



## Ward 3

**Serving Brant Hills, Mountainside, Kilbride and the rural communities west of Guelph Line**

**Councillor John Taylor**

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### Mid-peninsula Highway

I want to personally thank the estimated 2,000 people who attended the four Mid-peninsula Highway public meetings in July and September sponsored by the City of Burlington/Region of Halton or the Ministry of Transportation. Your active participation and concern combined with excellent peer reviews of the Ministry's Needs Assessment Study have started to turn the tide on this issue.

At the Sept. 26 Public Information Centre at the Burlington Holiday Inn, the Ministry of Transportation gave a preliminary assessment of the various route alternatives and issues put forward in the city's peer review. And while there was grudging acceptance at best of some of our points, the stage has been set for further joint analysis with a final position to be given at the Public Information Centres to be scheduled for the week of Nov. 25 (likely Thursday, Nov. 28 in Burlington).

The importance of obtaining agreement on additional corridor route options (or functional connections as the Ministry calls them) cannot be emphasized enough. Quite frankly, if additional corridor/route options do not go forward to the Terms of Reference stage of the Environmental Assessment, the Environmental Assessment will be a bit of a sham as the currently proposed corridor through Burlington is so narrow as to be considered a prescribed route.

I ask for your continued support at the ward meetings of Nov. 25 and 27 as well as the proposed Public Information Centre on Nov. 28. Together we can make a difference.

If you would like a more detailed report on the Peer Review, please contact my assistant, Georgie Gartside at the numbers listed on this page.

### Late Breaking Rural News

As this issue of *City Talk* is going to press, the region has issued a staff report looking once more into the issue of rural curbside pickup for household garbage and blue box materials on a region-wide basis. You might recall that about three years ago, Burlington rural residents turned down a similar proposal (for the third time in 12 years I might add). Committee and Council have not dealt with this report but if it proceeds any further, I will have regional staff make a presentation at the Ward 3 and Ward 6 Rural Community meeting on Monday, Nov. 25 at the Conservation Halton offices.

Concern has been expressed regarding the very recent establishment of a fairly large-scale pig farm on two small properties on Cedar Springs Road that were formerly involved in a poultry operation. A Development Permit Application has been received by the Niagara Escarpment Commission but has not been circulated as this article is being written. The City of Burlington and Region of Halton will be the commenting agencies on the application following the receipt of public comments from our circulation. I'll have more information at the Nov. 25 meeting but I am very con-

cerned that the MDS II setback guidelines to ensure farm/residential capability may not appear to apply in this case.

### Tourism Burlington

As you know, the city, in co-operation with downtown partners in Burlington are surveying residents of Burlington to help create a vision and long-term strategy for the city's tourism industry.

A random sample of residents have received a survey by mail and a workshop will be held to further consult with the community on this issue. Please see page 6 for further information.

Up until this point our tourism has been "home-based" and "business-based" visitors.

My question to you is this: Should tax dollars be spent to promote a specific business segment? Should we be building public facilities that we will share with more "commercial" tourists? I am interested in hearing your views. Please contact me at my office by phone or by e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you.

### Performing Arts Centre

In October 2001, city staff retained the consulting team of Keith Loffler Architect and Artec Consultants Inc. to complete a two-phase feasibility study for a new performing arts centre in Burlington.

Phase 1, a needs assessment, was completed in March 2002. This work established that there is a strong level of support and need for a new performing arts centre in Burlington. This finding was based on the current volume and spectrum of performing arts activity in the city, future community arts program ambitions, as well as an analysis of market and audience potential in Burlington.

Phase 2, a study of facility functional design, commenced in April 2002. Since this time the consultants have met with key community performing arts groups and Performing Arts Burlington - Advisory Committee (PAB) to identify utilization needs, technical programming requirements and facility space needs. Based on the input received the consultants have developed three functional design options for the proposed facility and have issued an interim report for community discussion.

The design options explore the traditional fixed-seat theatre model as well as the convertible theatre model, which is a new concept in theatre development. The convertible hall is based on an adjustable floor grid system which can be raised or lowered to tier the room and create the desired room setting to accommodate numerous presentation forms including traditional theatre, dinner theatre, cabaret, ballroom, classroom, etc. The platform grid system can be adjusted manually, or it can be designed as an automatic hydraulic system.

Capital cost predictions for the options presented in the consultant's report range from \$17 to \$25 million

#### Joint Ward 3 and Ward 6 Meeting to Discuss Rural Issues

Monday, Nov. 25, 2002

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Conservation Halton

2596 Britannia Road West, Milton

#### Ward 3 Public Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2002

7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Brant Hills Community Centre

2300 Duncaster Drive, Burlington

For further information, please contact

Georgie Gartside at 905-335-7600, ext. 7863.

exclusive of site acquisition, site development costs and architectural fees. Possible funding sources identified for this project include the city, senior levels of government and fundraising, including private and corporate donations.

The report also identifies annual operating deficits for the various options ranging from \$565,213 to \$722,368 for the second year of operation (assuming 2008). In current dollar values (2002), this would be \$487,381 to \$622,895. This range is normal for municipal theatres. Operating deficits for municipal theatres are usually subsidized through the tax base.

Staff are now working closely with PAB and key community arts organizations to establish consensus on the type of facility that would best serve Burlington over the long term and to assess the financial implications and viability of this initiative. These discussions will continue to the end of the year.

Over the next couple of months, as part of Phase 2, the consultants will also be investigating potential sites for a performing arts centre including zoning review, servicing capacity, conceptual site planning, and traffic and parking impact assessments.

Staff intend to report to Council with the consultant's final report and recommendations on Phase 2 - the Facility Functional Design study by January 2003. Community input will be proactively sought and considered in the development of the final report. I would personally like to hear your views on the need

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# 2003 Budget Will Focus on Sustainable Service Levels

**Contact: Rudy Huisman – Manager Financial Planning Services, 905-335-7600, ext. 7586**  
**Ann Marie Coulson – Supervisor of Financial Policy, 905-335-7600, ext. 7655**

The detailed calculations that will eventually determine the city's tax rates for next year are well under way.

In July, Council directed staff to prepare 2003 operating and capital budgets that will result in a tax rate increase of no more than five per cent. That translates to \$42.12 for an average residence assessed at \$220,000.

In addition, staff has been authorized to prepare what are known as Decision Packages that could increase the tax rate by an additional 1.5 per cent. The Decision Packages are intended to achieve specific strategic goals not included in the regular budget process.

One of the themes of this year's budget process is to implement the short-term objectives of *Future Focus V*, City Council's strategic plan for Burlington. This includes addressing the sustainability of existing service levels, meeting the needs of a growing community and dealing with an aging infrastructure.

We are also continuing to integrate key performance measures within the budgeting process. Each city department must frame its budget request in terms of specific Council-approved targets set for it. This gives Council the opportunity to identify any gaps in performance and ensure sufficient resources are in place to meet those targets.

We are committed to maintaining Burlington's competitive position in relation to our neighbouring municipalities. Burlington, which has a remarkable record of budget restraint, is in the lowest quartile among GTA municipalities in terms of tax burden and we intend to keep it that way.

As we begin the budget process, we have identified the following challenges and issues:

## Human Resources

We are still operating at staffing levels below those of 1994. But Burlington continues to grow and we feel that over the next few years additional staff will be required to meet new priorities in various areas.

We're developing a three-year staffing plan in order to properly manage this resource issue.

## Infrastructure

Burlington is approaching the stage where all the land slated for development has, in fact, been serviced with appropriate infrastructure such as roads, storm sewers, playing fields and recreational facilities.

Even so, there are still considerable costs involved in upgrading and replacing the aging infrastructure already in place. The pressure to fund basic maintenance is increasing as our current infrastructure starts to deteriorate. In expectation of this, we are allocating increased funds within the current budget to contribute more to the infrastructure replacement program next year. This "pay-as-you-go" approach eliminates the need to borrow money to meet these capital requirements.

## Future Focus V

Part of the budgeting process includes putting a price tag on a number of initiatives set out in the city's strategic plan over the next few years.

## Environmental Management Plan

A very active environmental management team is already in place in Burlington with an important and ever-growing agenda. Although no specific large

budget items have been identified, a number of items will lead to additional costs for the city.

Among the items to be funded are an anti-idling project that's just getting started and an educational program to raise awareness of healthy green spaces. In addition, the city's policy to reduce its use of pesticides will require initiatives to control pests and weeds in other ways.

Staff will be preparing next year's operating budget between now and December. We expect Council will have its first chance to review the document in January. At the same time, we will be completing the 10-year capital budget for review and approval by Council in December.

The major projects included in this long-term spending program were approved last year. They include:

- Continuation of the road improvements related to the region's cast iron watermain replacement project in conjunction with Halton Region over the next three years;
- Continuation of the \$20 million downtown waterfront project, including development of the Brant Inn Node, the downtown pier and multi-use parking facility;
- Central library expansion and renovation;
- Brant Hills Community Centre and Tyandaga Library revitalization project.

As always, we are open to suggestions and input from the public during our budget preparations. You can make these through your local councillor or by contacting the City Treasurer's office at 905-335-7600, ext. 7652. Additional information is also available on our Web site at [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca).

## Brant Hills and the Tyandaga Branch Library

**Contact: Jim Seferiades, Policy & Research Planner – Parks & Recreation, 905-335-7785**

On June 24, City Council approved the renovation and expansion of the Brant Hills Community Centre. This renovation will include the addition of a new library branch to replace the existing Tyandaga Branch Library currently located at the Tyandaga Plaza on Upper Middle Road. This decision was based on an extensive feasibility study and technical review, a community survey and a financial analysis.

The community survey conducted by Ipsos Reid found that 81% of residents in the Tyandaga, Brant Hills and Mountainview communities liked the idea of combining the Tyandaga Branch Library with the Brant Hills Community Centre to form a multi-use facility. This compared to only 13% who felt it was a bad idea and 6% who did not offer an opinion.

A financial analysis prepared by city and library staff compared the long-term cost and benefits of constructing a new library adjacent to the Brant Hills Community Centre versus expanding and renovating the existing leased space. Staff concluded that a new library development is financially more favourable and will cost taxpayers less over the long term (20 years+).

The new library will become a city-owned public asset. Overall, City Council and the Library Board agreed that the investment for a new library within the context of a modernized community centre would

provide the most effective way to deliver library services in northwest Burlington over the long term.

Architects hired by the city determined that the Brant Hills Community Centre would require an expansion of approximately 10,400 sq. ft. to accommodate additional community centre amenities and the new library. The proposed expansion would include a new multi-purpose activity room, increased lobby and corridor space, a larger office area, more storage and a new customer service area. Renovations identified by the architect include new/additional windows, washroom upgrades, refinishing of floors and walls, a new sports floor in the gymnasium, lighting upgrades, mechanical system improvements and exterior façade enhancements.

The new library accounts for 6,800 sq. ft. of the overall expansion. The library would be 50% bigger than the existing Tyandaga Library and would include a children's activity area, a program room, more computer work stations, ample study and reading areas and increased collections areas. In addition, Brant Hills Park would be redeveloped to complement the facility improvements, including new parking, driveways, walkways, gardens, seating/reading areas, tree planting, exterior signage and so on. The overall development of the community centre, library and park is estimated at about \$3.6 million.

Community consultation was a key component of the feasibility study process. Existing users and neighbours of Brant Hills and the library, as well as members of the general public, provided significant input, opinions and perceptions regarding the proposals for the subject facilities through a series of open houses, public meetings and focus groups.

The consultants are now producing schematic building plans, a site plan and more detailed cost estimates. Community input will be sought and considered in the development of these concept plans. Staff will report back to Community and Corporate Services Committee by December 2002 with the preferred building design, site plan cost estimates and funding strategy.



Detail of the west elevation of the combined community centre/library.

# Help Us Determine How Burlington Will Grow

A Message From Mayor Rob Maclsaac Contact: 905-335-7607



How do you think Burlington should grow?

Should we contain growth within our existing urban boundary through more intensified development? Or, should we consider allowing development past the current boundary?

And do we fully understand the implications of either choice on our day-to-day lives, in our own neighbourhoods, both today and into the future?

These are questions that go to the core of the kind of community we want to live in and leave to our children. They raise serious issues that require the input of as many of our residents as possible as we go forward.

Certainly Burlington cannot ignore the implications of growth. We expect the city will grow to 184,500 residents by 2021. I believe that continued growth, and the proper management of that growth, is essential for our future prosperity.

For this reason, I will be holding a Citizens Summit in late February to help us understand how growth

will affect us, how it can be managed – and to get informed feedback from ordinary citizens on the choices that face us.

The summit will have a direct impact on the City's Official Plan review, which is currently underway. (More information on the review is outlined elsewhere in this issue of *City Talk*). It will also help us develop responses to more immediate issues such as the proposed Mid-peninsula Highway. The possibility of this new highway has the potential to increase the pressure on us to expand our urban boundary.

The summit will provide you with the opportunity to participate in dynamic and interactive sessions concentrating on three aspects of urban growth:

- Transit and Transportation,
- Land Use Planning, and
- Social Planning.

Each of these is an important issue in its own right. However, in my view, it is just as important to understand how they are connected, and how they are impacted by a central growth-related issue: the preservation of our urban-rural boundary.

Up to now, City Council has held firm to its commitment to contain urban development to the area south of Dundas Street and Highway 407. After all, it's not just an arbitrary line of the map but a real division, the Niagara Escarpment.

We have a sense that most residents agree with this commitment. And we believe that we can accommodate Burlington's growth requirements within the existing urban boundary.

But we need to understand how these decisions affect us in our neighbourhoods. To some extent, they could change the nature of what Burlington has been in the past. For example, if we don't want to expand into our rural areas, we have to provide more intensified development within the existing urban area.

It means encouraging building on vacant and underutilized land closer to home, including mixed developments along the major transit corridors that combine residential, employment and commercial uses.

Many will welcome this. Redeveloping derelict land

makes for a more vibrant neighbourhood, bolsters property values and helps control tax rates. It can mean increased convenience and services, including a more viable, efficient and economical transit system.

Equally important are the costs involved in different growth scenarios. Extending services into rural lands could be very expensive. What would that do to tax rates? Is the money better spent renewing and maintaining our existing infrastructure?

I firmly believe that the issues involved, many of which relate directly to principles of Smart Growth, will determine whether we remain a livable community. It's as simple and as important as that.

The summit will be as informal and as accessible as possible. We want to hear from everyday residents. Background sessions with staff at information stations will be followed by opportunities for you to give your views. You can stay for as little as two hours or all day.

More details will be available soon on our Web site at [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca). You can also provide your ideas and input by e-mailing me at [mayor@burlington.ca](mailto:mayor@burlington.ca) or calling my office at 905-335-7607.

In addition, you will receive an invitation to our Summit with the January issue of *City Talk*. If you do not receive an invitation, please contact me and information will be sent to you. I hope to see you there.

## Dog Licences – Your Pet is Worth It!

Contact: Burlington Animal Shelter  
2424 Industrial St., 905-335-3030

It is estimated that one-third of all pets will be lost once in their lifetime. The best insurance for pet owners is dog licencing. The City of Burlington's Animal Shelter promotes responsible pet ownership through its dog licencing program.

Licencing your dog gives you peace of mind:

- In the event that your dog wanders away from you or your property or is injured on the road, a dog licence enables the city's Animal Control staff to contact you quickly and easily.
- Registration information is updated annually, enabling the city to respond in a prompt and efficient manner.
- Licencing your dog helps reduce costs at the Animal Shelter and makes it possible for staff to provide a number of services and programs, including:
  - transporting stray animals that require emergency care to a veterinarian,
  - returning lost dogs to their owners,
  - providing food and shelter to stray animals,
  - promoting the importance of responsible pet ownership.

This year for the first time Burlington dog owners will be able to renew their dog licences on-line. No more waiting in line or having to leave your home or office – now simply by visiting the city's Web site at [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca) you can renew your licence.

With this year's renewal notice, being mailed early in November, pet owners will receive the details on this new, easy and secure method of renewal. For those without access to the Internet, renewals will still be accepted at the Animal Shelter, City Hall or any of the many dog licencing agents throughout the city.

The annual licence fee for an altered (spayed or neutered) dog is \$25 and \$50 for unaltered dogs.

For more information on dog licencing or any of the many programs provided by the Burlington Animal Shelter, please call 905-335-3030.

## Timed Flashing 40km/hr Zones

Contact: John Crass, Manager of Traffic Services, Transit & Traffic,  
905-335-7600, ext. 7779

Since 1993, Transit and Traffic staff have been installing timed flashing 40 km/hour zones to increase awareness and safety in school areas on arterial roads such as New Street, Brant Street and Upper Middle Road. The zones are activated during specified times of the day when the schools are operational and children are present on the roadway. During these times, the speed limit within these zones is reduced to 40km/hour. The timed flashing 40km/hr zones are not operational during weekends, statutory holidays or periods between school semesters such as seasonal holidays, spring break and summer recess.

The location of the zones and the times of operation are as follows:

- Brant Street, from Blairholm Avenue to Blenheim Street, serving Central Public School, Central High School and St. John School.  
7:45-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m., 2:45-4 p.m.
- New Street, from Cumberland Avenue to Dynes Road, serving General Brock High School and St. Paul School.  
8-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 2:30-4 p.m.
- New Street, from Timber Lane to Meadowhill Road, serving Lord Elgin High School and Ascension School.  
8-9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 2:30-4 p.m.
- Upper Middle Road, from 100 metres east of

Duncaster Drive to 100 metres west of Cavendish Drive, serving St. Mark School, Paul A. Fisher School and Rolling Meadows School.

7:30-9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-1:15 p.m., 2:30-4:15 p.m.

- Upper Middle Road, from Guelph Line to Mountain Grove Avenue, serving St. Gabriel School, M.M. Robinson High School and Rolling Meadows School.  
7:30-9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-1:15 p.m., 2:30-4 p.m.
- Plains Road East, from Joan Drive to White Oak Boulevard, serving Maplehurst School and Holy Rosary School.  
8-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., 3-4 p.m.

In September, 2002, two new timed flashing 40km/hr Zones were implemented. These new zones are:

- New Street, from Strathcona Drive to Shoreacres Road, serving Nelson High School and St. Raphael School.  
8-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 2:30-4 p.m.
- Lakeshore Road, from Smith Avenue to Seneca Drive, serving Lakeshore School.  
8-9 a.m., 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m., 2:45-4 p.m.

During the prescribed times, the legal posted speed limit of 40km/hour within all of the above zones will be actively enforced by the Halton Regional Police Service.

and costs for this facility. Please contact my office and let your views be known.

If you need further details on the project, please contact Jim Seferiades of Parks & Recreation at 905-335-7785.

## Champlain Gardens/ Mountain Gardens Schools

Proposals have now been approved for the future use of Mountain Gardens Public School and Champlain Public School.

**Mountain Gardens Public School** – The building and site will remain intact with the Life Centre Church and the Salvation Army occupying the building. Some minor changes will be made to the site to accommodate the Salvation Army use of a food bank, teaching kitchen and administration offices. The changes include the addition of a driveway onto Mountainside Avenue and some changes to the rear elevation to allow for a loading door and screened garbage enclosure. The church use has already commenced and a number of improvements have been made to the site including flower beds and general maintenance. The green space at the school will remain open to the public and a small parkette will be developed at the northeast corner of the site fronting Mount Forest Avenue.

**Champlain Public School** – The school building on this site will be demolished and 20 single-family homes will be built on the site. This site does not require a rezoning but will go through a subdivision process. Limits have been placed on the house sizes that front Mountain Grove to ensure some compatibility with the existing homes on the street. Approximately 0.3 hectares of land that was part of the school block will be joined to Champlain Park. Some work will be done in the park to reconfigure the soccer field in the future. In the meantime, work is expected to proceed on a new playground and pathways through the park leading to M.M. Robinson High School in the fall or spring, depending on the weather.

## Application for Nelson Aggregate to Expand Quarry

The Nelson Aggregate quarry on No. 2 Side Road west of the Mount Nemo settlement area has been in operation since 1953. The 225-hectare property is designated for mineral resource extraction uses in the Burlington Official Plan, the Halton Regional Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan and is licensed under the Provincial Aggregate Resources Act.

Over the summer months Nelson Aggregate held preliminary discussions with several government agencies including the City of Burlington and Region of Halton. In these meetings they identified their intention to apply for the required approvals to allow the expansion of their quarry operation onto lands south of No. 2 Side Road immediately across from their existing operation.

Nelson Aggregate has identified that technical details of the proposed expansion are being prepared prior to initiating the required City and Region Official Plan and Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment Applications. It is expected that in future Nelson Aggregate will release details of their proposed expansion plans to approval agencies and the general public prior to making Plan Amendment Applications to redesignate lands south of No. 2 Side Road for Mineral Resource Extraction use. The review of these applications, when received by the city and region, will include a comprehensive public consultation component.

## New Subdivision Planned for Lowville

In June 2002, an application was submitted to the Planning Department by 4043782 Canada Inc. for a residential subdivision plan to permit 18 detached single-family lots on lands located on the north side of Britannia Road, west of Guelph Line. The property has a frontage of approximately 318 metres on Britannia Road and comprises an area of roughly 56 hectares, of which roughly 37 hectares are within the Lowville settlement area. The central portion of the

lands is traversed by Lowville Creek, a tributary of Bronte Creek. In addition, two smaller tributaries also traverse the property.

This property contains two environmentally sensitive areas: the Lowville-Bronte Creek Valley and a “*Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest*”, which has been identified by the province.

In support of this application, 4043782 Canada Inc. has submitted three reports or studies, namely a preliminary engineering report, a “*Characterization of Biological Resources and Environmental Impact Study*”, and a hydrogeological investigation. Staff at the city as well as the region Conservation Halton and the Niagara Escarpment Commission are reviewing this information.

A hydrogeologist retained by the region for an independent opinion is reviewing the hydrogeological investigation.

A developer-sponsored information meeting took place on June 11. Following their review of public comments and completion of a technical analysis of the application, staff will present their findings at a community meeting in Lowville before proceeding to a formal public meeting at the Community Development Committee where final recommendations by staff will be considered.

If you would like further information on this application call Mike Greenlee at 905-335-7600, ext. 7860.

## Budget Directions from the Region of Halton

The 2003 regional budget review process has begun. The budget document establishes the framework for staff to prepare detailed budgets that will result in approval of 2003 tax and water rates on Dec. 11.

With respect to services funded through property taxes, the budget is being prepared to support programs that are expected to require a 3.6% increase to the average Burlington household. This increase excludes police services, but projections developed in 2002 indicate that the total required increase including police could be in the range of 4%.

Pressures on this budget result from expanded services, such as funding to support two new long-term care facilities, increased contributions to the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS), additional funding for programs transferred to the region from the province under the 1999 Local Services Realignment (LSR) initiative, and pressures to maintain and expand capital infrastructure particularly in the roads program.

The budget will provide an additional \$1 million towards financing the capital cost of two new long-term care facilities in Burlington (144 beds) and Oakville (228 beds). The total capital cost for these facilities is \$56 million with a provincial contribution of approximately 20%. The budget must also include a \$450,000 provision related to employee pensions. Principally because of successful investment performance in recent years, OMERS generated surpluses that allowed it to declare a contribution holiday from August 1998 to the end of 2002. Contributions are now being phased back in beginning in 2003, with a return to full contribution by 2005. Pressures also result from activities in LSR programs. In particular, about \$1 million must be allocated to support case-load increases in the Ontario Disabilities Support program. As well, provincial support for the administration of the Ontario Works program has decreased from 50% to levels closer to 30% of costs. There is also continued uncertainty about the level of support provided for land ambulance services. In this program to date, actual provincial commitments are over \$2 million below budgeted recoveries.

The provision of water and sewer services by the region is fully funded through water rates, with no reliance on the property tax base. Significant pressures on these services continue in 2003, triggered by increased water quality standards resulting from Walkerton Enquiry and from expenditures to maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure. Identified needs for these services will require rate increases in 2003 of about 7.5% for an average residential customer. This is in-line with forecasted increases identified in last year's budget.

Finally, 2003 will be a reassessment year under the province's Current Value Assessment program. Therefore, certain Burlington taxpayers may experience increased or decreased taxation depending on the reassessed value of their properties.

Comments from city staff of the budget process can be found on Page 2 of *City Talk*. Your input at the ward meetings on Nov. 25 and 27, as well as by phone or e-mail, would be most welcome.

## Leaf Pick-up

Further to my article in the last edition of *City Talk*, city and regional staff continue to look at the cost and feasibility of an expansion of the vacuum leaf pick-up program. This analysis will be presented as part of the 2003 budget deliberations but I remain confident that an expanded program will eliminate bags at a reduced total cost (bags and tax) to taxpayers.

## Get Involved in Halton's Official Plan Review

Halton Region is looking to its residents, business people and other stakeholders for guidance on how this region should evolve over the coming years.

Every municipality in Ontario is required to have an up-to-date Official Plan that helps to guide the physical character of the community. Halton's plan addresses issues such as the boundary between rural and urban lands, the protection of greenlands and the promotion of transit for the entire region. The Regional Official Plan should reflect a community's priorities, and help to strike a balance between competing interests. It is an important document, because once adopted, it serves as the standard against which individual proposals are measured. Policies in the Plan indicate positions to which Regional Council is committed or goals, which Council will work toward. In turn, all area municipal official plans and zoning by-laws must conform to the Regional Official Plan.

Halton's planning vision is rooted in the principles of Sustainable Development, which require that planning decisions be made based on a balance of protecting the natural environment, enhancing economic competitiveness, and fostering a healthy, equitable society. The overall goal is to enhance the quality of life for all people in Halton.

The Official Plan must be reviewed every five years; amendments must be approved by Regional Council and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The five-year review provides an opportunity for the region to learn from various planning decisions, advisory committees and the community on whether the current Plan is sufficient to deal with future challenges related to growth, agriculture, or environmental protection.

Although land use is a major factor, the Official Plan covers more than just what gets built where. It looks at numerous economic, social and environmental factors that contribute to quality of life.

It is necessary for communities to grow in order to thrive, but it is necessary to direct that growth in a way that protects the environment, supports transit use and fosters a healthy, vibrant community. Having business locate in a community supports the local economy and provides jobs that don't require long-distance commuting. At the same time, business needs room to expand and access to efficient transportation networks. In Halton, this balancing act is guided by the principles of Sustainable Development.

If you are interested in issues like growth in your region, agriculture, environment or transportation, I encourage you to make your voice heard as part of the Official Plan Review process.

To learn more visit [www.region.halton.on.ca/officialplan](http://www.region.halton.on.ca/officialplan) or call 905-825-6000 / toll free: 1-866-442-5866. Also, make plans to attend one of the public open houses or workshops across the region.

Finally, I think you will find the summary Official Plan Review Directions Report, “*The Greening of Halton – Smart Growth, Smart Choices*”, an excellent summary of initial recommendations for Official Plan changes.

# We All Have a Stake in the Official Plan Review

**Contact: Paul Smithson – Manager, Policy, Graphics & Administration, Planning, 905-336-7600, ext. 7477**  
**Andrea Smith – Planner, 905-335-7600, ext. 7870**

The City of Burlington is about to embark on a re-examination of its Official Plan, which guides future development.

Our Official Plan shows where residential, commercial, recreational and industrial development can go and what areas must be protected. It contains information on the future expansion of our roads and transit system and provides policies to guide decisions on new development.

Our review doesn't mean we have changed our vision of what Burlington should look like in the future. We're still committed to preserving and enhancing the City's character while providing a broad range of live, work and play opportunities for its residents and businesses – now and in the future. And we're guided by the objectives outlined by City Council in *Future Focus V*, the City's strategic plan.

Rather, our review is a matter of ensuring that we achieve our objectives and communicate them effectively.

Our current Official Plan, approved in 1997, was a complete rewrite of previous plans. So we have a fairly up-to-date document. But there is always room for improvement or areas that need clarification. And, of course, our community is constantly changing, whether it be the make-up of our population, commuting patterns or the types of development that are taking place. All these issues must be accommodated within the plan.

Even if some things stay the same, are our policies still working? Are they accomplishing what we'd hoped to do? Periodic reviews ensure our Official Plan doesn't get stale.

As part of the process, we're undertaking a number of background studies to make sure all our information and projections are correct. Among the issues we're looking at are transportation, retail and commercial facilities, employment lands, parks and open space.

A few issues are already apparent. They include:

## Retail/commercial Facilities

Some landowners whose properties are designated for commercial use are interested in changing their designation to residential. Some owners of residential properties have expressed interest in changing the designation to commercial use. Others want to change the type of retail development permitted on their land. So we're trying to get a better picture. Do we have



*The amount of commercial space and the type of business located on that space are all governed by the Official Plan.*

too many stores, or not enough? Are they in the right spot? Are they the right type?

## Employment Lands

This is land characterized by offices and industrial activities. Again, do we have enough? It's clear that if Burlington is to grow, we will need areas for jobs so that not everyone has to commute elsewhere. Are we doing our best to accommodate and retain businesses to keep the city's tax base healthy?

## Mixed-use Corridors

This is land where we encourage development that combines residential, employment, retail and/or entertainment uses. It envisages a compact, pedestrian-friendly form of urban development where you don't have to drive everywhere.

But we've noticed that not much mixed-use development is taking place. Maybe the policy isn't right. Maybe the market isn't right. Maybe we need to change our approach.

Whatever the causes, it certainly seems to make sense for people to be able to make a choice whether to live close to work or shopping, especially with an aging population.

## Urban-rural Boundary

Both the City and Halton Region have taken the position that the existing boundary between our urban and rural lands should stay where it is. We feel there is enough capacity for growth in the Region up to the year 2021, which is to be the horizon year in the City and Halton Region Official Plans.

Essentially, Burlington's rural area is north of Highway 5 (Dundas Street) and Highway 407. Even though there has been interest from some landowners in expanding the urban area to accommodate additional development, we believe the protection of the rural area and Niagara Escarpment is an important component in the overall Plan for the city.

## Mid-peninsula Highway

The corridor for the proposed highway as currently put forward by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation could have serious implications for Burlington. The proposed link with Highway 407, just north of our urban boundary, would cut through the escarpment and could increase pressure to move the boundary up to the new road.

Would it be a regular highway or a toll road? Each would have different implications in terms of the economic spin-offs, traffic and land usage.

A review conducted for Burlington and Hamilton indicated there are viable options to the current proposal, including a hook-up with Highway 401 further north and widening of existing crossings. Others have suggested a greater use of transit be emphasized rather than only the provision of a new road.

Any and all of these approaches may have an impact on Burlington's long-term growth.

## Smart Growth

Smart Growth means many things to many people. Basically, Smart Growth principles call for maximized use of our land in ways that ensure livable and sustainable communities. The Mayor is a member of the Central Ontario Smart Growth Panel and the city's Official Plan review will complement provincial and regional Smart Growth initiatives.

We're looking for input and comments from the public and other agencies. We'd like to hear what people think are Burlington's strengths and areas that could be improved.

We hope to have a draft of the revised document completed by late spring that will then go forward for review by the public, other municipal departments and Council. We also have to make sure we are aligned with a similar Official Plan review being undertaken by Halton Region.

Depending on how long it takes to get comments back, a final document is expected to be completed late next year or early in 2004.

If you have any comments or questions contact us by e-mail, [OPReview@burlington.ca](mailto:OPReview@burlington.ca) or at the number listed above. Further details are now available on our Web site at [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca).

# Reassessment Notices to Arrive in November

**Contact: Joan Ford – Manager of Revenue and Taxation, Finance, 905-335-7600, ext. 7798**

Burlington property owners can expect to receive assessment notices in the mail in November.

The assessments are used by municipalities to calculate the amount of property taxes owing. The notices will provide property owners with their valuations for the 2003 taxation year.

The assessments were carried out by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, formerly the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation, and will reflect what's known as Current Value Assessment as of June 30, 2001.

This year's reassessment, based primarily on market conditions, is not expected to contain any surprises.

From now on, reassessments will take place annually and will eventually be based on a three-year rolling average of market values to help moderate any fluctuations in property values, which may occur in any single year.

While there are no changes in the tax rules this year, the Province is continuing to limit assessment-related tax increases for commercial, industrial and multi-residential properties to five per cent. The limit will apply until all properties have reached their full CVA taxes. To pay for this provision, tax decreases based on reassessment are also limited.

Property owners who disagree with their assessment can apply for a Request for Reconsideration up until

Dec. 31, 2003 from MPAC at no charge. The form may be obtained from the MPAC Web site at [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca). The decision made by MPAC is final.

The deadline for a formal appeal to the Assessment Review Board is March 31 for the 2003 taxation year (there is a cost to appeal your assessment.) Further information is available on the MPAC Web site or by contacting the MPAC regional office:

6745 Century Avenue, Suite #1  
 Mississauga ON L5N 8C9  
 E-Mail: [enquiry@mpac.ca](mailto:enquiry@mpac.ca)  
 Toll Free 1-866-296-MPAC (6722)  
 Fax: 905-813-9170

## Tourism Burlington Vision Project

Contact: Pam Belgrade, Revenue & Marketing Planner,  
Parks & Recreation, 905-335-7724

What's the first thing that enters your mind when you connect Burlington with tourism? The Sound of Music festival? Hiking the escarpment? Shopping and golfing? Whatever your opinion is, City Council wants to hear it. The City of Burlington and its Team Burlington partners – Tourism Burlington, Burlington Chamber of Commerce, Burlington Downtown and Burlington Economic Development Corporation – have initiated a long-term tourism vision project and are soliciting public input.

To meet a goal identified in the corporate strategic plan, Council has hired a consulting firm to facilitate a vision and long-term tourism strategy for our city. The consultants have already had preliminary consultations with Council, researched our current tourism industry and met with key tourism stakeholders in focus group sessions. Surveys were mailed out to a random group of 5,000 residents in late September, asking for local views on important tourism activities and thoughts on tourism over the next 10 years.

The next phase of the tourism strategy is a public Tourism Vision workshop, to be held on Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Burlington Conference Centre. The day-long workshop is open to the public and will include remarks from Mayor Rob MacIsaac. A pres-

entation by the consultants will follow, with the opportunity to participate in round table discussion. You will be inspired by luncheon keynote speaker **Bill Duron** who is the former President of Toronto Tourism and also the former publisher of Toronto Life magazine. After lunch, all in attendance will participate in small group discussions on specific tourism topics to develop strategies to meet Burlington's tourism vision.

Results and ideas from the Tourism Vision workshop will be amalgamated into a discussion paper to be presented to Council in January. A summary will be made available to the public on the city's Web site. For more information about the free workshop and for registration information, go to [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca).

Tourism in Burlington attracts over one million people to Burlington each year, contributes \$45 million to our economy and is directly related to 750 local jobs. Many tourists are friends and family members of Burlington residents. Others include business travelers participating in local conferences and meetings. Along with Burlington attractions such as our beautiful waterfront, museums and the escarpment, tourists also make use of our close proximity to Toronto and the Niagara region.





### Do you have UNPAID traffic tickets?

**Yes? You're not alone...**  
We have over 50,000 unpaid tickets. We're Halton Court Services and our fines total \$11 million and are up to 13 years past due. We inherited these fines from the province a year ago and it's our job to close those accounts and recover the lost revenue. The good news is that the \$11 million belongs 100% to Halton taxpayers.

**You need to know...**  
Unpaid fines can cause **Licence Suspension, Plate Denial, Bad Credit Reporting or Civil Enforcement.**

**Easy payment plans can be arranged.**

**What to do...**  
If you have an outstanding fine, contact us to ensure no further action is taken. Don't wait for your enforcement notification. Not sure what you owe? Call us and we'll verify the charge and the fine amount.

**Contact us at...**  
Halton Court Services Collections Office,  
905-637-2425  
or  
[hccollections@burlington.ca](mailto:hccollections@burlington.ca)

Now, paying your parking tickets is as easy as  
1 am, 2 am, 3 am...



Pay your parking tickets online at  
[www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca)



## Central Park and Central Library Renewal Project

Contact: Craig Stevens, Project Manager – Major Facilities, Parks & Recreation, 905-335-7600, ext. 7471

Have you been to Central Library or Central Park lately? We're gearing up for great changes!

In June 2002, the award of the contract for architectural services for the renovation and expansion of Central Library was made to Teeple Architects Inc. of Toronto. The contract for the landscape architectural services for the Central Park portion of the project was made to John George Associates of Burlington.

The project approach is a strong joint initiative involving library and city staff as well as the consulting teams. The intention is to have all parties work in a unified manner to produce cohesive and professional products that meet the vision, goals and objectives of each respective project.

Since early July, a team has been working on the schematic and conceptual design for the renewed Central Library. This has involved exploring, testing and revising basic floor layouts with a view towards meeting the needs identified in the Central Library Building Program and Needs Assessment, as well as the Central Park Improvement Plan. The schematic design provides a general direction and basic concept for the next phase of the project, the detailed design development.

Some highlights of the basic proposed Central Library concept are:

- an addition along the west side of the building to create a light, welcoming orientation and transition

space which provides entrances at both the north and south sides of the building on the lower level, a common internal entrance into the secured area of the library, views and connections to the park, access to a café, increased visibility of the facility on the west, and opportunities for display space and casual seating,

- an addition across the south side of the facility creating functional space for collections and public services and increasing the visibility and presence from New Street,
- creating an exciting Children's Department with a Discovery Centre and program rooms for storytime on the main level,
- distributing appropriate seating and computer workstations throughout each of the public areas,
- providing easy access from the entrance area to stairs and a public elevator,
- providing washroom facilities on all three floors.

How this fits with the Central Park Improvement Plan:

- creates a stronger visual character and quality with respect to the synergies of the facility and the park by creating complementary views and connections,
- improves safety and visibility in the area,
- improves access and visibility from proposed parking and pedestrian walkways,
- improves visual presence of the library in the park and to the general community, as seen from New Street,
- provides for accessible entrances to the library from

both the south and the north, allowing for a better distribution of parking within the park. Throughout September, the conceptual design for the library was presented to key stakeholders including the community and Library Board members. A public open house held on Sept. 12, 2002, was well attended by approximately 80 members of the community. On a preliminary basis, it appears that the reaction to the schematic design from the stakeholders has been positive. Technically, the conceptual design addresses the major goals of the renewal plans for both the library and the park. The feedback from stakeholders will be considered as we continue to refine the library design over the coming weeks.

The next steps include detailed design and detailed costing of both the library and the park. A second round of community consultation will be held regarding the library component toward the end of the detailed design phase – probably early to mid-November. Final approvals from the Library Board and City Council will then be sought.

We are excited about the opportunities that these revitalization projects present for this significant community destination.

Any questions regarding the project can be directed to Sonia Lewis at the library at 905-639-3611 or Craig Stevens at the city at 905-335-7600, ext.7471.

## Mid-peninsula Highway Update

Contact: Paul Allen, Senior Engineer, 905-335-7600

The proposed Mid-peninsula Highway continues to generate considerable interest and concern for the City of Burlington and its residents.

One of Burlington's greatest concerns is the fact that the new corridor for the highway as proposed by the province would run across the Niagara Escarpment, which would destroy a precious environmentally sensitive area, which has inter-national recognition as a World Biosphere Reserve.

The second issue is the fact that this new highway could put pressure on the city to expand its urban development boundary, pushing growth beyond our current northerly growth boundaries of Highway 407 and Dundas Street in close proximity to the Niagara Escarpment. This would lead to urban sprawl contrary to smart growth principles.

Residents, Council and city staff have expressed many technical and other concerns to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) regarding the Mid-peninsula Highway. As recently as the end of September, the third round of MTO sponsored open houses was held. The MTO plans to hold stakeholder workshops in November 2002. We strongly recommend that residents and businesses make their views known to the MTO by calling Bill Rhamey, MTO Project Coordinator, 905-704-2097.

The following are key issues raised by the city that remain outstanding:

- The MTO be requested to extend the period for a Needs Assessment Review, thus extending the timeframe for consultation on fundamental issues such as the need for the highway, transit and smart growth;

- The MTO should respond formally to the Technical Review of the Transportation Needs Assessment, sponsored jointly by the cities of Hamilton and Burlington;
- The MTO should expand its public consultation process of public information centres to allow for a more comprehensive response to the issues and questions raised by the public;
- The MTO should study the economic benefits of the highway as well as the environmental implications.

On a positive note, it appears that the MTO is now more open to considering a larger study area with respect to the highway, thus examining alternative corridors, including consideration of a connection to Highway 401, not previously considered.

The city will continue to make its concerns known to the MTO. Watch for additional public meetings to be held on the Mid-peninsula Highway.



The area for study has been enlarged by the MTO.

## West Harbour Trails Project

Contact: Rosalind Minaji, Planner, 905-335-7600, ext. 7788

The Hamilton Waterfront Trail has tremendously increased the number of people accessing the western end of the Harbour from Hamilton. The present route of the Burlington Waterfront Trail ends at the bottom of Spring Gardens Road, but unfortunately there is no easy way to get from one trail to another. Clearly there is a need to provide a multi-use pathway connection between these existing trails.

The City of Burlington, City of Hamilton and the Royal Botanical Gardens are currently working with area conservation authorities, the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Office and the Hamilton Waterfront Trust to plan for a trail connection between Burlington and Hamilton in the west end of the Harbour.

Several options are being considered for the West Harbour Trail. They are:

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle access along York Boulevard to Plains Road West.
- Construct a bridge over the Desjardins Canal from the Hamilton Waterfront Trail and a pathway along the west shoreline of the Harbour to the Valley Inn.
- Design a trail along York Boulevard and down Valley Inn Road to connect with Spring Gardens Road and the RBG Centre.
- Build a multi-use trail pathway across the existing "fishway" structure in the Canal and along the east

shore of Cootes Paradise to connect with Old Guelph Road. This trail would then cross York Boulevard and connect to the Valley Inn.

There are advantages and drawbacks to each of the proposed trail routes. An enhanced pedestrian route along York Boulevard to Plains Road would need to bypass the Highway 403 on-ramp. The proposed trail along the western shore of Hamilton Harbour could disturb nesting waterfowl, turtle and fish habitat. Valley Inn Road is narrow and its sight lines and grades could be dangerous for trail users. A trail along the shore of Cootes Paradise and Old Guelph Road would have to navigate the narrow tunnel under the highway in order to reach York Boulevard.

An evaluation of the trail routes and options is currently being completed. An open house was held at Burlington City Hall on Sept. 18, to allow the public to view preliminary trail designs and costing, discuss traffic, environmental and other potential impacts with agency staff, and provide an opinion on the alternative trail locations. A staff report on the progress of the study was considered by Council in October.

If you would like further information about this initiative, please contact Rosalind Minaji at 905-335-7600, ext. 7788.

## Burlington Transit Plans to Improve Specialized Services

Contact: Donna Clegg, Director of Transit & Traffic, 905-335-7600, ext. 7763

Burlington Transit continues to provide an ever-improving level of service to Burlington residents.

We are currently conducting an intensive review of our specialized transit services so we will be better able to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

The review will develop strategic directions on how to provide specialized services over the next five years. We are looking at our policies and procedures, determining the level of service required and developing transportation alternatives for residents with special needs.

The findings and recommendations will be presented to the Community and Corporate Services Committee on Nov. 19.

We are also taking steps to provide improved fully accessible conventional transit services. Starting next year, we will be introducing new 40-foot low floor buses that will be fully accessible to passengers who use wheelchairs, scooters and walkers.

Other recent service enhancements are the result of an intensive Transit Operation Review we undertook last year. We took a detailed look at all our services and schedules. We talked to passengers to find out what they liked and didn't like about Burlington Transit. And we looked at population forecasts to see how Burlington would be growing in the coming years to ensure we continue to meet the increasing demand for our services.

Following the review, we developed a five-year business plan that was approved by City Council earlier this year. The business plan not only gives us a road map of routes and schedules, including integration opportunities with GO Transit and our neighbouring communities, Oakville and Hamilton, it details the types of vehicles we should operate and forecasts specific revenue goals.

Among the changes that have already taken place are new routes and schedules that came into effect on Sept. 3. They included greater frequency of service on the main arterial roads and increased service to the growing areas in north Burlington.

The transit improvements are all key elements in helping to ensure that Burlington supports the principles of Smart Growth as we drive forward into the future.

Smart Growth simply describes ways to ensure that we continue to reside in livable communities. It's about preserving our neighbourhoods and green spaces – and it's particularly about avoiding traffic gridlock, an issue that's of paramount importance in the entire greater Toronto and Hamilton areas.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

2002  
Leaf Collection  
Program

The city's leaf collection has been delayed by one week. The new collection dates are listed at right.

Please refer to your leaf collection brochure or our Web site at [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca) to find out what area you are in.

#### PICK - UP TIMETABLE

AREA	FIRST COLLECTION WEEK OF:	SECOND COLLECTION WEEK OF:
1	NOVEMBER 4	NOVEMBER 18
2	NOVEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 25

CITY OF  
**Burlington**

## We Need Your Feedback

Our goal with this publication is to provide the citizens of Burlington with new and valuable information about city programs, services and initiatives. Please let us know what you think of *City Talk*.

Send in your completed questionnaire by Nov. 30, 2002 and your name will be entered into a draw for a chance to win one of 3 special thank-you gifts!

1. *City Talk* is published three times a year.

This is:

Too often    Just right    Not often enough

2. *City Talk* will soon be available through an online subscription, which would automatically send you an electronic file that you could read online or print. Would you like to receive *City Talk* through this method?

Yes  No

3. Do you find the information in *City Talk* useful?

Very useful  
 Somewhat useful  
 Not very useful  
 Not at all useful

4. What do you like most about *City Talk*?

Councillor's ward updates  
 General information  
 Mayor's message

Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. What would you like to see improved in *City Talk*?

6. The information in *City Talk* is generally:

New and informative  
 Different from what is reported in local papers  
 A repeat of what is featured in local papers  
 My main source for information about the city

Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. *City Talk* has been published 3 times a year for the last 3 years. How have you been receiving it?

At home/apartment  
 At work  
 Pick-up at community facility  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

8. Can we contact you?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_

Phone - day \_\_\_\_\_

Phone - evening \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990 C.M. 45 and will be used to collect readership information about *City Talk*. Questions about this collection should be directed to Dianne MacKenzie, Communications Advisor, at the address below.

Please mail your completed form to Dianne MacKenzie, Communications Advisor Corporate Communications, City of Burlington, 426 Brant Street, P.O. Box 5013, Burlington ON L7R 3Z6

This questionnaire is also available to complete online. Please visit us at [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca) and go to *City Talk*, in the *What's New* section.

We appreciate your assistance. Thank you!

## New Smoke Alarm Program

Contact: Ben Rotsma – Public Education Officer, Fire Department, 905-335-2330

If a fire started in your home tonight, would your smoke alarms give you the life-saving warning you need to escape? They can only do that if you have been maintaining them on a regular basis. Testing them monthly, vacuuming them every six months, and replacing the batteries when you reset your clocks each spring and fall will greatly improve your chance of survival. Research has also shown that replacing units older than 10 years can help to ensure proper operation of your smoke alarms when you need them most.

The Burlington Fire Department and State Farm Insurance are working together to ensure our residents are properly protected with working smoke alarms.

The program involves visits from crews from fire stations across Burlington to 5,000 homes in specific areas across the city each year. The intention is to approach every home in Burlington within ten years. When the crew arrives at your door they will offer to check the smoke alarms in your home to determine if they are functioning properly and installed in the correct locations. If they find any problems our crew will ensure that your home is properly protected with working smoke alarms before they leave. They will be providing and installing the alarms or replacing batteries free of charge through the generosity of State Farm Insurance with support from Canadian Tire.

The Ontario Fire Code requires the installation of working smoke alarms in all residential properties. The alarms must be located near all sleeping areas in your home. Failure to have smoke alarms in required locations can result in a fine in excess of \$200, however, under the Fire Department's program, fines and violations will not be handed out.

The program will run each year from the beginning of May until the end of October. If the crews visit your street when you are not at home, they will leave a card in the mail box with a phone number to call if you would like to arrange a visit. Watch for your spring issue of *City Talk* which will include a map showing next year's target areas.

The Burlington Fire Department would also like to extend the offer of this free service to residents who may have difficulty checking their smoke alarms due to their age or other physical challenges. This service is available all year by calling 905-637-9536.

Our goal is to ensure that everyone is safe in his or her own home. Unfortunately homes are where most fatal fires occur. Try not to become a statistic – test your smoke alarms before you go to bed tonight.

## City's Web Site Has New Address, New Features

Contact: Rob Hagley, Web Editor, Corporate Communications, 905-335-7600, ext. 7494

The city's new Web site was officially launched on Sept. 30. The official launch coincided with Burlington's move to a new Web site address. Shorter and easier to remember, you can now connect with the City of Burlington at [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca).

Besides the new address, the Web site contains a host of new features, which enhance the site. One of the most useful of additions, and first in a series of e-services to be launched this fall, is Paytickets, which allows you to pay your parking tickets online.

It's easy to use and has a sample parking ticket highlighting all of the information you'll need to pay your ticket from your computer any time – day or night! Burlington's Web site is also a great link to the community. At [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca), we're linked to a variety of community and service agencies. From Burlington Hydro, local newspapers, school boards to the public library, our site is the portal to the entire city.

Check out our online community events calendar. This calendar lets you know all of the community events happening in Burlington including arts and heritage events, bazaars and fairs, health and wellness events or information meetings, sports and recreation events, tournaments and more.

Community groups are welcome to post their events to the calendar. It's great to plan your weekend or plan your special event to avoid conflict with other similar events.

Please let us know what you think about our Web site by filling out our online survey at [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca).

## CityTalk

*City Talk* is produced by  
City of Burlington  
Corporate Communications

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Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z6  
*City Talk* can be viewed on our Web site at  
[www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca)

CITY OF  
**Burlington**



Work on the parking garage on Locust Street near Lakeshore continues.