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Brampton's Draft Official Plan Ready for Review

BRAMPTON—Effective land use, planning and growth management are key issues facing Brampton residents, and now everyone in the City will have additional opportunities in May and June to provide input.

“Extensive public consultation over the past 18 months with Brampton citizens have confirmed for City planners what we already suspected,” said City Councillor Grant Gibson, Chair of the City’s Planning, Design and Development Committee. “Growth in this City must continue to be managed effectively, with the infrastructure in place to support future residents and businesses.”

The City’s Official Plan, charting the course for Brampton’s sustainable growth in the next 20 to 30 years, aims to do just that. “The draft Official Plan strengthens Brampton’s commitment to growth management and a strategic approach to transportation and infrastructure planning that will help to create a compact, complete and transit-oriented community,” said John Corbett, the City’s Commissioner of Planning, Design and Development.

“The finalization of the new Official Plan represents the culmination of a series of aggressive planning tactics aimed at tackling growth-related issues,” Corbett said. “The City has already approved a Transit and Transportation Master Plan, Development Design Guidelines and has introduced a comprehensive Growth Management Program which includes the recent introduction of a City-wide cap on residential development.”

The first draft of Brampton’s new Official Plan was released for public review on April 24 by City Council, and is available on-line at www.brampton.ca, and at City Hall, 2 Wellington St. W., Clerk’s Office, first floor; or Planning, Design and Development Department, third floor. The draft plan will be available for review as a reference document at each branch of Brampton Public Library in early May.

“Effective land use, planning and growth management are key issues facing Brampton residents,” said Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell. “Public input up has been great, and I hope everyone will take the time to review the draft Official Plan.”

The draft Official Plan:

- Incorporates a new set of long-term growth forecasts, as approved by City Council last year
- Establishes retail policies to ensure they respond to market trends
- Updates the office strategy to reflect more realistic business development opportunities and to match designated office land with the needs of GTA users
- Includes the most up-to-date environmental mapping available, reinforces the City’s ecosystem approach to environmental planning, and makes sure the City’s environmental

policies conform to current best practices, including those of the Conservation authorities and Regional and Provincial government

- Proposes a refined park system and more connected open space system
- Updates the urban design policies to both conform with the City adopted Development Design Guidelines and other policies, and to demonstrate the City's commitment to taking a leadership role in promoting superior urban design
- Updates the cultural heritage policies to strengthen protection of heritage resources enabled by the latest provincial, Regional and City policies and initiatives, including the Ontario Heritage Act
- Includes North West Brampton as part of the Urban Development Area as approved by City Council; and
- Updates the general format of the Official Plan to make it more reader-friendly.

A stakeholder's workshop will be held in early June, and an open house and the Official Plan's statutory Public Meeting are scheduled for Monday, June 26 at Brampton City Hall. Planning staff will use July and August to consider the public input, make changes as appropriate and produce a revised draft Official Plan for Council's consideration in the fall.

The City has involved the community in providing input into future planning since early 2005. There has since been two Mayor's Town Hall meetings, an open house and a number of stakeholder sessions. The City has delivered an update newsletter to citizens, has run an advertising campaign, and has provided information at recreation centres and information kiosks across Brampton.

"From the very beginning, public input has been a key part of this Official Plan Review process," said Regional Councillor Paul Paleschi, Vice-Chair of the Planning, Design and Development Committee. "The name of the campaign, Our Brampton...Our Future reflects the contributions to planning our future that is being made by families and businesses across the City."

For more information, or to order the draft Official Plan on CD or in print, for a fee, please visit www.brampton.ca, e-mail ourfuture@brampton.ca, or call 905-874-2050.

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