



Bronte Village Residents Association

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The Latest Update

We have received an update from the Planning Dept. of the Town of Oakville indicating that the deadline to provide comments on the [planning directions](#) to council regarding the Bronte Growth Review is **January 4th, 2016**.

We are particularly concerned that an open and transparent process through public notification and engagement is negatively impacted by the deadline of **January 4th, 2016** which is placed ahead of a number of key milestones critical to the process as a whole:

- residents or property owners within 120m of an ongoing site application proposal within the Bronte Village and the BVRA are not as yet in receipt of the notice of application to review in conjunction with the Bronte Growth Review planning directions, which has a specific direction on the proposed site in question in terms of an amendment to zoning and by-laws
- the public meeting to discuss the ongoing site application proposal and next steps is tentatively set for January 19th, 20th or 21st - after the deadline for comments on the Bronte Growth Review with which form basis of the motion before council on the amendments for zoning and by-laws
- review the planning direction for a change from low or medium density to townhouses has been included in the Bronte Growth Review as one of a few mechanisms to meet growth targets set by the region and encourage mixed density
- review of planning direction to strengthen and enhance the Main Street urban use and design in response for increased safety, accessibility while supporting sustainable revitalization
- inadequate notice for the Bronte Growth Review deadline for comments as issued officially on December 18th, 2015 at 3:59pm. The Bronte Growth Review [webpage](#) or online presentations within www.oakville.ca does not make mention of the January 4th, 2016 deadline prior to official release. In addition, this deadline was not highlighted at the open house held on November 18th, 2015 and we cannot find any additional online notification through www.insidehalton.ca, www.oakville.ca or through the December 18th, 2015 publication of the Oakville Beaver. The BVRA was not notified of this date other than through the official plan updates that require [sign-up](#).
- the deadline is effectively just after the festive period, the busiest time of the year, which does not allow for adequate time to reach and engage residents.

In addition, we asked some of our board executives to visit the site; www.oakville.ca to find the Bronte Growth Review content specifically for the planning directions to be proposed to council, and they did not find the information until the 3rd or 4th attempt. This would imply, that access to information is not presented in a manner easily identifiable and accessible to the community at large, if you were not able to attend the open houses in May or November of this year. This is why we have strived to include directed website links to benefit your participation in the process.

Finally, six open houses or workshops and an online forum were conducted with the Bronte Revitalization Study in 2008 over the course of two years in contrast to two open houses with the public, a resident group meeting and a meeting with the BVRA in September 2015 for the Bronte Growth Review.

In response, the BVRA has sent an email to the Manager of the Planning Dept. and Ward 1 Councillors on December 20th, 2015 requesting an extension of 4 - 6 weeks for the deadline to provide comments on the Bronte Growth Review to allow for an open and transparent process to engage residents and other stakeholders on a review critical to our area and the Bronte Village that will largely set the tone for the next five years and beyond. We urge you as residents to reach out to your Ward 1 Councillors if you agree that this deadline has negative impact for participation in the Bronte Growth Review process. ***We also urge you to review the planning directions and submit comments accordingly.*** Please ensure to copy the BVRA in your communications with your Councillors - the more engaged, the stronger the community voice in Ward 1.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns. Let us keep in touch and engaged for a stronger Bronte and Ward 1.

Sincerely,
Shelley Thornborrow

Vice President

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