

# City of Brampton

## COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021 Edition



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Welcome to the Spring edition of the Wards 2 and 6 Community Newsletter. It is important to us to have the ability to connect directly with residents to provide updates on exciting projects and initiatives within our community.

As we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times, we would like to remind residents to adhere to the advice of Peel Public Health and the current measures in place by the Provincial Government. It is more critical than ever that we remain vigilant in our fight against this pandemic.

Now in its second year, the Backyard Garden Program is an eco-friendly initiative to help support food security in our city by encouraging residents to grow produce and herbs from the comfort of their own homes and donate their homegrown crops to local food banks and community organizations.

Recognizing community involvement brings positive and measurable change, we have highlighted two volunteer groups who have come together for the betterment of our neighbourhoods. Their passion and commitment to making a difference has a lasting impact towards keeping the city clean and green and protecting our local turtle population.

Identifying the need to provide alternatives to pet owners and help pets stay out of shelters, Brampton Animal Services has partnered with Home To Home™, an online platform that allows residents to proactively rehome their pets when keeping them is no longer an option.

In keeping with our commitment to the environment and innovative and sustainable planning, we are working on several initiatives to build on Brampton's commitment to sustainability by improving transit and active transportation opportunities, focusing on energy efficiency, and revitalizing natural spaces and the urban tree canopy. Earlier this year Council approved the update of the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan, a comprehensive framework to improve Brampton's environmental performance, including principles, goals, actions, metrics, and targets.

As the warmer weather is upon us, we encourage everyone to engage in exercise outdoors as it not only improves your physical health; it helps with your mental health as well. Remember, even when outdoors, to practice social distancing by staying at least six feet away from others.

As always, we are here for you. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, suggestions or requests. We remain dedicated to working with you to deliver a strong and prosperous future for the City of Brampton.

Michael and Doug

## COVID-19 UPDATES AND VACCINATION ROLLOUT

Please continue checking our website **brampton.ca** for COVID-19 updates and safety measures to keep you, your family and friends safe. In line with the Province's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan, the Region of Peel is working diligently to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine safely and quickly to our community. For updates on vaccine appointments, eligibility, priority groups and distribution, please visit Peel Region's website **peelregion.ca**



City Council meetings take place every other **Wednesday at 9:30 am**. For more details, visit **www.brampton.ca** | **905.874.2000**



# WEGENAST VALLEY EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in partnership with the City of Brampton is conducting erosion control works within Wegenast Valley to address the risk to a pedestrian footbridge along the Etobicoke Creek Trail. The project will involve the repair of the bridge abutments, along with bank stabilization measures to prevent future impacts to the bridge.

This project is anticipated to be completed in July 2021, excluding final restoration. To ensure public safety, sections of the trail within the limits of construction will be temporarily closed for the duration of work.



## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION WALK, RIDE OR ROLL

Brampton is an active city with more than 40 kilometres of guided and paved recreational trails. This year, the City is adding nearly 30 kms of new linear cycling infrastructure (bike lanes, urban shoulders, multi-use paths and recreational trails/paths). We're building *Streets for People* to provide a safe, comfortable, and sustainable street experience regardless of how you choose to travel.

Brampton is dedicated to becoming a bicycle and walk-friendly community that fosters and promotes active transportation; one where residents and visitors can safely and conveniently access places, goods and services with a network of on and off-road options.

Want more information on our recreational trails? Visit [brampton.ca](http://brampton.ca) and check out the Brampton Cycling Map or the interactive Peel Recreational Trails Map.

## BRAMPTON TRANSIT GOES GREEN!

Brampton Transit is a proud participant in the first-of-its-kind electric bus pilot project. The unprecedented initiative has brought multiple levels of government, bus and charger manufacturers, system integrators, academia, and funding partners together to implement electric buses in Brampton.

This project is the largest single global deployment of standardized and fully interoperable battery electric buses and high-powered overhead on-route charging systems.

Brampton Transit unveiled the new electric bus brand and introduced buses into service earlier this spring.

Brampton is a Green City and these zero-emission, state-of-the-art vehicles will save approximately 235 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, per bus, contributing to Brampton's goal of reducing emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050.





## HOW TO DEAL WITH STRESS ANIMALS MAY FEEL WITH RETURN TO NORMALCY

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many pet owners have spent more time at home with their pets. As owners return to work, pets may experience some degree of separation anxiety. This is especially true for dogs.

Pets have routines and their routines will change as owners start going back to work. To help prepare your pet for this change, you can start by leaving your house for a few minutes at a time and slowly increase the amount of time your pet is alone. If your pet struggles with you going out the door, you can help distract them by offering them a stuffed KONG, a favourite or interactive toy. Having a radio playing or leaving the TV on can also help anxious pets to relax in your absence.



## HOME TO HOME™ SERVICE FOR PETS



Need to rehome your pet? Brampton Animal Services has partnered with Home To Home™, an online platform that allows residents to proactively rehome their pets when keeping them is no longer an option. Home To Home™ helps pets stay out of shelters, thereby preventing overcrowding and saving shelter resources for those animals most in need.

The rehoming website will help Brampton pet owners find a new home for their pets, including dogs, cats and other animals. The current pet owner simply fills out a brief online form and uploads a picture to submit a pet for rehoming. Those seeking to welcome a pet to their family can search for available pets on Home To Home™. It's free to use, and allows current owners to find the best fit, and adopters can learn all about the pets personality and preferences first-hand.

## SPRING MEANS BABY WILDLIFE

Brampton is home to a variety of wild animals ranging from beavers to coyotes. Brampton Animal Services strives to educate residents on how to live peacefully with urban wildlife. Visit the Animal Services pages at [brampton.ca](http://brampton.ca) to watch the Living with Wildlife and other educational videos as part of the Animal Services FAQ Series.



# BRAMPTON RELEASES UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN

On March 24, 2021, Brampton City Council unanimously approved the update of the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan (EMP), building on its commitment to being a Green City. The update of this pivotal document highlights the City of Brampton's environmental successes and how the environmental priorities have evolved since the EMP was first released in 2014, and provides a refreshed Action Plan to drive these goals forward. The Action Plan features 60 high-impact actions that chart the course for a greener city over the next decade, and will accelerate Brampton as a healthy, resilient, and environmentally sustainable community.



## KEEPING BRAMPTON CLEAN AND GREEN

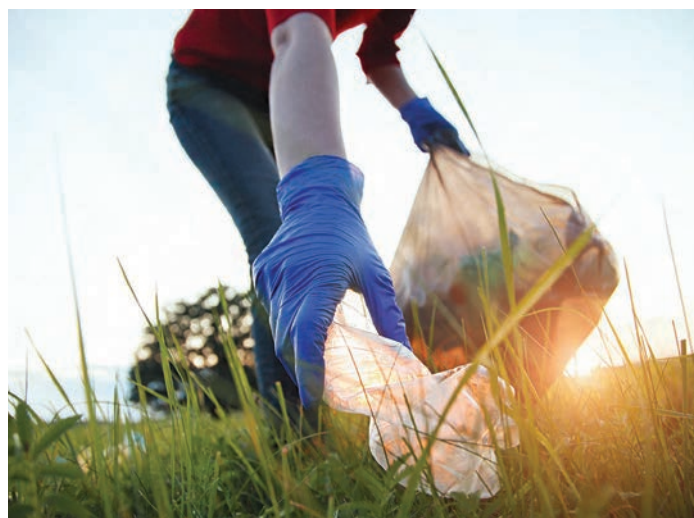


Until November, residents and businesses are encouraged to register for self-led clean ups at one of our many parks.

If you collect recyclables during your cleanup, please remember to recycle them. To learn more about how to sort your waste, visit the Region of Peel's website at [peelregion.ca](https://www.peelregion.ca). Together, we can keep Brampton clean and green!

Share your cleanup photos with us by emailing [bramptongreencity@brampton.ca](mailto:bramptongreencity@brampton.ca)

For more information, including any restrictions that may be in place, visit [brampton.ca/cleanup](https://www.brampton.ca/cleanup)



## YARD MAINTENANCE

By-laws help everyone enjoy a clean, safe neighbourhood and shared public spaces. On your private property, keep grass cut to 20 cm (8 inches) or shorter, and trim trees and hedges to avoid overgrowth. Remove stagnant water (often accumulated in wading pools, pool covers, buckets, etc.), and be sure not to store damaged or partially working items or debris on your property.

[brampton.ca/bylaws](https://www.brampton.ca/bylaws)



## BACKYARD GARDEN PROGRAM



The City's popular Backyard Garden Program has returned for a second year. In 2020, Councillor Whillans had an idea to help support food security in the community and provide much needed assistance to residents in need. With the help and dedication of staff and volunteers, the Backyard Garden Program was implemented. Last year, more than 10,000 pounds of produce was donated to local food banks and community organizations.

This eco-friendly initiative encourages residents to grow produce and herbs from the comfort of their own homes and donate them for distribution throughout the City to our most vulnerable.

Registration may be closed, but you can still sign up for the new Garden Club! Open to all gardening enthusiasts, the Club provides a monthly e-newsletter with gardening information, advice from horticultural experts, exclusive offers, and other resources. For more information and to sign up, visit [brampton.ca/backyardgarden](https://www.brampton.ca/backyardgarden)





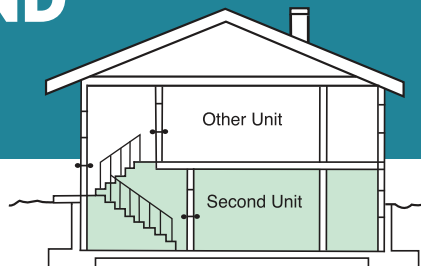
## BARBEQUE SAFETY

Now that the weather is warming up, it means barbeque season is upon us. Follow these tips to make this a fire-safe barbeque season:

- Clean, inspect and test all connection lines
- Never leave a lit BBQ unattended
- Never BBQ inside your garage
- Do not place the BBQ close to anything that can burn
- To avoid a fire, make sure grease does not build up on the burners or at the base of the BBQ
- Keep children and pets a safe distance away
- Turn off all fuel sources after use and leave the lid open to let it cool before you safely store it away

Learn more at [bramptonfire.com](http://bramptonfire.com)

## SECOND UNITS



Registering second units (basement apartments) with the City ensures that they are safe, legal and livable. It helps the City provide the unit with its own municipal address. This information is shared with Brampton Fire, in case of an emergency, they will know there is a second unit in your house before they arrive. This can save precious seconds in a life-or-death situation. The registry is also available on the City's website allowing residents to confirm if a property is legally registered. For illegal second units, fines could go up to \$25,000.

## ACCESSIBLE PARKING

One in seven Ontarians has a disability, and not all disabilities are visible. Be mindful of accessible parking spots. If you park next to an accessible parking space, don't park over the yellow-striped access aisles. They provide additional space for those with disabilities to get in and out of vehicles with ease. Drive slow when you are near accessible parking areas and close to building entrances.

## USING FIREWORKS FOR VICTORIA DAY, CANADA DAY, DIWALI AND NEW YEAR'S EVE?



Only short-range fireworks, those that tend to travel less than three metres (10 feet) when set off, are allowed on Victoria Day, Canada Day, Diwali and New Year's Eve. Examples include fountains, wheels, ground spinners, sparklers. All other fireworks are banned in Brampton, and no fireworks are allowed on sidewalks, at schools, parks and other public properties.

[brampton.ca/bylaws](http://brampton.ca/bylaws)

### SAFETY TIPS:



Keep a container of water or a hose line that's filled with water available to extinguish fireworks



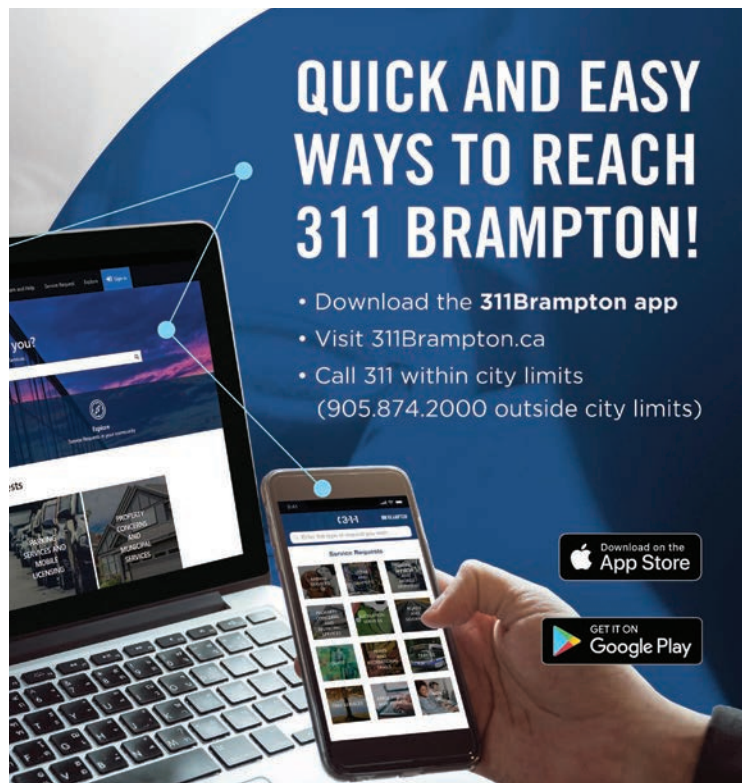
Never light a firework or hold a lit firework in your hand, other than a sparkler



After using sparklers, place them in a container of water to fully cool before disposal

## QUICK AND EASY WAYS TO REACH 311 BRAMPTON!

- Download the **311Brampton** app
- Visit [311Brampton.ca](http://311Brampton.ca)
- Call 311 within city limits  
(905.874.2000 outside city limits)



Download on the  
App Store

GET IT ON  
Google Play



## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### PEOPLE AGAINST LITTER

People Against Littering (P.A.L.) is a citizens grassroots movement of passionate, caring, volunteers who have dedicated themselves to cleaning up the litter and trash that abounds in Brampton. Our vision and ambitious goal is a litter-free Brampton by 2023. Last year, we had over 70 organized litter cleanups in Brampton and eradicated tons of disgusting garbage from out of our environment. We cleaned up parks, creeks and streets. This year the goal is to recruit more members and triple the number of cleanups.

“Our mission is to unite, inspire and embolden people to take action against littering. We will empower citizens and communities to create a new social norm where litter and littering are no longer tolerated,” said Bill Godfrey.

To learn more about volunteering, please visit [facebook.com/groups/peopleagainstlittering](https://facebook.com/groups/peopleagainstlittering) or contact our office directly.



#### *(Right)*

During the holidays, Councillor Palleschi hosted a drive-through Turkey Distribution event in Brampton to add a little extra cheer to the Christmas holidays. Here, Councillor Palleschi with the help of Mayor Brown and Mohamad Fakh from Paramount Fine Foods, are transferring turkeys to a vehicle, to be delivered to a local food bank. This distribution event was to inspire and highlight community giving and encourage residents to lend a hand to their neighbours where they can.







**(Above)**

Councillor Whillans hard at work delivering vegetables grown by a resident as part of the Backyard Garden Program to Brampton Fire for their community garden. After its success last year, the Backyard Garden Program was launched again by popular demand and residents have been growing produce to share with families in our community that have needed a helping hand.



[facebook.com/groups/heartlaketurtletroopers/](https://facebook.com/groups/heartlaketurtletroopers/)

## TURTLE TROOPERS

Our mission is to support the protection and monitoring of the local turtle population through a citizen science volunteer program, by working in partnership with community stakeholders to raise community awareness, recruit and engage citizen volunteers and organize and deliver public engagement activities.

Our Turtle Troopers support Loafers Lake, the Etobicoke Trail and the Heart Lake Region of Brampton. Volunteers are welcome to join us for our upcoming training with TRCA. We will be learning about our local turtle species and the monitoring of their nesting sites.





The City of Brampton remains ready to respond to shifting circumstances and adjust events to ensure community safety during COVID-19. Events and their respective dates are subject to change.

June 1 – 30	Pride in Brampton
June 2	Italian Independence Day
June 10	Portuguese Independence Day
June 12	Philippines Independence Day
June 19 – Oct 23	Brampton Farmers' Market

June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day
July 1	Canada Day
July 23-25	Arts & Culture Initiative of South Asia*
July 24 – 25	Canadian Indo-Caribbean Festival*

\*This event is supported through the City of Brampton Marquee Festival & Event Fund

Disclaimer:




Please note that with the current conditions, it is assumed most events will be online this year. Please mark these dates in your calendar, and check in at [brampton.ca](https://brampton.ca) for details closer to event dates. Note all event information is subject to change.

## We Want to Connect With You

If you have an upcoming community event or special occasion, we want to hear about it. There are a number of ways we can provide assistance and show our support. Reach out to our office with details and we can discuss.




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For additional City updates, subscribe to the City Matters email at [brampton.ca](https://brampton.ca).