


LET'S TALK OAKVILLE

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM YOUR **WARD 5** COUNCILLORS

FALL 2023

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- An aerial view of Oakville, Ontario, showing a mix of residential and commercial buildings, parking lots, and green spaces. In the foreground, two men, presumably councilors, are standing on a rooftop. The man on the left is wearing a dark jacket and glasses, and the man on the right is wearing a dark suit and glasses. They are both smiling at the camera.
- **NEW TRANSIT INITIATIVES**
 - **PROTECTING YOUR VEHICLE FROM AUTO THEFT**
 - **REFURBISHING OUR PARKS**
 - **NEW TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**
 - **WHAT'S IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD**

Working together for a stronger community.





Regional and Town Councillor - Ward 5

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Welcome to the return of Let's Talk Oakville for Ward 5. As most traditional print media is no longer available, we decided to bring back this small magazine to concentrate on different aspects and issues that are shaping our community.

In this edition, we're bringing you news on transit initiatives, focusing on how you can uncover the wealth of information available on the oakville.ca website, highlighting some special notes on safety – both at home and outdoors – and looking in on the project to renovate parks in our older neighbourhoods.

With every issue, we'll also be including development updates and featuring photos from events happening throughout Ward 5 and the Town of Oakville.

As we plan future editions, we'd love to hear about the stories you would like to see. Are there specific topics or concerns you'd like us to explore? We'd love to hear from you as this magazine continues to grow and evolve.

While 2023 has been a busy year, there's much more to come in 2024, and since we're already asking for your input, we should note that your thoughts are also needed for a few studies the Town of Oakville will be running:

- Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan – to better understand how the community uses parks,



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recreation/culture facilities and libraries and guide the future direction of these spaces. While open houses concluded in the early summer of 2023, Town Staff will be presenting the results of the study for public input in 2024.

- Transportation Master Plan - to review the policies and infrastructure for all travel choices, with an emphasis on inspiring a more walkable, cyclable and transit-friendly community.
- Midtown Oakville Growth Area Review – to consider growth in the Midtown (essentially, the area around the GO station) with a range of implementation studies covering community building topics such as height and massing of residential buildings, retail uses and park spaces.

You can learn more about these on the oakville.ca website by using the search function. From the website's home page, you can also see upcoming topics on the agenda of a Council meeting and find ways to participate – just click on the 'Agendas and Meetings' button.

On a final note, as the year comes to an end, we hope that the chilly season finds you in the warmth of friends and family, and that you are embraced by the spirit of the holidays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Jeff and Marc

Free Youth and Seniors Transit a Success

Since introducing free transit service for youth 13 to 19 and seniors 65+ on May 1, 2023, the impact on these two key demographics has been a huge success.

Oakville Transit reports an incredible 102 per cent increase in senior ridership and 86 per cent surge in ridership among youth. In addition, paid adult fares have seen an increase of 8 per cent when compared to months before the initiative, and is growing. Based on the positive trends seen so far this year, Oakville Transit has forecasted ridership to reach approximately 1 million rides in 2024.

Taking transit is an accessible and sustainable travel choice for residents and Oakville Transit offers a number of services to help residents and visitors get to work, school and more. To take advantage of free transit, eligible customers must tap on board with a valid PRESTO card, which can be purchased for \$4 at Town Hall, Oakville Transit, or local Shoppers Drug Mart locations. Learn more at oakvilletransit.ca.



Electrifying Buses

Oakville Transit celebrated a major milestone at the beginning of the year with the arrival of its first-ever electric buses. On the road since the spring, the smaller capacity buses are being used for care-A-van and On-Demand services.

The town is on track to acquire the first 15 zero-emission battery-electric buses to be used for conventional services (larger buses operating on fixed routes) by the end of 2024. Over the next five years, approximately 50

per cent of Oakville Transit's fleet will be converted from diesel to electric.

Electric buses do not produce harmful exhaust emissions or other greenhouse gases, are more energy-efficient, quieter, provide a smoother experience for passengers, and use fewer parts than standard diesel buses.

Using electric buses will support the town's goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 for all our corporate activities.

What's In My Neighbourhood?

The newly redesigned oakville.ca website has an interactive, ward-specific section built into it, based on community feedback about commonly requested information. You can look for the nearest library or park, discover why there is so much construction down the street, or get in touch with your councillors.

Finding In My Neighbourhood

There are three easy ways to find the Ward 5 neighbourhood page:

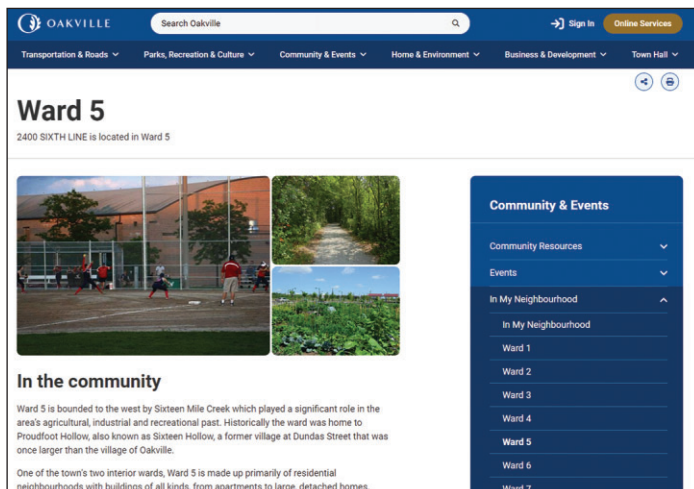
Enter your address into the In My Neighbourhood address bar on the oakville.ca home page. As you start typing, valid addresses will start to appear. You can either select your address from the list when it appears or finish typing it and hit "enter" or select the magnifying glass icon.

Navigate to Community and Events in the main navigation, select In My Neighbourhood and choose your ward.

Search "Ward 5" from the search bar on any oakville.ca page.

Features

There is a ward page for each of the seven wards in Oakville. Each one has ward-specific information, but they all have the same features and functionality.



Images and Description

If you entered an address to get to the Ward 5 page, you will see that address repeated at the top of the page. Below the Ward 5 title are images of the ward and a brief description.

Interactive Map

The map automatically zooms into Ward 5 and pulls data from various town databases. The map includes three main sections:

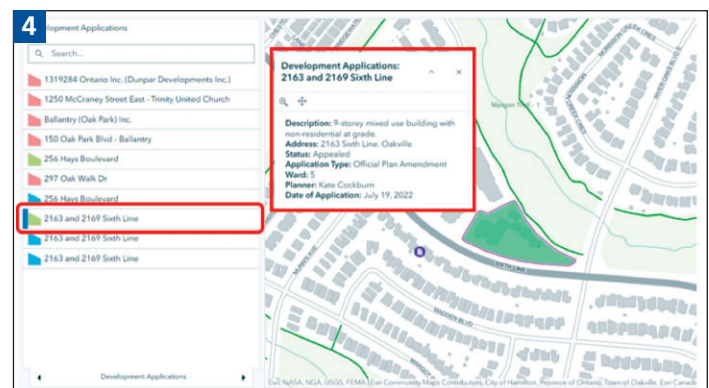
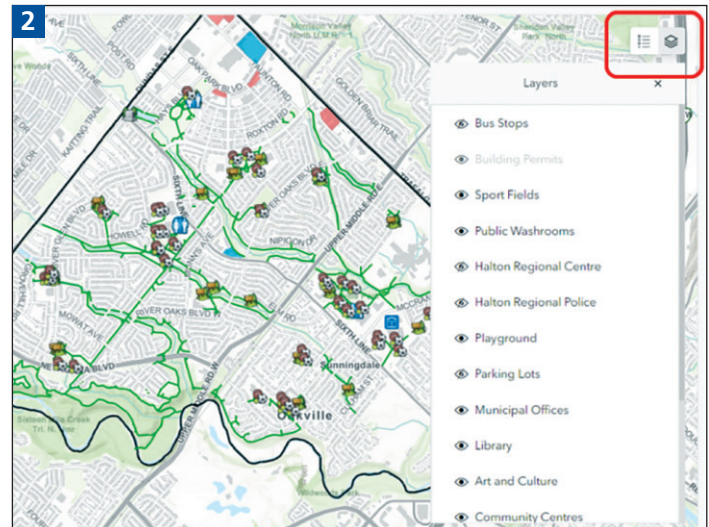
1. A data bar displays quick stats about Ward 5.

2. Legend and map layers buttons describe the map icons and show what's available to view on the map. Click on the items in the layers list to view or hide information.

3. List view panel for development applications, building permits and sports fields. Use the forward/back arrows at the bottom of the panel to scroll through each list. This view offers a quick way to access the location and details of development and construction in your area.

4. If you select a park, permit or development application item from the list, the map will zoom into that area. By selecting the icon on the map, you can view details related to it.

1	Median Age 40.6 2016 Census	Population 33,435 2016 Census	Parks 84	Building Permits 190	Heritage Properties 12	Bus Stops 154
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We love feedback.

Tell us how we can improve this website for you.

Send Feedback

Continuous improvement and feedback

Ward pages are new this year on oakville.ca. The town web team will be continually reviewing how they are used, and will be enhancing features, adding images and related information over time.

Is there something that you'd like to see offered on the Ward 5 page? Let the team know by filling in the web feedback form at the bottom of the page.



Improving our Parks

Oakville Park

The park, the north of White Oaks Secondary School North and Gaétan-Gervais Secondary School is an unusual area and, as such, required renovations in two phases.

Phase 1 saw the area west of the ball diamond updated with 2 full size soccer fields, a new washroom building and lit pathway connection to Sixth Line.

Phase 2 of the renovations were to northeast of the ball diamond - an almost hidden grass area that had minor connections to the remainder of the park - with two mini soccer fields and new walkways connecting to the parking lot and a formalized connections to Munns School to the west. The mini fields include drainage, irrigation and supporting amenities such as bleachers and waste receptacles. In future, a set of stairs will connect this area with the trail at Oakville Woods.

Oxford Park

Hidden behind Sunningdale School, this park had playground structures that were over 20 years old and needed replacement as they were at the end of their useful life cycle. One new structure will feature

a single slide, double slide, matrix climbing system, hammock and games panels. Across from this will be 2 youth swings, a toddler swing, and an accessible bucket swing. The playground surface will be replaced with engineered wood fibres – material specifically designed and tested for the playground industry and recognized as an accessible surface across North America.

Munns Creek Park

North of River Oaks School, this park had some pathways rehabilitated and improved. The northerly park entrance, off River Oaks Blvd, has been a constant problem in winter months due to poor drainage creating ice and slippery conditions. The path has been shifted slightly, regraded, and widened to improve drainage. New turfstone was added to the boulevard to ensure it continues to drain effectively.

At the northeast corner of the park, an existing limestone screening walkway connecting to Munns Avenue has been slightly widened and converted to asphalt. This was done to accommodate servicing to the park's splash pad in the summer, and to allow for improved winter maintenance on the pathways.

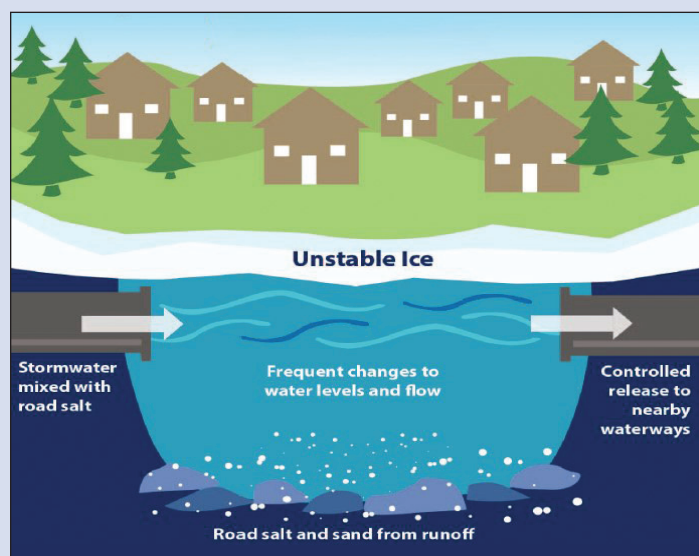
Stay Safe – Stay Off the Ice

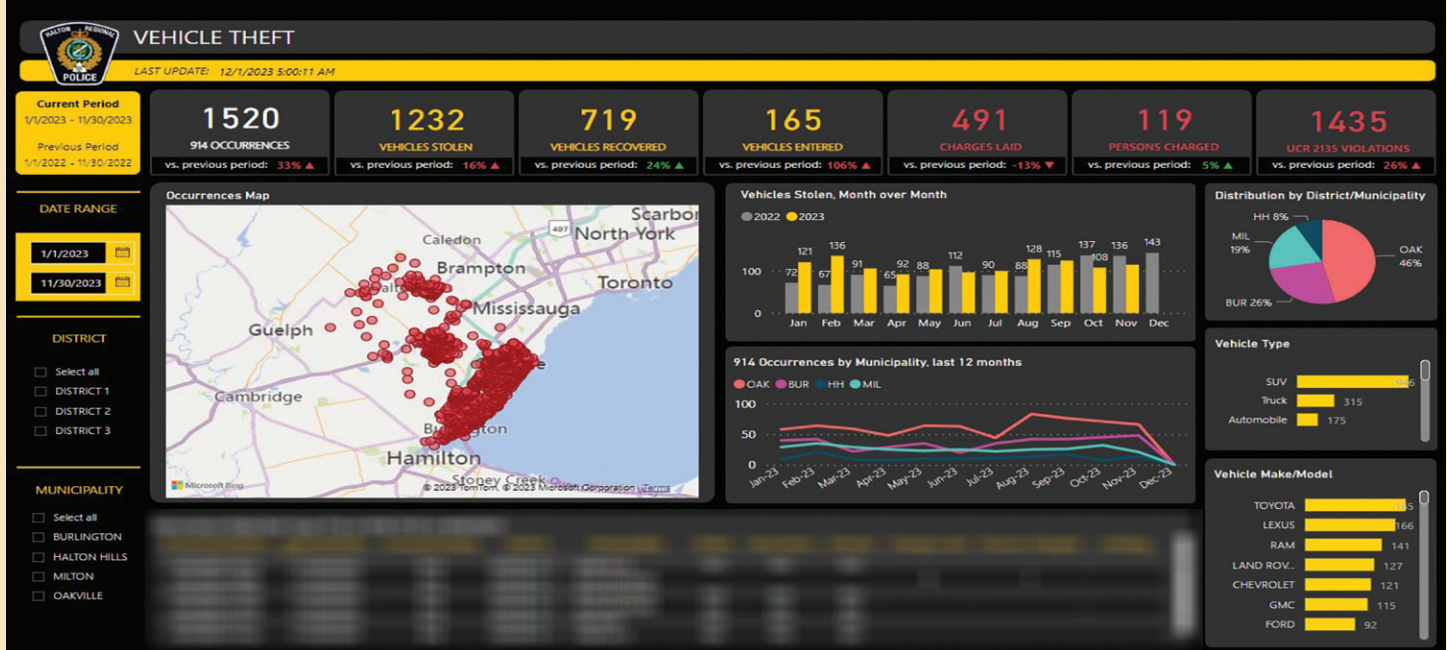
As temperatures drop and ice forms over creeks and ponds, residents are reminded to stay off all bodies of water, including stormwater management ponds. Once frozen over, a stormwater pond may look safe, but inlet and outlet pipes keep water continuously flowing beneath the frozen top layer, making skating and other recreational activities extremely unsafe. Many other factors affect ice strength including air temperature, road runoff, sun, wind, snow and overall thickness of the ice.

Stormwater management ponds play an important role in our environment and are not suitable for recreational activities at any time of the year. Please never skate, walk or toboggan on these ponds.

Practice water safety and stay safe this winter:

- Keep family members and pets away from all bodies of water
- Don't follow pets or people on the ice or attempt to rescue – call 911 for assistance
- Avoid recreational activities in or around waterways and check oakville.ca for outdoor skating opportunities





Protecting Your Vehicle from Auto Theft

Auto theft remains a concern in Oakville and throughout the nation. Push-start vehicles and other technological advancements have made auto theft faster and easier. Thieves specifically target the Onboard Diagnostic (OBD) port to reprogram a new key fob, reducing vehicle theft to under a minute and complicating prevention efforts.

Halton Region has seen a significant increase in vehicle thefts. As of December 1, 2023, the region has experienced 1,312 auto thefts, marking a 16 per cent rise since 2022. Oakville accounts for nearly half of these incidents, with 46 per cent of the stolen vehicles originating from this area. This trend underscores the urgent need for enhanced vehicle security measures.

While it is challenging for police to prevent auto theft, there are some straightforward steps you can take to protect your vehicle:

- Park in a locked or secure garage whenever possible
- Lock the onboard diagnostic port using a commercially available device that prevents access to the key fob reprogramming area
- Use a steering wheel lock
- Lock your vehicle when unattended
- Never leave spare keys in or around your vehicle
- Store vehicle key fobs in a radio frequency shielding bag or

pouch (such as a Faraday bag) when not in use, to block signal transmissions

Additionally, you can:

- Equip your vehicle with an alarm system
- Consider installing a high-quality video surveillance system. Ensure that your cameras are correctly positioned and capable of functioning 24 hours a day
- Invest in an aftermarket global positioning system (GPS) tracker, which can aid in recovering the vehicle if stolen

Safety and well-being in the community are shared responsibilities. The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) is dedicated to supporting the community in this area.

As the Chair of the Halton Region Police Board, and a Board Director of the Canadian Association of Police Governance, Councillor Jeff Knoll is at the forefront of championing initiatives to combat auto theft. His efforts focus on engaging with auto manufacturers, the insurance sector, and governmental authorities at the federal and provincial levels.

For more information on vehicle safety and other community safety tips, visit www.haltonpolice.ca.

Halton's New Traffic Management System Will Help Move Traffic Safely, Efficiently

Halton Region is implementing a new advanced traffic management system. By the end of 2023, the system will be fully operational in Oakville. The new system aims to support a safer and more efficient transportation network for the public. As our community and population continue to grow, there is a greater demand for a transportation system that can support this growth.

How will the new system improve traffic safety and efficiency?

Halton's new traffic management system will actively monitor the Region's road network in real time from one central location. The system will allow Halton to proactively manage traffic, improving safety for drivers, pedestrians and other road users.

The new system will:

- support safer crossings for pedestrians including vulnerable

road users;

- support the delivery of emergency services by quickly delivering important traffic information to emergency responders;
- use digital signage to communicate travel, traffic and roadway conditions to motorists in real-time, giving drivers alternate routes; and
- improve the overall flow of traffic.

Where can I learn more?

To learn more about the new Advanced Traffic Management System in Halton, please read the July 2023 Report to Regional Council - Advanced Traffic Management System Project – Update on halton.ca.

You can also email accesshalton@halton.ca or call 311 with any questions about the Advanced Traffic Management System.

Ward 5 Development Applications Highlights

LOCATION	APPLICATION	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT / STATUS
90 Oak Park Blvd.	Silwell Developments Inc.	Site plan application for a 12-storey mixed use building containing 229 residential units and 1,080 m2 or retail space. A bonussing agreement and a potential consent are being discussed with the applicant. 3rd submission received. Resubmission pending.
1105 McCraney Street East	Branthaven McCraney Inc.	Site plan application for a nine-storey special care building with 221 residential units. New owner of the site has provided a resubmission with changes to the building/elevations. Property purchased by Fengate. Resubmission required.
315 Glenashton Dr.	The Ashton Inc.	Site plan application for a nine-storey building containing 142 residential units. 5th submission received. In Circulation.
256, 260 and 294 Hays Boulevard and 271 Oak Park Boulevard	SmartREIT (Oakville II) Inc./SmartREIT (Oakville) Inc.	Two residential towers at 27 and 30 storeys with a total of 585 residential units, and 520.7 m2 of at grade commercial uses. Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) decision issued conditionally approving the development. Resubmission required.
2163 and 2169 Sixth Line	Bara Group (River Oak) Inc.	Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment to permit a 9-storey mixed use building with residential, medical office and retail uses. Appealed – OLT Hearing February 26, 2024
1020, 2024, 1028, 1032 and 1042 Sixth Line	1463291 Ontario Inc (Dunpar Homes Inc.) and Lisa and Taylor Rogers	Proposed medium density residential development comprised of 55 townhouses units and one semi-detached dwelling (total 57 new units). The existing heritage house at 1042 Sixth Line is proposed to remain. Appealed – OLT

Report Problems to Service Oakville

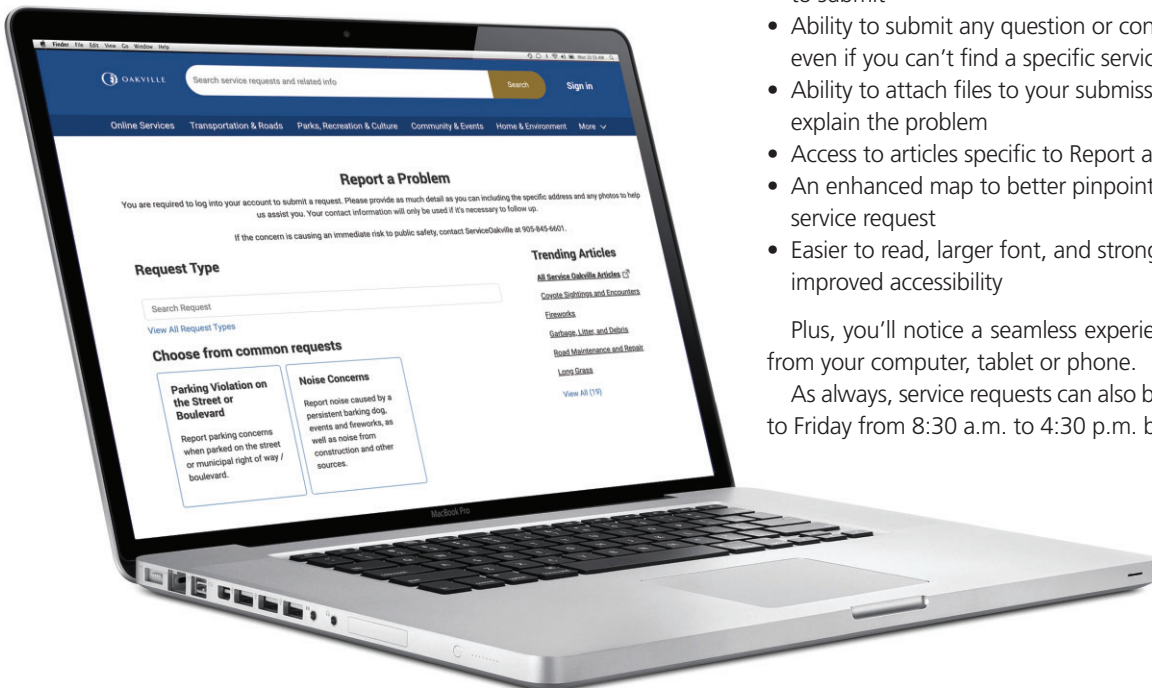
Did you know you can report a number of town-related issues online, easily, with the Report a Problem tool?

Thanks to recent upgrades, the tool and our other online services are more accessible and user-friendly. New features include:

- Increased number of services available online, including a general inquiry for any service the town provides
- More frequent status updates and comments
- Keyword search to help you find the service request you're trying to submit
- Ability to submit any question or concern with ServiceOakville, even if you can't find a specific service request for it
- Ability to attach files to your submission – such as a photo to help explain the problem
- Access to articles specific to Report a Problem case types
- An enhanced map to better pinpoint the exact location of your service request
- Easier to read, larger font, and stronger colour contrast for improved accessibility

Plus, you'll notice a seamless experience whether you're submitting from your computer, tablet or phone.

As always, service requests can also be submitted by phone, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by calling 905-845-6601.



Jeff and Marc in the Community

