

## COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS: THE SUMMARY

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### **GETTING AROUND IN MISSISSAUGA**

- People drive because there are no better and efficient transit alternatives in Mississauga. Make transit more attractive to people by ensuring high order services, greater services frequency, more express, neighbourhood and premium services
- Subway extension into the city (like Vaughan)
- Offer options for transportation – change people's thinking
- Expand transportation system (like Sheridan College to UTM)
- De-emphasize car-based planning
- Establish "High Park" in central Mississauga (with biking, walking trails and other benefits of a huge park) to attract people away from the waterfront
- Discourage foreign-owned big-box stores that promote huge parking lots and car-culture
- Capitalize on the nearness of the Pearson International Airport by creating a transit system
- Creation of bike lanes on major streets, and improvement of sidewalks. Create more parking lots for bicycles
- Build more parking lots at the Go Train stations to encourage the culture of taking public transit
- Reduce or synchronize the traffic lights to allow more efficient flow of traffic
- Go Train doesn't run from Union Station to some parts Mississauga in the morning (like Erindale). Change this and also ensure a better train connection of Mississauga with other parts of the GTA
- Integrate Mississauga and Brampton Transit
- Reduce the need to travel by proactively supporting telecommuting initiatives
- Too many skyscrapers in Mississauga: this means too many people, too many cars, all leading to traffic congestion
- Establish intercity bus and rail terminals in several locations in Mississauga
- Break the monopoly of Go Transit on the Milton line to foster more competition leading to improved services
- Advocate carpooling and create more incentives and motivations for it
- Encourage big companies and corporations (including the City) to provide own buses to carry their employees to places of work by picking them up at designated bus stops. This will discourage the 'one person-one car' syndrome prevalent in Mississauga and the GTA
- Think twice about bringing more post-secondary education into Mississauga. More schools, more congestion, more pressure on the existing infrastructure
- Investment in Mississauga Transit System
- Turn traffic lights in the night into flashing yellow when the traffic is not heavy, instead of the full traffic lights operations

## **GOING “GREEN” IN 905**

- Going green means changing practices more than it means supporting new technologies
  - Introduce more programs to reduce emissions
  - More ‘green’ BioBuses transportation like in Brampton and Toronto
  - Make Mississauga more ‘walkable’, not just driving
  - Make all City buildings green and all new constructions must only be approved with ‘going green’ in mind
  - Build new buildings to energy-efficient LEED standard (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)
  - Formulation of by-laws and enforcement against idling and pesticides like some municipalities do
  - Plant more trees throughout the city
  - Find alternatives to salting of roads in the winter
  - Implement a toxic waste disposal program
  - Implement individual power metering for condos and apartment units
  - Implement an industrial growth strategy in which one industrial waste is another’s raw material
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## **CREATING WEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY**

- Reduce cost of living
  - Reduce cost of travel through better transit
  - Establish reasons for tourism to flourish in Mississauga
  - Investigate sustainable livelihoods, including harnessing the skills of immigrants who have called Mississauga home
  - Develop more businesses in other Mississauga’s satellite communities
  - Further develop cutting-edge technologies in anticipation of trend and demand: e.g. BioGenetics, IT, etc, with a view to developing Mississauga into a high-tech centre of excellence
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## **EMBRACING OUR SOCIAL DIVERSITY**

- Some ‘Canadian’ games, like Hockey, are not attractive to newcomers to Canada because it’s new to them, expensive and don’t get enough support. There should be more awareness to target new immigrants
- Reaching out to newcomers to Canada from an Arts and Culture perspective
- Establish more visit/exchange programs with various countries and cultures
- Create a multi-cultural museum to promote multi-culturalism
- About half of the population of Mississauga is visible minority. Mississauga workplaces (including the City) should reflect this instead of the opposite that is the current norm
- Establish or encourage more organizations to employ new immigrants on short or long term basis to facilitate their first Canadian working experience
- Discourage segregation, establish more programs that will bring together various ethnic blocs: China town, Polish town, South Asian town, Afro-Caribbean town, etc
- The City should include all ethnic group representatives in major decision-making processes that affect all Mississauga residents
- Create multi-language centres for services and information to members of our diverse community

## **POSITIVELY INFLUENCING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE**

- Too many high-rises leading to too many crimes
  - More places of attraction should be built to discourage the trend of having to take visitors to Toronto and other neighbouring cities for entertainment
  - Provide prompt and effective health care system
  - Build a major hospital ranking with Sick Kids, Sunnybrook, Princess Margaret, e.t.c.
  - Establish a local multicultural food festival, school music festival and local school Olympics
  - Create more 'after-hour' activities
  - More hospitals should be built, expand OHIP to cover physiotherapy clinics like in some cities
  - Upgrade Erindale park to the calibre of High Parks and the Ontario Place, with live shows in the summer
  - Reduce the need to travel by automobile
  - Ensure that all public and private facilities accommodate the needs of all frail and disable persons
  - Make Mississauga more smoke-free, including outdoors
  - Harmonize tickets of GO Bus, GO Train and GTA transits to reduce travel times and stress, thereby improving our overall quality of life
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## **INVESTING IN CREATIVITY AND KNOWLEDGE**

- Mississauga should invest more in Arts & Culture in order to drive growth, liveability and foster a 'creative' city. There should also be more galleries and spaces to showcase 'pieces of art'. The City also needs an 'observatory'
  - There is a need for a big city newspaper with real content, instead of the community newspaper
  - The Arts culture is completely eroded from the education system
  - Give more importance to local historians
  - Channel higher education in line with development
  - Establish a think tank/committee involving academics, professionals and businesses, with the UTM assuming an important role
  - Library should be part of any introduction of newcomers to Mississauga
  - Build more post-secondary institutions
  - Establish a Law School in Mississauga
  - Establish a Provincial/Federal courthouse
  - Establish a large religious school
  - Promote our sports heroes and legacies. Encourage heroes to physically be involved in motivating community members to participate in sports and sporting activities
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## **CREATING A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN**

- Showcase public art at downtown, shopping malls, libraries, community centres, etc
- City centre should be at the waterfront because that's where the action is, and make it more pedestrian-friendly
- Establish timeline for the development of downtown land
- Establish underground pedestrian tunnels with pedestrian moving belts to facilitate winter access and help the greying generation enjoy life and spend their money
- Establish pedestrian zones for summer activities
- More outdoor program, concerts and cultural activities in the downtown core in the summer to draw more people to the downtown

- First class swimming pool in the downtown, similar to Sunnyside, Bronte Creek or Confederation park
  - Reverse the current scenario in the city centre in which housing is largely for singles and couples only, totally unfriendly to children
  - Mount signs and billboards showing events taking place in the city centre
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### **REALIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF BEING PART OF THE GOLDEN HORSESHOE**

- Other communities apart from Mississauga city should be more inclusive as part of the city by better transit connection and development of more programs that will make them feel as being part of the Golden Horseshoe
  - Increase tourism by promoting the type of entertainment provided by the LAC
  - LAC should be made popular and promoted to garner public interest and attention, with world class artists performance (like in Casino Rama and Fallsview Resort)
  - Maintain low city tax rate
  - Gear Mississauga towards being a service centre for the Golden Horseshoe in specific areas and expertise.
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### **LIKES ABOUT MISSISSAUGA**

- People friendly
  - Free parking, big parking lots
  - Clean environment
  - Nice central location in the GTA
  - Little villages
  - Diversity
  - Little villages
  - New city
  - Housing pattern
  - Leadership
  - Leadership roles in the GTA
  - Parks, green spaces and waterfronts
  - Great community centres
  - Easy to get around by car
  - Shopping centres
  - Unexplored opportunities
  - Clean
  - Mayor Hazel McCallion
  - Debt-free
  - Port Credit
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### **DISLIKES ABOUT MISSISSAUGA**

- Terrible traffic
- Pedestrian unfriendly
- Too busy – too many cars and people
- Lack of big media presence
- Lack of entertainment and good restaurants
- Only two hospitals, one university
- No cohesion between separate communities

- Very little heritage
  - Top destination for immigrants – too many ethnic groups
  - Unsafe bus terminals
  - Lack of major attractions
  - Urban sprawl
  - People are rude
  - Airplane noise – need some control (e.g fly higher)
  - Soaring housing prices
  - No downtown core
  - Many cars – unsafe air
  - Transit-gridlock
  - Unequal opportunities for newcomers
  - Comparing Mississauga to Halifax in terms of education. Almost all the post-secondary education in Halifax is faith-based and this shouldn't be our model.
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### **MY FUTURE MISSISSAUGA**

- More places of interest and tourist attraction
- A unique and uncommon identity in Canada, and the world over
- A cultural 'meltpoint' like the Plaka in Athens, Stanley market in Hong Kong, and the Yorkville area of Toronto
- Public transit system similar to the minibus system in Hong Kong
- For Mississauga's identity: clean up the Texaco South property and build the most incredible public park on the Lake Ontario waterfront. This will eventually foster international sailing events, conferences, sports and festivals
- A light rail link (LRT) to the city centre
- Different methods of transportation to get around the city
- Reputable cemetery (like Mount Pleasant)
- A city of first class Art Gallery
- More interest in sponsoring or being involved in different cultural communities, through the Church and other religious-based channels in various communities
- Subsidized housing, especially for the aging population and seniors
- Fewer big roads
- More 'bikeable' and 'walkable'
- Environmental friendly, taking lead in environmental issues
- More budget (70%) and attention to civic engagements
- Building human capital
- More involvement of residents in public and community matters
- A city that bubbles with night activities
- Distinct district energy
- Importer of labour
- Full Go Transit services on the Milton line
- A city serviced by VIA rail
- Presence of big companies
- Fully operational LRT
- An identity totally different from Toronto
- Education city, more IT-focused post-secondary education
- A city of at least a major pro-sports franchise
- Better health care, more doctors
- Subway from Toronto to Square One
- Aquarium on the waterfront
- 24 hours sports facilities
- A social network that includes mix of all age groups
- A formal liaison network of City staff with community groups
- Reduced speed limits on Mississauga roads

- All buildings and transports become wheelchair and scooter friendly
  - More social and community programs for handicaps and seniors
  - Community programs for youths
  - Less need to recycle – like cancelling bottled water
  - More focus on existing ‘villages’ rather than the ‘city centre’
  - Close streets around Civic Centre – like in many European countries
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#### **I WANT MISSISSAUGA TO BE KNOWN FOR –**

- City of Villages
  - Families
  - Debt-free
  - Business
  - Friendliness
  - Academics
  - Entertainment
  - Diversity
  - Ecology
  - Innovation
  - Democracy
  - Health
  - High tech
  - Recreation and tourism
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