Dear Neighbour:

As we reach the end of another year, I want to thank the hundreds of volunteers who continue to make our community great. The countless hours you put in are very much appreciated. A simple thank you hardly seems enough.

It has been a tough year financially for many and I also thank those who stepped up to help out their neighbours through extra donations to the food bank or other causes. It was gratifying to see the community come together to help the fire victims of Arcadia Glen. This is what makes Ward 9 the best community in the city.

I also want to thank those of you who have commented on proposals and made suggestions on various projects. I always value the input you provide and appreciate the time you spend doing so.

This newsletter contains information mainly on services and programs provided by the City. There are some exciting projects starting such as the Lake Wabukayne project; Meadowvale Community Centre renovation; Lake Aquitaine outdoor fitness circuit to name a few. Erin Mills Town Centre is expanding and we have a new splash pad and washrooms at Q Park. Office and industrial development continues to bring more jobs to our community and new retail businesses are opening their doors.

Winter brings with it new challenges. Dealing with snow and other winter weather can be daunting and staff and I appreciate your patience when we have to deal with winter storms. Remember to take care when driving or walking and to help out a neighbour who may have trouble shovelling.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. If you recognize a different religious or seasonal celebration, I wish you all the best as you join with family and friends.

Pat Saito, Councillor Ward 9

Lake Aquitaine pilot for outdoor fitness circuit

There is a new, exciting fitness program coming to Ward 9 in the form of an outdoor fitness circuit at Lake Aquitaine. The equipment, for which I allocated funds from Ward 9’s share of the Investing in Ontario Act (IOA) Funded Projects, will be installed in 2010.

I am working with staff to select the equipment which was initially designed mainly for seniors’ use but which is suitable for everyone. I have asked staff to add several pieces of equipment that are designed especially for wheelchair users. I have received input from various senior groups as well as the City’s Accessibility Advisory Committee and I am confident this will be a popular addition to our park.

Stations will be placed around the lake at key locations each focusing on a specific exercise. I will be holding an Open House in early 2010 to show the proposed design to the community and am aiming for a grand opening event in June 2010.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me. This is an exciting project and one which I am confident will be well used by all.

Pat Saito, Councillor Ward 9

Clarifying the Judicial Inquiry

I have received many emails in support of my position in opposing the spending of over $2 million tax dollars for a judicial inquiry. I want to further clarify why I took this position and why I truly believe this action is a waste of taxpayers’ money and serves no useful purpose. It has in fact been called nothing more than a witch hunt.

Council already received an independent legal opinion at a cost of just under $47,000 on the matters involved. There is no valid need to spend millions of dollars more to get answers that we already have and on an inquiry that is fact finding only and will not result in any action. Also, the inquiry requested by 7 Members of Council to initially review a conflict of interest by the Mayor over a land deal in the City Centre has grown to include other transactions that are not related to the land in question and may well exceed the estimated costs. My position is also supported by Councillors Mullin, Mahoney and Prentice.

The land in question was purchased this year by the City for the construction of Sheridan College. It had previously been under an Agreement of Purchase and Sale (APS) to another company but that agreement was ended by the seller before the City became involved. Any actions of the purchaser/seller related to that agreement have no relevance in the purchase by the City of the land. To further protect the City from any liability however, we included an indemnification agreement in our offer to buy the land. This issue was reviewed by an external legal firm and Council made aware of the conclusions. Also, allegations that the price was inflated was not result in any action. Also, the inquiry requested by 7 Members of Council to initially review a conflict of interest by the Mayor over a land deal in the City Centre has grown to include other transactions that are not related to the land in question and may well exceed the estimated costs. My position is also supported by Councillors Mullin, Mahoney and Prentice.

The company who had the APS had proposed to build a first class hotel on lands owned by Oxford Properties (Square One). The Mayor and Council were very open on our support for this type of development and, in her capacity as head of Council, the Mayor accompanied by City staff, met with the proponents to tour a proposed type of hotel. The Mayor openly declared a conflict of interest in the matter when it was on a Council agenda as her son was involved in the purchase.

We did our homework before signing any agreements and Council approved the action to proceed with the purchase. The company who had the APS had proposed to build a first class hotel on lands owned by Oxford Properties (Square One). The Mayor and Council were very open on our support for this type of development and, in her capacity as head of Council, the Mayor accompanied by City staff, met with the proponents to tour a proposed type of hotel. The Mayor openly declared a conflict of interest in the matter when it was on a Council agenda as her son was involved in.
Meadowvale Toyota Grand Opening

Pat (second from right) and Marie Toyotoshi, President & CEO of Toyotoshi Group Canada, Naoyuki Toyotoshi, Founder & Chairman of Toyotoshi Group, Mayor Hazel McCallion, Mr. Yoichi Tomihara, President & CEO of Toyota Canada, Larry Baldiserra, President of Toyota Financial Services, and Marcelo Toyotoshi, President & CEO of the Toyotoshi Group in the Traditional Sake Ceremony at the June 29 Grand Opening of Meadowvale Toyota on Argentia Road at Winston Churchill.

Meadowvale Seniors Club

Meadowvale Seniors meet Monday to Friday at Meadowvale Community Centre. Activities include Bingo, Bridge, Carpet Bowling, Crafts, Cribbage, Euchre, Line Dancing, Snooker and Trips, Pollock lunches are held once a month. The Christmas lunch will be held December 16th, 2009.

Membership is open to all residents, +60 years. For further information, contact Bernard at 905-858-0817.

Getting involved in some of the activities, helps Positive, Active and Healthy Aging.

Mississauga boundary update

The City is moving forward with annexation of the lands between Ninth Line and the 407 thus moving the Mississauga/Milton boundary to the midline of the 407.

This has been my goal for some time and I am pleased it is finally becoming a reality. It just makes sense as the City bought over 300 acres of provincial land in this area for recreational uses some years ago – one of the best purchases we have ever made. While Mississauga owns almost half of the total land area, we were at the will of the Town of Milton to use the land. In addition, while Ninth Line impacts Mississauga more than Milton, any changes to the road including traffic controls required permission from Milton or Halton, sometimes taking many months in the process. These are just two of the compelling reasons for this change.

I expect this will be finalized by December 31, 2009. A compensation amount has been proposed and agreed to by all parties. Mississauga and the Region of Peel will compensate Milton and Halton for the taxes they would have collected over the next 21 years based on present day rates. This is $2 million for Milton and $1.29 million for Halton.

While we will pay this money now, the City is not “buying” any land. We are basically paying the taxes up front and will receive the funds back from the property owners over time.

Q Park Fun Day

Quenippon Leash Free Fun Day on July 4th was another great success. The highlight of the day was the unveiling of a series of four murals on the park’s utility shed. Pat (l) congratulates the artists, Grade 9 students from Iona Catholic Secondary School, Camilla Golabek, Jackie Zurworski and the project leader Laura Henning. The fourth member, Sandy Pacheco, was unable to attend.

Q Park Leash Free is run by volunteers from our community. The mural was one of their park beautification projects. It is worth a visit to the park just to see these stunning murals. Quenippon Leash Free Park is on the west side of Erin Mills Parkway just north of Eglinton at the Streetsville Pumping Station.

2010 Budget Update

Council is hard at work on the 2010 budget. In these challenging economic times, we are doing our best to bring in a responsible, manageable budget without impacting critical services.

As we do each year, we are examining every option and opportunity for cost savings to ensure you receive the best value for your tax dollars. Earlier this year we asked staff to bring us options to get to a tax increase of less than 3%. We are implementing some of these options and by end of summer had cut $6.5 million and were looking at a 2% increase. We are still looking at other opportunities and as we do I will continue to protect the services that are important to our community.

Services such as snow clearing, road repairs and fire and emergency services are necessary and a priority. Other services like recreational programs and libraries are important to the well-being of our communities. There are also some new services that are necessary. For example, I have asked Council to look at providing direct snow clearing services for seniors and disabled residents to replace the existing subsidy. Finding a way to balance the needs and wants of our residents while continuing to have one of the lowest property taxes in the province is an ongoing task.

In addition, as a result of the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) in which Mississauga received more than $138 million to complete 132 projects, we need to carefully review our capital budget project priority schedule. The ISF money has allowed us to bring forward important projects earlier than we originally planned and therefore we need to ensure our priority schedule is properly adjusted.

For a listing of all Budget Committee dates and times and for more information on the City’s 2010 Business Plan and Budget visit www.mississauga.ca/finance.

Councillor Pat Saito www.ward9.ca
Judicial Inquiry continued from front page

The real estate of the land and Council was well aware of this. She did neglect to do so at one meeting at which there was no decision made on the application. An error on the part of the committee coordinator, a well respected long time employee, showed a conflict was declared and those minutes distributed to and approved by Council. In a recent report to Council this was clarified and explained as an error yet the motion for an inquiry still alludes to this as an “altering of the minutes”. No minutes were “altered”. Council saw minutes that had an error and approved them. An inquiry will not provide any more information on this than we already have.

The legal review made it clear that the Mayor had a conflict of interest in the application and had to declare a conflict when it was on Council agendas. It also concluded she had neglected to declare it at one meeting having done so at prior meetings. While this was a contravention of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, it stated that it may have been committed through inadvertence or an error in judgement. The report also concluded that any external meetings that may have been held were not a conflict of interest under the act.

The inquiry also includes reference to the Enersource agreement that was made by Council on December 6, 2000. This inquiry has already been done and as a result, Council has been renegotiating the arrangement with our partner and the final agreement was before us last month. Unfortunately this inquiry has postponed or cancelled that agreement as the issue has now been included in the inquiry and the relationship with our partner jeopardized.

To clarify further the partnership with Borealis in Enersource was very beneficial to the City as they would be able to bring in billions of dollars for future expansion of the utility. It has never caused any concern in the operation of Enersource.

If I had any concern that Council did not have all the information and that we had not done due diligence by having an outside legal opinion, I would have considered an inquiry. However the information is before us. We have the facts and a decision has not altered those. The inquiry terms of reference have been greatly expanded to include things that are not relevant to the issue that we first dealt with. It has evolved to be nothing more than a way to discredit the Mayor and is a waste of your money.

Those of us who opposed it have called instead for the appointment of an Integrity Commissioner who would review all conflicts or potential conflicts of Members of Council. We want to establish a code of conduct that everyone would have to follow. This is more meaningful than what was approved.

The recent actions have only served to cast aspersions on our Mayor, a woman who has done so much for our City. It has also harmed the overall reputation of our City. For those of us who have worked hard for many years to build a wonderful city and who love Mississauga, it is a very sad time in our history.

I would be pleased to further discuss this with anyone, as space does not permit me to go into full detail. The legal opinion and resolution are also on the Ward 9 website at www.ward9.ca.

Council keeps Public Question Period

I am pleased to report that Council has agreed to keep Public Question Period as part of the Council agenda. New rules have been put in place that will restrict length of time for speakers but otherwise this “tradition” will remain.

I was not supportive of removing this long time tradition as it is one of the things that make Mississauga Council unique. I am glad the Members of Council who were pushing for its removal changed their position.

Meadowvale Community Centre

I continue to work with staff on the concept plan for the renovation of the Meadowvale Community Centre. Due to a needed review of the swimming pool structure, the redevelopment has now been targeted to commence in spring of 2011. Due to the limited space available on the site, it is taking us longer than expected to confirm what amenities can fit on the very small space with which we have to work in order to develop the proposed building program.

City staff is working with an architectural firm to develop a concept plan that meets the needs of the community now and for the next 30 years. This will include options that residents told me you would like to see in the new building. Once I have the recommendations from the staff team, I will hold another Open House to get your feedback. Watch the Ward 9 website at www.ward9.ca for details as more information is made available.

This will be a very exciting project for our community and one of which we will all be very proud.

Volunteering Peel

You can’t help but be proud of a group of young people who see a need in our community and do something about it.

That’s how Volunteering Peel started. This energetic group of students organize volunteer events with a goal to help students gain their 40 hours of community service.

Volunteering Peel started as a school club at John Fraser Secondary School in Ward 9 and quickly grew into an organization that has partnered with various community organizations to bring volunteer opportunities to a network of over 800 students from schools all across Peel.

Working with community groups and event organizers, they provide volunteers where needed. As a student-run organization, it facilitates volunteer opportunities for students by initiating contact with event organizers, organizing events, and helping students work towards their 40 hours and beyond.

The young men and women who helped out at the Arcadia Glen fund raiser dinner in June made a big impact on the participants and helped make the event run smoothly. I personally appreciate their involvement in various events. For more information visit www.volunteeringpeel.org.

Volunteer Peel members who have given numerous hours to our community.

Ward 9 development still strong

Ward 9 continues to be the location of choice for new office and industrial development. Even during tough economic times, we have several office projects under construction with a total of 696,360 sq feet of new office space. These are mainly located along Century Avenue as well as Derry Road and provide more jobs for our residents.

We are also processing applications for industrial warehousing on Argentia Road west of Tenth Line. Applications from ProLogis (Meadowvale) Canada and Erin Mills Development Corporation include three industrial lots and will enable the construction of Argentia Road through to Ninth Line.

As well, we have three residential applications that are in the planning process. One is a rezoning application in Central Erin Mills on the north side of Hazelton Place east of Winston Churchill. The lands are zoned for apartments but the application is to down zone to 187 stacked town homes. The ward meeting was Oct. 29; public meeting Jan. 11.

Another new application is from Union Gas. As a result of plans to close the existing gas compression station, they have applied for development of 14 detached and 12 semi-detached dwellings on the northeast corner of Tenth Line and Aquitaine. I have advised the applicant that residential is not appropriate at this location for various reasons. In addition, the City has informed Union Gas that we wish to purchase the land for a park to replace the land at Plum Tree Park recently sold to the Peel Board of Education. Ward meeting Nov 19; public meeting to be determined.

An application earlier this year for a 20-storey apartment and 34 town homes in Meadowvale on the northeast corner of Glen Erin and Aquitaine was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. Prior to the hearing the applicant asked for a deferral and has come back with a new plan for a lower building covering more land area. The density which is being proposed at double what is permitted has not changed. I have advised from the beginning I do not support this application on this site as the density is too high for the neighbourhood infrastructure. Meeting dates to be determined.

Further information is available on the Ward 9 website at www.ward9.ca. Please contact me if you have comments or questions.
Windrow service for those in need

I am pleased to announce that a subcommittee of Council, on which I sat, has proposed a new pilot service for seniors and residents with disabilities who are in financial need. It was approved by Council on November 11.

While we will continue to provide a $200 maintenance subsidy to those who qualify, we propose to also provide a windrow clearing service to be administered through the ActiveAssist program with similar criteria.

In addition, residents who are 65 years of age or older and those with a physical condition but do not meet the income qualifications can also have windrows removed for a set fee. This service if approved will start on January 4, 2010. Residents will have to register by December 18 for this season. This will be on a first come, first serve basis until the program fills up. Information is on the City website at www.mississauga.ca as well as on the Ward 9 website at www.ward9.ca.

ActiveAssist

Earlier this year Council announced a new program called ActiveAssist for those who needed help in paying for recreational programs.

Since June, 2,500 low-income residents have enrolled in the program. Assistance is given in the form of a credit to the resident’s Recreation and Parks account to a maximum amount of $275. Applicants must re-apply annually to receive 12 months of service.

More than 260 Ward 9 residents have been able to take part in recreational programs as a result of ActiveAssist. This is the third highest volume of participants compared to other city wards. This program has been so well received that at this time all spaces are fully allocated and there is a waiting list. I encourage those who need this assistance and meet the criteria to apply now. You will be placed on the waiting list if you qualify and will receive a skate/swim pass for a year. In addition Council will be reviewing the program through budget discussions to determine if we need to allocate additional funds for 2010. For more information call 905-615-4100 or visit www.mississauga.ca/activeassist.

Transit

I am often asked by transit users for a shelter to be installed at their stop. The criteria for including a location in the budget requires 25 passengers at the stop per day. All requests are forwarded to transit staff who undertake a passenger count to determine if a shelter is warranted. If it is, it will be installed as soon as funding is available.

Using this process, a new shelter was installed on the northwest corner of Glen Erin Drive and Eglinton Avenue for passengers traveling on Route 13 Glen Erin.

Also if you have suggestions for route enhancements/changes, please let me know so we can ask transit to review. While we cannot accommodate all requests, staff do their best to respond to the needs of our riders.

As part of our regular service review, some routes may change. To get the latest route information for Ward 9 visit www.mississaugatransit.com.

Contacts

Who does what?

Government Services link on www.ward9.ca

City of Mississauga
300 City Centre Drive
Mississauga, ON L5B 3C1
www.mississauga.ca 905-896-5000

Non-emergency calls for direct access to government services (Region and City)

- 311

Region of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
www.peelregion.ca 905-791-7800

Non-emergency calls for information and/or referral to community, health and social services

- 211

Winter Maintenance UPDATE

Council has approved some improved service levels for winter maintenance on roads, sidewalks and at bus stops (see chart below). This shows how many hours it will take the City to clear priority and secondary roads, priority sidewalks, bus stops and crossings from the end of a winter storm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Snowfall Accumulation</th>
<th>Priority Roads</th>
<th>Secondary Roads</th>
<th>Priority Sidewalks</th>
<th>Bus Stops &amp; Crossings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 cm or less (6” or less)</td>
<td>12 hours</td>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>As soon as practicable</td>
<td>As soon as practicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 cm to 30 cm (6” to 12”)</td>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>36 hours</td>
<td>As soon as practicable</td>
<td>As soon as practicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 30 cm (Greater than 12”)</td>
<td>48 hours</td>
<td>72 hours</td>
<td>As soon as practicable</td>
<td>As soon as practicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, contact 905-826-6558.
Bike Lanes for Glen Erin Drive

In an ongoing effort to improve safety along Glen Erin Drive south of Britannia and to provide alternate forms of transportation, we are looking at making some significant road changes in the future.

Some years ago, I held meetings with residents in the community to discuss options to reduce traffic speed on Glen Erin Drive. Dealing with a 5 lane cross section has been difficult and residents asked for the lanes to be reduced to one in each direction and parking and bike lanes installed.

That was not supported by staff at that time but I have continued to work to see what can be done. Recently staff brought forward a proposal to install bike lanes along this stretch of Glen Erin. Various options are being looked at including reducing the road to a single lane in each direction and adding bike lanes and parking.

Staff are presently reviewing the options to determine the most appropriate cycling facility and the impact implementing it would have on the local residents and businesses. I will bring the options to the community early in 2010 for your review and comment.

This is an opportunity for us to improve the roadway and become more environmentally responsible by promoting cycling as a form of transportation. It also fits into our Cycling Master Plan to provide better connectivity through the city.

If you would like further information regarding this project, please contact Jacqueline Hunter, Traffic Operations Technician at 905-615-3200 Ext 4536 or jacqueline.hunter@mississauga.ca. I also welcome your comments to me at pat.saito@mississauga.ca or to 905-896-5900.

Convenient Pet Licensing At Your Door

A missing dog or cat is a pet owner's nightmare. Mississauga Animal Services picks up numerous pets each year and without proper identification cannot return them to their homes. Licensing your pet ensures that Animal Services staff can find you quickly and get your pet home as fast as possible.

As part of our educational campaign and effort to ensure that all animals in the city are licensed, uniformed Municipal Law Enforcement Officers from Mississauga's Animal Services are going door-to-door to offer you a convenient dog and cat licensing service.

Officers will provide photo identification, explain the City’s available Animal Services programs, and will process licences via cheque, credit card and debit payment at your door. Staff will answer your questions and can give you valuable information about protecting your pet. This service has been well received by pet owners who want to protect their canine or feline friends.

Please help us reunite you with your lost dog or cat by licensing your pet and by keeping your contact information up to date. For more information, please contact Animal Services at 905-896-5864.

Traffic Improvements

Ward 9 continues to get improvements in traffic controls where needed.

The following locations have had or will have upgrades or new signals installed:

- Winston Churchill @ Thomas (advanced green & pedestrian countdown)
- Tenth Line @ Millers Grove/Waxwing (new signal)
- Winston Churchill @ Hazleton/Destination (rebuilt)
- Winston Churchill @ Battleford (new left turn signals & pedestrian countdown)
- Glen Erin Drive @ Peacock/Bell Harbour (new signals)

In addition we continue to install the zebra striping at high pedestrian locations to further improve safety. If there is a location you would like to have reviewed please contact my office and I would be pleased to have staff review it.

www.ward9.ca
Olympic Torch in Mississauga

On Saturday, December 19, 2009, the Olympic Torch will make its way through the City of Mississauga, stopping for a ceremony at City Hall. Carried by athletes and citizens, the Torch will travel across the city on its way to the start of the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver on February 12, 2010.

This is the second time the City has hosted the Olympic Torch. The first celebration was in 1988 when thousands of Mississaugans came out to cheer it on its way at a special event at City Hall. That was a very memorable moment and we are fortunate to repeat it this year.

Our celebration takes place from noon to 2 p.m. at the Mississauga Civic Centre. Cultural performances and local talent will lead up to the arrival of the Torch and the official presentation and lighting of the cauldron.

Visit www.mississauga.ca for the exact route closer to the date and make a point of coming out to cheer on our Olympic Torch Bearers - either along the route or at the Civic Centre.

New name same focus on safety

The Mississauga Safe Driving Committee has a new name – Road Safety Mississauga but the focus remains on developing programs to make our roads safer for all.

I have been a Council representative on this committee since its inception in 1998 during which time we have developed many programs that are part of the City’s toolkit in road safety. As our focus in the last few years has been on pedestrian safety, we felt it was time to change the name to better reflect the wide range of initiatives the committee works on.

Under the name Safe Driving Committee, we produced the Mississauga Road Safety Handbook delivered in 2007 to all homes in the city and also available on line at www.mississauga.ca.

We worked closely with Transportation staff to develop the Speed Watch and Student Watch programs. SDC launched Road Watch in Mississauga in 1999, the first major city to do so and we continue to run the program with Peel Regional Police. The Pedestrian Safety Campaign, started in 2008 and enhanced in 2009, along with the Driver Distraction card are two of our key educational initiatives.

Each year we host the Road Safety Show at Canada Day. Throughout the year, we work closely with other city committees such as Traffic Safety Council and the Cycling Committee on common concerns.

This committee is unique, as it not only has citizen and police representatives and Members of Council but also representatives from various agencies that deal with road safety. We welcome citizens to attend meetings, make suggestions, and share your ideas with the committee. For more information contact me at pat.saito@mississauga.ca or visit our website www.mississauga.ca/safedriving.

Lake Wabukayne work off to good start

The response to my Open House at Lake Wabukayne in May was overwhelming. Many thanks to the many residents who signed up to help in the stewardship of Lake Wabukayne, one of our community’s greatest assets.

At the first meeting held in September, we were able to form a Steering Committee, which has been meeting to set goals and objectives.

With the enthusiasm and commitment from the community, I am confident we will be able to move ahead with rehabilitation and restoration of this natural area. This energetic team will work with my office and City and Credit Valley Conservation staff to plan and implement a long-term strategy. With assistance from Meadowvale Rotary, which has agreed to apply for Trillium funding, I am confident we will be able to accomplish much of their goals.

Watch the Ward 9 website at www.ward9.ca for more information.

If you couldn’t make the meeting and want to get involved contact me and I will put you in touch with the steering committee. I will also be contacting everyone who has indicated an interest and there will be lots to do once the work gets underway.