

November 27, 2014

**JCRA Board Position Paper on Street Furnishings and Towne Square Options
Re: Downtown Transportation and Streetscape Study**

The Town of Oakville has presented three options for the reconstruction of Lakeshore Boulevard and the streetscape that include street furnishing styles and new design concepts for Towne Square for the public to consider as part of its Downtown Plan. JCRA submitted a position paper on the Downtown Streetscape to the Town in July 2014. The following is JCRA's position on the street furnishings and Towne Square proposals.

Downtown Site Furnishings:

We prefer a more contemporary look in street furnishings that reflects a progressive and modern style and complements the historic architecture of our downtown area. However, none of the styles presented are acceptable and the Town must bring forward better options.

Towne Square Concepts:

We do not support any of the three design concepts for Towne Square and strongly feel the Town must explore and present further options for consideration. While there are some worthwhile ideas in the designs we believe they are fundamentally flawed by reducing precious green space in an urban setting and limiting the multi-functionality of the space by including very large water features and poor landscape designs. The following is a list of items that JCRA feels represents our position on this development:

- We support maintaining Towne Square as a useable and enjoyable public gathering space that includes green space that encourages children to play and residents and visitors to linger which is the Square's primary function.
- We support a Towne Square that is designed so it can be used on occasion for a variety of events such as the lighting of the Christmas tree, festivals, the skating rink and the outdoor movie nights.
- We support a water feature that is much smaller than is currently presented. Its design and placement must not dominate the space nor restrict the use of the Square.

- We support planting trees to provide shade but their placements must not impact useable space nor block sight lines to and from Lakeshore Road.
- We support improving and enlarging the entrance and accessibility to Towne Square from Lakeshore Road through the use of ramps and extended stairs. Stairs can also be used for seating during events and busy times.
- We support maintaining existing patio spaces at restaurants around the Square.
- We support including public art as an important design feature. That artwork may include a canopy feature that shields some areas from the direct sun.

Sincerely,
The JCRA Board