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Rob Beintema/Metroland

Peel Region council members have so far tallied more than \$210,000 in personal expenses since taking office in December 2014. More than half of that has been spent on conferences from Ottawa to Dubai.

## Councillors tally over \$210K in expense claims

*More than half spent on conferences from Ottawa to Dubai*

**ROGER BELGRAVE**  
rbelgrave@thebramptonguardian.com

Peel Region council members have so far tallied more than

\$210,000 in personal expenses since taking office in December 2014.

Councillors have dipped into personal spending allowances to

bill taxpayers for travel to conferences from Ottawa to Dubai, donations to local causes and groups, meals, community projects and other sundry out-of-

pocket expenditures claimed as part of official duties.

Under the mandatory re-

● See REGIONAL, page 20

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Bryon Johnson/Metroland

Jagmeet Singh, MPP for Bramalea-Gore-Malton, speaks to the crowd at Bombay Place on Monday night where he announced that he was seeking the leadership of the federal NDP party.

## Jagmeet Singh joins federal NDP leadership race

NOUMAN KHALIL

nkhalil@metroland.com

Ontario NDP deputy leader Jagmeet Singh has officially joined the party's federal leadership race, it was announced in Brampton on the evening of Monday, May 15.

The announcement was a show of power and strong support that's likely to bring excitement to the next federal elections, especially in the Peel region and across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Chanting "Jagmeet, Jagmeet," a large number of party workers and candidates from the GTA and many other parts of Canada came out to support their could-be new leader from Brampton.

"People are hungry for new leadership in this country, they are hungry for new leadership in our party. A leadership that will bring people to build a Canada that is truly inclusive for everyone to realize their dreams," said Singh, 38, while making the announcement. "That's why today I am proud to announce that I am running to be the leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada."

Singh is the fifth candidate to join the race for replacing Tom Mulcair. So far, Timmins MP Charlie Angus, Manitoba MP Niki Ashton, Quebec MP Guy Caron and British Columbia MP Peter Julian have announced their candidacy in the race.

"We need to build an inclusive Canada where everyone can realize their dreams. That's what drove me to law, that's what drove me to public life, that's what drove me to be your leader and that's what drove me to be your prime minister," said Singh.

Political pundits are already predicting that Singh will win the leadership race.

If successful, he will be the first-ever South Asian and first turban-wearing Punjabi Sikh to become leader of a federal party in Canada.

Earlier in 2011, he ran in the federal elections from the Bramalea-Gore-Malton riding but lost to Conservative Bal Gosal by a margin of just over 500 votes. Later, he switched to the provincial campaign for the October 2011 elections and came out as the first NDP candidate to win a seat from the Bramalea-Gore-Malton riding.

He said it was not easy to win under the NDP banner from the Peel region, but he won and proved that nothing is impossible.

"Someone believed in all of us. Jack Layton took me aside and said, 'Don't let them tell you that it can't be done'," said Singh. "And in 2011, we showed to them that it can be done."

Within a few years, his popularity grew enormously and he was able to capture wide support from across the board - within the party as well as from the voters, especially youth.

In 2015, he became Ontario NDP's deputy leader in legislative assembly. He is the first turban-wearing Sikh to sit as a MPP, as well as the first to hold a deputy leader position in Canada.

In the coming months, Singh said he will announce a comprehensive quality program which will cover some of the major issues in Canada including inequality, climate change, reconciliation with indigenous communities and electoral reforms.

He also attacked the both Liberal and Conservative parties for not doing enough for Canadians during their tenures and pledged to bring a positive change under his leadership.

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## Shop in comfort rain or shine at the newly renovated Lakeside Garden Gallery



In 1984, the Crupi family decided to turn their passion for gardening into a profession. Wanting to share their knowledge and skill with their community, they purchased *Heart Lake Nurseries*, with the dream of creating a different kind of gardening experience. In April of that year, the Crupi family proudly opened the doors to *Lakeside Garden Centre*.

In 1991, they joined a group of other family-owned and operated garden centres in Ontario, changing their name to *Lakeside Garden Gallery*.

*Lakeside Garden Gallery* grew from a small 800 sq. ft. store to the successful business it is today, with over 13,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor display areas situated on over six acres of land.

*Lakeside Garden Gallery* continues to expand

and grow. This year Lakeside is once again working towards improving your shopping experience by completely covering their outdoor annual and nursery area. This 30,000 sq. ft. structure will allow customers to shop in comfort, rain or shine.

Lakeside now has a newly expanded annual area of over 12,000 sq. ft. of covered space, with wider aisles, over 60 extra benches of annual plants and over 2,000 hanging baskets as well as an expanded tropical plant display area.

Visit Lakeside this summer and check out their completely covered nursery area.

They will continue to serve their customers during this expansion process and provide the quality and care that garden enthusiasts have come to expect from Lakeside.



# City's economic future tied to success of six important 'game-changers'

**PETER CRISCIONE**

pcriscione@thebramptonguardian.com

Attracting health sciences jobs, massive infrastructure spending and establishing post-secondary education in Brampton make up the core of the city's grand ambitions to boost its economy.

Delivering an economic update to business leaders last week, Mayor Linda Jeffrey, hampered by political infighting for most of this term of council, took a far more conciliatory tone compared to her February state of the city address where she ran down predecessors and current councillors while playing up her own work.

This time around, Jeffrey, referencing Brampton's newly released 2016 economic survey, noted the work staff and council have done to date to push the city's growth agenda forward.

"As a council, we are capitalizing on our position, our demographics, and changing the game in Brampton with a strategic focus on six important initiatives," said Jeffrey, listing health partnerships, planning vision,

boosting regional connections, including enhanced transit, as well as massive infrastructure spending and a Brampton university as the keys to prosperity.

Facing critically important issues for Brampton's future such as how to shape its first university, what to do about crippling traffic, high unemployment and aging infrastructure, city leaders are increasingly feeling the pressure to deliver on the economic front.

After seeing more than \$1 billion worth of public sector investment come Brampton's way over the last decade, through health care investments like the Peel Memorial health campus and ErinOaksKid (and not including hundreds of millions committed to a downtown light rail transit line that council rejected) local leaders are looking to tip the balance with a massive injection of private dollars.

"We're focusing economic development on key sectors that reflect traditional strengths and look ahead to the skills and industries of tomorrow," said Jeff Bowman, city councillor and economic development commit-



Bryon Johnson/Metroland

**Regional Councillor Linda Jeffrey, Mayor of Brampton, at the Regional Council meeting on Thursday.**

tee chair.

Jeffrey, still looking to build on the success of her predecessor in landing big corporate names like Amazon and Canon Canada, sent a strong message to potential investors that the city needs private investment to fuel its ambitions.

"Brampton has a dynamic and bold future ahead and we want to showcase your plans, engage our community, communicate with your customers that

Brampton is the right place to make an investment," Jeffrey told the breakfast crowd gathered at the Rose Theatre.


In her speech, Jeffrey referenced her recent nine-day trip to the United Arab Emirates - the second trade mission during this term - but whether those trips will translate into investment locally is still unclear. Another key point in the mayor's speech touched on the need to address flood mitigation in the

downtown core - a major barrier to development - although the hundreds of millions of dollars needed to upgrade existing infrastructure also remains elusive.

Without a clear strategy on how to achieve such a radical transformation, Brampton's leadership is looking to capitalize on the recent opening of the city's new urgent care centre and establishment of a new university in Brampton to transform the city into an important knowledge hub.

Jeffrey listed Brampton's demographics (the city is one of Canada's youngest and most diverse), as well as its geographic location, available land for development and credit rating as major selling points to potential investors.

"We have a vision to be a connected city that is innovative, inclusive and bold. A hub of jobs and innovation," said Jeffrey, ending her speech with a pledge to "become a beacon that will attract new economic development, disrupt the status quo, and move the City of Brampton forward."



## LET'S CONNECT

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**Proposed Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Plan – Ward 3**

The proposed Main Street South Heritage Conservation District (HCD) generally includes properties fronting Main Street South, between Wellington Street and where the Etobicoke Creek intersects with Main Street South.

**Purpose and Effect**

The City of Brampton is proposing to establish the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District (HCD) under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. You are invited to attend a Public Workshop on the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Plan.


The purpose of the Main Street South HCD Plan is to protect and enhance the cultural heritage values of the district. The boundary of the area to which the HCD Plan will apply will be designated by a municipal by-law.

This Public Workshop offers an opportunity for the public to share their views on the draft Main Street South HCD Plan. City staff and the consultant will provide a brief overview of the Main Street South HCD process so far. Then, attendees will participate in small group discussions. The results of the discussions will be shared with everyone at the end of the Workshop.

Feedback from the Public Workshop will help inform the final version of the District Plan, which will be presented to the Brampton Heritage Board for endorsement and to Council for approval.

You can pick up a hard copy of the draft Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Plan at City Hall or view it on the City's web site: [http://www.brampton.ca/EN/Arts-Culture-Tourism/Cultural-Heritage/Documents/1/Main\\_St\\_S\\_HCD\\_Plan\\_DRAFT\\_v2.pdf](http://www.brampton.ca/EN/Arts-Culture-Tourism/Cultural-Heritage/Documents/1/Main_St_S_HCD_Plan_DRAFT_v2.pdf)


**Key Map**




**Notice of Public Workshop**

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Information is available in an alternative/accessible format upon request.



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- OUR VIEW -

# Getting our financial house in order

It probably comes as no surprise that many Canadians have a spending problem.

But a recent survey by accounting management firm MNP shows how close we live to fiscal chaos.

Among the telling stats:

- .Over half of Canadians say they are less than \$200 a month away from not being able to pay their bills or meet debt obligations;

- .60 per cent doesn't fully understand the impact of rising interest rates on debt repayment;

- .Almost half say they are concerned about debt;

- .Four in 10 regret the amount of debt they have accumulated in their lives.

How did we get here? Why is it getting worse?

Spending has become alarmingly easy. You can shop in store, or from the comfort of your couch. Tap a debit or credit card, and the money magically flows. You can even pass your smartphone over a terminal and make a purchase.

Interest rates continue to hover at near historic lows, which lessens our fear of borrowing and the need to pay it back quickly.

Consumers are inundated with requests for credit cards, which can be acquired with little effort. Once those cards are in hand, companies are more than happy to increase your spending limit, and we are often just as happy to oblige.

To be fair, using credit to pay when there are no other funds available may be the only option for getting your car back on the road or fixing that leaky roof.

The problem, or course, is that even a tiny gust of financial difficulty can send this whole shaky house of cards crashing down. With so much debt, and little cash in hand, a sudden unforeseen expense or job loss can leave one reeling. Use more credit, or higher interest loans, and the cycle continues with no end in sight.

So why not just tap savings? With so little left over each month, it follows that saving is a luxury for many. And for those with the means, there is often little desire to put money away rather than spending it now.

There are other costs as well. Sleepless nights, stress, marital strife, can often be traced back to money - how we make it and how we spend it.

Despite our spiralling debt and lack of financial knowledge, very few turn to professional help. We like to believe we can handle it. Many of us can't.

Financial experts will all agree on one thing: we can't go on like this. It's time to get our personal financial house in order. Begin with a monthly budget. An examination of what you bring in, and what goes back out, is a great starting point.

Perhaps we should look to the past for prudent financial wisdom. In the early 1800s, Thomas Jefferson said: 'Never spend your money before you have it.' Two hundred years later, that's still sound advice.



## - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

### Buy it themselves

Why would the City of Brampton want to buy a money-losing golf club?

If Gael Miles and the residents in the area are concerned about the golf course being turned into housing, they should buy it themselves and run it as a golf club.

Nick Wheeler

### My favourite Canadian destination

My all-time favourite family trip for vacation was from Halifax, N.S., to Toronto.

We visited there at least four times. We met our beloved aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives who are from this city and originally from China and Ma-

laysia.

We also had the privilege of being treated to exciting tourist places like Ontario Place, the beautiful High Park, the Exhibition, ROM, the SkyDome, Toronto Zoo, Wonderland, Toronto's sun-kissed waterfront, Casa Loma, shopping at the Eaton's Centre, etc.

There was such an amazing, diverse ethnic embracing of people, their culture with language and food, that my family and I felt comfortably proud to be who we are and not picked on.

We enjoyed Chinatown Festival and other events that occurred weekly, it seemed.

My parents and I would look up and marvel at the immensely tall skyscrapers that were absent in Nova Scotia.

My parents and two siblings all moved to Toronto, thanks for the abundance of quality jobs there.

I also moved to the GTA near Christie Pits Park, downtown core of Toronto, and then in Mississauga.

Had I not eventually moved to Ontario, I would never have found a permanent job in my field, met my wonderful husband or given birth to an active daughter.

The drive was always long from Nova Scotia to Ontario and back, but it was all worth it.

And yes, we would do it again.

Chong-Feng Sproul

### Trudeau's fantasyland

Should we be worried,

## ABOUT US

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# Murders fuelled by gangs and other 'criminal elements'

*Peel's top cop provides update on three murders*

**LOUIE ROSELLA**

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A grandmother looking forward to watching her grandson grow up.

A young man who put a smile on everyone's face.

A teen who was desperate to turn his life around.

All three led different lives, but sadly share a common theme: They were all killed in Peel Region this year.

On the morning of Tuesday, May 9, Peel Regional Police Chief Jennifer Evans and homicide detectives provided an update on the murders, calling them "tragic and violent crimes" that have no place in the region.

"Every death is one too many," Peel's top cop said at police headquarters. "I do not want criminals to think this is an acceptable way of life."

Police revealed the latest murder, on April 27 in Cooksville that claimed the life of 19-year-old Kamar McIntosh of Brampton, was gang-related.

Thulani Chizanga, 19, of Mississauga, hamar Lawson Meredith, 18, of no fixed address, and a 17-year-old Mississauga boy who cannot be identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, have been charged with first-degree murder in the death

McIntosh was shot dead after getting into an "altercation" with at least three men at the Popeye's restaurant in Cooksville, located in the plaza at Hurontario and King streets, just before 3:30 p.m. Det. Sgt. Sean Brennan said the victim met with the men there and was then killed in the "washroom area."

Family members of the dead man have set up a GoFundMe page as they try to raise money to pay for the funeral.

"... a very unfortunate tragedy took place that has left many of



Louie Rosella/Metroland

**(Above) Peel Regional Police Chief Jennifer Evans addresses the media regarding arrests in three murders this year and also said police continue to hunt Shamar Meredith in relation to the murder of Kamar McIntosh on April 27; (Below L-R) The three murder victims are Jahavior Reid, 19; Cheryl McVarish; and Kamar McIntosh, 19.**



Facebook



Sohi, Harinder



Metroland

us ill-spirited and broken hearted. The life of Kamar McIntosh was taken due to gun violence. As family and friends of Kamar, we are all torn apart by what has happened," said family member Bridgette McIntosh in her online post. "He was a very ambitious and caring young man who put a smile on all of our faces."

Bridgette went on to write that the victim was "too young and gone too soon."

Meanwhile, police also revealed that the mysterious death of a Mississauga grandmother who was killed earlier this year in Lakeview before her body was found on her driveway, was the victim of a domestic crime.

Gil Dasilva, 64, of Mississauga, has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of Cheryl McVarish, 43. Blunt force trauma was a contributing factor in her death and police believe she was killed inside her home and her body hidden there for a period of time before it was dumped on the driveway.

Dasilva is the father of McVarish's live-in boyfriend. The accused was arrested Tuesday, May 2 at the home.

Police said they have received information that Dasilva had been convicted of "an incident" outside of Canada, but they are working to confirm that information. A friend of the family

said he was released from jail just six months earlier, after serving time for an offence, possibly in Portugal.

McVarish, a mother and grandmother, had been reported missing after she left her Westmount Avenue home to go to the store around 11 a.m. Monday, March 13. She was last seen in the area of Lakeshore Road East and Cawthra Road, just a 10-minute walk from home, around 11:30 a.m. that same day.

Her body was found exactly one week later, just after 9 a.m. on Monday, March 20. A dog walker spotted her in her driveway, which is located on First Street, around the corner from

the front of her home.

Police believe she was killed on the day she went missing.

Evans also revealed police have made an arrest in connection with a Brampton murder earlier this year in which 19-year-old Toronto resident Jahavior Reid was fatally shot in a motel room.

Travis Babbington, 24, of Brampton, has been charged with first-degree murder in that death, but police are also searching for other suspects.

Det. Sgt. Dan Johnstone said both the victim and the accused were involved in "criminal activity" that relates to the death.

Already in trouble with the law, Reid was a long way from his childhood Christian camp days when he was shot dead during an "altercation" in a Brampton motel room Monday night, Feb. 20.

"He was a good kid, with a good heart," recalled Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) Ontario Director Ivhan Rusli in a Facebook remembrance of the young man he used to know. "It's always a tragedy for life to end so early."

Reid, of Toronto, would attend CEF Ontario camps for several years as he was growing up, but even back then, Rusli knew his future was uncertain.

"He had a difficult home life and very little support around him, yet he would come out to our camps and clubs whenever he could," Rusli wrote. "I remember picking him up and driving him to various events. I remember talking to him about life and how he wanted to be different, but didn't see a way out."

That future ended around 10:20 p.m. at the Motel 6 on Steelwell Road, in the area of Steeles Avenue East and Highway 410 in Brampton. Reid, who was known to police, was found dead in the motel room, shot in what Peel police say was a "targeted" attack.

Anyone with information can call police at 905-453-2121, ext. 3205 or Peel Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.

— with files from Pam Douglas

## Mississauga man charged in Peel's fifth homicide of 2017

**PETER CRISCIONE**

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Peel Regional Police have charged a Mississauga man in the region's fifth homicide of 2017.

Shamar Lawson Meredith, 18,

surrendered to police under a Canada-wide arrest warrant and has been charged with first degree murder in the April shooting death of Kamar McIntosh, 19, of Brampton.

Meredith appeared before an

Ontario Court of Justice Sunday, May 14, for special bail hearing. He has been remanded into custody.

On April 27, Peel police responded following an altercation at a restaurant in the area of Hu-

rontario Street and King Street in Mississauga that ended with McIntosh being shot. McIntosh succumbed to his injuries and the suspects fled the scene.

Two others have been charged in connection with the killing.

Anyone with information relating to this investigation is asked to call 905-453-2121, ext. 3205. Information can also be shared by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or by visiting www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.



Visit [mississauga.com](http://mississauga.com) for more coverage

## The art of playing

*PAMA brings Indus Valley civilization board games to Peel*

**NOUMAN KHALIL**

[nkhalil@metroland.com](mailto:nkhalil@metroland.com)

There will be very few people on this planet who have never played the historic board games such as chess or snakes and ladders.

To give a different perspective to these board games, this month Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA) is showcasing The Art of Kreedaa, which means the art of playing, exhibition featuring chess, snakes & ladders and ludo along with some fascinating pieces from the Indus Valley civilization.

As part of the South Asian Heritage Month, The Art of Kreedaa opened for general public on May 3 and will conclude on May 28.

"Since I am from Ahmadabad - the city of museums - I want to connect the contributions of India to the world during the South Asian Heritage Month," said Raheel Patel, 37, guest curator of the exhibition. "I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to put these things together."

Patel is a curator and visual artist with a museum background from back home. He has been collecting toys since his childhood.

Patel's family also runs a small homegrown museum in Ahmadabad.

"Ahmadabad has tons of museums, some of them are world-class. But the

way museums operate in India is different than the west," said Patel.

After migrating to Canada in 2014, Patel settled in Mississauga and decided to take culture and heritage site management course at Centennial College to learn about western style of museums.

In January, he joined PAMA as a co-op student. Later, he opted to bring a unique exhibition featuring historic boards games.

To enhance the impact of the exhibition, Patel also re-created some other ancient pieces such as a maze, a bird, whistle and dice at the Living Art Gallery in Mississauga.

He said history shows that board games were discovered in India (pre-partition Bharat) in the 5th and 6th centuries from where it travelled across the world to gain popularity.

"He brought a little bit of India to PAMA and we are happy to have this exhibition, it's fantastic," said Sonja Hidas, acting education specialist at PAMA. "Raheel has put a lot of hard work with a lot of dedication."

She said PAMA have had hosted such exhibitions in the past, but this is more specific to South Asian community.

Patel has also created an ancient chessboard and its pieces, which are open for the public to touch, feel, play and learn about its history.

From July 10 to 14, The Art of Kreedaa will also be part of PAMA's Around The World program, where kids will have an opportunity to create ancient toys.

For more information, visit [www.pama.peelregion.ca](http://www.pama.peelregion.ca).



Nouman Khalil/Metroland

**Clockwise from top, Maharaja (king at right), maharani (queen) of the Indus Valley civilization version of chess board are displayed at the PAMA during the Art of Kreedaa exhibition. The Indus Valley civilization version of chess boards are displayed at the PAMA during the Art of Kreedaa exhibition. Raheel Patel, guest curator of the Art of Kreedaa exhibition at PAMA, is making a move with a re-created piece of Indus Valley civilization chess board. Visitors can touch, feel and play this game until May 28.**





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PRO SHOP

## Hoop stars Blair, Brissett heading south

*Athlete Institute players earn scholarships*

FRANK JUZENAS

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Two Peel basketball players are the latest products of Orangeville's Athlete Institute to earn scholarships to NCAA schools.

Jahvon Blair from Brampton is going to Georgetown, while Mississauga's Oshae Brissett has signed to go to Syracuse. Not only are both storied programs, but both have coaches who are household names.

Brissett will be playing for Jim Boeheim, who has spent more than 40 years at Syracuse, although he has said he will retire after next season. Blair will be playing for Patrick Ewing, an NBA Hall-of-Famer as a player who is returning to his alma mater to take his first head coaching job.

Blair has the distinction of being Ewing's first recruit at Georgetown. The six-foot-four-inch guard said getting the chance to play for Ewing, who took the Georgetown job in early April, was a factor in his decision.

"Coach Patrick is a legend, an NBA player," said Blair, who is looking forward to learning from the former New York Knicks star.

Blair was the leading scorer for the Athlete Institute Bears, averaging 23.6 points per game with 6.4 rebounds and 2.7 assists. In 2016, he was the MVP of the Biosteel all-Canadian game, scoring 31 points in the game which featured most of the top Canadian high school players.

Brissett was second on Athlete Institute in scoring with 22.8 points per game, along with 10.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists. He was honoured as Canadian high school player of the year prior to the 2017 Biosteel Game.

After playing for Findlay Prep



Jahvon Blair

in Nevada last season, Brissett decided to return home on the advice of Tony McIntyre, director of basketball operations for Athlete Institute. The move paid off for him, as he received numerous offers, ultimately electing to play for the Orange.

"At Syracuse, there is all the culture and history of the program," said the six-foot-nine-inch forward.

Brissett made his commitment official during the halftime of a Raptors vs. New York Knicks game at the Air Canada Centre, where he got his photo taken with the Knicks' Carmelo Anthony, a former star at Syracuse. He will have a familiar teammate, as another Athlete Institute player Howard Washington is also going to Syracuse.

Blair spent three years at St. Edmund Campion before heading up north to Athletic Institute. Georgetown has a reputation for its academics, and Blair feels he has been prepared to be able to handle the rigours of the classroom while playing Division 1 basketball.

Both players don't have to look



James MacDonald photo

(Above) Jahvon Blair has committed to Georgetown University; (below) Oshae Brissett has committed to Syracuse University.

very far for role models. Two players from Athlete Institute were taken in the first round of the NBA Draft last June, with Thon Maker going straight from high school to the Milwaukee Bucks and Jamal Murray going to the Denver Nuggets after a year at the University of Kentucky. Their success provides

them both with inspiration.

"For sure, seeing that the same coaches who trained them are the coaches who trained me," said Brissett.

Athlete Institute compiled a 24-9 overall record including 18-14 in the Ontario Scholastic Basketball Association (OSBA) and lost in the league semifinals.



Oshae Brissett