

# COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

**WINTER 2025**

**Wards 1 & 5**



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What a year 2025 has been! It has truly been a joy engaging with residents across Wards 1 and 5, hearing your ideas, celebrating local successes and working together to strengthen our neighbourhoods.



Major highlights this year include welcoming the first class to TMU's Medical School, construction beginning for the Riverwalk, hiring 300 new police officers, downtown revitalization, local park enhancements, strengthened response to encampments and much more.

A full recap of what we have accomplished together over the past three years, can be found at [councillorsantos.ca/2025](https://councillorsantos.ca/2025)

This year, I am proud to celebrate the City of Brampton's highest honour, the Key to the City, awarded to local resident Annie Bynoe, Executive Director of Knight's Table. Annie's leadership in addressing food insecurity has touched countless families across Peel. She was also featured as one of our Local Heroes in my Local Pulse newsletter.



*Councillor Santos with her band Point of Order at the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting*

From my team and family to yours,  
Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!

Blessings,  
Rowena Santos

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rowena Santos".

As we begin the Christmas season, a time of hope and joyful celebration, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and share this update with you on what's happening in Wards 1 and 5!

As the Chair of Public Works, I continue to champion the Riverwalk project. I am so pleased to report that in addition to securing funding from both federal and provincial governments, we have begun construction on this transformative project! You can read of the latest developments in this issue.

As the representative for Brampton and the Region of Peel at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), I continue to work with other municipal leaders to advocate for our needs at the provincial government, with a focus on fair share funding to get the support Brampton needs as one of the province's fastest-growing cities.

Did you know that December is Christian Heritage Month? In 2019, the City of Brampton issued an official proclamation declaring and recognizing the long-standing cultural and historical contributions of Christian communities to the city. Let us take this time to reflect this Christmas season on how we can continue to collaborate, listen to, and care for one another, and to make this time of year extra special — Merry Christmas!



Warm regards,  
Paul Vicente

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Vicente".



### SUPPORT BRAMPTON'S HOPE FUND AND CHANGE AN ANIMAL'S LIFE

The HOPE Fund helps provide urgent medical care for animals who come into the Brampton Animal Shelter injured, sick or in crisis. Your donation ensures these pets get the treatment they need and find a loving home. Every contribution supports life-saving care, from surgeries to specialized treatments. Please consider donating and giving vulnerable animals the second chance they deserve. Visit [brampton.ca/animalservices](https://brampton.ca/animalservices) to learn more or contribute.



### SCHOOL BUS REMINDER FOR DRIVERS

Stopping for a school bus is the law and buses can stop at any time -- so stay alert! When a bus is loading or unloading children, its upper red lights flash and a stop-sign arm extends. Drivers must stop and remain stopped until the arm folds away and the lights stop flashing. Leave at least 20 metres when stopped behind a bus and obey all signals before moving again. Where there is no physical median dividing lanes of travel, such as a four-way stop with only painted lines separating lanes of travel, vehicles must remain stopped in both directions until the red lights stop flashing. Learn more at [brampton.ca/schoolbussafety](https://brampton.ca/schoolbussafety)



### RRL ENHANCEMENTS COMING TO WARDS 1 AND 5 IN 2026

Brampton's Residential Rental Licensing (RRL) Program will continue in Wards 1 and 5 with important enhancements launching January 1, 2026. Building on two years of strengthened oversight, the extended program will introduce required landlord training, new licence classifications and updated program requirements. These improvements support the City's ongoing work to address illegal units, reduce safety risks and ensure all rentals meet building, fire and property standards. By enhancing RRL in Wards 1 and 5, Brampton is reinforcing accountability, improving enforcement and continuing to advance safe, legal, well-maintained rental housing for residents. Learn more at [brampton.ca/RRL](https://brampton.ca/RRL)



### DISCOVER BRAMPTON'S WINTER OUTDOORS

Whether you're looking for free skating, tubing at Mount Chinguacousy or a peaceful winter walk, there are plenty of ways to stay active this season. Brampton's parks and most recreational trails are maintained year-round, so you can get outside whenever you like. Before you head out, be sure to check the City's website for any weather-related updates. Learn more at [brampton.ca/winterwonderland](https://brampton.ca/winterwonderland)

### TRANSFORMING DOWNTOWN BRAMPTON – RIVERWALK GROUNDBREAKING

In November 2025, the City officially kicked off construction on the Downtown Brampton Flood Protection Project, the first phase of the Riverwalk project. This marks a significant milestone toward transforming the City's downtown core and protecting it from future events.

Beyond flood protection, Riverwalk will deliver substantial social and economic benefits. The project is expected to:

- Enable new development to accommodate approximately 17,700 new residents in downtown Brampton.
- Enable the creation of 23,800 jobs, including 2,200 construction-related positions during the building phase.
- Unlock 3.6 million square feet of new residential, retail and commercial space for development.

Learn more at [brampton.ca/riverwalk](https://brampton.ca/riverwalk)



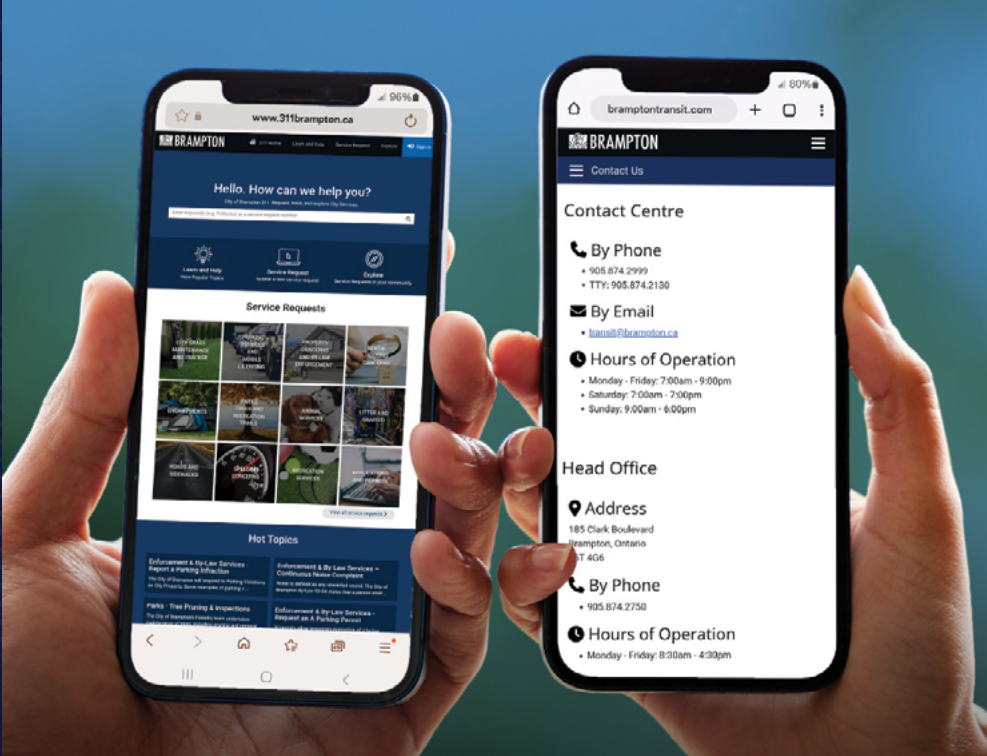
### CITY BUDGET 2026

Planning is underway for the City of Brampton's 2026 Budget. Building on the current year's investments in critical infrastructure, community spaces, transit, health care and active living, the 2026 Budget will support key priorities in our Corporate Strategic Plan. The City will be hosting a series of public engagements to better understand what matters most to Brampton residents and businesses. Find out how you can get involved at [brampton.ca/budget](https://brampton.ca/budget)



# CONTACTING SERVICE BRAMPTON

We're modernizing how we respond to 311 service requests and are making it easier for you to connect with us. Customer service is available 24/7 through the 311 mobile app, 311brampton.ca or by dialing 311. Between 12 am and 7 am, 311 is available for urgent inquiries only. Learn more at [311brampton.ca](https://www.311brampton.ca)



## ROAD CLOSURES MAP

The City's online road closures map provides up-to-date information on planned and unplanned road restrictions across Brampton. Whether closures are caused by construction, filming, special events or unexpected disruptions, this tool helps you plan ahead and choose the best routes. Learn more at [brampton.ca/roads](https://brampton.ca/roads)

## LET'S SOCIALIZE!

Stay connected by following the City of Brampton's official social media accounts, including our new Parks & Recreation channel. Get updates on City operations, events, programs and more. For a complete list, visit [brampton.ca/socialmedia](https://brampton.ca/socialmedia)



## KEEP YOUR PROPERTY SAFE AND COMPLIANT

It's your responsibility to ensure your property is safe and in good condition. Secure waste, remove debris and clear snow and ice from sidewalks. Keep driveways, steps, windows and fences in good repair. Always park in designated areas and keep sidewalks and fire routes clear. Learn more at [brampton.ca/bylaws](https://brampton.ca/bylaws)



## MAKE IT A FIRE-SAFE DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we can all get distracted. Remember to check your lights, water real trees, blow out candles, test smoke and CO alarms, cook safely and give heaters space. Keep your home safe this winter! Learn more at [bramptonfire.com](https://bramptonfire.com)

## JOIN TEAM BRAMPTON!

As one of Canada's fastest-growing cities, Brampton is alive with energy and opportunity. Join our team if you want to:

- make a positive impact in your community
- expand your skills and embrace new challenges
- be part of an innovative and forward-thinking team

See what positions are available and apply at [brampton.ca/employment](https://brampton.ca/employment)





## CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

### Neighbourhood Walkabouts

This year, I hosted hundreds of residents through neighbourhood walkabouts to hear concerns, gather ideas and work together on local improvements. These on-the-ground conversations help shape meaningful solutions. Captured above is Mayor Brown and I joined by over 80 residents at Lake Louise Parkette alongside City staff. To arrange a walkabout in your area, please contact me at [rowena.santos@brampton.ca](mailto:rowena.santos@brampton.ca)



## SANTOS YOUTH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP TEAM

To wrap up the year, I debriefed over dinner with the incredible youth leaders of the Santos Youth Council -- Co-Chairs: Anahita and Ashank; Director of Public Relations: Aleeza; Director of Internal Affairs: Puneet; and Director of Community Events: Mohammad. It was wonderful to catch up and make plans for the year ahead.

With over 300 members strong, the Santos Youth Council continues to empower young leaders through community events, youth-led projects and meaningful volunteer initiatives.

Join us by applying at [councillorsantos.ca/youthcouncil](http://councillorsantos.ca/youthcouncil)



## NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION NIGHT

Since launching the Neighbourhood Association Guide in 2024, the CSWO supported 52 neighbourhood projects engaging over 6,000 residents. Connected neighbourhoods create safer neighbourhoods and I'm proud to work with local neighbourhood associations across Wards 1 and 5: Brampton Social Group, Calvert Dale, Flower City Friends Club, Laidlaw Park, Leflar Park, Lorenvile, Mahaffy Park, Mosaic Brampton, Estates of Credit Ridge, Nelson West and Stillman Park associations.

Learn more at [councillorsantos.ca/neighbourhoods](http://councillorsantos.ca/neighbourhoods)



## THE LOCAL PULSE

This year, I launched the Local Pulse, a hyper-local newsletter featuring news on parks, roads, recreation, policing, events and inspiring Local Heroes making a real difference in our community. So far, the Local Pulse has reached 14 neighbourhoods, landing on more than 17,000 doorsteps. With more to come in the spring!

Learn more at [councillorsantos.ca/localpulse](http://councillorsantos.ca/localpulse)



Regional Councillor Paul Vicente, Ontario Transportation Minister Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria and Metrolinx CEO/President Michael Lindsay outside the new Mount Dennis GO Station.

## IMPROVING TRANSIT CONNECTIVITY WITH GO

In November, I joined Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Sarkaria and Metrolinx President and CEO Michael Lindsay for the opening of the new Mount Dennis GO Station. With two-way all-day service, this new station provides improved reliability and connectivity for Brampton residents to access other transportation networks around the GTA.



Regional Councillor Gurpartap Toor, Library Board Chair Nicole Russel, Regional Councillor Paul Vicente and Brampton Library CEO Todd Kyle with Brampton Library staff.

## CELEBRATING LIBRARY WEEK

As a proud member of the Brampton Library Board, I was honoured to celebrate Ontario Library Week at the Springdale branch. The theme, Libraries for Life, highlighted just how vital libraries are for residents of all ages. Libraries are a place to help develop young minds, try new hobbies and foster community. Learn more about Brampton Public Library programming at [bramptonlibrary.ca](http://bramptonlibrary.ca)



Regional Councillor Paul Vicente speaking at the groundbreaking.

## PHASE ONE RIVERWALK GROUNDBREAKING

We celebrated the groundbreaking of phase one of the Riverwalk project, the Downtown Brampton Flood Protection Project. This transformative project will make our downtown more accessible and vibrant and create economic growth for businesses and residents. It has been a passion of mine since before I was even elected to serve you. With construction targeted to begin soon and completion in 2028, we are moving forward! Thank you to the Brampton MPs and MPPs who joined us at this momentous occasion. History will mark a time before and a time after the Riverwalk in Brampton.



Marlene Spence from Hope Endoors and their amazing group of young people standing with the Steelheads mascot and Regional Councillor Paul Vicente.

## STEELHEADS GAME WITH HOPE ENDOORS

I had the honour of hosting staff, parents and clients of Hope Endoors at the Brampton Steelheads hockey game to show appreciation for an organization that supports young adults living with developmental disabilities and special needs. Hope Endoors provides guidance, support, respite and inclusive programs that strengthen families and empower individuals to thrive.

## CITY EVENTS

New Year's Eve | **December 31**

Tamil Heritage Month Celebration | **January**

Mayor New Year's Levee | **January 10**

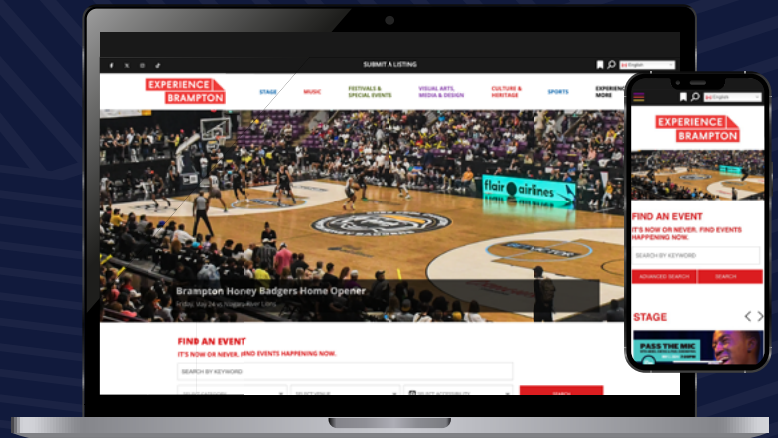
Black History Month Celebration | **February**


Iftar | **February**

Lunar New Year & Vietnamese Lunar New Year Celebration | **February**

International Women's Day | **March**

Irish Heritage Month Celebration | **March**



Check out the full event list visit at [experiencebrampton.ca](https://experiencebrampton.ca) 

CHECK OUT

# CITY MATTERS

 **BRAMPTON**



Sign up to City Matters to stay up to date with the latest news and events happening in YOUR city.



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