

Regional and Town Councillor – Ward 4
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As the largest ward in Oakville, we've had more than our share of growth-related challenges. We've met our provincially mandated growth targets, and currently have our hands full managing the frantic pace of building you see happening north of Dundas.

That is why I strongly disagree with Council's decision to study the possibility of building even more houses and commercial units on a 434 hectare (578 acre) parcel of land located in the heart of Ward 4, known as the Merton lands, which include Deerfield and Saw-Whet golf courses and environmentally sensitive Fourteen Mile Creek Valley.

In my opinion, it's time to take a good hard look at what could be destroyed and what we stand to lose as a community if the Merton Lands are opened for development.

I believe we are all strongly connected with the world in which we live, and have a responsibility to care for the places we call home. Maximizing the financial bottom line needs to be tempered with paying closer attention to the needs of our environment, upon which we all depend for our health, well-being and very survival. This means dedicating ourselves, as a community, to working together to protect and enhance our green spaces rather than chipping away at them until there is nothing left.

Residents often feel frustrated watching developers succeed in persuading governments to see things their way. Residents elect leaders to protect and serve their interests, not those of developers. I hope you'll read the articles that follow to learn more and make your voice heard on this important issue. Please visit my website at www.elgar.ca and feel free to contact me on this issue or any other.



Town Councillor – Ward 4
ROGER LAPWORTH

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Spring is here and with the colder weather hopefully behind us, I am always pleased by the way our town becomes even more vibrant in the warmer months.

I'm pleased to report that Council continues to make progress on the issues residents have told us are the most important.

Town finances remain strong and stable. 2014 will see the lowest total tax increase in 15 years. We've delivered once again on our promise to keep the total property tax increase at or under inflation. We're cutting tax-supported debt, focusing on infrastructure renewal and ensuring that any growth in Oakville takes place in a cost effective way.

My work on the Administrative Services committee has been immensely rewarding and I'm proud of the fact that your Oakville, for the past 8 years, is being run as a highly financially controlled corporation. This was my commitment to you in 2006.

In the pages ahead, you'll read about what you can expect when the new Oakville hospital opens in 2015. We also address the progress on the town's study into the Merton Lands.

As your Ward 4 councillor, I'm always available to help you with all of your local issues. Just pick up the phone or email me at the contact information above and I'll do my best to resolve your issue(s).

As summer rolls in, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone out at the festivals and local events that make Oakville so livable. Thanks again for your consistent input and constant support on town related matters. Please enjoy the nice weather and remember, stay safe.

OAKVILLE'S MERTON LANDS - UNDER THREAT

What and where are the Merton Lands?

You know them best as Deerfield Golf Course, Saw Whet Golf Course and environmentally sensitive Fourteen Mile Creek Valley. They also include natural features associated with Bronte Creek, land owned by the Province, Region of Halton, Town of Oakville and a few privately owned properties (see map). Together they total 234 hectares (425 acres), and represent the largest and most beautiful swath of undeveloped land south of Dundas.

What's the threat?

A developer has bought Saw Whet Golf Course, the province is considering its options for Deerfield Golf Course, and the town is coordinating an overall study of the area. These lands could see widespread development and environmental degradation.

Where do Councillors Elgar and Lapworth stand on the issue?

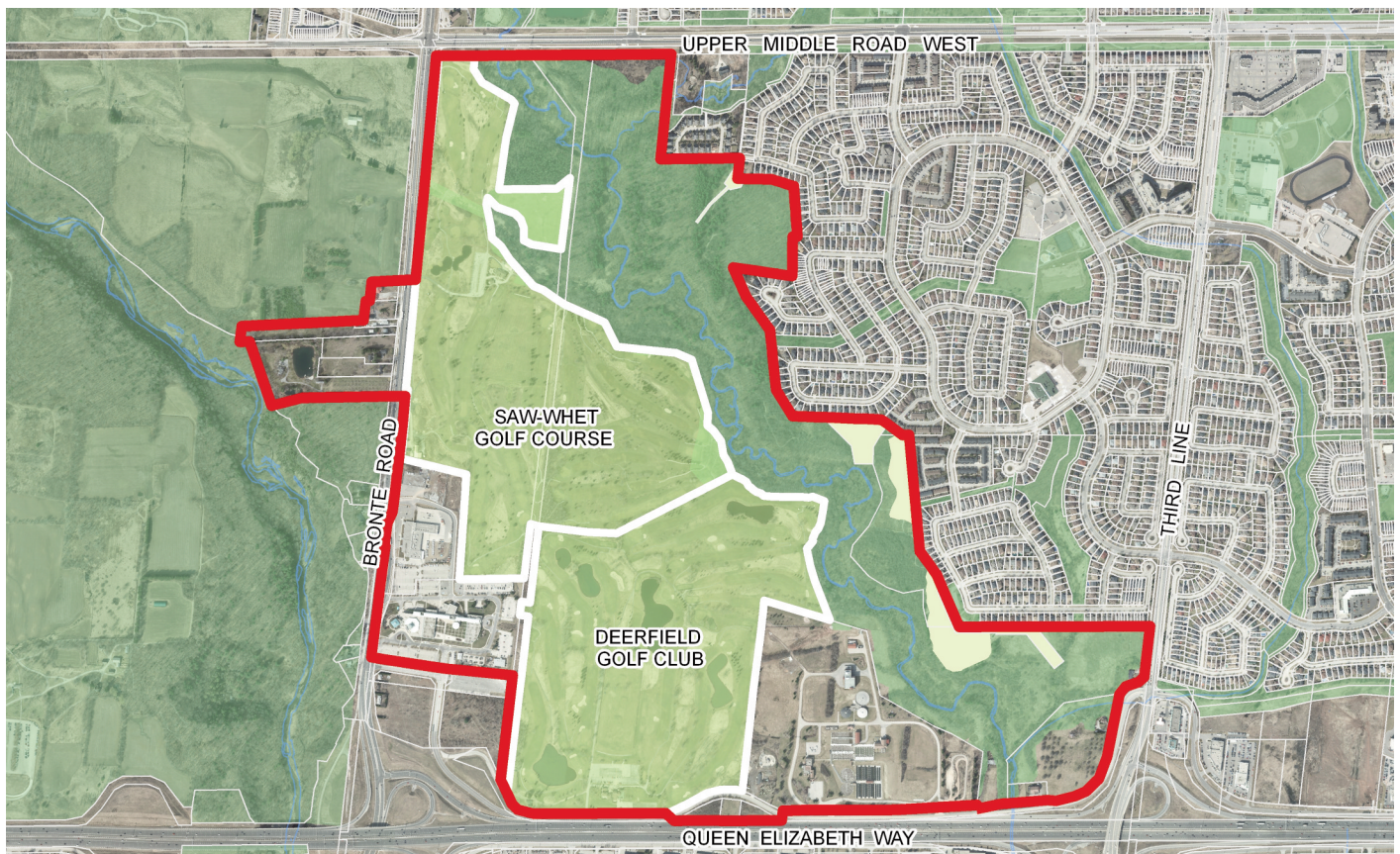
They voted against the plan to study these lands for development for many reasons including the following:

- The entire process seems premature – our provincially mandated growth targets have been met until the year 2031. The focus should be on implementing our existing growth plan before considering additional growth

- This plan contradicts the town's goal to control growth
- Deerfield Golf Course sits on land owned by the province (taxpayer), and is being leased for use until 2022. Taxpayers have not indicated they want it sold and developed
- Developers are financing environmental studies that could be used to determine the fate of their lands
- A portion of this land lies in the Parkway Belt which was protected by the Province in 1978 for passive recreational uses. Isn't this designation needed more today than ever?
- Creative, forward thinking options for this land should be thoroughly explored. Oakville residents deserve better than just more of the same

The Precautionary Principle is one of the town's guiding principles in its Environmental Strategic Plan. Perhaps retired mayor, Harry Barrett, summed it up best when he said, "We can sell off our natural assets for a quick buck and when that is done we are left flat-footed and with nothing."

The Town of Oakville is holding a public hearing on this issue in April. Be sure to make your opinions heard. Please email Councillor Elgar and Councillor Lapworth to be added to their distribution lists to receive more information about this important issue.



RESIDENTS SPEAK FOR NATURE ON MERTON LANDS

The Fourteen Mile Creek Residents' Association was created in response to the threat of development on the Merton Lands and boasts over 400 members. Together with Oakvillegreen Conservation Association, local experts and area residents have all raised concerns over development here.

These concerns include the need for the town to recognize the rights of the 'wildlife residents' who have been living, breeding, raising families or migrating through the area for generations. The Halton Natural Areas Inventory has documented a wide variety of plant, mammal, butterfly, bird and fish species, both common and rare. They include the endangered Redside Dace whose creek habitat has already been negatively impacted by numerous construction projects to the north, including the development of Richview Golf Course and the widening of Upper Middle Road.

Another example of habitat destruction occurred on the Saw Whet Golf Course, named for the little Saw Whet Owl with the big appetite for mice that hunted in the meadowlands there. Sadly, that very meadow was recently ploughed under, destroying the ecosystem even though it was located in an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and should have been protected.

The Saw-whet Golf Course also serves as an important wildlife corridor connecting Bronte Creek and the Fourteen Mile Creek ESAs. Residents have asked for this area to be protected from development in order to avoid additional negative impacts on the wildlife and birdlife who traverse the area and call it home.

Dr. Pedro Pereyra, a local teacher and scientist who has studied the area extensively, noted that Deerfield and Saw-Whet Golf Courses have been in existence for so long that in essence they have become part of the ESA because so many species depend on these open spaces as part of their habitat and food and water supply. The whole area is part of the migratory corridor and wintering area for not only owls, but also other birds. The presence of several turtle species indicates that adequate or appropriate egg laying sites must be present in relative proximity to the ponds.



Dr. Pedro Pereyra, local high school teacher and scientist, leads a nature walk through Fourteen Mile Creek Environmentally Sensitive Area.

Among the concerns raised by Oakvillegreen, was the effect that developing the golf courses could have on the amount of permeable ground surface left to absorb rainfall and the potential for flooding downstream.

The Town is still accepting comments from the public. Make sure your voice is heard on this important issue.

OAKVILLE'S NEW HOSPITAL SET TO OPEN IN LATE 2015

Construction of Oakville's new hospital continues on-schedule and has surpassed 50% completion. It's amazing to watch the new building take shape and witness the massive amount of work needed to construct such an incredible facility. More than 900 workers are on site daily busily installing: 7,441 windows, 28,000 light fixtures, 30,000 electrical receptacles, and more than 3,219 miles of wire.

Those driving by the construction site may have noticed the five different building elements, including:

- a four storey section for complex continuing care, rehabilitation and outpatient clinics
- a six storey parking garage
- an eight storey inpatient tower
- a four storey emergency and diagnostic imaging block with maternal/child, surgical services and mental health services, and
- a spacious main hospital entrance that connects the different building elements

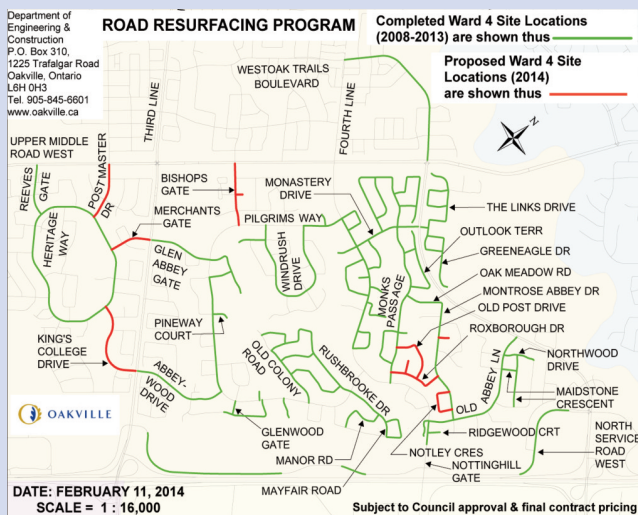
Scheduled to open in late 2015, Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) is working hard to prepare for the transition to the new hospital. Moving

to a building three times the size of the current hospital with a new, modern design and advanced technologies will bring significant change to the way staff, physicians and volunteers work and provide care. HHS is developing a comprehensive move strategy that will ensure the smoothest transition possible for both patients and staff.

The New Oakville Hospital will replace the existing Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. The new 1.6 million square foot state-of-the-art healthcare campus will offer a full-range of acute healthcare services, have capacity for 457 inpatient beds, with 80% located in single patient rooms. Visit www.newoakvillehospital.com to take a tour of a typical single-patient room.



ROAD SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS IN WARD 4



Street	From	To
Postmaster Drive	Upper Middle Road	West Heritage Way
Merchants Gate	Heritage Way	Third Line
King's College Drive	Heritage Way	Third Line
Bishops Gate	Pilgrims Way	Upper Middle Road West
Bramblewood Green	Bishops Gate	End
Pipers Green	Montrose Abbey Drive	End
Notley Crescent	Montrose Abbey Drive	Montrose Abbey Drive
Roxborough Drive	Montrose Abbey Drive	Monks Passage
Old Post Drive	Roxborough Drive	Monks Passage
Painted Post Crescent	Roxborough Drive	End
Lower Base Line	Regional Road 25	Valley Section

KEEPING AN EYE ON WARD 4 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

APPLICATION/ FILE NUMBER	LOCATION	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	STATUS	CONTACT IN PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Lazy Pat Farms Property - bclMC Realty Corp. Z.11001/1333	Dundas Street West, between Tremaine Road and Regional Road 25	Zoning Amendment Application and Draft Plan of Subdivision Application to permit an industrial plan of subdivision	In circulation	Robert Thun 905-845-6601, ext. 3029 rthun@oakville.ca
Bronte Community Dev. Corp. OPA 1430.30, ZBA 1430.30	2343 Khalsa Gate	Official Plan and Zoning Amendment to permit the development of an additional 8 storey apartment building. Land to be developed in conjunction with land to the immediate north	Recommendation Report to Planning and Development Council – Spring, 2014	Robert Thun 905-845-6601, ext. 3029 rthun@oakville.ca
New Horizon Group 3340 Dundas Street West Inc. Z.1434.02, 24T-12010	3340 Dundas Street West	OPA, ZBA and Draft Plan of Subdivision related to the development of the site for 75 townhouse units (street townhouses and back to back townhouses)	Recommendation report to Planning and Development Council - Spring, 2014	Robert Thun 905-845-6601 ext. 3029 rthun@oakville.ca
New Horizon Group Bronte Inc. Z.1430.31	2480, 2488 and 2496 Old Bronte Road	ZBA to the development of the site for 380 residential units and ground floor commercial	Recommendation Report to Planning and Development Council – Spring, 2014	Paul Barrette 905-845-6601, ext. 3041 pbarrette@oakville.ca
Creebank Development Ltd. 24CDM-1400/1529	2322 Upper Middle Road West	Draft Plan of Condominium to permit an 88 unit standard residential condominium building, plus one guest suite	Recommendation Report to Planning and Development Council – Spring, 2014	Robert Thun 905-845-6601, ext. 3029 rthun@oakville.ca