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Farewell
Remerciement
وداع 'Wada'
MADAM MAYOR

Retirement Gala
For Hazel McCallion

Page 9



THE 2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION IN ONTARIO HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOME OF THE GTA CANDIDATES



After the departure of Rob Ford from the mayoralty race due to a sudden illness, Toronto Mayor Chair appears to be for up for grab.

The major candidates are John Tory, Doug Ford, who took the reign from his brother Rob and Olivia Chow. While all poles indicate that John Tory has a comfortable lead, Doug Ford is the force that cannot be discounted.



In the meantime, Chow's campaign, despite her compassionate message to the average middle-class Torontonian, her campaign seems to be sagging popularity which makes her an ineffective challenger.

But as an Arab Canadian voter, we encourage you not to discount anyone and we urge you to vote with your conscience, your common sense and your personal and community interests.

Mississauga



In the Mississauga Mayoralty race, there are currently four major candidates:

Bonnie Crombie, Scott Chapman, Dil Muhammed, and Steve Mahoney. A recent poll indicates that Bonny is in the lead, however, Mahoney, a former Mississauga councillor, is seen as Crombie's major competition. The 66 year old former ward councillor in Mississauga, previous MP, MPP and WSIB chair,

is a long time Mississauga resident, a veteran politician and a force that can't be reckon with. Mahoney has always inspired to be mayor and he has great vision for the future of Mississauga.

When Mahoney learned that Crombie is one of the major candidates he said: "I'm happy to invite Bonnie to the campaign. It's been rumored for a long time that Crombie will run for the Mayor chair, so it's nice to put the rumor to bed, and the race is on.

In a formal letter put out by Mahoney's press office to the people of Mississauga the statement went on to say: "Mississauga has come a long way in its short history. Born out of the thriving, historic villages of Clarkson, Cooksville, Dixie, Erindale, Malton, Meadowvale Village, Port Credit and Streetsville, our City has grown to become Canada's sixth largest City and a place where people from all over the world come to live, work, and raise a family. Mississauga has grown and prospered under the steady leadership of Mayor McCallion. With her retirement from office, she is entrusting her successor with a strong foundation on which to build an even stronger Mississauga. I am running for mayor because I have the experience and clear vision to build on the foundation being left to us by Mayor McCallion. As mayor, I am committed to keeping Mississauga affordable, investing in our City's downtown and waterfront, supporting our small businesses and entrepreneurs, and building stronger villages and neighborhoods across the City.



My plan to do this is laid out in this Blueprint which

reflects my conversations with thousands of Mississaugans and my more than three decades in public service. The ideas I am putting forward here are what I believe will make Mississauga an even stronger City. I hope that the ideas in this Blueprint are ones that you can support. I look forward to discussing how we can work together to implement these ideas to make Mississauga an even better City to live, work, and raise a family.



On the other hand, Bonnie's name says it all... she runs like a bunny; she's very enthusiastic, very cheerful with a shiny smile and good looks... The 54 year old former MP and current city councillor is another contender for Mississauga mayoralty race running neck to neck with the leading candidate Mahoney. In her campaign opening address Crombie told her supporters "I have the energy, the drive and the passion to be our next mayor," However, "Change is very hard to accept": Is Mississauga ready for a new mayor after 36 years of Hazel McCallion? She said she plans to fund infrastructure, tackle gridlock, and address youth unemployment if elected as Mayor.

Crombie was the Liberal MP for Mississauga-Streetsville from 2008 to 2011, and served as co-chair of outreach with Justin Trudeau in Stephane Dion's caucus.

In 2011, after being defeated by Brad Butt in the federal election, she won Ward 5 edging former Mississauga councillor Carolyn Parrish by a thin margin.

Brampton



Spending scandal is a hot issue at Brampton's Mayoralty race; when all the opponent candidates seem to square off at the expense of the current Mayor Susan Fennell, who is under fire from fellow candidates about a spending scandal that revealed she broke city spending rules 266 times.

Ms. Fennell joined eight other Brampton mayoral candidates and two candidates running for mayor in Caledon at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archive for a question-and-answer session hosted by the Social Justice Collaborative. The topics focused on social justice but candidates were also asked about how they would ensure accountability and transparency in spending at council. "Elected officials must be accountable and I believe in transparent policies and I follow them,"

She received cheers when she said she's cut her own expenses by 100 per cent. "I pay my own way."



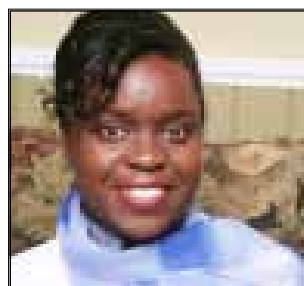
Councillor John Sanderson, also running for mayor, reminded the audience it was his motion to launch an audit of all councilors' spending as well as the Mayor's. "It's a real cleansing that we've done at City of Brampton

here," Mr. Sanderson said. "It's not been a fun time, this last four years. We've been asking questions about the spending, and we couldn't get any answers."

But Mr. Sanderson and other councilors were also found by the audit to have breached spending policies, and he couldn't avoid taking some heat as well. Former Liberal MPP Linda Jeffrey said she would introduce a lobbyist registry, a gift



registry and require all expenses be posted publicly. "At the end of the day we need to have public trust and certainly, Brampton's received that black eye," she said. After the event ended,



Ms. Fennell defended some of her expenses, the audit found breached policies, such as flight passes that cost more than the economy fare but allowed her to cancel and reschedule flights.

"As Mayor, I choose to make myself available as much as I can so if somebody says, 'We have a community meeting, we have a community need, Mayor will you come?' I look at my schedule, I say, 'Yes I can change my flight,'"



Oakville



There are apparently five registered contenders in Oakville, for the Mayor's position; Gordon Brennan, Rob Burton, Mary Kennedy, John McLaughlin, and Greg Warchol.

The front runner is the 60 year old Rob Burton, who is the founder of YTV and current Mayor of the Town of Oakville.

Burton is a member of the Town of Oakville's Task Force on Intensification, Renewal and Redevelopment; canvasser scrutineer volunteer in civic, provincial and federal elections; Parliament Hill reporter; producer of news and public affairs TV shows for CBC and CTV; successfully advocate at provincial and federal levels for television industry associations.

Burton is a longtime residents' association leader, representing the community at several winning OMB hearings; library board; gallery boards; canoe club treasurer; minor hockey



board, convener and coach; Clear The Air Coalition Inc. Executive director.

His top 3 major platform issues are: Protect taxpayers and ratepayers. Preserve Oakville's neighborhoods and nature, and Provide overdue community facilities and fairness. He is expected an easy victory.

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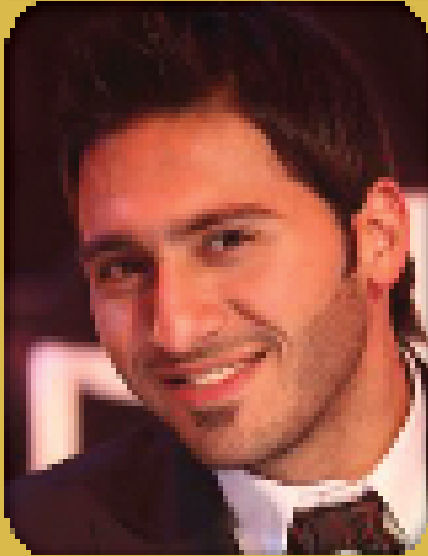
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 شادي شهاب

OCT. 11th



GEORGE ADRA
 جورج ادرا

OCT. 18th



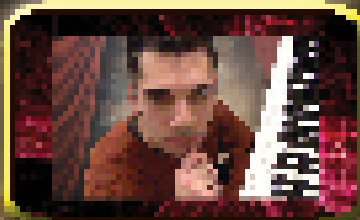
ROGER HELOU
 روجيه الحلو

OCT. 25th



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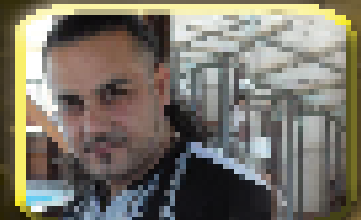
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GTAA KLM YYZ STREET FESTIVAL 2014

On Saturday, September 13, 2014, AL-Mersal Newspaper, was among the several members of the media who were invited to join over 5,000 community members for the 4th Annual Toronto Pearson International Airport Street Festival.

At that free, family-friendly event, many members of the communities, guests and families, young and old, children and children at heart alike, enjoyed and experienced everything from getting up-close to airplanes and airport equipments to meeting emergency services and encountering a

falcon that ensures safe flights for aircrafts.

Despite the damp weather, the event was quite a success, where many people have attended and participated. Some children got inside the airplanes for the first time in their lives, others were walking so close to police cars and guns and airport emergency equipment, patting police dogs, riding in police cars and motor cycles and airport scooters. There were lots of free food, drinks, toys, giveaways, souvenirs, pamphlets and brochures.

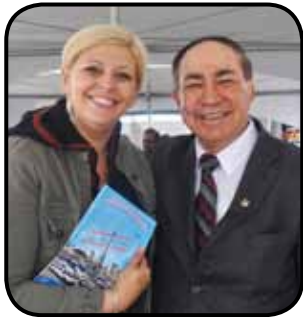
KLM/Air France exhibit was the largest, the most glamorous and most attended booth among all others. On hand, there was Mr. Karan Deswal, KLM/Air France Director of Stations for Toronto and Western Canada, along with many KLM/Air France staff members from Toronto Airport YYZ Office, as well as the KLM-MD11 crew to cheer and greet the crowd, take pictures with them and answer all their inquisitive questions.

Every visitor to the KLM/Air France booth, was given a free ballot for fabulous prizes, ranging from

model aircrafts to round trip airfare tickets from Toronto to Amsterdam which was drawn and won by many attendants by Mr. Deswal and his two helpers Christina Stewart and Vesna Pirovic.

AL- Mersal would like to thank GTAA and KLM/Air France for inviting us to this wonderful event and wish them all continuous success.

During the festivity, AL-Mersal was pleased to take lots of pictures, and if it's true that, "A picture is worth a thousand words", then here are some few thousand words for your entertaining pleasure.



The 2014 Municipal Election

ADVANCE POLLS – VOTE EARLY!

The 2014 Mississauga Municipal Election is October 27 - avoid the lineups on Election Day and make a plan to vote early! Advance Polls relieve congestion of polling stations on Election Day and ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote will have the opportunity to do so.

Sometimes other obligations prevent you from being able to cast your vote on Election Day. Advance Polls allow participation by voters who may not be able to vote on Election Day. Those who may find Advance Polls helpful include people who will be out of the polling area or have medical procedures scheduled during the election period, and campaign or poll workers.

Make a plan to vote early and find out where your advance polling station is. A voter notification card with your Advance Poll location and Election Day polling station will be sent to you in the fall. You can also find polling locations on mississaugavotes.ca.

Advance Poll Information

The City of Mississauga will hold Advance Polls for 13 days from September 29 to October

11, 2014. Don't forget to bring your voter notification card and acceptable ID when you go to vote at an Advance Poll.

The Civic Centre at 300 City Centre Drive will have Advance Polls from Monday, September 29 to Saturday, October 11 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Anyone in Mississauga who is eligible to vote can vote at the Civic Centre Advance Poll.

There will be Advance Polls in each ward in Mississauga from October 4 to 8. They will be open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. You must visit the location in your ward to vote at an Advance Polls. Look for Advance Poll information on your voter registration card that will be sent to you in the fall.

About the Municipal Elections The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27. If you are a qualified elector on Election Day, you can vote. For more information about the 2014 Municipal Election, visit mississaugavotes.ca or call 905-615-VOTE. If you need information in an alternate format, please call

3-1-1. Vote! You decide what the future of your City and schools look like.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27. Make a plan and ensure that you know what to expect when you go to cast your vote. If it is your first time voting in a Municipal Election, here is what you can expect on voting day.

When you go to your polling location on Election Day, take your Voter Notification Card and acceptable Identification (ID) with you. When you get there, you will be given a ballot with three offices on it. You will have the option to vote for:

- the local Councillor in your ward,
- the local School Board Trustee of the School Board that you support (Public or Catholic), and
- the Mayor.

Every elector in the City will have the same options for Mayor, but only electors living in a ward will see the Councillor choices and Trustee choices for their ward.

Voting is easy when you get to the polling location:

- Give your identification (ID) and Voter Notification Card to an election official who will cross your name off the Voters' List and give you a ballot and a secrecy folder.

- Go behind a voting screen.

- Mark your ballot by

connecting the head and tail of the arrow pointing to the candidate of your choice.

- Place your marked ballot in the secrecy folder, and

- Go the election official who will insert your ballot into the vote tabulator (vote counting equipment).

Your vote is then recorded and counted. All vote totals are stored in the tabulator until the voting location closes. At this time a results tape will be produced by the vote tabulator.

Voting in Canada is a safe and easy process. No one will know who you voted for. Who you vote for is up to you. We encourage citizens to be actively engaged in their local government elections. They determine the members of City Council and local school boards who make important decisions including how tax dollars are spent in our community.

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3-1-1. Vote! You decide what the future of your City and schools look like.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27 - Make sure that you know what your local government does so you can make an informed decision when you cast your vote.

The City has launched a local government website that contains information for citizens on how to actively engage in local government. Visit our local government website at mississauga.ca/localgov to learn more about your city government.

The Community is directly impacted by the elected municipal and school board representatives who make vital decisions for the City. Local governments deliver programs that enhance the quality of life for citizens and sustain the systems that make our communities possible.

Services that your local government are responsible for are part of your everyday life. They include:

- affordable housing,
- fire, police and ambulances,

- city parks,
- roads and bridges,
- water supply and transit, and
- Libraries.

Local Government Awareness Week Local Government Awareness Week will take place from October 19 - 25, it aims to generate awareness and educate the public on the important roles and responsibilities of local governments in the province.

As citizens we all have a stake in what happens in our city: how it's run, how we live and work together and what the future will look like.

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ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION

The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27- make a plan and ensure that you have what you need to cast your vote. In order to vote in the 2014 Municipal Election, you must be a qualified elector who:

- Resides in the City of Mississauga or is the owner or tenant of land in the City of Mississauga, or a spouse of such owner or tenant; and

- Is a Canadian citizen; and,
- Is at least 18 years old.

Acceptable Identification (ID) If you are eligible to vote, there are two things that you should bring with you on election day: (1) your voter notification card and (2) acceptable identification (ID). When you make your plan to vote, make sure that you have one acceptable piece of ID with you.

There are common types of ID, like a drivers' licence, that many people have. If you don't have ID, there are other things that will work. Here's a complete list:

- ID Cards: Ontario driver's licence, Ontario Health Card (photo card), Ontario Photo Card.

- Utility Bills: A utility bill for hydro, water, gas, telephone or cable TV or a bill from a public utilities commission.

- Work Documents: A cheque stub, T4 statement or pay receipt from an employer.

- Government Documents: Ontario motor vehicle permit (vehicle portion); a court-issued or certified document; any document from the government of Canada, Ontario, a municipality or a Band Council in Ontario or from an agency of government, a Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Works, a Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Disability Support Program.

- Tax Documents: an income tax assessment notice, a Child Tax Benefit Statement, a Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid T4E, a Statement of Old Age Security T4A (OAS), A Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefits T4A (P), Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contributions, an RRSP, RRIE, RHOSP or T5 statement, a Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Statement of Benefits T5007, a property tax assessment.

- Bank Documents: a cancelled personalized cheque, a mortgage statement, (or a lease or rental agreement for a property in Ontario), a loan agreement or other financial agreement with a bank; a credit card statement, a bank account statement, or RRSP, RRIE, RHOSP or T5 statement.

- Documents from Charities: a CNIB Card or a card from another registered charitable organization that provides services to persons with disabilities.

- Hospital, Long-term Care Home or School Documents: a hospital card or record; a document showing campus residence, issued by the post-secondary institution; a transcript or report card from a post-secondary school, a document showing residence at a long-term care home.

About the Municipal Elections The 2014 Municipal Election will take place on October 27. For more information about the 2014 Municipal Election, visit mississaugavotes.ca or call 905-615-VOTE. If you need information in an alternate format, please call 3-1-1. Vote! You decide what the future of your City and your schools look like.

HOW TO FIND YOUR POLL

The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27- make a plan and ensure that you know where you need to go to cast your vote.

It is easy to find your poll. All eligible voters will receive a Voter Notification Card in the mail. On the card you will find your Election Day poll location as well as a list of Advance Polls that you can vote at. Please note that you have to vote at the polling station that is written on your Voter Notification Card. You can enter your address to find out where your poll is online at mississaugavotes.ca.

If you or someone in your household is eligible to vote but did not receive a Voter Notification Card, call 905-615-VOTE.

If you will not be in town on Election Day, you can vote at an Advance Poll between

September 29 - October 11 or you can vote by proxy. Advance Poll location information will be available on your Voter Notification Card.

As citizens we all have a stake in what happens in our city: how it's run, how we live and work together, and what the future of our city will look like.

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HOW TO FIND OUT WHO THE CANDIDATES ARE

The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27. Make a plan and ensure that you know about the candidates to make an informed decision when you cast your vote. It's important that you are actively engaged and well informed in the elections since they determine the members of your City Council and local school boards. In order to make an informed decision, you will need to find out who is running for Mayor, Councillor and School Board Trustee in your ward. You may be familiar with some of the candidates running in your ward through community events and campaign signage. You can find more information

on each candidate via links to their personal websites, and a full list of who is running at mississaugavotes.ca. The last day that a potential candidate can register to become a candidate in the 2014 Municipal Election is Friday, September 12, at 2 p.m. About the Municipal Elections The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27. If you are a qualified elector on Election Day, you can vote. For more information about the 2014 Municipal Election, visit mississaugavotes.ca or call 905-615-VOTE. If you need information in an alternate format, please call 3-1-1. Vote! You decide what the future of your City and schools look like.

VOTING BY PROXY

The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27. Make a plan and ensure that your vote is cast even if you are not able to attend a polling station. Did you know that there are several ways to vote in the upcoming election? You can ask someone else to vote for you if you can't vote during the Advance Polls or on Election Day. The person you ask is called a 'voting proxy'.

Your voting proxy must also be an eligible voter. There are forms you need to fill out to make it official. There are also rules about proxy voting. A person cannot appoint more than one voting proxy. They also can't act as a voting proxy for more than one person, unless the appointed proxy is the parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother, sister or spouse of the appointees.

In order to appoint a proxy an application form must be completed. The form will

have the name of the person appointed as proxy and must be signed by the person giving the proxy.

If you are appointed as a proxy for someone you must present the application, acceptable ID and the appointing document to the City Clerk or designate at the Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall, between Monday, September 15, 2014 and October 27, 2014 - Election Day during regular business days, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Call Them Doug "ROB" Ford



Lana Richards

As Rob Ford has bowed out of the mayoralty race in name, pain and dignity, his campaign has now become the responsibility of his brother Doug and whoever has the best chance to bring them down. Politics is a cynical thing. And while Mayor Rob Ford's departure changes significantly the dynamics and optics of Canada's largest city mayoralty race. Doug Ford's candidacy is the equation of a de facto alternative, a genius decision played out before our very eyes, with all the possibilities of branding and marketing that are carefully put into place. This is a whole new ball game in Canadian Politics. Stay on board, Rob told his brother Doug, and finish the course. "So that what we have accomplished together would not be washed away." Call them polarizing whether you like them or not, the Fords are not going to quit, they have a combination of the Kennedy and Clinton blood running through their veins. Time will tell whether the Ford brothers have laid the foundation for a robust Toronto.

The City of Toronto has an aging infrastructure. Approximately 70 percent of

the road network is over 30 years old, the water network is over 50 years old and over 60 percent of the city's assets are more than 30 years. The city has enjoyed a relatively low debt level under Mayor Ford's reign. He has kept his promise on many of his campaign issues. From chopping the \$60 vehicle registration tax, putting back \$64 -million dollars back into taxpayers pockets. In 2010 he slashed city councilors budget, he then succeed by contracting out garbage collections, west of Yonge Street to the border of Etobicoke, promising residences they would never again have another 2009 garbage strike. Within four years as mayor he has renegotiated union contract - "job for life clauses". And is yet to succeed in cutting the land transfer tax, and has accomplished extending the Danforth subway line into Scarborough.

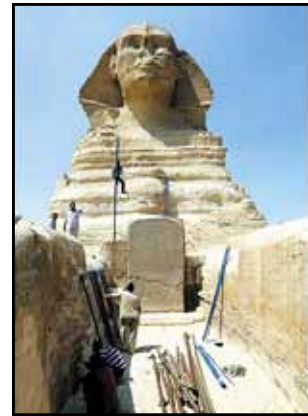
The Ford era has not ended, even in theory, from the incessantly and unfolding rumors, scandals and global attention, to the recently mayoralty candidacy switch. It only gives legs to their legacy; in the interest of a family name and a City at heart. With little thought about health and certainly not about wealth a - Deco Labels and Tags.

EGYPT: The Sphinx GETS RESTORED

Al Mersal Toronto - Restorers and Egyptologists installed iron scaffolding around the body of the Sphinx, during a periodic maintenance, 16 years after the decade-long project to restore it ended in 1998. The director general of Giza Monuments, Kamal Wahid, explains that the conservation work includes two sections of the Sphinx's body: a 24-cm wide block in the rear that was last restored in the late-Pharaonic period and has slid out of position; and a 31-cm-wide section of the neck affected by air pollution and erosion.

Since it was carved during the Fourth Dynasty (2600-2500 BC), the Sphinx has for millennia acted as guardian of the western gateway to the Giza Plateau. During the reign of the New Kingdom Pharaoh Tuthmosis IV, craftsmen covered the Sphinx's body with limestone slabs, the surface having eroded into a series of deep recesses and rounded protrusions. Further work was undertaken in the reign

of Ramses II and during the 26th Dynasty, when limestone was inserted to consolidate the earlier restoration. During



Roman times some blocks were replaced with relatively soft and friable limestone, an example of a restoration attempt that did more harm than good. In the 1981-1987 restoration, according to Wahid, restorers removed the entire Roman-era casing and replaced it, at certain points, with cement, causing a large chunk of limestone to fall from the southern shoulder in February 1988.

The First Aga Khan Museum Opens in Toronto

AL- Mersal Toronto:- The billionaire, Aga Khan and two of the world's most celebrated architects Fumihiko Mak and Charles Correa, have created Toronto's Aga Khan Museum

reflecting pools and adjacent Ismaili Community Centre and Mosque is a spectacular hoard of Islamic art, with more than 1,000 artefacts spanning three continents.



a spectacular hoard of Islamic art. Almost 20 years in the making, the Toronto site is the work of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture which, like a mini Unesco, runs an impressive programme of historic conservation of Islamic architecture around the world and a respected triennial architecture award. The 10,000-square-metre building with its elegant gardens, five

Toronto's Aga Khan Museum: Photograph: Gary Otte

The \$300 million dollar project is a particularly unusual addition to the Toronto's Don Valley Parkway, perhaps because of the quite hype of its development.

Rise in CANADIAN HOME PRICES

TORONTO - Canadian home prices rose in August and the pace of 12-month home price appreciation accelerated, a report showed on Friday, suggesting robust demand for housing is carrying through to the second half of the year.

The Teranet-National Bank Composite House Price Index, which measures price changes for repeat sales of single-family homes, showed national home prices rose 0.8 percent last month, exceeding the historical average for August.

Prices were up 5.0 percent from a year earlier, a pickup from July's 4.9 percent price gain.

August was the ninth month in a row in which the composite index did not fall. The price increases, on top of robust housing starts data in the spring and summer, have surprised economists who have been calling for a slowdown in Canada's long housing boom.

David Tulk, chief Canada macro strategist at TD Securities, said the report suggests the momentum in the housing market has continued into the second half of the year.

"While a gradual drift higher in interest rates should limit the degree to which

housing can continue to increase, a persistent low rate environment will prevent a more pronounced correction," Tulk said in a research note.



"The housing market will also remain on the Bank of Canada's radar and the strength we have seen buttresses the case to resume the withdrawal of stimulus once the improved international backdrop has provided a sufficient lift to net exports," he added.

Canada's central bank is not expected to raise rates until the second half of 2015.

Canada escaped the U.S. housing crash that accompanied the 2008-09 financial crisis, and home prices have risen sharply, if not steadily, over the past five years despite moves by the federal government to tighten mortgage lending rules.

The List of Candidates for the 2014 Municipal Election is FINAL

MISSISSAUGA. - The list of candidates running in Mississauga for the 2014 Municipal Election is final. Eligible voters can now view a list of all the candidates for Mississauga's new mayor, their ward councillor and school board trustee on mississaugavotes.ca.

Candidates have provided links to their external websites for electors who wish to get more information about the candidates. The City provides links to candidate information to help voters be more informed when they vote - the City does not endorse any candidate for any reason.

About the 2014 Municipal Election in Mississauga

The 2014 Municipal Election is on October 27, 2014. Eligible voters will be able to vote for Mississauga's new

mayor, their ward councillor and school board trustee.

The City of Mississauga will hold advance polls for 13 days from September 29 to October 11, 2014. Don't forget to bring your Voter Notification Card and acceptable ID when you go to vote.

Mississauga Youth, tell us why you vote! You could win money for school. If you are a Mississauga resident between the ages of 17-25. Tweet, Instagram, Facebook or YouTube your reason by using the hashtag #Ivotebecause and tagging @CityMississauga.

For more information about the 2014 Municipal Election, visit mississaugavotes.ca or call 905-615-VOTE. If you need information in an alternate format, please call 3-1-1.

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STORYTELLERS CONVERGE Jordan's Hakaya Festival

Under the patronage of The Greater Amman Municipality, Al Balad Theatre & the Arab Education Forum cordially invite you to attend the opening ceremony of the

7th Hakaya Festival 



Photo courtesy of Al Balad Theatre

AMMAN — The Palestinian dance troupe El Funoun opened the seventh Hakaya Festival in Jordan this month. The event was supported by King Abdullah II Fund for Development's Democratic Empowerment Programme (Demoqrati). Different groups from around the region, as well as England and Sweden, shared in the festivities with traditional music, dance and storytelling.

"Seasoned Moroccan storyteller, Abdel Rahman Al Turki and Syrian-Spanish orator Nemer Salamun

were in attendance. And for the second time in a row festival audience saw the return of the young Jordanian storytellers Suhaib and Yazan Abu Salim and Faisal Al Azzeh.

This year the organizers worked on a project they dubbed "Hakawati" a collection of traditional stories from Syrian refugees residing in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Over 200 stories were collected and 14 storytellers from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Sweden selected some of the stories and added them to their repertoire.

Price tags for islands range from \$80,000 to \$600 million, so owning a private island isn't just for billionaires like Richard Branson, who actually only paid \$180,000 for Necker Island. And no, you can't put a for sale sign and have an open house. Plus shouldering the upfront cost is only the first of many hurdles.

Seeking a quieter life — but also income — why buy an island in the first place? For some people, it's a level of prestige. For others, it's about new business opportunities — developing and running boutique resorts or exclusive guest houses. Still others acquire the land as investment property, to build a second home, or for corporate development.

Fewer than a thousand properties can be found on the market

ISLAND FOR SALE



worldwide each year, according to the Private Islands Buyer's Guide. For prospective buyers, the majority of islands for sale can be found through websites like Private Islands Online and Vladi, though a few properties can even be found on Craigslist or real estate agents. Asia is one


of the most expensive regions to buy in, since there is fierce competition for few properties in that region. Some of the most reasonably priced islands can be found in Central American countries like Belize.

There are several common ways islands are sold, or,

leased, freehold leases grant 100% ownership of the land and any buildings on it. Leases are common in Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean.

The other option is leasehold; less ownership and more traditional lease. With this method, buyers sign a long-term lease typically between 30 to 99 years, which grants them temporary possession through the government entity, corporation, or individual that legally owns the land.

Chris Krolow, chief executive officer of Private Islands Online, said buying or selling island property is a precarious business. Short selling seasons, lack of precedents for price setting and other complications such as obtaining building permits can hinder deals. It can take two or three years to sell.




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**Advance Polls are open from
September 29 to October 11.**



Are you ready to vote?
If you are 18 or older on Election Day, you can vote.
If you need information to help you vote in Mississauga, like:

- Where and when you can vote
- What ward you live in
- Who the candidates are and
- Types of ID you can use

You can call the City's Election Office at 905-615-VOTE (8683) or visit mississaugavotes.ca. Election Day is Monday, October 27, 2014.

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TRU BRAND



MISSISSAUGA

THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN LEBANON AND JORDAN: THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPENDING



Omar Dahi
Op-Ed

The entry of Syrian refugees into Lebanon and Jordan has resulted in unprecedented social and economic challenges to both countries. These are felt on a day-to-day basis by all Lebanese and Jordanian citizens whether through higher rents and declining public service availability, or through health and education infrastructure that is stretched beyond its limits. There is no doubt that both host countries have been incredibly generous to refugees, particularly at the societal level. However, the tensions between host communities and refugees within Lebanese society are obvious and in both countries a lot of government and societal discourse about refugees has become palpably resentful. Even if a meaningful political settlement and ceasefire inside Syria are achieved, the refugees are likely to remain where they are for many years; the crisis therefore requires long-term planning on the part of host governments in collaboration with local civil society and multinational institutions. Specifically, it requires attention to economic development needs, including infrastructure upgrading and job creation, to improve life for all vulnerable populations, refugees and host communities. The crisis has put a huge strain on

the fiscal capacity of both countries so urging more state spending may seem counter-intuitive. However, development spending is justified for several reasons. First, the economies of Lebanon and Jordan were suffering from economic problems beforehand. Second, economic spending will benefit these countries' citizens as well as the Syrian refugees; not spending for fear that it will provide refugees with an



incentive to remain will hurt the country's citizens just as much as it hurts refugees. Third, the fact that most of the refugees in both countries are not in camps has created particularly challenging problems as reaching the refugees and serving their needs is even more expensive than it would otherwise be. It also means that across-the-board development spending is the most efficient way to address the humanitarian crisis. In both Jordan and Lebanon economic challenges preceded the refugee crisis. For example, the annual GDP growth rate dropped from 8.5% to 1.4% in

Lebanon and from 5.5% to 2.7% in Jordan between 2009 and 2012. In Lebanon the onset of the Arab uprisings resulted in a reduction in foreign direct investment and a sharp decline in tourism. Flows of natural gas from Egypt to Jordan were sharply reduced through most of 2012 due to sabotage of the pipelines linking the two countries, resulting in increased fuel costs. However, the economic

challenges facing both countries run even deeper. A 2010 UNDP report found that in Jordan from 2006 to 2008 the number of poverty pockets, defined as districts or sub-districts with 25% or more of the population below the national poverty line, had increased from 22 to 32. The same report found that the three most densely populated governorates, Amman, Irbid and Zarqa, contain 57% of the people living under the poverty line. As of early March 2014, 58% of Syria's registered refugees were located in those three

governorates. Ma'raq governorate – where Za'atari camp and just under 30% of registered Syrian refugees are located – contains the highest incidence of poverty and illiteracy rates in Jordan (along with Ma'an governorate). The situation in Lebanon is marked by sharper economic and regional inequalities, accompanied by deep social cleavages and sectarian fault lines that have been exacerbated by the Syrian conflict. Sixty per cent of the registered Syrian refugees are in the North and Beka'a Valley regions that are also the poorest regions in Lebanon. The North region has the lowest per capita expenditure in the country, along with the highest levels of inequality. These two regions have been historically marginalised as reconstruction after the end of the civil war in Lebanon in 1990 saw most wealth flow to the greater Beirut region. However, both Jordan and Lebanon are loath to embark on major development spending. There is fear that substantial investment in refugees will provide incentives for further inflows – or integration of existing refugees. A Jordanian minister admitted in 2013 that conditions are calibrated to provide minimal aid so that refugees will have no incentive to remain, and this appears to be an unspoken policy in other host countries as well.

TERRORIST COULD LOSE THEIR CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

AL-Mersal Toronto:- Canadians with dual citizenship fighting with Islamic extremists in Iraq and Syria could have their citizenship revoked under newly passed legislation, Immigration Minister Chris Alexander says. Alexander says revoking the citizenship of those convicted of terrorism offences – allowed now under Bill- C-24 that became law earlier this year. "Terrorism, espionage, treason are the most serious acts of disloyalty that you can commit. Terrorism is incompatible with citizenship." But Alexander said that revocation would happen only with "clear safeguards," such as a court conviction for terrorism. It's estimated that about 130 Canadians are involved in terrorist groups abroad, including several dozen now in Syria and Iraq. And Canadians are working very closely with their allies to track these groups down. This reality was driven home, by the beheading of a British aid worker at the hands of an ISIL fighter. "For all of us, including my British counterpart, the fact that a development worker from the United Kingdom was most probably be headed by another citizen

of the United Kingdom was denounced as "horrific by Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird.

Baird announced that Royal Canadian Air Force transport aircraft would begin flying between the Czech Republic and Iraq ferrying small arms and ammunition donated by Eastern European nations for use by Kurdish fighters. Flying from Albania, Canada has already flown ferried some 228,000 kilograms of military equipment to Iraq.

Speaking at the end of the Paris conference Baird said that diplomats from around the world discussed the "critical" role to be played by other countries in the region in stemming the advance of ISIS. "We must not surrender this moment. This is a test of our time."

"There was a good discussion about the dimension of the problem. While a military element is important and essential there are so many other areas where work must be done," said Baird.



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