, commercial and industrial properties are maintained. The City of Mississauga strictly enforces a sign by-law that restricts where signs can be placed, eliminating street scapes filled with hundreds of signs of all shapes, sizes and colours. The bylaw limits the number of signs allowed in any one particular location and takes into consideration site lines and visual impact.

LitterBug



Working to ensure Mississauga’s streets, parks and public spaces remain litter free is a daunting task and one that requires a change in attitude by creating “litter consciousness.” It’s not enough just to pick up the litter we need to change the behaviour that leads to littering. To help fight the war on litter, Mississauga has enlisted a well-known character from the past - the LitterBug - to remind us to stash our trash and don’t be a Litterbug! The Litterbug campaign is ongoing and also contains specific youth messaging through the use of former Toronto Raptor Jerome Williams (Junkyard Dog) spreading the word to “Slam

Dunk Your Junk.” The youth-directed anti-litter public awareness campaign rallied 56 Mississauga schools to make the pledge not to litter. Thousands of students pledged not to be litterbugs by submitting signed pledges via mail, fax, e-mail or in person. In addition to the general anti-litter messages, Mississauga’s LitterBug program also targets Mississauga’s sports groups – baseball, soccer, cricket and tennis – encouraging them to get involved by taking 10 minutes before or after their game or practice to clean up around their sports field or court.



Arbor Day



Each year, the City’s Urban Forestry group works closely with school children to educate them on the importance of Arbor Day and the role trees play in our environment and the need for environmental respect our environment. A large tree is planted with the children in their schoolyard as part of an existing environmental initiative or serves as the start of a program.

Cleaning Up Graffiti Along the Railway (CUGAR)

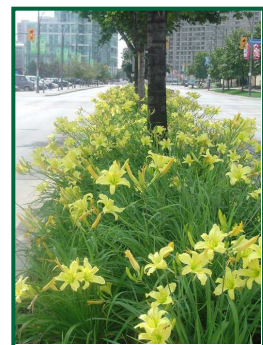


The City of Mississauga and community partners Peel Regional Police, the Mississauga Crime Prevention Association, Canadian National Railway Police Service, Canadian Pacific Railway Police Service and GO Transit worked together to clean up the rail corridors in Mississauga. Since the program was launched in 1998, significant improvements can be seen along the Lakeshore West rail corridor, the Milton (Meadowvale) line and the Georgetown (Malton) line.

Keeping Public Spaces Clean & Green

The City of Mississauga’s Recreation & Parks and Public Works divisions ensure Mississauga’s streets and open spaces are kept tidy through:

- Ongoing boulevard maintenance – cutting and weeding.
- Regular street sweeping and a cleaning program in which Business Improvement Areas are swept weekly, industrial roads are swept monthly and commercial roads are swept twice monthly.
- Daily litter pick-up in all open spaces.
- Selection and inclusion of natural plant species in all plantings.
- Extensive garbage and recycling programs in parks at bus stops and along main pedestrian streets including a new recycling program launched in partnership with the Region of Peel Waste Management in our major sport fields.
- Weekly trail inspections – eliminating hazards such as overgrowth, dangerous tree limbs and site lines.
- Monthly roto-tilling of all playground sand.
- Commemorative Tree/Park Bench Program providing residents with the opportunity to recognize and honour others through a lasting tribute and enhancing the beauty of the City’s parks and providing rest stops for visitors and park users.



Environmental Efforts

BraeBen Golf Course and Methane Gas Conversion



In 2005, the Britannia Landfill site was converted to BraeBen, an 18-hole Championship Course and a 9-hole Academy Course complete with a methane gas collection system. The conversion was done in a partnership between the City of Mississauga which operates the course and the Region of Peel which operates the gas collection system. The methane gas collection system underlies the 18-hole course. Gas is drawn out of the landfill through wells and is piped off-site to a methane-to-electricity conversion generator. The electricity generated is between 5 and 7 mega watts, which is enough to power between 5,000 and 7,000 households on a daily basis over the 20-year life cycle.



Mississauga's Green Fleet



Mississauga implemented recommendations from the "City Fleet Emissions Reduction Study," which include the transition to biodiesel fuel for Mississauga Transit. The transition is expected to result in community-wide reductions in the emissions of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, resulting in cleaner air for Mississauga residents. Mississauga Transit used about 14 million litres of diesel fuel in 2006. Biodiesel, a cleaner-burning alternative fuel produced from renewable resources, mainly vegetable oils and waste oil products, emits less carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons and particulate matter than conventional diesel. The City is also continuing to purchase energy-efficient and hybrid-electric vehicles as part of the study's other recommendations to complete its Green Fleet.

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Sustainable Energy Programs



This year, Mississauga launched its first renewable energy project with the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on the Hershey Centre. The project, unanimously endorsed by City Council, involves the use of solar panels that convert sunlight into electricity. The panels are installed on the south side of the building to maximize the sun exposure. The photovoltaic panels generate 25 to 30 kilowatts of electricity, which is equivalent to the power required to light a typical fire station for one year. The electricity is sold to the Ontario grid and is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 25,800 kilograms per year for approximately 25 years. In addition, through the City's energy management program that consists of energy monitoring, energy procurement, energy audits and energy conservation, the City of Mississauga was able to reduce energy consumption by nine per cent at Mississauga's City Hall. A total of 1050 tonnes of CO₂ emissions were reduced.

Water Management



Through the assistance of numerous volunteers, Mississauga has been successful in implementing the water quality Yellow Fish Program introduced by Trout Unlimited Canada. The program has worked to educate residents on the dangers of dumping unwanted household hazardous wastes, like used motor oil, paint and solvents down storm sewer drains or catch basins, which can harm fish and wildlife and more importantly reduce drinking water quality. Using non-toxic adhesive, volunteers place Yellow Fish decals beside the catch basins. Volunteers also distribute fish-shaped brochures to nearby households to remind people to dispose of unwanted household products in an environmentally sound way. Program volunteers are working to help make a difference and minimize water pollution in Mississauga.

Air Quality



Through the anti-idling program, 1-2-3 Turn Your Key and the anti-idling campaign, the City of Mississauga is hoping to reduce the amount of unnecessary emissions and pollution put into the air that contribute to smog and climate change. The program encourages residents to turn off their vehicles when stopped for more than 10 seconds and targets various idle locations such as school pick-up/drop-off zones, drive-through restaurants and transit terminals. The City of Mississauga is leading by example when asking residents to modify their behaviour during smog alerts by reducing and eliminating diesel powered equipment after 11:30 a.m., curtailing the use of oil-based paints and solvents and restricting road painting and street sweeping. Through the Smog Information Program, residents and businesses are being educated and encouraged to take steps to help, such as reducing energy consumption, walking, car pooling or using public transit, refuelling cars before sunrise or after sunset and decreasing the use of gas or diesel powered machines.



Transit Improvements



Mississauga is also one of the leading cities involved in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) expansion, a provincially-planned rapid transit network designed in conjunction with GO Transit to ease gridlock on key highways and improve air quality. The Mississauga segment is intended to be completed by 2010 and will provide direct access to businesses around the City's core and the Toronto Pearson airport area, which are two of the highest employment areas in the GTA. Our City vehicular fleet is being modernized with the addition of low-emission hybrid vehicles. Fifty-five new, energy efficient cleaner-running transit buses are being added to replace older, less efficient buses. Transit use is expanding, with new routes and improved services throughout the system, such as the inexpensive City Centre shuttle bus. During March 2007, Mississauga Council initiated a five-year Transit Ridership Growth Strategy. Aimed at improving transit across the City, the Ridership strategy will be implemented with no immediate impact on the municipal tax base. The transit growth plan makes use of federal and provincial gas tax revenues as well as the City's investment of development levy funds. This initiative addresses the following key objectives: introducing pre-rapid transit services on some major corridors, reduced travel times, allocating additional buses on high-capacity routes, increasing Mississauga Transit's integration with neighbouring systems, improved core and local routing, providing additional connection points within the City Centre core, fare incentives, and branding and marketing service improvements to attract increased ridership.

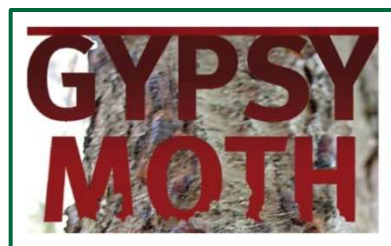
Urban Forestry



Streets lined with 250,000 trees, old growth forests, woodlands, parks and other natural areas make up the city's urban forest. The street trees contribute to an important part of our urban landscape while providing a wide variety of social, community, economic and environmental benefits. All trees located on municipally-owned property are protected by a by-law and the Urban Forestry Section is responsible for the planting, protection, maintenance and removal of these trees. Urban Forestry staff members also handle street planting, management of woodlands, the Private Tree

By-law, public utilities issues relating to trees, boulevard maintenance and weed inspections.

Integrated Pest Management



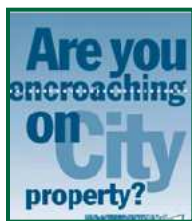
The City of Mississauga is extremely proud of its management of the infestation of Gypsy Moth it faced in 2006 and 2007. The infestation threatened to devastate thousands of trees on both public and private property and cause significant lifestyle impacts in numerous neighbourhoods. Estimates of potential tree loss on City property totalled approximately 10,000 trees, equating to a removal cost of approximately \$5 million. Staff inspections of impacted areas revealed individual trees on both

public and private property were covered with an average of 800 egg masses, with some trees having as many as 1,500. For more than 10 years, the City's forestry unit worked closely with resident associations and individual residents implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) measures. The City of Mississauga believes the best way to manage pests is to place an emphasis on prevention and look at all available information and consider all options before deciding on a management strategy. IPM controls typically rely on effective, alternative approaches to pesticides or chemicals. These prevention practices, however, were ineffective against the infestation of gypsy moth caterpillars. The increase in population levels was a result of environmental conditions that altered the gypsy moth's typical pattern and saw them laying eggs in tree canopies 50 to 100 feet off the ground, making it difficult to conduct typical IPM controls. Conducting an aerial spray using the bacterial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki* (Btk) was identified as the City's only option following staff evaluations of the crisis situation and a review by an independent forestry consulting company, BioForest Technologies Inc., whose specialties are forest surveys and protection and forest management.



The City of Mississauga is recognized as a leader in our approach to plant health care and IPM practices. Since 1990, the City has been using healthy plant practices and management controls that use alternative methods to promote healthy plants, trees, grass and turf and to reduce weed and pest populations. The City of Mississauga is committed to using the healthiest approach possible. Neighbourhood and general park areas are 'pesticide free' areas; the City only uses a minimal amount of pesticides when there are no other cost effective alternatives available. **Pesticides are used on less than one per cent of all City-owned land.** Our goal is to preserve the environment for future generations and to promote the City's healthy plant care and IPM practices to residents, businesses, institutions and educational facilities. Through awareness and education, the City of Mississauga is trying to reduce the amount of pesticides being used in Mississauga. Regulatory agencies such as Transport Canada and the Ministry of the Environment now use Mississauga's case as a model for other municipalities to follow.

Encroachment



Mississauga has an Encroachment by-law in place but the work does not stop there. City staff is working on an educational program to bring awareness to residents and businesses regarding the seriousness of the issue. Encroachment on public lands causes concern for public safety, environmental damage, restoration costs, protection of public and adjacent private property and the protection of public access.

Protecting our Natural & Heritage Conservation



Since its incorporation as a City in 1974, Mississauga has changed dramatically from a rural farm landscape to the sixth largest city in Canada. During these 30 years, rich agricultural land was converted to a diverse community of industrial, residential, civic and commercial districts, each with its own quality, character and distinct identity. What distinguishes many of these “cultural landscapes” is the degree to which the pre-settlement natural landscape, the former agricultural landscape and the current urban landscape have been blended together to create unique and notable settings in which the residents of Mississauga live, work and play.

Conserving the old and blending it with the new in a way that captures the progression of time is a story told throughout Mississauga’s communities. Cobblestone lanes, Victorian era brick buildings, a wetland sanctuary, preserved cemeteries, protected heritage properties mixed with new development, help to enrich peoples lives by telling a story of our city in a way that no book or film ever could.

Heritage Policy

The City of Mississauga has policies related to heritage conservation within its Official Plan, Sections 2.12 and 3.17. These policies relate to both built and natural heritage as well as archaeological resources. Specific sites and areas of heritage interest are addressed in District Policies to ensure that detailed heritage attributes are noted and protected.

The City also has heritage policies which prescribe criteria for additions to the City’s Heritage Inventory or register. The City is currently working on a new policy and by-law which would provide for specific rules and regulations related to heritage property standards, as allowed in the amended Ontario Heritage Act.

The City has taken part in the national program known as the Historic Places Initiative. The program records heritage designated properties from across Canada and places them into an accessible database. As this is a time and labour-intensive initiative, the City adds only a few properties each year.

Mississauga Heritage Advisory Committee



The City of Mississauga initiated a Local Heritage Advisory Committee in 1977. The Council appointed Committee has 10 citizen members and two City Councillors. Its mandate is to advise Council on all matters related to the protection and conservation of the city’s varied heritage resources in accordance with the rules and regulations

of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Major achievements include:

- the establishment of Ontario's first heritage conservation district, Meadowvale Village Heritage Conservation District (1980)
- the creation of an extensive electronic data base accessible to the public via the Internet
- the establishment of a Heritage Grant Program (2007)
- the implementation of the largest cultural landscape inventory in the country
- the establishment of the Old Port Credit Heritage Conservation District (2004)

The Heritage Advisory Committee is assisted by two full-time heritage planning staff, the Community Services Department, as well as assistance from the City Clerk's Office and mapping assistance from the Transportation & Works and the Planning & Building departments.

The Creditview Wetland



The Creditview Wetland is Mississauga's most unique natural heritage feature. Located in the north-west part of the city, it is both a naturally occurring wetland system and an excellent example of natural habitat in an urban setting. It is situated at the northern end of a shallow, north-south oriented tear shaped depression created some 12,000 years ago at the time of the glacial retreat. The wetland is fed by surface water from an area that spans 11 hectares. The City of Mississauga has developed the Creditview Wetland Conservation Plan to

ensure its responsible management so that it continues to sustain many of its ecological functions. To meet the recommendations in the plan of increasing awareness of the wetland's unique ecological features and sensitivities and encouraging long-term stewardship of the site, City staff has worked closely with the neighbouring school to implement a stewardship and naturalization program. A viewing deck has been created complete with wetland education panels located on Willowvale gardens, east of Creditview Road, just north of Eglinton Avenue.

Cultural Landscapes



A cultural landscape can be defined as a setting that has enhanced a community's vibrancy, aesthetic quality, distinctiveness, sense of history or sense of place. A cultural landscape may be a single property or a collection of properties such as a local streetscape or a river corridor. The City of Mississauga, working in partnership with residents and heritage organizations, developed an extensive Cultural Landscape Inventory that identifies properties and cultural landscapes that

warrant recognition, protection and management. The City of Mississauga is the first municipality to implement a Cultural Landscape Inventory. There are approximately 60 cultural landscapes identified that comprise hundreds of properties and landscape features. There are approximately 300 designated properties in Mississauga, 170 of these form part of the City's two heritage conservation districts – Meadowvale Village and Old Port Credit Village. Meadowvale Village was the province's first heritage conservation district.

Cemeteries



Mississauga has many historic cemeteries that offer a glimpse back in time. In 2006/2007, the City provided heritage designation to all of its small pioneer cemeteries. These eight small cemeteries, often referred to as abandoned cemeteries, are testaments to the many families that settled in the Mississauga area throughout the early and mid portions of the 19th century. The cemeteries are cared for and maintained by the City Recreation & Parks staff.

Thanks to the partnership and volunteer efforts of local community groups, visitors can take a self-guided historical walking tour of the Streetsville Memorial Cemetery. St. Andrews Cemetery combines aesthetic beauty with historical charm. Visiting these cemeteries is like taking a step back in time – with aesthetic beauty and numerous stories of the past, each trip will leave you with a sense of peace and knowledge.

Celebrating Heritage



A number of celebrations take place throughout the City of Mississauga that focus and celebrate our past. The City has been taking part in the Doors Open program, a historic celebration that provides residents and visitors with the opportunity to experience the hidden treasures of Mississauga's heritage and to celebrate the history and diversity of our public and commercial spaces. It was initiated by the Ontario Heritage Trust in 2002. In prior years, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation had taken the lead in organizing this event. This year, Doors Open will be a City operated event, with a focus on the Villages of Port Credit and Clarkson. Doors Open will take place on September 15, 2007, in co-operation with the Port Credit BIA, Clarkson BIA, local service groups, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation, local resident associations and many local individuals and businesses. It is expected that thousands of people will visit Port Credit and Clarkson on this festive occasion to celebrate the rich natural and built heritage.

Mississauga Heritage Foundation (MHF)



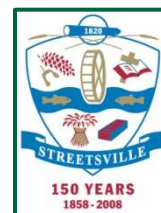
The MHF was founded in 1960 as a group of individuals committed to saving the Bradley House (now a City-owned community museum) from demolition. The house was moved onto municipal lands and continues as a City-operated community museum today. The MHF, a not-for-profit organization, specializes in providing resources to the public related to local history, research and interpretation of Mississauga's heritage. The MHF is a major contributor and partner with the City, with a close relationship to the Heritage Advisory Committee, in providing research and recommendations toward the conservation of built heritage resources. Each year in celebration of Heritage Week, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation co-ordinates a Heritage Showcase with approximately 25 exhibitors located within the public areas of Square One shopping mall. The Showcase provides exposure of our heritage to thousands of people over a long weekend each February. At the conclusion of the Showcase, the MHF acknowledges local individuals and groups with heritage awards.

Streetsville Historical Society (SHS)

The Streetsville Historical Society is a local history group, consisting entirely of volunteers who have committed time to documenting and studying their local history. The Society meets four times a year and contributes historical displays and historic celebrations such as the annual Heritage Showcase. The Society maintains an excellent archive of local documents and photographs to record the rich local history.

Streetsville's 150th Anniversary Celebration: 1858 – 2008

In 1858, Streetsville was incorporated into a village and became part of the expanded City of Mississauga in 1974. In honour of Streetsville's 150th birthday as an official village, the Streetsville Business Improvement Association (BIA) is hosting a celebration with many events including:



- Streetsville's Art Fest – May 23rd to June 5th (for more info - www.streetsvillearts.com)
- Used Book Sale in Streetsville – June 28th on Main St. (for more info – www.villageofstreetsville.com)
- Happy 150th Streetsville – September 13th (events include: Commemorative Plaque to be unveiled, Mississauga Quilters Guild will be displaying 150 Quilts, Tea Parties along with Anniversary cake, Street festivities for all ages, Displays by the Ontario Genealogy Society and the Streetsville Historic Society, Mississauga Heritage will host the Walk Back in Time Tour, Friends of Old Britannia School House will host a display, Souvenirs will be available (for more info – www.villageofstreetsville.com)