

Mayor Meed Ward's Weekly Public Update



This update contains key events, media engagements and communications taking place in the Office of the Mayor for the week ahead and a recap of key activities that took place in the prior week. While not representative of the Mayor's full schedule, this update is meant to provide a high-level overview for public awareness. Dates & details for future items are subject to change as needed.

July 25 – 31, 2022

High Level News

- Ontario's Ministry of Health announced on July 21 that it was aware of 62 new deaths due to COVID-19 from the past 30 days, and of those, 24 were long-term care home residents – this comes as hospitalizations reportedly climbed to their highest point since May 11.
 - Hospitals reported having 1,483 inpatients admitted for or with COVID-19 as of July 21 – up from 985 the week prior. Of those, 126 were in intensive care – up from 118 the week prior. Of those, 55 were breathing with the help of a ventilator – up from 28 the week prior.
 - Ontario's COVID-19 Science Advisory Table cited wastewater surveillance data showing viral prevalence is increasing in Toronto, the GTA and central western Ontario, but falling in eastern Ontario and east of the GTA.
 - The Science Table also said nearly all of Ontario's 34 public health units are now seeing exponential growth in infections.
 - [LINK](#) to CTV News article.
- Halton residents aged 18 or older can now book an appointment to receive a 4th dose/2nd booster of the COVID-19 vaccine through Halton's online booking system. [LINK](#) to Halton Region News Release.
- Nomination period for Burlington's 2022 Municipal Election is now open and runs until 2 p.m. on Aug. 19, 2022. Nomination papers can be filed by appointment only with the Clerks Department at 905-335-7777, ext. 7805 or clerks@burlington.ca. Voting for the election takes place between Oct. 11-24, 2022.

Prior Week Overview of Community Feedback/Mayor's Inbox:

- **Permit Issues**
 - The Mayor's Office has been receiving feedback from residents and businesses across the city who are experiencing issues when trying to apply for City permits – among those include long delays during the application process. The Mayor's Office has let these individuals and businesses know that we are working internally to resolve these issues and having bi-weekly meetings with staff and senior leadership to keep on top of applications. The Mayor is committed to improving the current process at the City, so residents can have an easier time applying for a permit and move on to make the changes to their home or business that they've applied for, while complying with building regulations. This is a priority for all of Council and City staff and we appreciate residents and businesses reaching out to let us know about their experiences as this helps us identify where we need to enhance the process to make it a better user experience.
- **Taxes**

- Following news of Burlington City Council receiving the 2023 Budget Framework report from staff, a few residents reached out to the Mayor's Office sharing their feedback and questions. A majority of those who reached out understand the proposed tax increase in the framework is needed in order to keep Burlington's infrastructure in proper condition; to continue to offer services at the levels our community needs and expects; and to address issues with certain processes at the City by adding additional resources. Those who reached out opposing a tax increase noted their disappointment over spending levels at a time when costs of living are also increasing.
- The Mayor's Office reminded those who reached out that the City is facing a need for additional community amenities and service levels to catch up to meeting Burlington's current and expected growth rates.
- The city is also subject to the same inflationary pressures as the community, and we need to account for that in our budget.
- Many municipalities aim for a tax increase to match the level of inflation for the year. The proposed tax rate increase in the 2023 Budget Framework, when it is combined with the Halton Regional and Education tax rates, currently sits at 3.4% -- that is half of the inflation rate that is predicted to be at 7%.
- The budget has not been approved. It will undergo a thorough review in early 2023 and council and staff will be looking for every opportunity to make changes.
- **Pickleball**
 - The Mayor's Office continues to receive input from the community over pickleball, including a number from Burlington Pickleball Association (BPA) members who have reached out to Council and staff to discuss further extending access to pickleball facilities, both indoor and outdoor. The City has told the BPA that it will take time and planning to implement extra facilities and, unfortunately, the resources at this time cannot allow any immediate solutions. However, Council is exploring this matter more in 2023. Council and staff are looking at examples the BPA has offered of how other municipalities have added extra pickleball courts and are internally discussing these as potential options. While we look at different options, we encourage the community to take advantage of free weekend pickleball court time at the Burlington Seniors' Centre.

July 25 - 31

- YourTV Halton News Weekly Mayor's Update
- Mayor's Office Team Meeting
- Halton Black History Awareness Society Freedom Celebration Festival (July 30) – [LINK](#) to event details
- NOTE: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (July 30)

Coming Up Soon

- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference in the City of Ottawa – Aug. 13-17, 2022
- Committee + Council Meetings Resume – Sept. 13, 2022