

Mayor Meed Ward's Weekly Public Update



This update contains key events, media engagements and communications taking place in the Office of the Mayor of Burlington 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.

September 18 – 24, 2023

High Level News

- **Standing Committee Asked to Take on Work of Assessing Regional Government Structures** – [Minister Paul Calandra's Post on Social Media](#)
 - On Sept. 13, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Hon. Paul Calandra, posted the following announcement on X:
 - “Today, I asked the legislature’s Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure & Cultural Policy to take on the work of assessing regional government structures in Durham, Halton, Niagara, Simcoe, Waterloo & York. The committee can carry out this work in a manner that is transparent, accountable & open to the public – and I hope it will seriously consider this request when it meets later this month.”
 - In his letter to the Standing Committee, Minister Calandra noted, the study could shed light on the following:
 - Is two-tier government in these regions supporting or hindering the construction of new homes and the provision of effective local governance more generally?
 - Are there responsibilities and services that could be combined, amended, or moved from one level of local government to another, or combined among existing local governments to support the construction of new homes and the provision of effective local government more generally?
 - Is the municipal governance structure within each of these regions supporting the construction of new homes and the provision of effective local governance more generally?
 - Could any changes to regional governance enhance local services and/or provide better value to taxpayers?
- **Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing Asks Heads of Council for Feedback on Housing Task Force Recommendations** – [Post on Mayor's Website](#)
 - On Sept 15., Municipal Affairs & Housing Minister Calandra sent a letter to the heads of council of Ontario’s municipalities asking them to evaluate and give their feedback on the recommendations from the Housing Affordability Task Force as the Province prepares for the upcoming Housing Forum in November 2023. A copy of the letter is available on the Mayor’s website (link above).
 - As the letter is addressed to heads of Council, Mayor Meed Ward will be consulting with and seeking input from her Council colleagues and City staff in her evaluation of the Task Force recommendations and in providing her feedback to the Ministry and Province.
- **Submit Your Ideas for Burlington 150+ Time Capsule by Sept. 29** – [Post on Mayor's Website](#)
 - There’s still time to submit your ideas for what we should place in our special Burlington 150+ Time Capsule. We’re looking for 7 small-sized artefacts or objects to include in a time capsule commemorating our Burlington 150+ anniversary this year!
 - One item each representing our six wards and one that reflects our entire city. Submissions will be accepted until Friday, Sept. 29. My office will review them, and we’ll make our selections for an unveiling event planned for fall 2023.
 - To learn more about how you can submit your suggestions to the Mayor’s Office and about the time capsule project, please click/tap the link above.

- **Mayor's Monthly Guest Column in Burlington Post/Insidehalton.com** – [Link to Guest Column](#)
 - Topic: "Burlington working to turn development pipeline into permits"

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

- **Burlington Transit:**
 - The Mayor's Office has been receiving feedback from the community on Burlington Transit (BT). We are grateful to hear from transit users their input and taking the time to share their thoughts and suggestions on how to make our transit system even better. All feedback is shared with BT and those who reach out are also encouraged to share their feedback directly with BT by emailing contactbt@burlington.ca
 - There is also a Burlington Transit Users Forum planned for Saturday (Sept. 23) at the Burlington Public Library Central Branch, Centennial Hall, at 1 p.m. Please see the [link](#) for additional event details.
- **Burlington Hydro:**
 - Members of the public have been reaching out to the Mayor's Office to share their feedback regarding Burlington Hydro. Those who reach out are informed that Burlington Hydro operates independently from the City of Burlington and are encouraged to contact [Burlington Hydro Customer Service](#) to share their feedback with them directly.
- **Tyandaga Golf Course:**
 - The Mayor's Office has been receiving feedback from the community regarding the Tyandaga Golf Course and the recent [staff report](#) on considerations for the evolution of the golf course that came to the Sept. 12 Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility (CPRM) Committee. No decision on the future of the golf course has been made and there will be several opportunities for public engagement where residents can share their input.
 - The City of Burlington also published a [news release](#) on this subject matter with additional details and information, including upcoming public engagement opportunities.
 - Many of those who reach out have shared concerns that the course is at-risk to development. Mayor Meed Ward has stated to media and on social media that this Council and City staff have no intention of selling Tyandaga Golf Course or giving up any piece of the greenspace. Mayor and Council are eager to hear from the community on what they might like to see if there should be an increase in public greenspace there and on the overall future of the golf course they would like to see.

Monday Sept 18

- Flag-Raising at City Hall to Announce United Way Halton & Hamilton's Fundraising Goal for 2023-24 Campaign
- Council Workshop on Social Aspects of How The City Grows (9:30 a.m.) – [LINK](#) to agenda
- Heritage Tree Honour Roll & Legion Week Ceremony at Naval Monument in Spencer Smith Park at the Lady of the Lake Fountain (12 p.m.)
- Council Workshop on Attainable Housing Partnership Options (1 p.m.) – [LINK](#) to agenda
- Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility (CPRM) Committee – Public Meeting on Burlington Nelson Quarry Official Plan Amendment (6:30 p.m.) – [LINK](#) to agenda

Tuesday Sept 19

- 1:1 with City Manager
- Update Meeting with City Manager and Burlington Economic Development Executive Director
- Meeting with Staff on 2024 Budget
- YourTV Halton News Weekly Mayor's Update
- Indigenous Talking Circle Meeting

- TechPlace & Haltech 2023 Annual Open House (4-6 p.m.) – [LINK](#) to event details
- Shoreacres Community Park Visioning Meeting at Burlington Seniors' Centre – Community Room 5/6, 2285 New St. (7-8:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, Sept 20

- Halton Regional Council Meeting (9:30 a.m.) – [LINK](#) to agenda

Thursday Sept 21

- Mayor's Office Team Meeting
- Conservation Halton Board of Directors Meeting
- Burlington 100 Women Who Care Meeting
- Matt Dusk, Five-Time Juno Nominee, Brings his "Matt Dusk Sings Sinatra" Tour to Burlington Performing Arts Centre in Support of Ted Michaels' "Stand Up, Speak Out" 2nd Annual Fundraiser for Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – Halton Branch (7:30 p.m.) – [LINK](#) to event details

Friday Sept 22

- TBD

Saturday Sept 23 / Sunday Sept 24

- **Saturday, Sept 23**
 - Breakfast at the Bistro at the Burlington Seniors' Centre
 - Victim Assistance Volunteer Program (VAVP) Angels N Motion Virtual Run – [LINK](#) to event website (The VAVP assists the OPP Burlington Division)
 - HorsePower 4 Hospital Car Show in Support of Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation at Art Gallery of Burlington (10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) – [LINK](#) to event details
 - Community Living Burlington's 43rd Annual Walk'n Roll Event at Spencer Smith Park, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. – [LINK](#) to event details
 - Burlington Transit Users Forum at Burlington Public Library Central Branch, Centennial Hall, 1 p.m. – [LINK](#) to event details
 - Hearthstone by the Lake Retirement Community Celebrates 23rd Anniversary
- **Sunday, Sept 24**
 - NOTE: Yom Kippur
 - NOTE: National Peace & Police Officers' Memorial Day
 - Equilibrium Burlington's 3rd Annual 'Walk to the Lighthouse' – Walk for Mental Health & Addictions in Support of Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation (10 a.m.) – [LINK](#) to event details
 - Halton Women's Place 'Hope in Every Step' (formerly 'Hope in High Heels') Walk at Burlington City Hall (Check-in at 10 a.m., Walk at 11 a.m.) – [LINK](#) to event details
 - Sun Life Walk to Cure Diabetes for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) at Hidden Valley Park, 1137 Hidden Valley Rd. (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) – [LINK](#) to event details
 - Appleby Line Street Festival (1-5 p.m.) – [LINK](#) to event details
 - Indoor Visioning Engagement Opportunity for Robert Bateman Redevelopment Project at the Appleby Street Festival, Appleby Line between New Street and Fairview Street, No Registration Needed (1-5 p.m.) – [LINK](#) to event details

Coming Up Soon

- Burlington City Council Meeting (Sept 26)
- Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association's 2nd Annual Run for Burlington in Support of the Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation at Spencer Smith Park, 9 a.m. (Oct. 1) – [LINK](#) to event details
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Municipal Growth Summit – Mayor Attending as Chair of Ontario's Big City Mayors (Sept. 28)
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors Meeting (Sept. 29)
- City Hall Closed in Observance of National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Sept. 29)
- NOTE: National day for Truth & Reconciliation (Sept. 30)
- NOTE: Orange Shirt Day (Sept. 30)
- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Observance Event at Spencer Smith Park, 2-5 p.m. (Sept. 30)
- Deputy Mayor for Ceremonial & Emergency Duties for September-December 2023
 - Ward 1 Councillor Kelvin Galbraith (alternate: Ward 5 Councillor Paul Sharman)