

F1-1

Evans, Earl

To: Flower City Committee Agenda - December 18, 2012  
Subject: Aspects of the Brampton Condition

Flower City Committee

From: Miles, Gael Councillor  
Sent: 2012/11/20 2:19 PM  
To: Allen, Meredith; Cutajar, Dennis  
Cc:  
Subject: FW: Aspects of the Brampton Condition

Date: December 18, 2012

Would you kindly place this letter from Mr. Posliff on the agenda of the Flower City Committee and the HACE Committee for discussion about Brampton becoming involved in "Culture Days" and moving forward on our own Walk of Fame.

Thanks

Gael

From: Bob Posliff  
Sent: 2012/10/29 3:06 PM  
To: Simmons, Peter; Cutajar, Dennis; Lowery, Jamie; Lewis, Mo; Patteson, Julian; Corbett, John; Fennell, Susan Mayor; Callahan, Bob Councillor; Moore, Elaine-Councillor; Miles, Gael Councillor; Gibson, Grant Councillor; Hutton, John Councillor; Sprovieri, John Councillor; Palleschi, Paul Councillor; Sanderson, John - Councillor; Hames, Sandra Councillor; Dhillon, Vicky - Councillor  
Cc: Skorupa, Konrad; chuck scott; Brent, Marty; claire loughheed; andrew mackenzie; David Harmsworth (E-mail); don naylor; VanSickle, Peter; sean trueland; Mountain,Victoria; Wilcox, Sharon; Minichillo, Antonietta; Taranu, Alex; Wong, Anthony; bob darling; [cmatyas@bramlib.on.ca](mailto:cmatyas@bramlib.on.ca); diane allengame; Marnie Richards; Allen, Meredith; Halls, Michael; Rob Filkin

Subject: Aspects of the Brampton Condition

Dear Mayor Fennell

A journalist recently asked me to verify my oft-made claim that Brampton is the only **municipality** in the 905 without an art gallery. I did and it is. ( PAMA is **Regional** and we're fortunate to have it in our unique, historic, Downtown. I guess, since its inception, its been Brampton's default gesture to the visual arts. )

Other municipal matters were percolating in my mind at the time. I couldn't resist the opportunity to share them then and I must share them with you now.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Culture Days** is an annual collaborative coast-to-coast-to-coast volunteer movement to raise the **awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement** of Canadians in the world of artists, creators, historians, architects, curators, designers and other creative people in their communities, since its beginning in 2010.

Totally 21st century **creative economy**-oriented !

This year, millions of Canadians fell in love with culture by participating in 7000 activities across the country on September 28, 29 and 30.

# F1-2

The GTA was well represented and closer to home, Mississauga had 70 activities, Milton had 25 and Caledon conducted a studio tour with opportunities for the public to engage the participating artists. ( Port credit even published an RFP in Canadian Architect magazine months ago for park(ing) concepts.)

Regrettably, **Brampton had none.**

This, after all that Canada's 9th largest city was promised during the **Creative Economy Summit** held in February of this year at the Rose Theatre. Your remarks at last year's Board of Trade Mayor's luncheon set the stage. You stressed that to be competitive, Brampton must grow its **creative economy** and it must attract the **creative class** to drive it.

**Culture Days is one helluva way to do that !** The dates for **Culture Days** next year are **September 27, 28 and 29, 2013.** My resources are limited but if I can help assure Bramptonians' opportunity to **create, participate** and **celebrate** next year, I'll be pleased to do so.

Please hold that thought.

\* \* \* \* \*

A brief aside. It's interesting to note that the same closer-to-home municipalities of Mississauga, Milton and Caledon, along with our neighbours to the east including York University, Markham, Scarborough, Ajax, Whitby and Oshawa all had events assigned to them for the **Toronto 2015 Pan Am / Parapan Am Games.**

Regrettably, **Brampton had none.**

**Here's an idea.....** Maybe, at the very least, since the Games aren't coming to us, we could go to them. If there are Bramptonians participating, they should be given the publicity and encouragement they deserve and public transportation to attend their events could be provided. The opportunity to generate civic pride and community spirit need not be totally lost.

But I digress.

\* \* \* \* \*

Back to that thought.

In a letter to you dated January 2010, I suggested a **Walk of Fame** in Garden Square. Our notable athletes and those associated with them are regularly inducted into our **Sports Hall of Fame** at the Powerade Centre but there are many outstanding Bramptonians in other fields that deserve equal recognition.

My inspiration was a feature in the Toronto Star, in October 2007, proclaiming that " Brampton, Canada's Flowertown, is fast becoming the epicentre of Canadian celebrity culture." The prime incentive for that write-up was world-renowned comedian Russell Peters. The article said he was the first comedian to sell out the Air Canada Centre and his graffiti-style backdrop had the " All roads lead to Brampton " motto on it. How's that for civic pride? ( To say nothing of his philanthropic activity in our community. )

The commentary goes on to mention actors Michael Cera, Tyler Labine, Paulo Costanza, twins Shawn and Aaron Ashmore, comedian Scott Thompson, author Rohinton Mistry, singer/songwriter Jason Collett and musician/composer Richard Marsella, a.k.a. Friendly Rich.

There are other worthy inductees; to wit, the former Premier of Ontario, the Honourable William G. Davis, painters Jack Reid and Ronald Bloore and actor Billy Petrovski.

In June 2011, an article in the Brampton Guardian stated that the inauguration of the **Walk of Fame** would take place in the fall of last year.

Regrettably, it did not.

**Here's an idea .....** What could be a more exciting way to participate in **Culture Days** next year than to **unveil the charter members of our Walk of Fame**? The attendant publicity will become an annual opportunity, as it is in so many other communities, to promote tourism and to demonstrate our civic pride and community spirit to the world !

Why not make a further important contribution to our community spirit by inviting citizens of Brampton to submit names? Public engagement in the naming of the Battalion hockey team was huge. And fun. We were informed and inspired. Proposing **Walk of Fame** candidates will be no less so.

\* \* \* \* \*

Last Easter, it was time to tell my granddaughter where the coloured eggs really came from. She was shocked. " What?! First you tell me there's no **Walk of Fame** , then no **Culture Days** and now no **Easter Bunny**? When will this dreadful news ever end? "

Yours truly,  
Bob Posliff

P.S. A brief aside re heritage promotion: kudos to those responsible for the very promising restoration work being undertaken on the old firehall on Chapel Street. ( *heritage promotion begets civic pride begets community spirit.* )