



# Councillor Carolyn Parrish

## Ward 5 News • Summer 2018



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### Dear Residents of Britannia, **What have we accomplished?**

It's been an incredible four years, and a great honour and privilege to serve the residents of Mississauga, especially those who live in Ward 5. Our ward is actually the economic engine of the City, contributing 24% of all the tax dollars through an incredible amount of industrial, commercial and airport-related businesses. We need to be proud of the successes that are taking place all over the City and especially those we can see right here in the Britannia community.

We've managed to stop the widening of McLaughlin Road yet again and the terrible loss of more than 500 trees from the 25 acre Britannia Woods. This roadway won't become a jammed detour for the LRT construction soon to take place on Hurontario.

The Britannia Farm, 200 acres owned by The Peel District School Board, has a refreshed Master Plan after extensive consultation with the community. Languishing unfunded for the past 30 years, a plan has been approved to develop the 32 acres along Hurontario into mixed residential and commercial along the LRT, leaving 168 acres fully funded as an incredible outdoor education facility. The Peel Board has agreed to allow some access for the public after hours. This will remain an open, natural green space in the heart of Ward 5 for many generations to come.



### Light Rail Transit

With a commitment of full provincial funding of \$1.4B for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project from Port Credit to Steeles Avenue, the City has added \$26m to build attractive stations and landscaping along the new north-south route. Metrolinx is managing the construction and building 22 stops which will be upgraded to reflect the neighbourhoods in which they are located. The 20km corridor is witnessing a construction boom in new condos, interesting store fronts and restaurants. Construction is expected to begin in 2018 with completion in 2022. The City is now planning east-west corridor improvements like **Dundas Connects** to eventually make public transit an attractive and economical way to travel around our City.

### Britannia Fall Fair Returns!

An old tradition has returned to the Britannia Farm with our second annual community Fall Fair at the Old Britannia School House. This year, again with lead sponsor **Pinnacle International**, as well as **TMG**, and **three Tim Hortons stores**. We'll have an old fashioned fair with a few surprises - a veggie market, Horse and Wagon rides, Free Tim Hortons beverages, a BBQ and bouncy castles, cotton candy and popcorn, Dixie Land music, an incredible 80 foot T-Rex hot air balloon for tethered rides and much more. Put Saturday September 29th 11:00 - 5:00pm in your calendars!





## What's Next for the Britannia Farm?

City Council recently gave final approval to the rezoning of the 32 acres along Hurontario and Bristol Road for mixed use development. The Peel District School Board Trustees will now decide if the land will be offered for long term lease or for sale. The land prices for large pieces of land like this are climbing, making this parcel worth well over \$100 million if sold. A sale would bring more revenue for the relocation of the Heritage Buildings and development of the Outdoor Education Centre.

What type of development should you expect to see on these 32 acres? City Staff can only suggest the number of units and heights of buildings that the property should hold. They are looking at up to four high rise buildings not exceeding 16-20 stories close to Hurontario with boutiques, fruit and bakery markets, restaurants and other shops in the bases of these buildings to animate the LRT stretch.

The city requires that the land facing residences on the south side of Bristol Road should contain units no higher than two or three stories and have put that into the rezoning documents.

Finally, I have suggested that because of the uniqueness of the Farm as a whole, it is important to have structures that compliment the 168 acre farm built with natural materials, open spaces and compatibility with the Heritage buildings. Rather than open the property to a bidding contest where the highest bidder is free to load the space with metal and glass, I suggested to Chair Janet McDougald that the Board consider having the price set for the land and then invite proposals which will be judged on design and materials and chosen for their compatibility with their surroundings.

Whatever is decided, it will be done very soon. This has the potential of being one of the most exciting projects in Ontario and it will be right here in the Ward 5 community!

## Ten Acre Events Pad to be Developed.

Excitement around the Hershey Centre! The long and beneficial relationship with the Hershey Company will come to an end this July. The new sponsor for the arena and facilities around it will be **Paramount Fine Foods**. A massive new sign will be installed on the arena and all the catering will be taken over by Paramount. A varied and high quality menu will be available at all the service outlets in the complex.

A second major change will be the termination of the contract for the management of the buildings: concert bookings and staffing, special events like Carrassauga, Concert bookings and a wide array of sports events like Steelheads, Raptors 905 and professional boxing. Management will now be part of the City's Recreation Department at a savings to the City and the taxpayers.

The ten acre events pad along the east side of the site, adjacent to the 403, was prepared jointly between the City and Cavalia. The \$1 million in fees for storm drainage, water and electrical installations and surface were prepared for the Odysseo show which thrilled Mississauga residents with it's giant traveling tents, music, equestrian prowess and acrobatics. Now, the City has issued requests for **Expressions of Interest** for an expansion of the complex to include a permanent, complimentary use. Proposals in the past have included a Water Park with retractable roof and hotel for visiting tournaments, and an entertainment centre with restaurants and pubs. We are expecting some exciting proposals all of which will be shared with the residents of Ward 5 before any decisions are made.





## Stars in Alignment

**Sometimes fate, or karma, or just a dramatic change of luck can cause good results to come out of what seems to be a bout of bad luck or a whole new understanding or perspective with the passage of time. I find this happens in politics more often than it does in regular life, strangely enough. After 33 years serving the public as School Trustee, Member of Parliament and Councillor I can comment on a couple of these turn-about from personal experience.**

## Danville Park Opening Delayed

The Danville Park Opening was delayed from September 29, 2017 until some time this year because of terrible weather. **“Final Approach Danville Terminal”** soars 24 meters above the surrounding area - the highest man-made land form in the City. Planes fly over that location more often than any other and fly low enough so that their markings are clearly visible. The viewing platform was created in partnership with the **Greater Toronto Airports Authority**, that contributed \$300,000 - an amount that seemed enormous at the time.

With the passage of time, an intense study has been done showing how little the GTAA pays in property taxes and Development Charges for building on properties they own surrounding the actual airport while sitting on more than 5000 acres of City land. Vancouver and Montreal Airports pay market value taxes to their Cities. The GTAA does not, paying about 25% of what they should. A small government within themselves, they haven't paid a cent of the Storm Water Charges paid by every property owner in the City.

The staff reports show that shortfalls in payments in the order of at least \$70 million per year would do wonders, lowering residential, industrial and business taxes in our city while

increasing the rate of infrastructure replacement we could do. In light of that delay, \$300,000 for a viewing platform leaves me less than enthusiastic.

Now that it is built, we must make good use of it. Please come out to Danville park off Courtney Park Drive and enjoy the spectacular view of the City, the neighborhood and the parade of colourful airplanes.



Courtesy Modern Mississauga

City staff entered into intensive negotiations with the Peel Board of Education several years before the 2014 election, and came pretty close to getting an agreement to lease 1/3 of the Britannia Farm (the corner 10 acres at Bristol and HWY10) for an enormous Storm Water Reservoir. Should you wish to see it's exact size and depth, it is currently being completed on City parkland on Matheson, north-west of Hurontario.

At the time of the negotiations, the Peel Board's 30 year old Master Plan for the Britannia Farm had no hope of funding, no way of raising the tens of millions needed to complete the dream. And yet, **the Board said NO to the City.**

## Matheson Storm Water Pond

Today that corner is an integral part of the 32 acres that will be developed to not only pay for the whole Master Plan, but will produce enough funds to operate outdoor education programs for generations to come.

As the Councillor for Ward 5 and the Britannia Farm, I am proud to say I'm in the right place at the right time to contribute to the completion of the Farm by facilitating the rezoning of the 32 acres needed to fund the rest of the project - a thirty year dream of mine.



## Fairwind Fire Station

When elected to Ward 5 in 2014, I discovered preliminary plans for a fire station and park combination on Fairwind Drive. I had concerns that the park and fire hall would be sharing exits and entrances as well as a parking lot. I surveyed the community which was 95% opposed to the plan. The design has been changed and the fire station moved onto Eglinton, away from the park.

Public consultations on the park features will begin in June: a mix of basketball court, an informal sports field, 2 tennis courts, adult fitness equipment, a naturalized meadow, a community vegetable garden and a creative playground. Watch for the announcements.

## The Britannia Farm

The Peel Board's Britannia Farm has had repeated assaults on it since the mid 1980s, including two attempts to destroy hundreds of trees in the forest attached to the Farm to widen McLaughlin Road. Proposals included the Hershey Centre, the storm water pond, housing subdivisions and Sheridan College with a shopping/business office development.

2014 was exactly the right time for me to return to Council, this time in Ward 5. As Chair of the Peel Board in 1989-90 I encouraged the creation of a Master Plan for a two hundred acre Outdoor Education Centre. For thirty years, no money was available to complete the project. Today, the updated Master Plan is on its way and the funds needed to make it a reality will be available because of the re-zoned 32 acres

along the LRT. The 25 acre forest on McLaughlin Road, with all native trees resistant to disease, will remain untouched.

John Stewart wrote in a recent Mississauga News article: **“Parrish has been a polarizing figure through out her career: zealous about her chosen causes, dismissive of opponents, overwrought in her rhetoric.**

**And very very persistent.**

**If you think there are no long-lasting public rewards in politics, just take a stroll or a drive up McLaughlin next October in the glorious blaze of autumn. Sometimes a one-woman crusade can benefit a whole city.”**

# Welcome to the Second Annual PINNACLE FALL FAIR

**MORE FREE FUN FOR EVERYONE!**

**Saturday  
September 29, 2018  
11:00am to 5:00pm**

Family Fun with bouncy castles, obstacle courses, horse & wagon rides, 1812 soldiers & dinosaur hot air balloon rides.

Hosted by  
Pinnacle International  
At the Old Britannia  
School House  
5576 Hurontario Street



**Hot Air  
Balloon**

