

## INSIDE

Why I do not sit on poverty reduction committees

Page 4



- 2 Rebates are OK
- 3 X marks the spot
- 5 New Gilded Age
- 8 Peel childcare closures
- 9 Knock knock, Who's where?
- 10 Words from the street
- 11 Empty wallets, empty bellies
- 12 Mickey at Knights Table

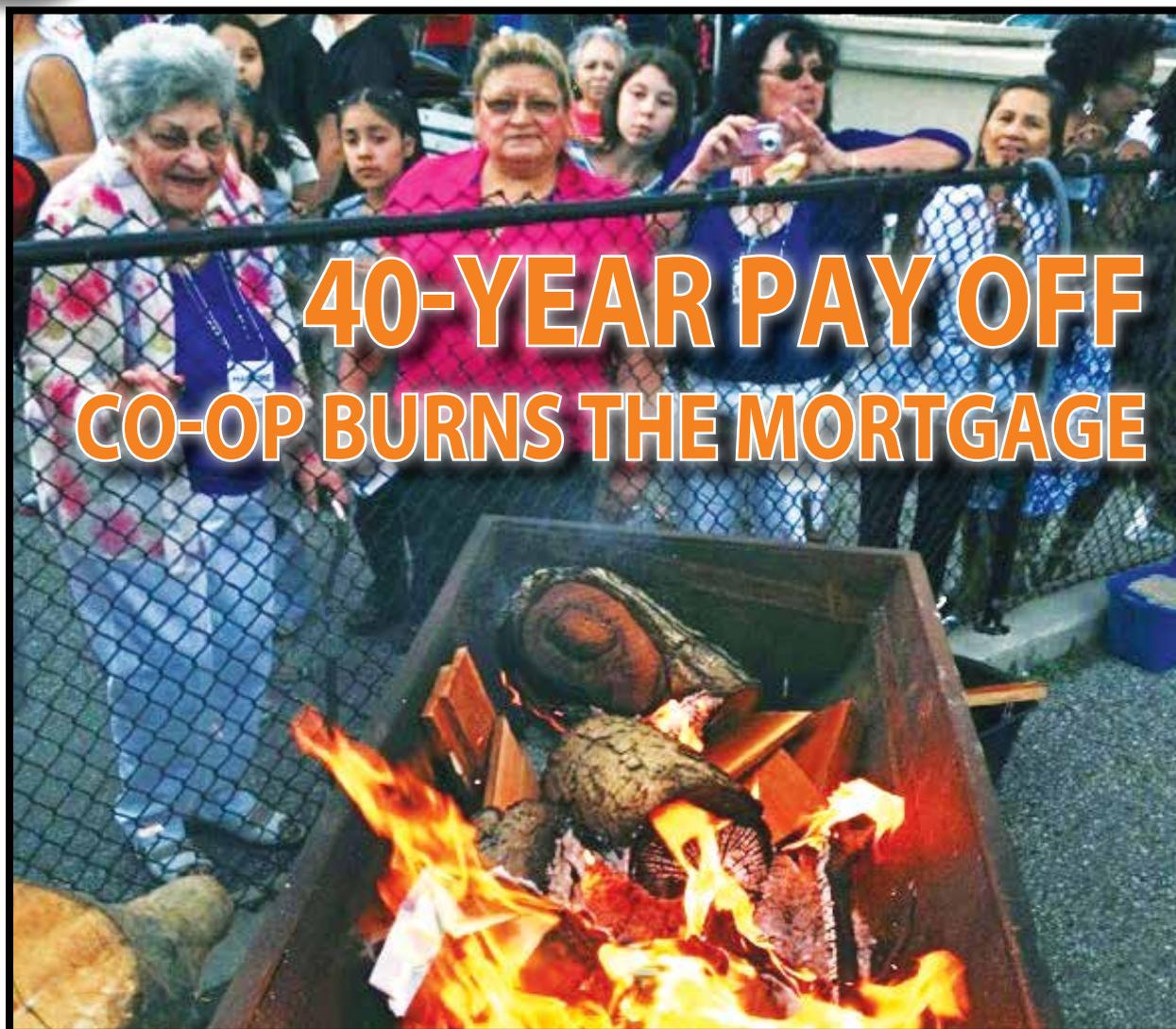
## Tar sands are coming to Peel

### ENBRIDGE'S PIPELINE RUNNING THROUGH MISSISSAUGA

**E**ven before tar sands product pumps through the pipes of energy corporation Enbridge, public outcry is getting louder -- from accusations that the Harper government has deliberately limited public input about environmental risks, to notes by City of Mississauga staff that they are not getting the reports they need, that in any case some reports are "commissioned by industry," and that the National Energy Board (NEB) refuses to hold public consultations in Mississauga.

On the bright side, Mississauga is one of only two Ontario municipalities (the other is Toronto)

Continued on Page 6



## 40-YEAR PAY OFF CO-OP BURNS THE MORTGAGE

STORY & PHOTO BY CATHERINE SOPLET

**A**shworth Square Co-op members have celebrated being mortgage-free, after 40 years.

About 80 people, from babies to oldsters, including original members Marjorie Fansett, who still lives at Ashworth, and Scott Kivell, enjoyed a barbecue, danced to DJ music -- and torched a \$2.61million mortgage.

Mortgage holder CHF Canada (Co-Operative Housing Federation of Canada) congratulated Ashworth Square on being its first 'graduate'. Established on Kirwin Avenue, Cooksville, in 1971, Ashworth opened the doors of 152 units in 1973. Object: to house families of all sizes at affordable rents.

The tower and low-rise units create a common central square, with a playground area and an on-site Montessori school. The Co-op pays management and maintenance staff, but other operations are delivered by volunteers.

Next steps? A summer camp in partnership with the YMCA; and Safe City Mississauga will bring in tutors to help families with school work; building improvements will be discussed in the Fall.

Peel has 29 co-ops, providing close to 2,700 housing units.

### 'PEEL HAS A WAITING LIST OF 13,000 NEEDING AFFORDABLE HOMES'

905-791-7800 and ask for Peel Builds, an offshoot of the Region of Peel which has the housing numbers and the know-how to get you started.

Peel has a waiting list of 13,000 needing affordable homes.

If you want to help, have an idea, PLUS land OR money or both, phone

both, phone

905-791-7800 and ask for Peel Builds, an offshoot of the Region of Peel which has the housing numbers and the know-how to get you started.

# Letters to the editor

*Tough Times welcomes letters from readers. Writers may use a pen name if they wish. Tough Times needs to know who you are, so include a phone number and address, but your identity will not be revealed without your permission. Letters may be edited. Email your letters to [toughtimestabloid@gmail.com](mailto:toughtimestabloid@gmail.com) or deliver to Knights Table, Brampton.*

## Rebates are OK ....

The Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) recently appeared before Mississauga's Governance Committee to oppose providing rebates to residents who make financial contributions to municipal election campaigns. PPAG argued that rebates haven't had an impact on voter turnout in municipalities that offer them and are therefore a waste of taxpayers' money.

PPAG got it wrong. Rebates aren't designed to encourage voting. Rebates are meant to put more political power in the hands of ordinary people by encouraging contributions and limiting the influence of large contributors.

PPAG's core mission of enhancing the political and economic influence of our most disadvantaged citizens was not served by their rejection of rebates. In fact, they risk handing a victory to the very forces they oppose. Councillors asked to vote against rebates may injure themselves raising their arms too quickly. These same councillors are very unlikely to support PPAG's more important ask: the ending of corporate and union contributions, and returning a greater share of political influence to residents. PPAG got these issues right!

Allowing only individuals to contribute to political campaigns, providing rebates for political contributions, and limiting election spending, are all measures designed to maximize the influence of individuals and limit the undue power of corporate and special interests. These measures

are imperfect but they represent sincere attempts to make political decisions democratic ones.

Public financing of elections should be the gold standard. When candidates are financed publicly elections become about ideas and vision not about who wields the biggest financial stick. Nationally, Canada was well down the path toward this goal but Stephen Harper and the Conservative Government killed the public financing of political parties.

Harper and corporate Canada argue that such funding is too expensive, but is it? It all depends on how you view cost. Public election financing does have greater upfront costs but an open and engaged democracy is an investment in the society we desire.

Opponents of public financing measures say that contribution rebates and public financing of elections is too expensive, and, that if money isn't spent in one area then it will be spent in another more positive way.

Our current system, however, is very expensive indeed. Why? Simply, it allows decisions to be made in service of corporate and other narrow agendas – often away from public view.

The impacts of these costs are all around us. Some local examples are:

- The poor state of public transportation in Mississauga
- A city built for cars and developers not for people
- A city council whose elections pots are filled by corporate interests

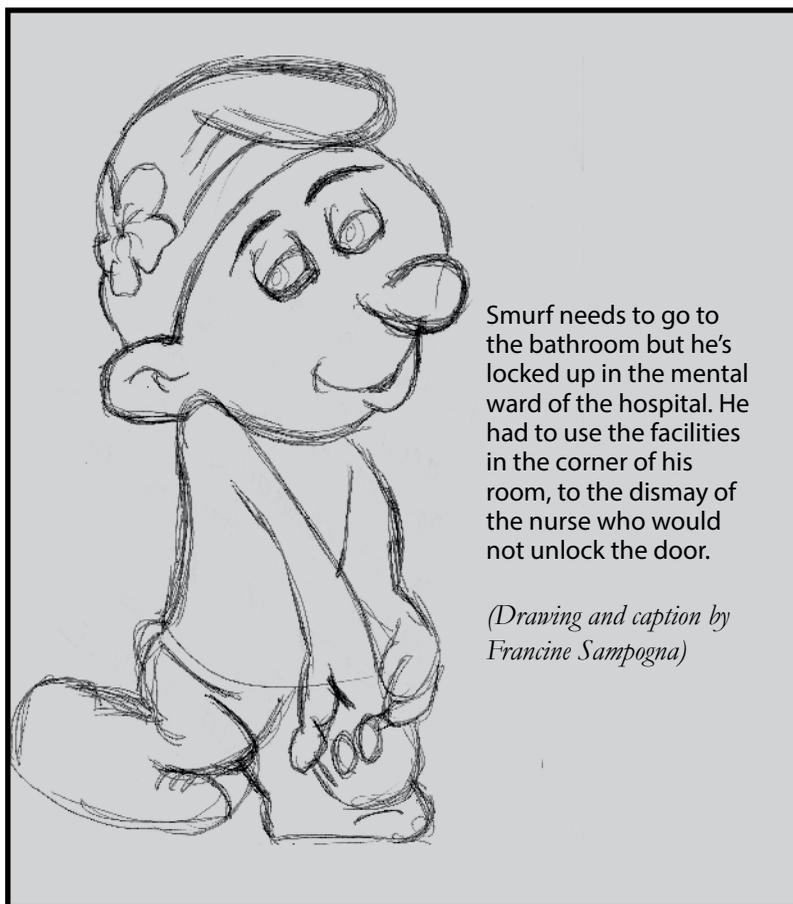
Each of these examples represents decision making outside the greater public interest that led to huge costs to the public. Corporate contributors aren't philanthropists – they want a return on their investment.

Change won't happen until citizens have the opportunity to make informed decisions based on debates in an open, democratic environment. Neither will money not spent in one area be spent elsewhere in the public interest unless spending priorities better reflect the public will. Policy limiting the power of big money while enhancing the broader public interests must, therefore, be the goal of reform.

Public election financing is ultimately the best way to give the power of decision making to voters. If PPAG's goal is to give greater power to the powerless then the direction is clear. What matters is that we freely talk and debate, influenced by ideas and better arguments. That is democracy.

*Bill McBain  
Mississauga*

*Editor's note: McBain has been a candidate for Mississauga Council and may run in 2014.*



Smurf needs to go to the bathroom but he's locked up in the mental ward of the hospital. He had to use the facilities in the corner of his room, to the dismay of the nurse who would not unlock the door.

*(Drawing and caption by Francine Sampogna)*

## ToughTimes

Tough Times is published quarterly.

**Next issue: Winter, 2013**  
**Deadline for ads and editorial:**  
**October 16, 2013.**

We encourage and welcome volunteer writers, reporters, artists, cartoonists, photographers, distributors and sales folk to join Tough Times.

Please email letters to:  
[toughtimestabloid@gmail.com](mailto:toughtimestabloid@gmail.com)

**Produced by:**  
Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG)

**Editor:**  
Edna Toth

**Associate Editor/Graphic Designer:**  
Ryan Gurcharn

**Graphic Designer:**  
Dalia Emam

**Contributors:**  
Simon Black, Dalia Emam, Todd Foster, Esther Kingsley, Michel Revelin, Motillal Sarjoo, Catherine Sople, Francine Sampogna, Eric Guerbilsky, Randy Johnson, Jadunauth Raghunauth, Julie Rocchese, Chiran Dedunupitiya, Lisa Davis.

**Printed by:**  
Metroland Media Group Ltd.

## Advertising Rates

Tough Times has a minimum press run of 10,000 copies, distributed throughout Peel Region.

Target audience is people experiencing homelessness, using foodbanks and soup kitchens, people who are struggling, plus faith groups, social service agencies, trades unions, business people, and the general public.

**To advertise in Tough Times:**  
email:  
[toughtimestabloid@gmail.com](mailto:toughtimestabloid@gmail.com)  
Phone: 905 826-5041  
Mail address: 287 Glidden Road, #4  
Brampton ON L6W 1H9, Canada

*Advertising rates: (sales tax extra)*

**Business card: \$60**  
**1/16 page: \$70**  
**1/8 page: \$100**  
**1/4 page: \$170**  
**1/2 page: \$340**  
**3/4 page: \$480**  
**Full page: \$620**

Colour \$35 extra

A full page is approximately 10 inches wide by 12 inches deep = 120 square inches. | E&OE

# X marks the spot

## THE ELECTIONS .....

**T**he next two years in Ontario are loaded with elections. The provincial government must go to the polls not later than Thursday, October 1, 2015, but could call an election any time.

The federal government must go to the polls not later than Monday, October 19, 2015, but could call an election any time.

The only voting date for sure is municipal elections in Ontario, set for Monday, October 27, 2014.

This is a once-in-four-years opportunity for cash-poor people to be elected to council or school board, and to find candidates who understand the challenges that cash-poor people face.

Though the feds supposedly direct the economy to produce more jobs, and the Ontario government sets the rates for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), it's the municipality that delivers as best it can on housing -- from shelters to basement apartments to public housing, soup kitchens, food banks, health, education, parks, transit, and a myriad of services that matter.

You can have a hand in developing and improving these services. You can sign up to run for mayor, council, or school boards starting January 2, 2014, only a few months away. And once registered, you can start raising money to pay for your campaign.

You may not need a lot of cash. Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion hasn't collected or spent any dollars on her campaigns for several elections now. (Despite being re-elected, re-elected and re-elected, she'll be 93 on Valentine's Day 2014, and says she's not running for Mayor again).

To find out more about the costs of running for office, check the financial reports of candidates who ran in 2010 which will reveal what you can expect to spend on brochures and postage, signs and advertising. Some candidates have paid office help. Find the reports online at [Brampton.ca](http://Brampton.ca), [Mississauga.ca](http://Mississauga.ca), or [Caledon.ca](http://Caledon.ca). Look under City Hall or Town Hall, Candidate financial statements or similar. No computer? You can ask to see the papers at your local municipal HQ.

And that's not all.

Peel Poverty Action Group and Tough Times invite potential candidates, potential supporters, and the public, to a Get Out the Vote meeting at Knights Table, 287 Glidden Road #4, Brampton, on Thursday, 24 October, 2013. Free admission. Free refreshments.

Because election dollars can be daunting, Tough Times has checked the more delectable digits from council candidates' reports -- who spent what on Victory Parties on Election Day.

See below for the 2010 numbers:

## 55 JOBS UP FOR GRABS AND THE MONEY IS GOOD

**W**hen the next elections are called, a total of 55 jobs become open in Peel, not including school trustees.

Peel's 34 council members, including the mayors, are elected and paid in their own municipalities. Some are also Regional Councillors, receiving additional cash from the Region.

Brampton council members: \$67,860, plus \$50,416 each for the six Regional councillors

Caledon council members: \$27,881, plus \$50,416 each for the four Regional councillors

Mississauga council members: \$81,614, plus \$50,416 each as Regional councillors.

Peel's nine Members of Parliament have a base salary of \$160,200; in the 2015 election, Peel will elect 12 MPs.

The nine members of the Ontario Legislature are paid a base of \$116,550 each

School board trustees' honoraria (increases expected March 31, 2014)

Peel District School Board - \$26,280

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board -- \$18,940

Conseil scolaire Viamonde - \$5,000

## VOTING DAY PARTIES

Election finance returns are filed on special forms, with an item Voting day party/appreciation notices. The sums noted below include both party and appreciation.

### MISSISSAUGA

**Mayor Hazel McCallion** did not raise or spend any money on her re-election, or on a voting day party.

**Ward 1 councillor Jim Tovey** did not report a party either.

Here are other Mississauga council members in order of expenditure:

**In Ward 7, Nando Iannicci**

disbursed \$17,565;

**Ward 11's George Carlson**

spent \$5,292;

**In Ward 4, Frank Dale** spent \$3,413 on the Voting day party/appreciation notices line, but also reported post-election parties/meetings at \$4,684, and Expressions of appreciation \$2,193;

**In Ward 9, Pat Saito** invested \$2,911;

**Ward 2's Pat Mullin**

disposed of \$2,490;

**In Ward 6, Ron Starr**

reported \$1,745 party money.

**In Ward 8, Katie Mahoney**

put up \$1,462.

**In Ward 10, Sue McFadden**

partied away \$931;

**In Ward 5, Eve Adams** was elected in

2010, but resigned. In a byelection in 2011, Bonnie Crombie was elected. Adams' voting day party came in at \$11,791. Crombie confirmed she spent \$754, after Tough Times queried supplementary reports of \$1,949 or \$1,194.

**In Ward 3, Chris Fonseca** spent \$700.

Total (E&OE) is close to \$50,000, which, as welfare payments, would maintain 2.5 single mums with one child each for a year.

### BRAMPTON

**Mayor Fennell** partied away \$38,526;

Brampton Regional councillors, in order of expenditure:

**John Spovier (Wards 9&10)**

invested \$4,756 in a victory party.

**Gael Miles (Wards 7&8)**

shelled out \$3,854;

**Paul A. Palleschi (Wards 2&6)**

spent \$2,434 on celebrating his win, and declared \$5,352 spent on t-shirts, jackets and hats.

**John Sanderson (Wards 3&4)**

spent \$862;

**Elaine Moore (Wards 1&5)**

victory party cost \$306;

*Brampton City Councillors*

**Vicky Dhillon (Wards 9&10)**

partied away \$8,571;

**John Hutton (Wards 2&6)**

celebrated with \$2,850;

**Bob Callahan (Wards 3&4)**

partied to the tune of \$647;

**Grant Gibson (Wards 1&5)**

partied away \$613;

**Sandra Hames (Wards 7&8)** and her supporters kicked up their heels with \$362.

Brampton's parties totalled (E&OE) \$63,777, what welfare would spend to

keep three single mums and babies for a year.

### CALEDON

**Marolyn Morrison**, Mayor of Caledon, partied away \$1,664;

**In Ward 1, Town Councillor Doug Beffort** spent \$563, while **Regional Councillor Richard Paterak** held no party;

**In Ward 2, Town Councillor Gord McClure** also held onto his party money, while **Regional Councillor Allan Thompson** invested \$1,238;

In Wards 3 and 4, **Town Councillor Nick deBoer** held no election day party, while **Regional Councillor Richard Whitehead** blew \$1,691;

**In Ward 5, Town Councillor Rob Mezzapelli** spent \$1,353 on his voting day party; **Regional Councillor Patti Foley** spent \$264.

Caledon's parties totalled \$6,773, about enough welfare payments for five single mums for a month.

# Why I do not sit on poverty reduction committees

BY ESTHER KINGSLEY - a penname

*do not sit on poverty reduction committees any more, especially those led by government workers. Been there; done that; seen the farce. They are a waste of time and a bundle of hypocrisy and contradictions.*

**Exhibit 1.** My sister used to be 'on welfare.' To help her out, I would give her a \$50 or a \$100 at the end of the month. She was hard of hearing, had high blood pressure, was a single mother of a child with emotional problems, and she had Shadow, a dog that she just could not give up. She had found him many years ago on the roadside, left for dead.

One month, I put the money into her bank account at the local bank because I did not have time to give it to her in person. Her caseworker asked to see her bankbook and saw the \$100 deposit, money that my sister did not declare. She accused my sister of fraud, cut her off welfare or any form of income support, leaving her and her child to starve and to be evicted from their home.

It took my sister a year to regain any kind of monthly income from the government. By the time the money came, she was diagnosed with severe depression, and her child was in a juvenile detention facility because

---

Consultant gets \$25,000 for two months' work, approximately \$2,775 a week or \$555 a day to document the existence of poverty. Compare this to the fact that the single parent with a child 'on welfare,' gets about \$18,000 for 12 months which works out to \$346 a week or less than \$50 per day for parent and child

---

of failure to attend school. (Correctional Services Canada, says that the average annual cost of keeping an offender in a correctional institution is \$102,000.)

Canadian Senator Mike Duffy is in the news over alleged erroneous expense claims. The Prime Minister's Chief of Staff gave him a personal cheque to repay \$90,000 or so. Today, Mr. Duffy is still a Senator and receiving a senator's salary of \$135,200 a year (\$370.41 a day) and allowable expenses.

something that costs money – to inform elected officials about the obvious? Furthermore, why couldn't the highly-paid civil servants who work for the Regional Councillors provide them with the freely available information on poverty?

I am not done with this story. There's more.

**Exhibit 3.** The poverty reduction committee was established, and the first order of business, at the instigation of the civil servant leading the committee, was to hire a consultant to write a report on poverty in the Region.

The consultant was to gather statistics on poverty, talk to poor people about their experiences, and interview non-profit social workers who provide services to the poor. This work was to be done over a two-month period for a fee of \$25,000 plus HST. Let's do the math. Consultant gets \$25,000 for two months' work, approximately \$2,775 a week or \$555 a day to document the existence of poverty. Compare this to the fact that the single parent with a child 'on welfare,' gets about \$18,000 for 12 months which works out to approximately \$346 a week or almost \$50 per day for parent and child or \$25 for each of them. How do we justify paying a middle class person \$555 per day to describe the lives of people who get \$25 per day from the government?

Analyze that, Ms. Consultant!

I do not want poverty reduction. I want poverty elimination. And the only way to eliminate poverty is to create a social system that does not allow some people to own and control so much of the natural world and society that others have to become their slaves just to get the basics of life that are provided freely by Nature: a piece of land to live on, water to drink, natural food to eat, and access to electricity and other natural sources of energy.

We do not need poverty reduction committees. We need a social revolution that would make poverty history!

**Exhibit 2.** I was once asked to sit on a poverty reduction committee. Here is the reason the civil servants gave for the establishment of the committee (I am paraphrasing..): "We need to provide Regional Council with evidence of poverty in our Region so that they will vote to provide funding for programs to help the poor. After all, people look at the 905 area with the many big single family homes and don't think we have poor people here. We have to be evidence-based."

Here is my question: What planet are these Regional Councillors living on? If this sounds too harsh, here's another question: Were my civil servant colleagues under-estimating the intelligence of the Regional Councillors? After all, one would expect elected officials to have the level of education and professional experience that would make them aware that: a) poverty is a fact of life for many people in advanced capitalist societies, and b) existing official statistics and reports on poverty in their Wards and in the Region as a whole.

Why set up a committee –

ELECTIONS ARE COMING...

**MAKE YOUR  
"X" COUNT**  
...YOU COULD BE ELECTED

Find out how you and your friends can win seats  
on council, at Queen's Park, in Ottawa

**Thursday, October 24, 2013 | 6PM**  
Knights Table | 287 Glidden Road #4  
Brampton (off Kennedy, just north of Steeles)

**FREE ADMISSION &  
FREE FOOD**

# New Gilded Age

## A THREAT TO YOUTH

FROM BRAMPTON-MISSISSAUGA AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



**T**he Ontario Federation of Labour wants to stop union-busting in its tracks.

Why? Because it realizes that without trade unions, there would be no weekends, no paid vacations, no health care, and Canadians would lose many services that we value.

So it has established the Ontario Common Front, to bring people and ideas together to prevent demolition of our cherished institutions -- services like free elementary schooling and help for people having a hard time, assistance that Canadians take for granted.

When the Common Front met recently, it heard from McMaster University professor Henry Giroux that these services that unions fought for are in danger.

"People who were once viewed as facing dire problems in need of state intervention and social protection are now seen as a problem threatening society," he said.

Young people are especially at risk as "they live in a space of social homelessness in which precarity and

uncertainty lock them out of a secure future."

To reverse the plight of youth, Canadians must educate themselves about the larger social conditions. "All over the world forces are on the march dismantling the historically guaranteed social provisions provided by the welfare state; defining profit-making as the essence of democracy, increasing the role of corporate money in politics, waging an assault on unions, denigrating public servants and public goods, allowing public transportation to deteriorate, overseeing widening social inequality," he said.

Giroux declared: "The Gilded Age is back with huge profits for the ultra-rich, and increasing impoverishment and misery for the middle and working classes."

It is now "easier to blame the poor, homeless, uninsured, jobless, disabled, and other disadvantaged groups for their problems."

Tweets, cell phones and the internet may not help young people. "Corporations have hit gold with the new media and can inundate young people directly

with market-driven values." But some young folk use social and digital media for forms of protest "that constitute a new realm of political activity".

Giroux suggested that the Occupy and Quebec and Idle No More movements reveal young people as "a vibrant source of creativity, possibility, and political struggle," in opposition to "predatory capitalism."

"Young people need to imagine a future in which economic justice prevails ... where everyone has access to sustainable jobs, decent health care, quality education and communities of solidarity."

*Henry Giroux is the author of Disposable Youth: Racialized Memories, and the Culture of Cruelty; Youth in Revolt: Reclaiming a Democratic Future; Zombie Politics and Culture in the Age of Casino Capitalism.*

**For more information about the Ontario Common Front, phone Ontario Federation of Labour 416-441-2731**

### Local 966 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees has 3,500 members proud to provide these services for you:



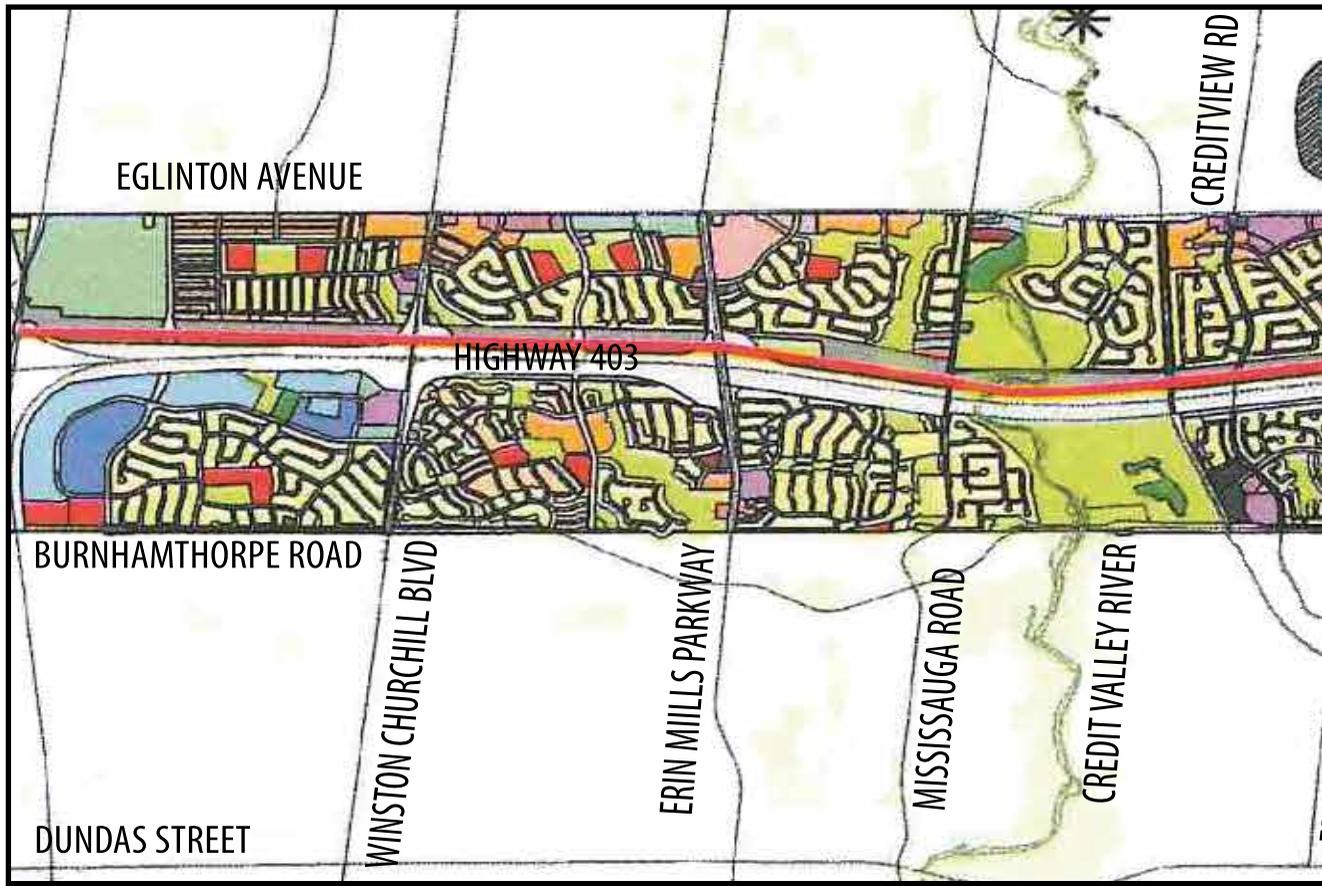
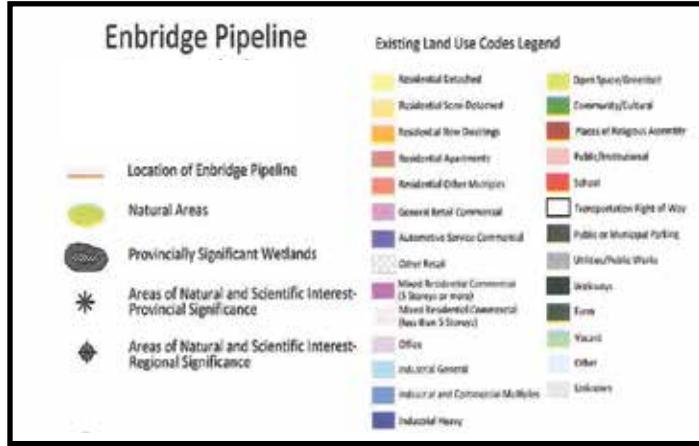
- Public Works, water and waste water, roads maintenance, and mechanics for the Region of Peel fleet;
- Public Health nurses in clinics and schools;
- Mississauga Library system, providing educational and leisure opportunities to Mississauga families;
- TransHelp accessible transportation giving safe and efficient rides to more than 15,000 clients in Peel;
- Human Services (Ontario Works) helping many residents in Peel;
- Salvation Army operating shelters in Peel for people experiencing homelessness; Brampton Caledon Community Living, Supportive Housing in Peel, and March of Dimes units delivering quality care to vulnerable members of our community;
- Long term care homes in Peel -- Peel Manor, Malton Village, Sheridan Villa and Tall Pines, among the best in Ontario in quality of care and a pleasant environment for elderly people.
- Staff at two Community Care Access Centres are CUPE members.
- CUPE 966 members in the Town of Caledon include city workers maintaining roads, arenas, trees, vehicles.

#### And in our spare time:

CUPE members operate a "literacy program," giving new books to families in need; We have a "pink bus" to help the Peel community -- such as a holiday shuttle from downtown Brampton to the Knights Table over Christmas. We thank all Peel residents for the opportunity to provide a high level of service benefitting all residents of Peel.

[WWW.CUPELOCAL966.CA](http://WWW.CUPELOCAL966.CA)

# Enbridge Pipeline Route



# Tar sands are coming to Peel

## ...AND THAT'S NOT ALL

Continued from Page 1

to be granted Intervenor status at NEB hearings and that the City is sharing with Toronto the cost of expert advice.

But Mississauga councillors are worried about what could happen with tar sands

product underground in Mississauga, and have told the NEB to be sure to discuss:

Whether Enbridge's inspection and maintenance program is adequate; (Enbridge says it has inspected the pipe with "state-of-the-art in-line inspection tools", but City staff don't have the results.)

Just how corrosive is tar sands product compared with what has been in the pipes before?

Is Enbridge's Emergency Response System

adequate, including valves and sensors? How quickly can the corporation detect, seal off, and clean up after a spill? (Enbridge says it would respond to an emergency in two to four hours. City staff want to know precise plans. Enbridge reports a Valve Placement Study, but City staff haven't seen it. Enbridge also reports that emergency shut-down buttons are in place at all pump stations, and the NEB has Enbridge plans for backup power systems. City staff say they don't know when the work will be done.)

And on the money, councillors want to know, on our behalf, "that financial protection is provided for taxpayers from the costs for emergency response, clean-ups and damages to municipal and privately-owned infrastructure and property." (City staff notes from media reports that a spill in 2010

into the Kalamazoo River cost more than \$800m to clean up. Enbridge's insurance coverage was \$100m. See [Tough Times](#) online for details on the clean-up of the Kalamazoo River three years after the spill and the river closed.)

And more on the cost of the pipeline that Western Canadian Energy says is \$25 per barrel cheaper than oil imported overseas, which may encourage it to market, via Mississauga.

On public input, after discussions with the lawyer Clayton Ruby, the Advocacy Association of Mississauga, Toronto Star, says "the city has quietly implemented a process under the National Energy Board's cutting off public participation in Canadians' Charter rights. ... in 2012, the Harper government in amendments to the Access to Information Bill C-38 ... They turn a process of independent decision-making that merely advises the government wasn't enough. Harper's critics, too.

"These amendments give the government power to screen out non-urgent and scientific community issues like 'irrelevant' issues like the high rates in downstream areas and poisoning of watersheds. The impact of the tar sands

## DON'T GO HUNGRY

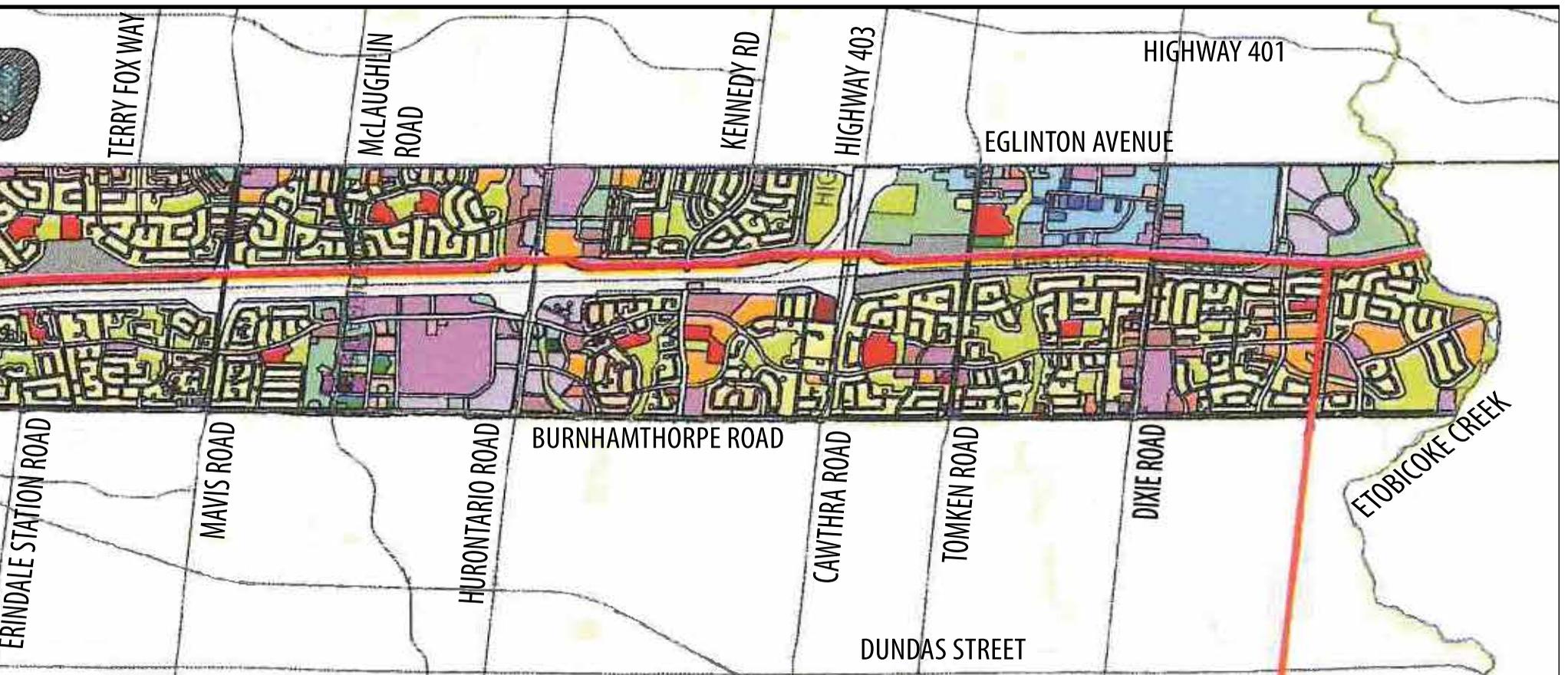


If you are struggling to make ends meet, have to choose between paying rent or buying food, can't afford formula for your baby, or have more bills than income...The Mississauga Food Bank is here to help you.

Anyone in need and living in Mississauga is eligible to use a neighbourhood food bank or other food program regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race or immigration status.



Visit [www.themississaugafoodbank.org/getfood](http://www.themississaugafoodbank.org/getfood) or phone us at 905-270-5589 to find the food program closest to you.



River, is costing more  
p, which might exceed  
coverage. At press time,  
research revealed that  
zoo River continues  
vent, with six miles of  
money: Enbridge says  
crude oil is on average  
er than crude oil from  
xplain their need to get  
sauga.

t into the pipeline  
e NEB, wellknown  
chair of ForestEthics  
, in an article in The  
Harper Conservatives  
ented a new regime  
Energy Board Act,  
icipation and violating  
ghts to free expression  
er government snuck  
Act through omnibus  
ned the NEB from an  
making body into one  
he cabinet. Even that  
er wanted to silence

nts gave the NEB the  
members of the public  
nity likely to bring up  
e skyrocketing cancer  
m communities, the  
eds and the negative  
s.”

## TWO VIEWS ON TAR SANDS

“Raw tar sands oil is thick and gooey, and needs to be mixed with lighter petroleum products like natural gas, benzene, toluene and xylene to be pushed through a pipeline. This mixture is usually called diluted bitumen. It also needs to be hot and pumped at high pressure to move.

Getting raw tar sands oil through pipelines is like moving hot, liquid sandpaper that grinds and burns its way along, increasing the chance that weakened pipelines will rupture.”

*Environmental Defence,  
an organization based in Toronto.*

“The committee that produced the report did not find any pipeline failures unique to the transportation of diluted bitumen or evidence of physical or chemical properties of diluted bitumen shipments that are outside the range of those of other crude oil shipments.”

*A report prepared for the U.S. Congress*



# Thank you!

**Your input will help increase housing affordability and eliminate homelessness in Peel**

We asked the community to join us in taking ownership of a long-term plan for housing and homelessness in Peel, and hundreds responded. People from all backgrounds shared opinions, suggestions and insights, and inspired the development of a draft local plan that addresses our community's needs.

The plan aims to improve the availability of safe, affordable, accessible, and appropriate housing in Peel, and provide a solid foundation on which to secure employment, raise families and build strong communities. Peel's Final Housing and Homelessness Plan will take effect in January 2014.

Curious about what others had to say? Want to read the draft plan? Visit [www.peelregion.ca/housinghomelessness](http://www.peelregion.ca/housinghomelessness)

**PEEL's** COMMUNITY OWNED  
Housing and Homelessness  
**PLAN**

# Peel childcare closures

BY SIMON BLACK

## WHAT WE LOST AND WHY IT MATTERS

Last September, Peel Region councillors voted to close the 12 childcare centres the Region runs by September, 2014. The move was opposed by a coalition of childcare advocates, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and concerned families. Prior to the vote, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion, remarked “I think we are supporting an elitist group [of children and parents].” When the issue first came up in council, Mayor McCallion made similar comments about “gold-plated” childcare.

Peel Region is not exceptional: Over the past year, municipally-operated centres have been closed or privatized in Toronto, Ottawa, and Windsor. Those in favour say it frees up money for desperately-needed childcare subsidies and that displaced children can find care elsewhere. The introduction of full-day kindergarten is also part of the discussion, and just as Tough Times goes to press, Region staff is set to report to Council on applications from profit and non-profit groups to run the centres.

So why does it matter that municipal centres are on the chopping block across Ontario? First, municipally-

operated childcare centres provide the benchmark of quality to which other centres aspire. Numerous reports have shown that the care offered by these centres is of higher quality than in non-profit and for-profit private centres.

And second, because in a sector with an overwhelmingly female workforce that is notoriously underpaid and overworked, municipally-operated childcare centres are more likely to be unionized (the majority of are unionized--Peel is an exception--compared to only 17% of non-profit centres and even less in the for-profit sector), pay higher wages and provide better benefits than private non-profit and for-profit centres.

Despite changes in our thinking about the roles of men and women, care work—childcare, elder care or the care of other dependents, inside or outside the home—remains women’s work. As feminist activist Selma James puts it “Women reproduce the human race (and thus the whole workforce), and are everywhere its primary carers from womb to tomb.” Women continue to do more than their share of unpaid care work in the home, and when done for wages in the labour market, care

work is overwhelmingly performed by women. While this work is essential to sustaining ourselves, our families and communities, and to the functioning of the economic system itself, most care work remains either unpaid or underpaid.

Women have waged momentous struggles for care work to be recognized and economically valued. The International Wages for Housework campaign which began in the 1970s demanded that women be paid for the domestic labour—the unpaid care work—they did at home. The Welfare Rights Movement of the 1960s and ‘70s argued that a single-mother on social assistance was not poor because she lacked a job, she was poor because the job she did have—that of being a mother—was not recognized as work. When it came to paid work in the labour market, from the 1960s onwards, women working in nursing, childcare, and elder care, organized into unions and lobbied governments, demanding that their work be valued and that they be treated with dignity and respect.

Mayor McCallion was right in her diagnosis but wrong in her prescription. Chronic underfunding of public

childcare and the lack of a provincial or national childcare program means that accessible, high-quality public care, provided by well-compensated workers, is available to only a small minority of families. And this type of care is ‘gold-plated’ in that in most instances, municipally-operated childcare centres provide the best childcare available and pay some of the highest wages in the sector.

But contra Mayor McCallion, that’s exactly why municipally-operated childcare centres are worth fighting for: in a province and a country dominated by politicians who fail to recognize the importance and economic value of care work and the people who do it (e.g. The Harper Conservative’s \$100 a month childcare ‘plan’), we need to defend those spaces in which this work is recognized and well-paid. Across Canada, unions, the women’s movement, seniors groups, childcare advocates and anti-poverty organizations—providers and consumers of care—are fighting for a country in which we not only have a right to care, that families are permitted and helped to care for their members, but a right to quality care work, good wages, dignity and respect. In Peel Region, we’ve lost an important fight. But the struggle continues.

*Simon Black is a teacher at York University, and a member of Peel Poverty Action Group.*

## TAP WATER

*Water, water, everywhere and lots of drops to drink*

The hot weather is almost gone, but more than 500 Peel businesses are offering free water-bottle fillup. Look for the Blue W decal in shop windows, and drop by for a thirst-quenching glug.

Blue W is a non-profit network of shops, restaurants and businesses that began in Peel in March this year. Peel Region points out that tap water is cheap, good for your



health, reduces waste and protects the environment. You can refill your water bottle from the tap 45 times. The cost to your water bill: one cent.

## Lakeshore showdown: Grassroots vs. Developers

For almost two years, residents in south Mississauga have been divided over Trinity Development Group’s plan to build a massive ‘big box’ retail store at 501 Lakeshore Blvd East. The anchor store will likely be a Walmart, or a Target, which many residents fear would dramatically change the flow of traffic and commerce in Port Credit, Clarkson, and Lakeview.

A study at Loyola University in Chicago found that in an area similar to Port Credit, 25% of local businesses closed when a Walmart opened. About 300 jobs that paid higher than Walmart were eliminated, replaced by temporary, part-time positions. Consumers saved a few cents here or there, but at what cost?

Unfortunately, all such arguments

are pointless now. The developer is trying to meet the planning requirements of the City of Mississauga. The project will almost certainly move ahead.

However, we must not lose heart over this apparent set back. By coming together and organizing as a community, we were able to put pressure on the developer to play nice with the city.

Sometimes we win, sometimes we lose – and often the outcome is less than clear. We are stronger for our collective efforts regardless, and we will continue the fight to protect our neighbourhoods.

*Eric Stéphane Guerbilsky, President, Mississauga South NDP  
eric.guerbilsky@gmail.com*

# Knock, knock. Who's where?

BY LISA DAVIS

**E**very human being has basic needs: food, shelter, safety and rest. But how can you prepare meals, or rest without a place to call home?

This is the reality of many visitors to Malton Housing Resource Centre, a new program of Malton Neighbourhood Services, funded by Region of Peel Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

The Centre, in the lower level of Westwood Mall, is specifically to help people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Clients can use a landlord registry; get help with negotiating lease agreements, assistance filling out housing applications, and referrals to further help, such as Ontario Works and employment recruitment agencies.

Part of my job as a Housing Coordinator is community outreach, going door-to-door to find suitable and affordable housing within Malton for individuals who are precariously housed. Knocking on landlord's doors is the easy part;

persuading landlords to rent to a population that society sometimes shuns is an art.

Establishing good relationships with landlords is the first step but the key to finding affordable housing is not what you say but how you say it. I always advise landlords to see a human being rather than a "homeless person".

Housing issues sometimes arise: Rent is not paid; tenants quarrel, or lack life skills. I try to help clients identify issues that can lead to a cycle of homelessness, and show them how to take the lead in their housing search. Weekly life skills workshops provide information about eviction prevention, hygiene issues, getting along with others, money management, and taking responsibility. And there are emergency food supplies in our pantry, bus tickets to search for housing. And landlords are invited to advertise in our registry.

If you are homeless or know someone at risk, contact Lisa Davis at 905 612-0350, Monday – Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

# 8,000 Peel in people have Hep C

## BUT DO THEY KNOW IT?

**H**epatitis is an inflammation of the liver which can be caused by viruses, and if untreated can lead to serious illness, even death.

Common forms of the virus in Canada are types A, B, C.

Hepatitis A virus (HAV) is most often spread through contact with food or water contaminated with the virus.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) are both spread through contact with contaminated blood, and HBV is also sexually transmitted.

Vaccination can protect against Hep A and Hep B. But Hep C currently has no vaccination. Prevention is the only protection. But there is treatment.

Often called a "silent disease," hepatitis C usually reveals no specific signs or symptoms and is rarely diagnosed until its chronic stages. When left untreated, hepatitis C may lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer, the need for liver transplant, and even death.

Based on studies of prevalence of the disease in Ontario, an estimated 8,200 people in Peel have

hepatitis C. Peel Health reports that an average of 380 cases is reported in Peel each year.

Following infection with a hepatitis virus, some people may experience fatigue and jaundice, but many do not feel ill at all and remain unaware of their infection.

If you think you might be at risk of infection, recently or in the past, see your healthcare provider for a blood test. There is treatment for hepatitis C infection.

Healthcare organizations in Peel can test for hepatitis C and help you access treatment, care and support.

Peel Public Health operates a needle exchange program, connects hepatitis C clients with community and medical supports, and provides information on how to reduce or prevent the spread of hepatitis C.

You can also contact the Bloom Clinic at 40 Finchgate Blvd, Brampton ON L6T3J1, phone 905-451-6959 or mail@bramaleachc.ca for assistance. See ad on page 12.

*Thanks to Jadunauth Raghunauth, Program Coordinator at the Bloom Clinic, and to staff of Peel Health.*

## Rents go up

Your rent may increase 0.8% for 2014.

If you pay:	Rent goes up:
\$400/month	\$3.20/month
\$500/month	\$4.00/month
\$600/month	\$4.80/month
\$1,000/month	\$8.00/month

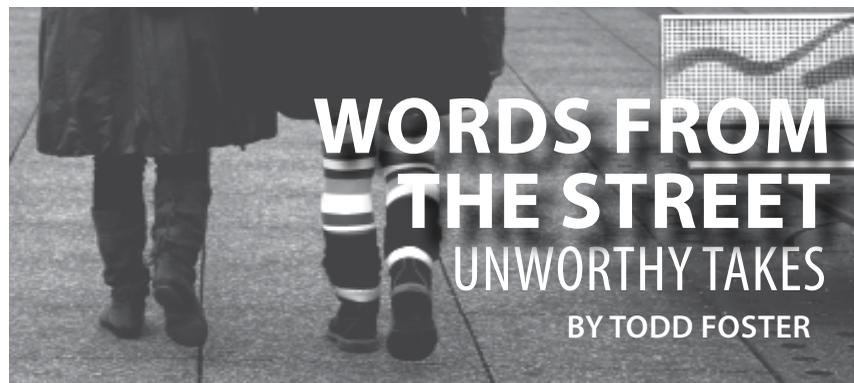
Landlords must give 90 days written notice of an increase.  
They must pay annual interest on any rent deposit.

## North Peel & Dufferin Community Legal Services

Free legal services for low income residents of  
Brampton, Caledon, and Dufferin County.

Problems with your landlord? Is your rent subsidy threatened?  
Was your application for Ontario Disability Support Program  
benefits denied? Problems with Ontario Works? Call Us!

905-455-0160 Toll Free from Dufferin 1-866-455-0160  
NPDINFO@lao.on.ca



*"... For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,  
The oppressor's wrong, the proud mans contumely,  
The pangs of despised love, the laws delay,  
The insolence of office, and the spurns  
That patient merit of the unworthy takes."  
- Billy Shakespeare*

I have no problems with being a poor person. I've never wanted wealth or extravagance. I have a problem with being marginalized for my lack of want. I've never put effort into owning property or credit

## PULLING TEETH

I have noticed that "the system" is making it harder and harder just to get by lately.

Rental rates and other basic need costs are mushrooming well beyond the meagre means of most recipients, yet incomes are not reflecting these increases.

Being a social assistance recipient and trying to just "cover all the bases" is quite like pulling chicken teeth; it's nearly impossible to cope with it all (in my opinion). While on the subject of pulling teeth that is another "tender" issue. Got a toothache? No worries, they'll pull them all out (if you let them), no questions asked! You need false teeth? Good luck. I consider myself quite the fighter for rights and I have not been able to get any dentures, though I've been requesting them for over two years!

Another issue is it appears that the start-up program has been cancelled. The start-up benefit was a welcome benefit to countless thousands as they try to rebuild their lives. Do not get completely discouraged though as you can apply for help under a different program name. Check out the criteria on the social assistance website before applying.

Even the Rose Theatre who used to provide complimentary tickets to shows for folks on social assistance have now banned that practice and so far have not wavered from this new policy (though I am still working on it).

Thus I see an over-all increase in the castrating of clients self-worth, dignity, choice, freewill and prosperity. I think there are things we can (and must) do to reverse this pattern of subjugation. Protest to your MPP, sign up folks onto petitions and many other forms of objection must be encouraged. One thing for sure, don't sit back and take it. Fight for the right or lose.

Mike Milne

cards or cars; I've done little to feed those pigs at the troughs.

I put effort into an education and it cost me dearly, only when I realized that the learning is free, but the institutionalization is pricey. That is, to limit the accredited intelligentsia to a controllable group is important to keeping up the appearance of schism.

In 1938 the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers described the 'hazard facing industrialists' in the 'newly realized political power of the masses'; 'Unless their thinking is directed,' it warned, "We are definitely headed for adversity." No less threatening was the rise of labor organization, in part with the support of industrialists who perceived it as a means to regularize labor markets.

Our thinking has been effectively directed, the souls of the labourer crushed once more as

Temporary agencies subvert the many gains of the North American labor movement. New Canadians, from places where children are forced into slave labor, the conditions of the manufacturing sectors so worn down and dangerous that death on the job is commonplace, are arriving here and being manipulated by others to work 'under the table' for less than the minimum wage in conditions that are not acceptable here.

As of today the prices of everything from peanut butter to bread are rising, but a pair of shoes, clothing, electronic goods, have a way of staying affordable thanks to despotic corporate rule overseas. Soon, goods may be even cheaper as more items are manufactured here in Canada by labourers making \$6 an hour without any documentation or regulation. While Nike has built nets around its factories in China to catch falling people, we buy and we buy and we buy into a future uncertain.

A young Asian woman stands close to the ledge, a strong warm breeze at her back, enough to clear the black twine below. Just do it.



Tough Times' cartoonist Todd Foster responds to the question: What if Canada's Senate became a shelter for the homeless? Any resemblance to living senators is coincidental.

## STAYING IN SCHOOL

Poverty is most often associated with consequences such as Homelessness – what caused the person to become homeless? The most highly-correlated risk factor for poverty and as a by-product, homelessness, is dropping out of school. Want to prevent/reduce poverty – ensure all youth complete high school or have a mechanism for going to a trade school. Remind parents that it is illegal not to have your child enrolled in school. Work with the schools to support programs that keep youth in school and ask for public support as we are all in this together. Support a youth-led program to encourage older adults to go back to school or get a trade.

Social services worker

## JUST GET A JOB

Just get a job ... is not that easy. I got a diploma as a community service worker years ago ... done endless volunteer work ... yet no job.

If I could speak certain languages and fall into a specific category I would have got a job - too bad I can only speak English.

Once I tried to access free sports activities for my son but was told they are for youths so they can adapt to Canadian culture. I ask what? My child was born here and never did any of this because I can't afford it.

I don't have any of those senior privileges either.

You go figure what is really happening ..

Mississauga woman on Ontario Disability Support Program

## Empty wallets, empty bellies



**W**ith food prices climbing, it could be a hungry winter for people who know first-hand that money doesn't grow on trees – people who get by on Ontario Works, on ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program), any form of welfare, and people who, no matter how hard-pressed, don't qualify for help.

Many organizations in Peel try to get food into empty bellies.

The Mississauga Food Bank (MFB) collects staples for distribution to food banks in the City, helping 59,000 people a month, more than half of them children. And MFB estimates even more Mississauga residents – 62,000 of them – need more food but aren't getting it. MFB does not serve meals, but makes it possible for food banks, pantries, many of them in churches, to supply food to needy people.

Places in Mississauga where you can get a meal include: The Compass in Port Credit, open for coffee and snacks, but not every day; during the winter St. Mary Star of the Sea church serves a weekly evening meal, and many other churches in the Port Credit area serve occasional meals.

St. Mina and St. Kyrillos Coptic Church on Dundas Street East, Mississauga, serves hot meals on Tuesdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and operates a free meal delivery service to shut-ins in the area.

In Brampton, Knights Table on Glidden Road serves breakfast and lunch/dinner every day; Grace's Place, in Grace United Church, on Main Street, serves daily breakfast; other places, mostly churches, serve

meals regularly but not daily.

For a list of food banks, check <http://www.peelregion.ca/health/eating/foodbanks/index.htm>

Mississauga has 19 food banks listed, Brampton has eight, and Caledon two.

If you think that this access to free food is easy or adequate, check out the sometimes tough requirements listed on the website. Several food banks limit customers to once a month visits; one has a limit of three visits a year; another offers only one bag of non-perishables per visit; proof of income is usually required.

Many organizations offer more than food:

Brampton's Knights Table is starting a new program, providing opportunities for seniors to hone their leadership skills while helping parents. Seniors In Action will take place at Knights Table Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Seniors will help single-parent families with homework, tutoring and issues in school, parenthood, relationships, finance, family and domestic issues, problem solving, self-confidence, and stress management. Phone (905) 454-8725 ext 104 for info.

Knights Table and Mississauga Food Bank, in fact almost all soup kitchens and food banks in Peel, campaign constantly for donations of food and cash to keep their services going.

They sponsor marathon walks and runs, gala events, car washes, and adopt any idea that will bring in more cash for food and services.

All need volunteers.

## Get Schooled Campaign

### REDUCING DROP-OUT RATES AND INCREASING RE-ENROLMENT

**I**t is a warm summer day as I wait for the last few youth to stroll in. I introduce myself, ask the young people to share names and say why they chose to attend this leadership workshop.

One says: "I'm 23-years-old, but I'm in grade 11. I screwed up a lot and I'm paying the price for it now." Perhaps based on the choices he made or whichever way his life unfolded for him to drop out of school, there was sadness to his words. Yet his story is not unique. According to Statistics Canada, 7% or 79,500 of our Peel Region population aged 25 or older has an education less than grade nine.

Lack of a high school diploma does not determine success or failure. But personal and social consequences affects dropouts throughout their lives. Specifically, crime is correlated with

dropping out of high school; 74% of the Canadian prison population is comprised of high school dropouts while only comprising 34% of the population of Canada.

Student disengagement is the prevailing reason for students leaving secondary school. Safe City Mississauga offers various services to address this issue.

Aspire, a tutoring program, offers school help for children from kindergarten to grade six.

Crossroads, a series of crime prevention workshops and assemblies, teaches youth about reducing victimization and avoiding criminal activities.

In October this year, Safe City Mississauga will unveil our Get Schooled Campaign to reduce drop-out rates and increase re-enrolment.

Safe City Mississauga's Report on the Status of Dropping Out in Peel will be released later this year.

*Chiran Dedunupitiya, Hons. BSc  
Youth Development Specialist  
Safe City Mississauga*



PHOTO BY JULIE ROCCHESI

### LABOUR DAY WEEKEND PICNIC

Petunia the Clown is hard at work at a Labour Weekend picnic hosted by Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council in Eldorado Park, Brampton. Face-painting is a big attraction for kids.



## MICKEY AT KNIGHTS BBQ

Tough Times photo by Randy Johnson

Mickey Mouse and a jumping castle were major attractions at a barbeque to raise money for the Knights Table soup kitchen in Brampton. From left: Alexandra Martin, Special Events Coordinator with Knights Table's summer staff; Cathy Nguyen, student working at the Knights, and the mighty Mickey Mouse, Justin Bansal, Community Outreach Coordinator at Knights Table for the summer. The BBQ is just one event in Knights Table's Be a Hunger Hero, a campaign to raise \$70,000 to feed families who are struggling. Phone 905-454-8725.

### July 2 - Oct 9

100 Days for Shelter Campaign- Royal LePage Shelter Foundation. All proceeds go towards Interim place & Peel Family Shelter operated by the Salvation Army

### Oct 10 - July 1

Subsidized haircuts \$5. partial proceeds go towards grooming community members for the work force

"Looking good, feeling good, doing good"  
(905) 828-1122

**Royal Haircuts for a ROYAL CAUSE**

HAIRCUTS by Anastasia  
**905.828.1122**  
all proceeds go towards Peel shelters

Dear Lord,

Thank you for holding those doors of Amazing Grace open for me too. For if it was not for your Grace, I may not have made it thus far. Through the opportunities which you have enabled me to participate in, I have been able to learn many different ways that can aid our fellow community members, to realize comfort in home living.

Help us dear Lord, as a community, to work together in harmony as we continue to offer our services.

Anonymous

### HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Calling Investors/ Developers

### BUY • LIST • SELL

WITH ANASTASIA & CO.

**SAVE MONEY MONTHLY!**

*How Good Is That!*



ANASTASIA TOLIAS\*\*  
(905) 828-1122

CALL ANASTASIA TODAY!

- Purchase
  - Refinance
  - Strategic Debt Planning
  - CANADA Coast to Coast
- SAVE MONEY MONTHLY!**



ROYAL LEPAGE

Support Royal LePage Shelter Foundation With \$5.00 Haircuts

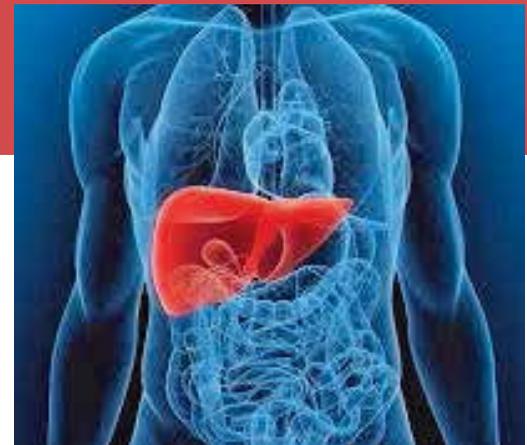
www.tolias.com  
Real Estate Services Ltd, Brokerage

# Hepatitis C

*Treatment, Care & Support Is Available*

### You can be at risk if:

- Sharing of personal care and hygiene items such as razors, toothbrushes, clippers and scissors with someone living with hepatitis C
- Sharing needles used for body tattoos and piercings. Re-using and sharing tattoo ink and ink pots
- Sharing drug equipment such as needles, filters, tourniquets, water, syringes, cookers, alcohol swabs, acidifiers
- Receive blood and body organs that have not been screened for hepatitis C. Even in Canada, if you received blood and organ donations before 1990 you may be at risk.
- Involved in medical procedures including immunization in hepatitis C endemic countries



### Contact:

**Bloom Clinic**  
40 Finchgate Blvd. Suite 224  
Brampton, ON L6T 3J1  
Phone: 905-451-6959 | mail@bramaleachc.ca

*Call today for information or to book a free test.*



**Bloom Clinic**